

EN
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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.1.2025)

The Commission works closely with the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) and Europol¹ to monitor the situation of synthetic drugs across the EU, including captagon and fentanyl.

With its new mandate², EUDA has strengthened its threat assessment capabilities and is developing a European drug alert system to facilitate the exchange of information on developments requiring rapid actions to safeguard health, social aspects, safety and security.

The fight against drug trafficking is one of the priorities of the EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025³ and action plan⁴. Penalties in the field of illicit drug trafficking are governed by Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA⁵. The Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA on the fight against organised crime⁶ foresees penalties for offences relating to participation in a criminal organisation.

The Commission also adopted a dedicated EU roadmap⁷ envisioning exchanges with China. The EU Drugs Dialogue was notably used to systematically raise the issue of drug precursors and synthetic drugs and ask China to take effective measures. There are also specific exchanges via the EU-China joint follow-up group meetings on drug precursors and on customs cooperation to help prevent the entry of designer precursors⁸ in the EU territory.

In April 2023, the EU decided to list 11 individuals and 3 entities in the framework of EU restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria⁹ targeting those responsible for the production and trafficking of narcotics, notably captagon. The trade in amphetamine has become a regime-led business model, providing its inner circle with revenue that contributes to its ability to maintain its policies of repression against the civilian population¹⁰.

The Commission is conducting an assessment together with EUDA of captagon trafficking in the region.

¹ The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1322/oj>

³ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XG0324\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XG0324(01))

⁴ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/fd218c19-c5d6-11ec-b6f4-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-RDF>

⁵ Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA of 25 October 2004 laying down minimum provisions on the constituent elements of criminal acts and penalties in the field of illicit drug trafficking, http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2004/757/2022-08-18

⁶ Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA of 24 October 2008 on the fight against organised crime, OJ L 300, 11.11.2008, p. 42–45

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023DC0641>

⁸ Substances with no known legitimate uses.

⁹ COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/844 of 24 April 2023 implementing Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2023:109I:FULL>

¹⁰ Any decision on sanctions, including the addition of restrictive measures on individuals and entities, is taken by the Council acting unanimously.