

**Question for written answer E-002176/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Tackling old and new types of drugs in the EU

In 2021, approximately 6 700 people died from drug use in the EU. Heroin and other opioids were the main cause of death in three out of four cases. According to the EMCDDA, there were one million high-risk opioid users in the EU in 2021, with the number of younger heroin/opioid users on the rise¹. Europe's cocaine seizures are surpassing those of the US, which was historically the largest market in the world. By way of illustration, in Greece, the reported demand for treatment related to the use of cocaine or other stimulants as primary drugs in 2022 was 62 % higher than five years before and 186 % higher than 10 years before.

It can be observed that any substance with psychoactive properties can end up on the drug market, often mislabelled or in mixtures, increasing risks and creating new law-enforcement challenges.² Pink cocaine, hexahydrocannabinol (HHC) and fentanyl are considered to be the strongest types of drugs. Fentanyl is an opioid typically up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 70 times stronger than morphine. Drug-related deaths are set to skyrocket.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission agree that the Member States should increase policing in the vicinity of schools and areas frequented by young people?
2. Does the Commission agree that border controls should be stepped up?
3. Does the Commission intend to organise campaigns to raise awareness of the growing risk?

Submitted: 18.10.2024

¹ https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/european-drug-report/2023/heroin-and-other-opioids_en

² European Drug Report 2024: Trends and Developments https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/european-drug-report/2024_en