

# THE INFLUENCE OF TERRORISM AND DRUG CONSUMPTION ON GLOBAL ECONOMY

MIHAELA SIMONA MĂRĂCINE

”CONSTANTIN BRÂNCOVEANU” UNIVERSITY, PITEȘTI  
CRT. GĂVANA 3, BL. B3, SC. A, PITEȘTI, JUD. ARGÈȘ  
mihaela.maracine@yahoo.com

## **Abstract:**

*Terrorism is not a new phenomenon and it has existed ever since the beginning of history, so it is relatively hard to define. Terrorism has been described both as a tactic and as a strategy; a murder and a sacred duty; a justified reaction against oppression and injustice. This international phenomenon is increasingly threatening the security of countries and their citizens, entailing serious moral, economic, social, political consequences, psychologically having a strong influence on different segments of the population, taking the lives of many people. Moreover, drug consumption is a complex and important matter for humanity. Both phenomena remain a real danger to the entire world.*

**Key words:** terrorism, drugs, terrorist, drug trafficking, drug consumption.

**JEL classification:** F51, F52.

Terrorism, international plague, next to drug consumption is and remains, unfortunately, one of the real dangers of the contemporary world. Currently, the size of the two phenomena has become alarming, attracting more and more the humanity's attention, terrified and often helpless when faced with the deliberate acts that endanger material and spiritual values, and what is worse, takes the lives of innocent people. From what is known, the proportions of violence generated by terrorism are likely to impair the stability of natural, civilized relations for social existence, to affect the cultural, economic and political relationships between states, to defy moral norms and principles of international law.

The practice of terrorism is not a new phenomenon; it is not an emanation of the contemporary world. It has been practiced in one form or another throughout history, manifested by reprehensible acts which have aroused indignation and revolt in the universal consciousness. The forms through which it manifests itself, however, at present and the increasingly obvious fanatical tendency towards mass destruction acts make it the greatest enemy of the civilized world.<sup>1</sup>

- **The evolution of terrorism and its impact on humanity**

Everywhere, terrorism has emerged beyond the military confrontation, in order to make, following the winners' procession, the citadel residents be brought to the stage of slaves, abandoned on ruins, hit by the sword or blinded, to serve as "example" to other citadels, which will thus choose to obey. Perhaps we can say that the confrontation between two armed enemies represents a war, and the invasion of a territory a possible goal of the war, but the massacre of the civilian population, whatever its form, as any impairment of its assets and freedom, are related to terrorism.

If people come to open battle against an army of occupation, they only extend the war to another field and are, therefore, combatants, whatever their insignia, uniform, or

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<sup>1</sup> Gh.Bica, M.T.Burdușel – *Financial support of international terrorism*, Editura Eficient, București, 2001.

lack of uniform. They are not terrorists unless they indulge in intimidation acts against the civilian population in order to exert pressure on a certain government and achieve their goals.

Within a country, among the people united by the ties of the citadel, if they must be destroyed after a serious crisis, they should be broken as a result of political consultations. In fact, very soon, the two present factions resorted to terrorism as to a supreme arbitration, aiming at the rule of terror.

What we call terrorism includes violence committed by one or more individuals against arbitrarily chosen victims, only to support one power, a domination desire through fear and terror which immediately becomes contagious for the entire population. Terrorism is therefore primarily an offensive system used by an individual or a more or less extensive group, to impose its will on an entire people, even on an entire civilization to exert an influence on history.

In this perspective, the terrorist, whether an isolated killer or a whole nation, poses as the supreme justice maker, holder of an absolute justice, in the name of some principles which are often known or admitted only by him. This leads us to include among terrorists not only criminals, but even the countries that should depend on a common law of nations, countries that are guilty because they host crimes against humanity, incitation or complicity to murder and violence.

