

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002570/25  
to the Commission  
Ioan-Rareş Bogdan (PPE)  
(25 June 2025)**

**Subject:** Measures to combat the increasing availability of new psychoactive substances in the EU

The recent report published by the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) highlights an alarming trend: the significant increase in the availability of new psychoactive substances (NPS) in the European Union.

These substances, which are often synthetic and whose effects are unknown or have not been sufficiently researched, are posing an increasing challenge to public health, health insurance systems and prevention policies in the Member States.

In recent years, the illegal drug market in Europe has become increasingly fragmented and also ever more sophisticated, harnessing online distribution channels, social networks, encrypted trading platforms and express delivery postal services.

Of particular concern is the emergence of new synthetic opioids, some of which can be far more toxic than traditional substances and which are difficult to detect using current monitoring systems.

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to support Member States in their efforts to swiftly identify and control new psychoactive substances?
2. Is the Commission prepared to propose an updated legislative framework to combat the online distribution of synthetic drugs, particularly through the dark web and social media channels?
3. How does the Commission plan to incorporate this issue into the future European drugs strategy, in view of the rapid developments in the fields of synthetic chemistry and digital trade?

Submitted: 25.6.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission  
(8 August 2025)**

1. The EU Drugs Agency's early warning system is at the core of the EU response to new psychoactive substances <sup>(1)</sup>, together with a European drug alert system, health and security threat assessment capabilities and a network of forensic and toxicological laboratories. The Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (EU4Health Program) <sup>(2)</sup> supports actions to complement Member States' efforts in improving the health of children <sup>(3)</sup>, and capacity-building <sup>(4)</sup> to improve mental health. Horizon Europe supports research aimed at better understanding addiction, building resilience, and improving lives through drug rehabilitation <sup>(5)</sup>.
2. The framework Decision on illicit drug trafficking <sup>(6)</sup> requires Member States to criminalise drug trafficking, regardless of whether committed offline or online. The Commission is currently evaluating this framework decision. Based on the result, the rules could be amended, modernised and strengthened. Moreover, the Digital Services Act <sup>(7)</sup> includes obligations for providers of intermediary services to tackle the dissemination of illegal products, including illegal drugs, online.
3. The new EU Drugs Strategy and the drug trafficking Action Plan announced in ProtectEU: a European Internal Security Strategy <sup>(8)</sup> will reinforce EU preparedness to drug market threats. The strategy will aim to set the framework for leveraging EU and national efforts to disrupt drug trafficking routes and *modi operandi*, detect and dismantle production of illicit drugs, especially synthetic drugs and its precursors, and reduce societal harms derived from these illicit activities.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2023/1322 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2023 on the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006, OJ L 166, 30.6.2023, pp. 6-47.

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en).

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/items/863796/en>.

<sup>(4)</sup> <https://eu-promens.eu/eu-promens>.

<sup>(5)</sup> <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101155881>.

<sup>(6)</sup> Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA 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](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_framw/2004/757/2022-08-18).

<sup>(7)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

<sup>(8)</sup> COM(2025) 148 final.