

## **Denmark Has Redefined Its Anti-Doping Policies**

In the biggest doping bust in Danish history, Copenhagen Police has confiscated more than one ton of steroids. The Danish police remarked new and stricter laws on doping have given them the necessary tools to bust two men who had "at least a ton" of illegal [steroids](#).

Commissioner Steffen Steffensen said we have found so much that it is impossible to count it all up right now. Steffen added but offhand he would say that it is the largest case of organized doping in Denmark thus far. The police operation was a direct result of a parliamentary decision taken last year to increase the maximum penalty in doping cases from two to six years in prison. This legislation allowed police to tap telephones that Copenhagen Police said they used "for the first time" in the investigation leading to the arrests. Steffensen added the police before the new doping law could do almost nothing because the investigation tools were so limited with the two-year maximum penalty and added now it is up to six years and we have therefore suddenly been given a new tool that we can use.

In 2014, the national drug policies of Denmark were reevaluated after the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) made a surprising recommendation to decriminalize personal drug use. After the recommendation was made, the left-wing Socialist People's Party (SF) legal spokeswoman Karina Lorentzen said the current policies of the country have failed. Karina had remarked that she cannot see how our current approach has helped at all and added we on the contrary have created a very lucrative market for organized criminals. The Conservative party's spokesman Tom Behnke remarked the party was "was not resigned to decriminalization". Tom said there is a good reason that it is illegal, and that is because it is dangerous to be on drugs. He added on the other hand, we do need to admit that there are people who take these drugs so we need to try to respond to that and added the important thing is to have a good treatment program, so we can help people break their addictions.

According to the 2014 European Drug Report, the 35.6 percent of Danes who admitted to having smoked cannabis in their lifetime is the highest proportion among European

countries while the next drug of choice for Danes is amphetamines, with a lifetime prevalence of 6.6 percent, followed by cocaine at 5.2 percent.

According to latest figures from the Danish Health and Medicines Authority (Sundhedsstyrelsen), the use of hard drugs by Danes under 25 has more than halved since 2008 with less than four percent of Danes aged 16-24 report using hard drugs like cocaine, [amphetamines](#), and ecstasy. Mads Uffe Pedersen, a professor at Aarhus University's Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research, revealed that hard drugs are no longer cool or accepted among young people. The professor added there is not a wide swath of youth who take drugs, and we researchers have known that for many years and added that hard drugs like cocaine and amphetamines get a lot of media attention, so people get the impression that it is widespread amongst young people, that's just not the case.