We must therefore include in the category of terrorists the regimes that condemn their political opponents treating them as common law criminals for the simple crime of opinion, in contempt of any freedom of thought. And this insofar as the so-called criminals do not indulge in criminal acts and do not incite their supporters to commit any. They would become in this case common law criminals. In international law, the attempts of defining terrorism have not been too successful.<sup>2</sup>

In the Romanian legislation, terrorism is defined in Article 1 from Law no. 535/25.11.2004 on preventing and combating terrorism as being: “all the actions and / or threats that present public danger and affect the national security, having the following characteristics:

- Are committed premeditatedly by terrorist entities, motivated by extremist views and attitudes, hostile to other entities, against which they act in violent and / or destructive ways;
- Aim at achieving specific political goals;
- Involve human and/or material factors within the public authorities and institutions, the civilian population or any other segment belonging to them;
- Produce states with a strong psychological impact on people, meant to draw attention to the aims pursued.”

This definition clearly distinguishes terrorism from other violent criminal phenomena, emphasizing its defining features:

- Actions and threats committed by entities (individuals, groups or organizations) motivated by extremist views and attitudes, radically hostile to other entities;
- Premeditated nature, which requires thorough preparation;
- The violent and destructive action method. Regarding the specific methods of violent terrorist action, we can mention: the destruction or degradation of some strategic objectives or with symbol value or occupation by force of such targets; committing attacks with classic arms, chemical or biological, leading to killing a mass of people or to harming their health or physical integrity;
- Its target are human or material factors determining for maintaining life and established social order. The human factors can be specific, when directly involved in the functional mechanisms of the attacked authority (officials,

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<sup>2</sup> Servier Jean – *Terrorism*, The European Institute, Iași, 2002.

military officers, senior superior officials) or unspecific, when perceived as being included indirectly in the mechanisms of the concerned authority (civilian population). The material factors chosen as target may be: buildings or infrastructure elements (forms of communication and telecommunications, energy systems, hydrographic systems, information systems, targets and nuclear installations or of great economic importance, etc.), landmarks with high symbolic value (monuments, cultural objectives) military objectives or with military utility, environmental factors (water, soil, air), food stocks, crops, etc.;

- It follows to intimidate the population by producing a state of anxiety, insecurity, fear and panic, so that this unbearable state determines the authorities to satisfy their goals, to establish a bearable *modus vivendi*.

At present, the phenomenon of terrorism has acquired a strong cross-border character facilitated by factors such as: globalization of economic-commercial relations, information technology, open borders, etc., but in the internationalization of the terrorist phenomenon the increase of the economic-social and political-military interdependences is determining, which turned into enemies of terrorist groups all the states that have closer relations with the regimes they challenged.

This phenomenon was accompanied by a reactivation and exacerbation of some ethnic and religious tensions, fueled by conflicts that have taken place involving the international community or some states that apparently had no direct connection with the war waged in that area. (Middle East, former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, etc.).<sup>3</sup>

Nevertheless, if until recent years the terrorist networks were supported and even coordinated by certain states, now these organizations have detached from the respective states, creating cross-border networks free from any external control. From this perspective, through the creation and strengthening of some ethnic communities in Romania, there appeared the real danger that, within them, under the cover of the status of businesspeople within education institutions in Romania, of representatives of some cultural organizations or of social assistance, some foreign citizens could act as agents of some terrorist groups.

Through the status of NATO member and EU member, Romania has the role of security guarantor in the border area of the Euro-Atlantic structures, establishing a deepening and a correlation of a counter-terrorism strategy with the contemporary realities and in line with the measures taken by political partners.

Preventing, countering and annihilation on Romanian territory of any actions to support the terrorist activity is a major objective, which requires taking urgent and decisive steps to entirely secure the border lines and implement counter-terrorism policy by:

- Assessment of internal vulnerability and risks caused by the terrorist phenomenon and by the international antiterrorism campaign and taking appropriate actions to eliminate or reduce these vulnerabilities and critical sources of risk;
- Prevention, as well as identification and fight against any manifestations of terrorist origin, capable of bringing impairment to Romania's security or to the other countries from the international antiterrorist coalition;
- Harmonization of regulations in the fight against terrorism with the recommendations of international bodies and with the provisions from the allied states' legislation;
- Provide a permanent exchange of information and data between the institutions within the National System of Prevention and Fight against Terrorism;

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<sup>3</sup> Popa Ștefan, Drăgan Gheorghe –*Money laundering and terrorism financing. Worldwide threats on financial routes*, Editura Expert, București, 2005.

