

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002690/25
to the Commission
Loucas Fourlas (PPE)
(2 July 2025)**

Subject: Illicit use and trade of anabolic steroids

The illicit use and trade of anabolic steroids is a growing public health and safety problem in many Member States, including Cyprus. The use of anabolic steroids by amateur athletes, young people and even schoolchildren has increased significantly, while trading via the Internet and uncontrolled points of sale remain uncurbed. At the same time, there is a lack of coordinated action between Member States and a lack of adequate surveillance and legislative harmonisation, especially with regard to the 'grey areas' that allow the circulation of such substances.

Given the worrying dimensions of the phenomenon:

1. What measures could the Commission take to strengthen coordination between Member States in combating the illicit circulation of anabolic steroids?
2. What measures could be taken to raise young people's awareness about the risks of using these substances?

Submitted: 2.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Micallef on behalf of the European Commission
(24 November 2025)**

Member States are competent for undertaking measures to raise young people's awareness about the risks of anabolic steroids (AS).

At European level, the Commission provides support in sharing practices. In 2021 a study on mapping the EU legislation regarding AS in sport was conducted ⁽¹⁾.

In 2022 the Commission supported a project of the World Anti-Doping Agency aimed to increase anti-doping intelligence, including awareness raising of the threat of doping in youth amateur sports.

The Erasmus+ programme plays an important role in raising awareness about integrity in sport and physical activity, including risks associated with the use of AS.

It empowers youth organisations, sports clubs, and educational institutions to develop initiatives to promote clean sport values and healthy lifestyles.

The #BeActive campaign engages young people across Europe by encouraging participation in physical activity while promoting integrity in sport.

The European Anti-Fraud Office also plays an active role in the detection of dangerous goods affecting human health and safety, including AS.

It works in close cooperation with customs authorities to support cross-border investigations and to coordinate joint operations. In 2024, the Europol Operation 'Shield V' targeting *inter alia* the misuse and distribution of counterfeit medicines, doping substance and illegal supplements was conducted ⁽²⁾.

Once AS fall under the relevant definitions ⁽³⁾, they would be covered by the monitoring and competence development tasks of the European Union Drugs Agency.

⁽¹⁾ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/76890558-f016-11eb-a71c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/olaf-report/2024/investigative-activities/protecting-eu-revenue/operations-with-partners_en.html#SHIELD-V.

⁽³⁾ See Article 3(1) and (2) of the EUDA mandate, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023R1322>.