

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001048/26
to the Council
Hermann Tertsch (Pfe), Juan Carlos Girauta Vidal (Pfe), Jorge Martín Frías (Pfe)
(12 March 2026)**

Subject: Risks posed by drug-trafficking cartels

As we have already warned in written questions E-000631/2025 ¹ and E-003288/2025 ², Mexican drug cartels have developed operational, military and territorial capabilities that clearly exceed those of traditional criminal organisations and are approaching those of insurgent groups.

Recent events in Mexico, including the military operation against the leader of the New Generation Jalisco Cartel and the subsequent armed clashes, coordinated roadblocks, arson attacks on infrastructure and outbreaks of violence in numerous states, once again highlight the gravity of the threat posed by these organisations and their capacity to upset the country.

Given the fact that the Council is empowered under its Common Position 2001/931/CFSP to draw up European list of groups involved in terrorist acts, and the growing transnational dimension of Mexican drug trafficking:

1. Will the Council, in light of recent events in Mexico, consider placing the main Mexican cartels on the EU's list of terrorist entities?
2. At present, which specific criteria must entities have been considered to have infringed to be placed on the list?
3. Does the Council intend to coordinate with international partners such as the USA, which has already taken measures in this area ³, to devise a common strategy with which to combat these organisations?

Submitted: 12.3.2026

**Reply
(1 June 2026)**

The listing of a person, group or entity under Council Decision (CFSP) 2026/455 ⁽⁴⁾ must satisfy the conditions laid down in Article 1(1) and (2) of that Council Decision, which provides, for this purpose, definitions of persons, groups and entities 'involved in terrorist acts', and of 'terrorist acts', 'terrorist groups' and 'structured groups'.

Article 2(2) and (3) of the decision specifies the requirements related to the adoption of a decision by a national competent authority in respect of the persons, groups and entities concerned.

Article 2(4) of Council Decision (CFSP) 2026/455 also allows the imposition of restrictive measures on persons, groups or entities associated with those listed in Annex I to the decision.

The Council is not in a position to comment on any proposals that may or may not be under deliberation until the process is finalised and the decision published in the Official Journal.

As regards coordination with the United States on drug-related matters, cooperation to combat transnational organised crime and drug trafficking is a central focus of the longstanding EU-US dialogue on Justice and Home Affairs held twice a year at ministerial and senior officials' level.

The EU and the United States also regularly hold a dedicated EU-US dialogue on drugs in order to exchange information, strengthen bilateral cooperation and improve the coordination of action undertaken at global level to address drug-related issues.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-000631_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-003288_EN.html.

⁽³⁾ US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Public Notice 12672. 'Foreign Terrorist Organisation Designations of Tren de Aragua, Mara Salvatrucha, Cartel de Sinaloa, Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion, Carteles Unidos, Cartel del Noreste, Cartel del Golfo, and La Nueva Familia Michoacan'. (<https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2025-02873.pdf>).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L, 2026/455, 26.2.2026, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2026/455/oj>