- Developing cooperation with the specialized services involved in this fight from the states of the international antiterrorist coalition.

The phenomenon of terrorism has become a disease of the modern society, a virus that grows in a sick body. The effects of this virus may be partially removed, but there is no concern for finding a complete remedy.

In essence, terrorism is undoubtedly a psychological war, but its reality is more complex, it is the result of an accumulation of factors that cannot be, simplistically speaking, separated. It is in fact a radical expression of deep conflict. The mosaic of forces, of political orientations, of unresolved problems and of open conflicts, along with the presence of the major world powers, creates an undeniably favorable ground for the expansion of terrorism.

**Table 1. Incidents of Terrorism Worldwide**

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Attacks worldwide	11,157	14,545	14,506	11,770
Attacks resulting in death, injury, or kidnapping of at least 1 person	8,025	11,311	11,123	8,438
Attacks resulting in the death of at least one individual	5,127	7,428	7,255	5,067
Attacks resulting in the death of zero individuals	6,030	7,117	7,251	6,703
Attacks resulting in the death of only one individual	2,880	4,139	3,994	2,889
Attacks resulting in the death of at least 10 individuals	226	293	353	235
Attacks resulting in the injury of at least one individual	3,842	5,796	6,256	4,888
Attacks resulting in the kidnapping of at least one individual	1,475	1,733	1,459	1,125

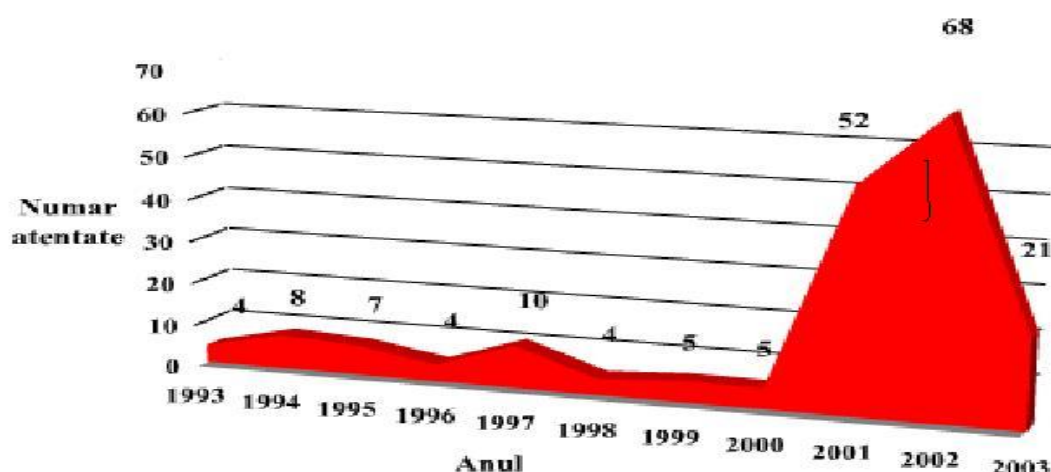
  

People killed, injured or kidnapped as a result of terrorism	74,280	74,709	71,608	54,747
People worldwide killed as a result of terrorism	14,560	20,468	22,508	15,765
People worldwide injured as a result of terrorism	24,875	38,386	44,118	34,124
People worldwide kidnapped as a result of terrorism	34,845	15,855	4,982	4,858

Source: [www.state.gov/documents](http://www.state.gov/documents)

One can say that terrorism is a disturbing factor of the inter-state and inter-ethnic relations, a pathogen of the international community system. The terrorist threat is more than possible anywhere and anytime and there is little that may prevent it from achieving its goals. Being an extreme form of expression of social radicalism and extremism, ethnic and religious, terrorism has known nowadays an unprecedented spread worldwide. The international community, facing more and more often terror proper, was put in the position of working for developing a common strategy and tactics to combat this universal evil.

**Figure 1. Terrorist attacks during 1993-2003**



Source: <http://hopia.net>

The current tendency of terrorism is, as evidenced by events, to increase it, both geographically and as numeric frequency and intensity, and this because the factors that generate it continue to deepen. The official response to this escalation of violence is the attempt to control and to suppress terrorism by force only, without removing the causes that determine it. An understanding and recognition that terrorism is a complex issue of contemporary society has not been yet reached, just as environmental pollution, for example, was not considered a problem for society and humanity 30 years ago.

