



International Narcotics Control Board

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Experience with Drug Precursors: Results and Challenges

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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

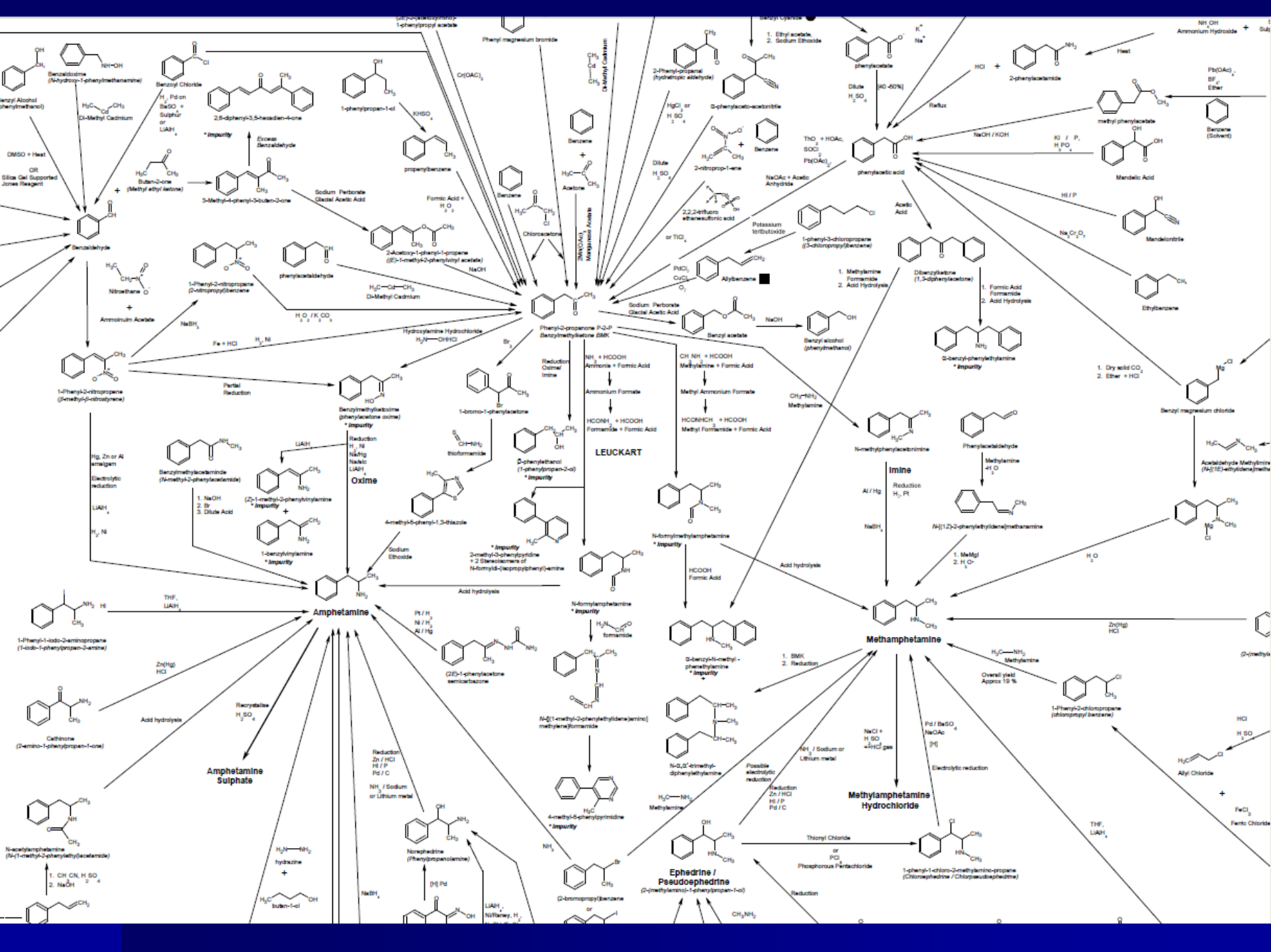
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Problems:

