

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000808/25
to the Commission
Nadine Morano (PPE)
(21 February 2025)**

Subject: Increase in drug trafficking in Europe and its impact on young people

On 5 November 2024, EUR 1.2 million was seized from a vehicle as part of an anti-drug operation in Marseille. According to the European Union Drug Agency's 2022 European Drug Report, 362 tonnes of cocaine were seized in Europe, up from 213 tonnes in 2020, the first time the haul was bigger in Europe than in the United States ⁽¹⁾.

In addition, more and more young people are involved in drug trafficking and the number of adolescents accused of drug-related homicide is on the rise.

In 2023, 60% of victims of drug-related violence in France were under 25 years old ⁽²⁾. These figures illustrate the increase in drug trafficking in Europe as well as its impact on young people in France and elsewhere in Europe.

Against this backdrop:

1. What action is the Commission taking to combat this increase in drug trafficking and to stop drugs reaching Europe?
2. How will the Commission limit young people's exposure to and recruitment into drug trafficking?

Submitted: 21.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(19 May 2025)**

1. The EU addresses drug trafficking through the current EU Drugs Strategy ⁽³⁾ and Action Plan 2021-2025 ⁽⁴⁾, focusing on reducing the supply, demand and harm related to drugs. Increasing evidence-based targeted prevention interventions for young people is a priority. The EU roadmap to fight drug trafficking and organised crime ⁽⁵⁾ further aims at strengthening international cooperation to counter the borderless aspect of drug trafficking, as well as customs and law enforcement action in major logistical hubs with the launch of an EU Ports Alliance. The Commission announced in the ProtectEU Strategy ⁽⁶⁾ that it would propose a new EU Drugs Strategy and an EU Action Plan against drug trafficking to disrupt routes and business models, as well as an EU Ports Strategy building on the EU Ports Alliance.

2. The ProtectEU Strategy proposes measures to address the recruitment of young people into organised crime, notably guidelines on the protection of minors to assist online service providers in taking appropriate measures to ensure a high level of privacy, safety and security, in line with the Digital Services Act ⁽⁷⁾. The latter obliges providers of very large online platforms and search engines to assess the risks that their services may have on minors and adopt risk mitigation measures. The EU will also develop an Action Plan on the Protection of Children against Crime addressing both online and offline threats. The EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025 focuses on the healthy and safe development of children and young people. As part of the EU Roadmap, the 2024 EU Crime Prevention Conference facilitated the exchange of best practices against criminal recruitment of youngsters ⁽⁸⁾. The Commission is also exploring within the EU Internet forum possible action against online recruitment of youngsters, including via cooperation with private companies.

⁽¹⁾ European Drugs Agency, 'Understanding Europe's drug situation in 2024 — key developments', European Drug Report 2024 https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/european-drug-report/2024/drug-situation-in-europe-up-to-2024_en.

⁽²⁾ Thomas Saintourens, 'Trafic de drogue : pourquoi la France atteint un point critique', *Le Monde*, 17 November 2024, https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2024/11/17/trafic-de-droque-pourquoi-la-france-atteint-un-point-critique_6398366_3224.html.

⁽³⁾ EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025, OJ C 102I, 24.3.2021.

⁽⁴⁾ EU Drugs Action Plan 2021-2025, OJ C 272, 8.7.2021.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2023)0641 final.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2025)0148 final.

⁽⁷⁾ Regulation (EU) 2022/2065 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on a Single Market For Digital Services and amending Directive 2000/31/EC (Digital Services Act), OJ L 277, 27.10.2022, p. 1-102.

⁽⁸⁾ <https://www.eucpn.org/events/ecpc2024>.