- **Analysis of the drug phenomenon**

Along with terrorism, drug abuse and its associated problems continue to grow in most regions of the world. The overall situation of drug consumption and trafficking becomes more and more complex, partly because of world economic and political changes that led to an increase in open borders between many countries; the emergence of a new class of consumers willing to spend more on the so-called “recreational” drugs; an increased demand and willingness to consume almost all types of controlled substances; and cultural changes brought by globalization as well as by the fast communications. Drug trade involves growers, producers, couriers, suppliers, retailers and consumers in all member countries of INTERPOL. It is not exaggerated when the current situation is described as being “global”.<sup>4</sup>

Drug trafficking is often associated with other serious crimes such as people smuggling, organized prostitution and forgery of travel documents. Drug trafficking is often cited as means of financing the more violent and destructive activities of terrorist and criminal organizations, because of the large profits in a short period of time and with a minimum investment. Drug trafficking is a very dangerous criminal activity which has a strong social impact and which brings significant revenues to the mafia type organizations. It is estimated that the worldwide turnover of drug transactions is of approximately 500 billion dollars, 35% of this amount is used to pay distributors, producers and intermediaries and the rest goes to the drug cartels which after the “laundering” operations place the money in the legal circuit.

<sup>4</sup> [www.interpol.int](http://www.interpol.int) – Interpol and drug trafficking

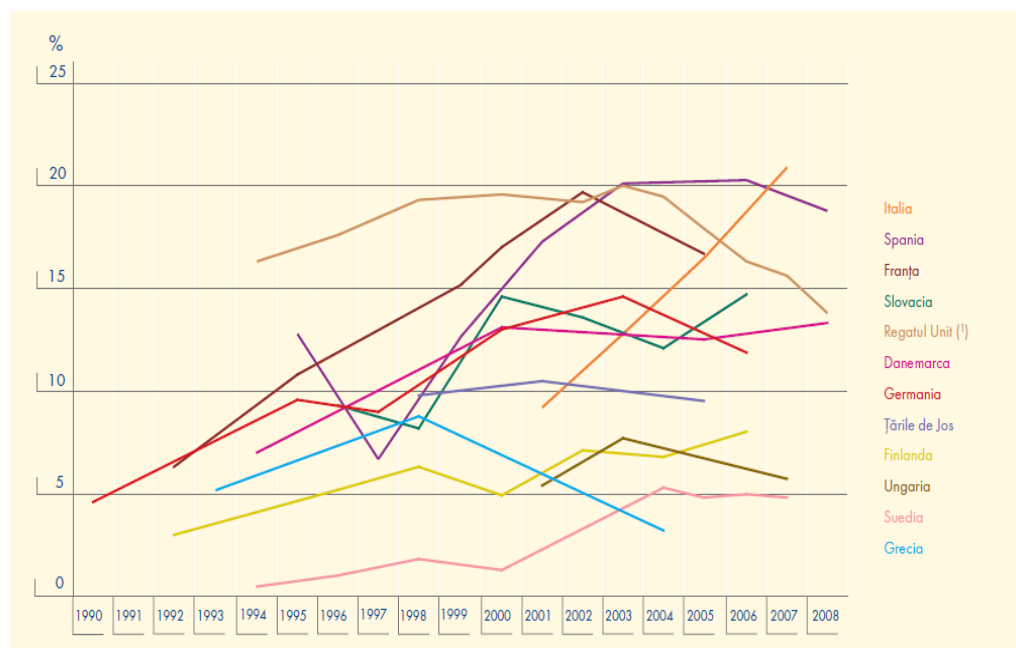
- **Evolution of illicit drugs in Europe**

Statistics on drugs in Europe:

- about 13 million Europeans aged between 15 to 64 have tried cocaine at least once in their lifetime;
- about 74 million Europeans have tried cannabis at least once in their lifetime;
- approximately 2.5% of young Europeans use cannabis daily;
- Internet has become an outlet for psychoactive substances, a recent example being the “spice products”.