- Chemicals with very broad pharmaceutical and/or industrial uses
- Highly sensitive commercial data
- Violent national and transnational organized crime
- Enormous amounts of money involved, threatening the security of some countries and regions
- How best to cooperate with industry without administrative burden and hampering licit trade and uses

Seizures as a Proportion of Trade Reported by Governments, 2007-2011

<i>Substance</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Average amount reported seized annually</i>	<i>Seizure as a percentage of average annual trade</i>
1-Phenyl-2-propanone	L	8,300	15%
3,4-Methylenedioxy-phenyl-2-propanone	L	1,000	1000%
Acetic anhydride	L	121,700	>1%
Ephedrine (bulk)	kg	25,100	17%
Ephedrine (preparations)	kg	800	16%
Ergometrine	g	700	1%
Ergotamine	g	17,700	2%
Phenylacetic acid	kg	61,500	3%
Potassium permanganate	kg	59,000	>1%
Pseudoephedrine (bulk)	kg	13,800	2%
Pseudoephedrine (preparations)	kg	2,700	5%
Safrole, safrole-rich oils (sassafras)	L	12,800	>1%



Targeting major crime through:

- 1. Monitoring of licit trade in real-time (PEN Online)
- 2. Intelligence sharing on seizures, cases of diversion, attempted diversion, stopped shipments , etc.

Projects PRISM and COHESION; Controlled deliveries; Backtracking and forward tracking investigations; Task Forces

PICS – Precursors Incident Communication System

- 3. Cooperation with industry – the way ahead to address diversion from domestic channels

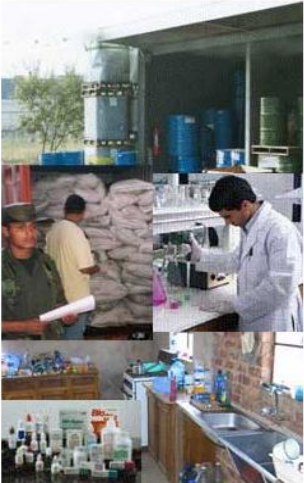
Legal basis: 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

PEN-Online System

- 135 countries and territories authorized to use the system
- Of those 80 % actively use system on daily basis
- Above 92,000 PENs sent since 2006

Wednesday, 30 June 2010

Pre-export Notification Portal



You are required to login in order to access the requested page.

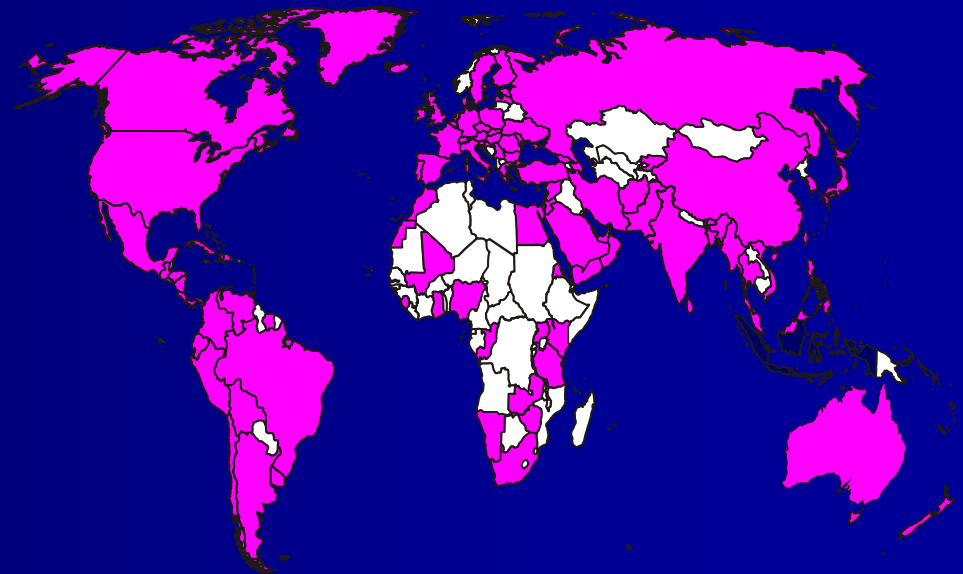
Username:

