

WEBINAR

THE COCAINE PIPELINE TO EUROPE

Tuesday, 2 March
17:00 CET (Geneva)

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Over the past few years, the cocaine trade has enjoyed an unprecedented boom, fuelled by soaring production. In 2018, the combined production for Colombia, Bolivia and Peru – the three main producers of cocaine – was more than double that of 2013. While the rate of growth has slowed of late, there is still no sign of it hitting a peak.

Coverage of this phenomenon has largely focused on the United States and its seemingly endless ‘war on drugs’. However, smarter traffickers have long preferred Europe, which has far more potential for growth than the more saturated US market, and higher profits. Cocaine to Europe has increased over the years, to the point where it is now beginning to rival that entering the US mainland.

This report has been jointly produced by InSight Crime and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized crime. This report is the product of field investigations over two years in more than 10 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe, as well as interviews with officials, investigators and experts in numerous countries across both continents, and the collection and analysis of open source data and reporting.

This webinar will discuss the key findings of the report.



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CHAIR



Virginia Comolli is a research manager at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime. She focuses on environmental crime and illicit financial flows relating to environmental commodities. Prior to joining GI-TOC in 2020, she spent 14 years with The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London, most recently as head of the Conflict, Security and Development programme. During her time there she has worked on organized crime, violent extremism, conflict, insurgency and how these phenomena intersect. She maintained a special focus on West Africa and the Sahel and, to a lesser extent, Latin America and parts of South Asia– all regions in which she conducted field research.

SPEAKERS



Jeremy McDermott is the Executive Director and co-founder of InSight Crime. McDermott has two decades of experience reporting from around Latin America. He is a former British Army officer, who saw active service in Northern Ireland and Bosnia. Upon retiring from the military he became a war correspondent, covering the Balkans, based in Bosnia, then the Middle East from Beirut, before being sent to Colombia to cover the conflict. He has traveled extensively throughout Latin America. Before setting up InSight Crime he worked for many of Britain's most prestigious media outlets, including the BBC, the Daily Telegraph and The Economist. He specializes in drug trafficking, organized crime and the Colombian civil conflict. He has an MA from the University of Edinburgh.



James Bargent is a journalist who has covered Colombian organized crime and conflict for international media including the Miami Herald, the Independent, Sky News, Al Jazeera America, the Toronto Star and Vice News. He has worked with InSight Crime since 2012.



Fatjona Mejdini is a Field Network Coordinator for the Balkans at GITOC. After a long career as a journalist for national media in Albania, she was awarded with Hubert H. Humphrey scholarship and spend a year of professional development in DC, US. In 2015 she joined Balkan Insight as a correspondent, reporting stories from different Balkans countries. In 2016 she also co-established Investigative Journalism Lab, an initiative to develop quality journalism for Albanian young journalists.



Laurent Laniel works as a Scientific analyst, drug supply reduction, at the EMCDDA since early 2008. A linguist and sociologist specialising in illicit drugs and security issues, he has conducted field work on drug production, trafficking and control measures in Europe and countries including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Lesotho, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, South Africa, and the United States.