

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003082/24
to the Commission
Afroditi Latinopoulou (Pfe)
(23 December 2024)**

Subject: Worrying increase in Türkiye's role in trafficking cocaine to Europe

According to a recent report from the InstituDE institute ⁽¹⁾, in recent years Türkiye has become a major hub for trafficking cocaine to Europe, with an estimated value between USD 2.9 and 5.8 billion per year.

The report points out that the erosion of the rule of law, corruption and lenient citizenship laws have made Türkiye attractive to criminal organisations. In addition, frequent tax amnesties in Türkiye and the close links between politicians and criminal groups facilitate the laundering of the proceeds of criminal activities, including narcotics trafficking.

Given that Türkiye is a country that is a candidate for accession and a key partner of the EU:

1. How does the Commission view the report's findings on Türkiye's role in cocaine trafficking to Europe? What action has it taken to address this threat?
2. Does it consider that the situation in Türkiye in relation to organised crime and narcotics trafficking is compatible with the conditions for EU membership?
3. What is the Commission's action plan to ensure that Türkiye takes effective measures to address the issues, in particular to strengthen the rule of law and combat corruption?

Submitted: 23.12.2024

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(24 March 2025)**

The Commission acknowledges the concerns raised in the referenced report. Addressing illicit drug trafficking is a shared priority.

Accession negotiations with Türkiye remain at a standstill since June 2018, following the decisions of the European Council ⁽¹⁾. Consequently, the Commission has reduced financial support to Türkiye, with funding in the area of fundamental rights reoriented towards civil society organisations.

At the same time, as a candidate country, the adherence of Türkiye to the EU *acquis* is systematically monitored and evaluated in the Commission's annual Türkiye Report ⁽²⁾.

Türkiye's alignment with EU standards, including the rule of law, anti-corruption and law enforcement cooperation on organised crime, including drug trafficking, is essential for accession.

In the area of the rule of law, the latest annual Türkiye Report highlighted persistent serious concerns. In terms of combating organised crime, Türkiye was urged to strengthen its operational commitment to cooperation and enhance information exchange with EU law enforcement partners.

The Commission also continues to address these issues through bilateral dialogues, including the specialised sub-committee Number 8 ⁽³⁾, that are integral to the EU-Türkiye relationship.

Additionally, it remains committed to supporting Türkiye in strengthening its capacities through targeted pre-accession assistance and enhanced cooperation.

¹ https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/613204cb57e0dd9f56cd6a54/66e9a4ed93f97458ca7a005c_Turkey%E2%80%99s%20Growing%20Role%20in%20Global%20Cocaine%20Trafficking.pdf

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/35863/st10555-en18.pdf>

⁽²⁾ https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2024_en

⁽³⁾ Sub-Committee on Customs, Taxation, Drug and Money Laundering (judiciary, fundamental rights and freedoms, home affairs, taxation, customs and financial control).