

**Question for written answer E-004345/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: The spread of nitazenes in Europe could trigger a new synthetic opioid crisis

Over the last few months, a number of European countries have reported the emergence of nitazenes, a new class of synthetic opioid drugs which are 40 times more powerful than fentanyl and which standard drug tests often fail to detect. It has recently been established that nitazenes have claimed their first overdose victim on Italian soil.

Experts believe that these opioids are an emerging public health threat because they be cut with other substances or sold online, thus escaping detection. In addition, naloxone and the other antidotes commonly used to counter fentanyl overdoses are less effective on nitazenes.

Though EMCDDA and Europol are monitoring the evolution of new psychoactive substances, the EU's regulatory framework is still designed to tackle the threat posed by fentanyl derivatives. The sheer speed at which nitazenes are sweeping through Europe calls for a coordinated response at EU level that can prevent a wave of overdose cases and ensure the development of effective surveillance, testing and prevention tools.

We call on the Commission to answer the following question:

Has it looked at the latest data concerning the arrival of nitazenes in the EU and related overdose cases?

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