Password:

Login

To request an account please click [here](#)

PEN On-line Test Server can be accessed [here](#)



INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE - PROJECT COHESION

Operation DICE (Data and Information Collection and Exchange) April-September 2008

- 430 shipments to 64 countries/territories monitored
- 23 communications on seizures, stopped shipments and suspicious consignments involving over 200 tons of heroin chemicals
- > 55 tons of AA seized
- >26 tons of other chemicals seized
- EU, Republic of Korea and Japan identified as targets by traffickers
- Diversion from domestic distribution channels!

Operation DICE 2: July 2009 - April 2010

- 58 participating countries
- 800 shipments to 78 countries/territories monitored
- 10 communications
- 49 tons stopped, over 10 tons reported seized
- EU and Iraq main targets of traffickers
- Domestic diversion and smuggling

Global acetic anhydride shipments (stopped, suspended, or suspicious) and seizures reported to INCB: 2008 - 2011*

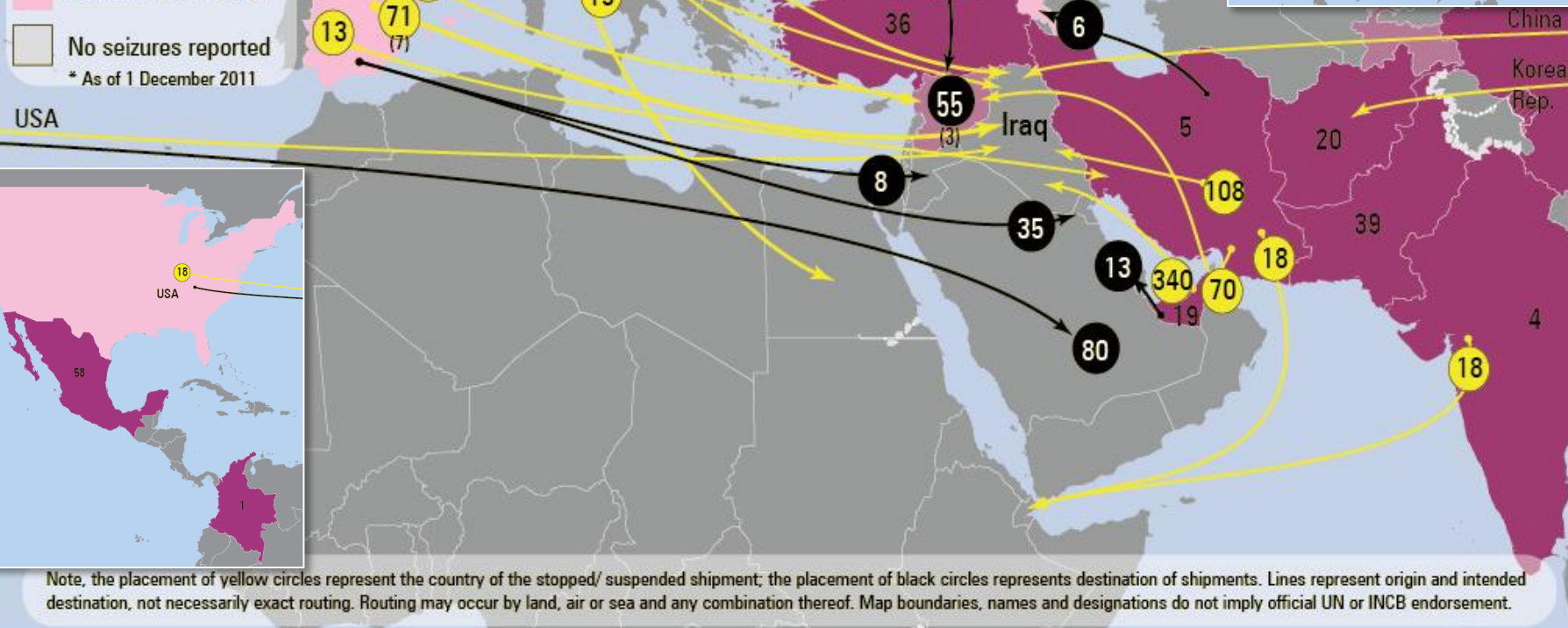
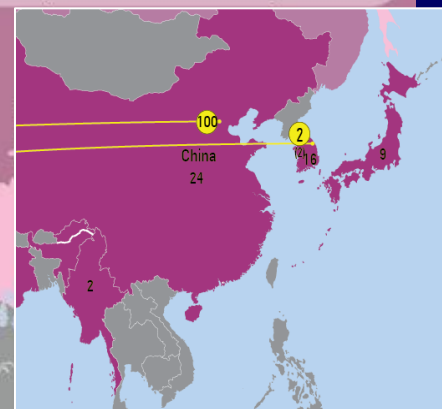
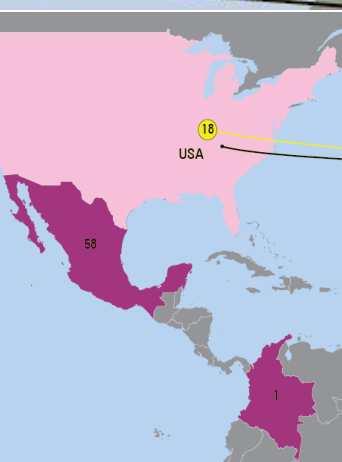
Seizures reported by 32 Governments totaling 429 tons.