Cannabis remains the most consumed drug in Europe. In the European Union member states, as well as in Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, approximately 30 million people used cannabis in 2006. Among the European countries where the cannabis consumption is the most frequent, we mentioned: France, Ireland, Czech Republic, UK and Switzerland. The total quantity of cocaine seized in Europe continues to increase, indicating that the consumption of this substance is indeed widespread. The high demand that the treatment services for cocaine addicted consumers in Western Europe have to deal with is another factor indicating the high consumption of cocaine; nevertheless, it is difficult to say with certainty whether that is the case or not because the evolution in the consumption of this substance was not systematically controlled; national surveys have been rare on cocaine use, and samples were very small.

**Figure 2. The tendencies in prevalence of cannabis use in 2008 among young adults (aged between 15 and 34)**



(!) Anglia și Țara Galilor.

Source: [www.emcdda.europa.eu](http://www.emcdda.europa.eu)

Cannabis continues to be grown in several European countries, especially in Albania and the Netherlands, where the seeds could be bought in 2004 from over 300 stores. According to the Dutch Government estimates the cannabis industry includes about 1,200 retail sales enterprises in the country, with approximately 4,600 employees.

The annual turnover of these outlets where cannabis is sold and consumed (“coffee shops”) is included, according to the Government estimates, between 211 and 283 million euros. The number of “coffee shops” began to decline from 1,179 in 1997 to 737 in 2004.

The quasi-totality of heroin found on the illicit market in Europe originates in Afghanistan; the smuggling of heroin originating in Afghanistan has grown visibly in the Russian Federation, the total seizures of heroin in this country reaching in 2004 the record level of 3.8 tones. Although in the future it will be easy to get this substance in Europe, the heroin consumption is, according to the information available, stable or declining in most countries in Western Europe.

In December 2004, the EU Council approved the new anti-drug strategy 2005-2012. It lays the foundation for a final evaluation of the strategy and anti-drug action plan for the European Union during 2000 - 2004 and it supplements the strategies to combat drugs applied nationally. This also emphasizes the importance of making best use of the existing legal instruments and the need to attract more partners, NGOs, local authorities and other members of the civil society. During a period of 8 years this strategy will provide a framework for the two action plans, each lasting 4 years, of the European Union about the progress of the activities stipulated in the action plans, an impact study in 2008 (in order to propose a new action plan for the period of 2009-2012) and a final evaluation of the anti-drug strategy and action plan of the EU in 2012.

In Spain and the Netherlands, cocaine is now the most often reported drug, following heroin, in the specialized treatment centers. Surveys show that the annual prevalence rate of cocaine consumption has increased among the young people in Germany, Spain, Denmark and the United Kingdom, as well as in certain areas in Austria, Greece, Ireland and Italy.

In Europe, the illicit demand for heroin is estimated at approximately 170 tones, half of this quantity being consumed in Western and Central Europe. Most of the heroin entering Western Europe continues to be transported, through the Balkan route, to the Netherlands, and thence by transporting smaller quantities, to Germany and other Western European countries.

Drug criminality, by its social, economic, medical, cultural and political consequences, causes considerable damage not only to the state interests, but also to those of the society, to those of many individuals, it attempts to the life and health of citizens, it affects in a demoralizing manner the consciousness and human behavior.

Analyzing the connections between drug trafficking and terrorism it is necessary to highlight the differences involved by violence associated with drug trafficking and that specific to narcotic-terrorism. Regarding violence generated by drug trafficking, it can manifest itself among consumers as a result of the alteration of the normal functioning of the specific mechanisms of the human body, or has as target those who cause disturbance of any type to the traffic activities themselves (production, transport, distribution, etc.) both directions of manifestation (conflicts between drug addicts, conflicts between rival groups, conflicts between traffickers and authorities, etc.) being encountered daily, at sight, and affecting on a small scale the social climate.

In contrast to this situation, terrorism involves acts of violence, publicly motivated, premeditated, with major impact on the social surroundings and are focused on some “non-combatant targets”, those who put them into practice being, in most cases, “invisible”.

The issues presented in this paper attempted to highlight the main landmarks that define the expression frame of drug trafficking and consumption in the current international socio-political context.

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