Question for written answer E-001457/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Confronting alcohol consumption among young people

In a survey by the OECD (2019), more than one-third of young people in the EU reported ‘heavy drinking within the past month’.

Under-age alcohol consumption is associated with multiple risks to physical and mental health.

Acute intoxication can occur more easily among under-age drinkers, with the result that

- it creates problems in parts of the brain involved in balance, contributing to road accidents,

- it affects the nerves that control breathing and heart rate,

- it reduces body temperature, potentially leading to hypothermia,

- it inactivates the gagging reflex, increasing the risk of choking,

- it leads to suppression of breathing.

In addition to reckless behaviour in driving and sex (unwanted pregnancies, STDs), alcohol consumption among the under-25s, particularly below 15 years of age, leads to brain damage, impairing learning ability and memory among young people and causing problems in liver function.

It is noteworthy that 8% of Europeans report that they drink every day (Euronews, 2019), while the WHO estimates that alcohol causes nearly 1 million deaths annually in Europe.

1. As the Commission supports programmes to educate young people in dealing with alcohol consumption, does it have information on the results?

2. What action does the Commission plan to take in the five years 2024-2029 to prevent alcohol consumption among young people?

3. Are good practices available, so that municipalities can combat under-age drinking?

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