Stopped and/ or suspended shipments: 24 cases totaling 822 tons.

Suspicious shipments: 8 cases totaling 197 tons.

- 20** Stopped or suspended shipments in tons
(5) (no. of incidents)
 - 20** Suspicious shipments in tons
(5) (no. of incidents)
 - 20** Seizures in tons
 - Seizures (under 1000 kg)
 - Seizures (under 100 kg)
 - No seizures reported
- * As of 1 December 2011

USA



INTELLIGENCE EXCHANGE

ATS PRECURSORS - PROJECT PRISM

Operation Crystal Flow 2007

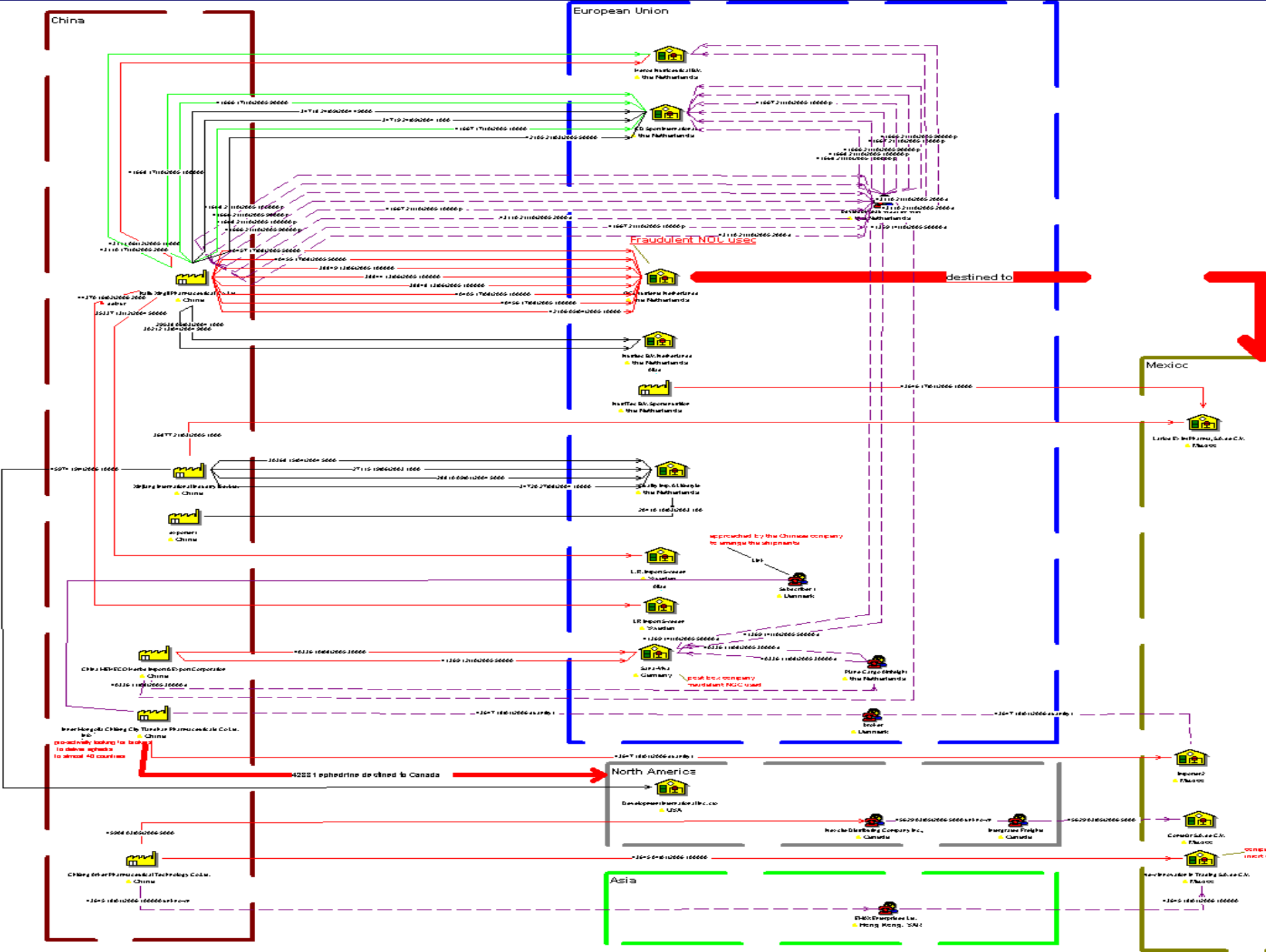
- 1399 shipments to 119 countries/territories monitored
- 187 queries into legitimacy of transactions
- 35 suspicious transactions or seizures
- 53 tons of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine stopped or seized

