

EN

E-004345/2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.12.2025)

The Commission is aware of the threat posed by nitazenes. The EU Drugs Agency's (EUDA) Early Warning System on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) monitors 96 opioids on the European drug market. Nitazene opioids have dominated the NPS market since 2019 and 25 nitazenes were identified by October 2025. Outbreaks of drug-induced deaths driven by nitazenes were reported mainly in Estonia and Latvia¹. Other Member States reported fatal and non-fatal poisonings related to nitazenes².

Acknowledging these threats, the Commission and the EUDA have intensified activities. With its strengthened mandate³, the EUDA published its first threat assessment report addressing the increased availability, use and harms of highly potent synthetic opioids in the Baltic region⁴. Moreover, a network of forensic and toxicological laboratories was set up in November 2024 to generate data and exchange information on new trends⁵. The EUDA is currently monitoring the impact of the controls introduced on nitazene opioids introduced by China in July 2025 and which were discussed in the recent EU-China Dialogue on Drugs that took place on 25 September 2025.

On 4 December 2025, the Commission presented a new EU Drugs Strategy⁶ and Action Plan against drug trafficking⁷ which address the health and security challenges posed by synthetic drugs, including nitazenes.

¹ 101 drug-induced deaths mentioning nitazenes reported by Latvia in 2023 and two in 2022, and 61 reported by Estonia in 2023, 30 in 2022 and five in 2021. See: https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/european-drug-report/2025_en, 'Drug-induced deaths – the current situation in Europe'.

² https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/european-drug-report/2025_en, 'Drug-induced deaths – the current situation in Europe' and 'New psychoactive substances – the current situation in Europe'.

³ 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 June 2023, pp. 6.

⁴ https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/threat-assessment/threat-assessment-report-synthetic-opioids-baltic-region_en.

⁵ https://www.euda.europa.eu/activities/network-of-labs_en#:~:text=The%20EUDA%20Network%20of%20forensic%20and%20toxicological%20laboratories,share%20knowledge%2C%20expertise%2C%20best%20practices%20and%20up-to-date%20information.

⁶ COM(2025) 743 final, https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/44305b12-34e4-4a4e-b1b5-812453ae069d_en?filename=EU%20Drugs%20Strategy.pdf.

⁷ COM(2025) 744 final, https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/6cd0d358-45f6-44db-8ba6-77adb900b6c0_en?filename=EU%20Action%20Plan%20against%20drug%20trafficking.pdf.