

MEMORANDUM FOR CABINET BY THE  
MINISTER OF FINANCE & CUSTOMS

Spontaneous Exchange of Information Concerning Illicit  
Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

On the 8th June, 1971, the Customs Co-operation Council of Brussels adopted a Recommendation inviting members to co-ordinate their efforts in combating illicit international traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The Recommendation enjoins Member States to communicate spontaneously and without delay to other Customs Administrations which may be directly or indirectly concerned any available information concerning operations which are known or suspected to constitute, or which seem likely to give rise to, illicit traffic in narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances. Information would also be exchanged on persons, on any means of transport, on new means or methods and on newly developed products connected with this illicit traffic.

It is emphasised that the aim of the Recommendation is not to modify the existing national or international arrangements for co-ordination of action against illicit traffic but to reinforce the activities of the other authorities competent in this field.

The Recommendation encourages Members to consider the possibility of concluding bilateral or multilateral agreements in order to intensify their action to combat the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

It is considered that acceptance of this Recommendation by Malta would be of benefit and would help in checking the illegal introduction and trafficking of drugs in the country. Acceptance of this Recommendation would not involve any amendments to existing legislation.

The Crown Advocate General has been consulted on the matter under reference and has advised that the Malta Government may adhere to the Recommendation in question.

Hon Ministers are requested to signify their approval of Malta's acceptance of this Recommendation.