Operation Ice Block 2008

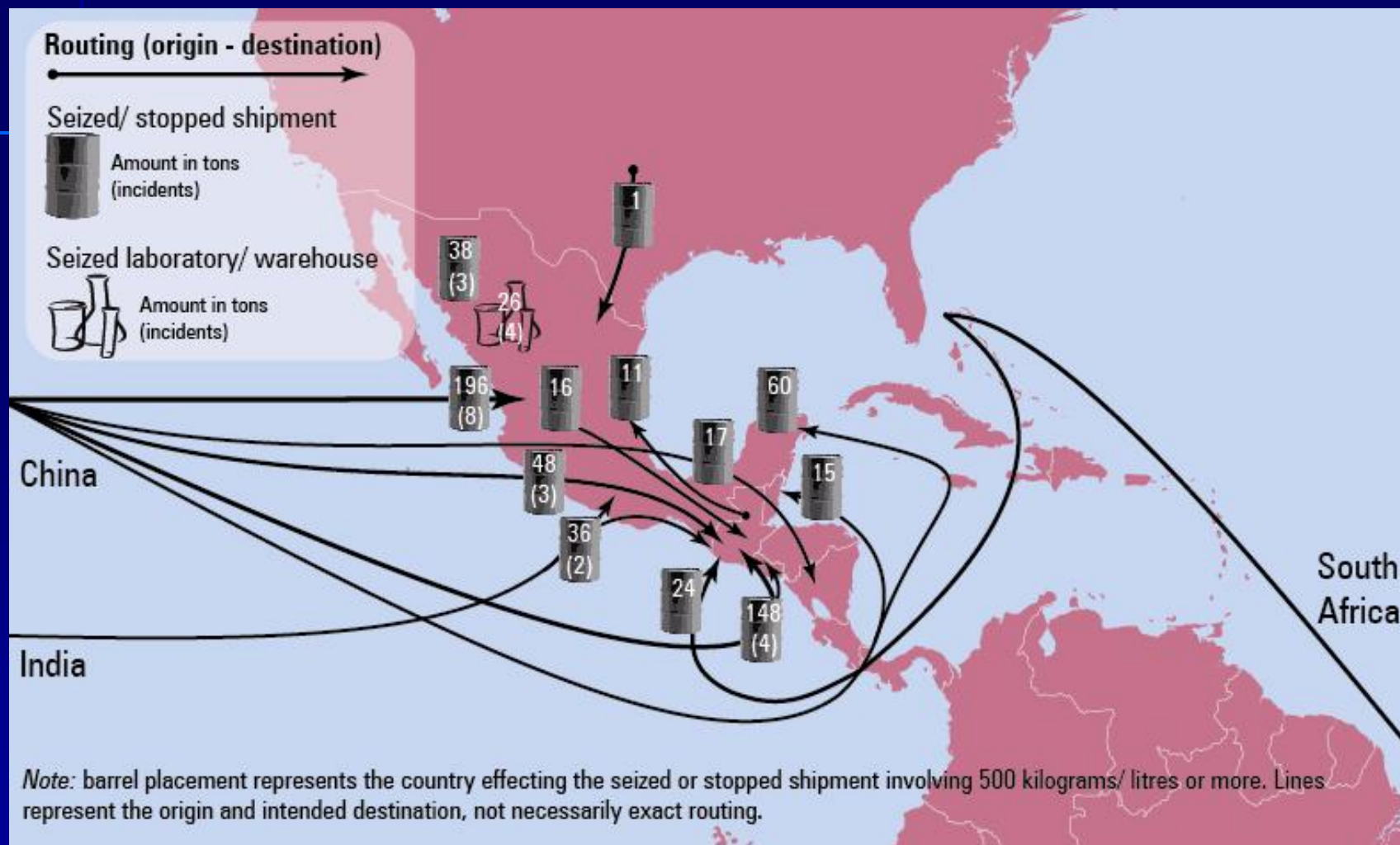
- 2057 shipments monitored
- 219 queries into the legitimacy of transactions
- 49 suspicious transactions or seizures
- 49 tons stopped or seized
- Eleven cases involving pharmaceutical preparations (113 million tablets) of pseudoephedrine

Operation PILA 2010

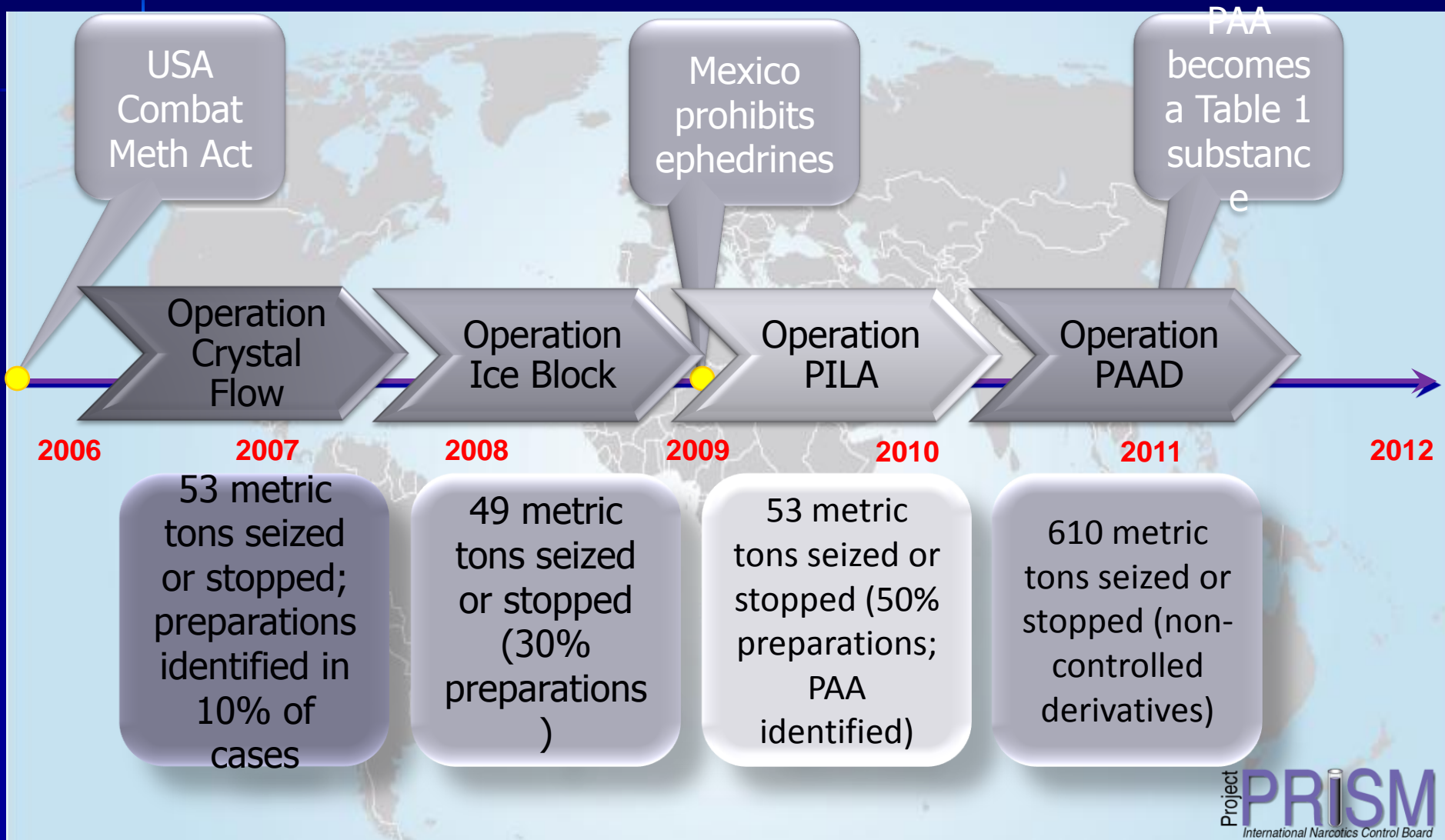
- 2575 shipments monitored
- 151 queries into the legitimacy of transactions
- 40 suspicious transactions or seizures
- 12.8 tons stopped or seized
- Sixteen cases involving pharmaceutical preparations (203 million tablets) of pseudoephedrine and (145000 tablets) of ephedrine



Emerging threat: new precursors



Emerging threat: new precursors



Unprecedented sophistication & scale

- Technical know-how and equipment previously considered too complex / sophisticated and costly to employ in illicit settings now commonly seen
- Indications of organized crime groups specializing in the illicit manufacture of primary precursors, with subsequent smuggling to destination countries



Precursors Incident Communication System

- Real-time communication and information sharing between national authorities on precursor incidents *
- Contact details of information owner
- Automated e-mail alerts
- Different security levels
- Structured and Google-type search of past incidents

* seizures, shipments stopped in transit, diversions, illicit laboratories and associated equipment

PICS Online: New Activity notification

March 2012

To: Politen HCC

Should an incident involve your country (as origin, transit or destination country, or because persons from your country are involved), you are invited to provide information and, where possible, to that end, please contact directly the information provider in case of a media report, please or your entry stating the facts. PICS will ensure subsequent removal of the initial entry sourced from the media.

Should you experience any difficulty or wish to contact the PICS Online Team, please email us.

Regards,

Precursors Incident Communication System (PICS)
International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

View: [incidents](#)
View: [sources](#)

Incident Number	Substances	Country of origin	Date of incident	Status of information
AAA0062	Ceustic soda (750 kilograms)			
AAA0102	ethyl phenylacetate (17760 kilograms)			
AAA0112	Ceustic soda (750 kilograms)	Mexico	22-02-2011	R
AAA0115	Toluene (600 litres), tartaric acid (175 kilograms)	Mexico	24-08-2011	R
AAA0116	Toluene (150 litres), Hydrochloric acid (175 kilograms)	Mexico	25-11-2011	R
AAA0117	Acetic anhydride (2240 kilograms)	Mexico	17-11-2011	R
AAA0123	Serofol (2500 kilograms)	Mexico	10-11-2011	R
AAA0124	Acetic anhydride (175 kilograms)	Mexico	10-11-2011	R



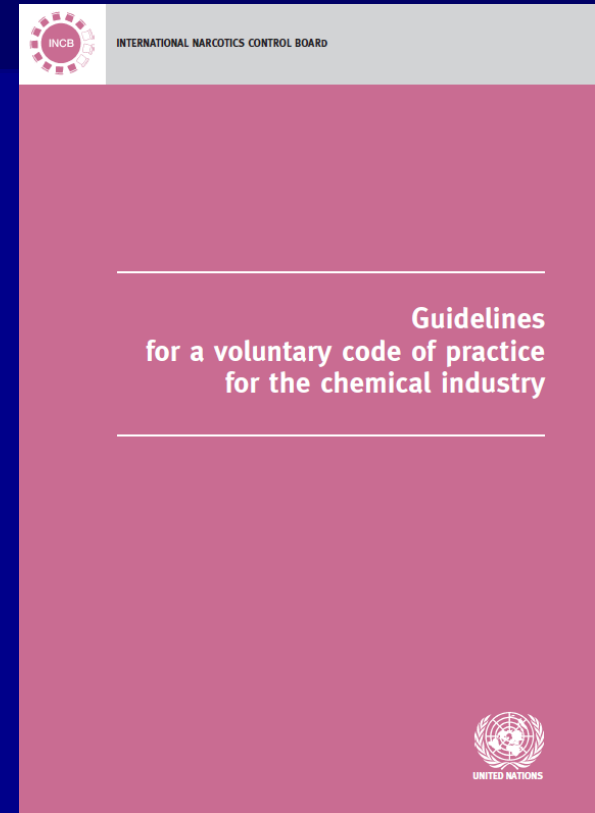
Join us at: pics@incb.org

Voluntary Cooperation with Industry

- ... is an effective means of monitoring precursor chemicals without impeding access by legitimate users.
- ... allows for rapid and flexible response to changes in illicit drug manufacturing activities.

Guidelines:

Assist authorities in the development of a code of practice with national industry as a supplement to existing national legislation.



A Possible Model:

- Limitations of “control” and focusing on:
 - 1. Monitoring
 2. Intelligence sharing
 3. Cooperation with industry
- Advantages of a multilateral approach:
 1. Global coverage (incl. reaching out problem areas)
 2. Comprehensiveness (regulatory, law enforcement, intelligence)
 3. “Honest broker” and neutrality/confidentiality
- Could this be used as a model to counter other threats?