

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001595/26
to the Commission
Nikos Pappas (The Left)
(20 April 2026)

Subject: Adequacy of European policies on prevention, early intervention and personalised treatment for cases of substance use

The increasing use of psychoactive substances, especially amongst young people, combined with recent changes in the national legislative frameworks of some Member States, such as in Greece with Law 5129/2024, raises questions as to the adequacy and direction of prevention and treatment policies. The establishment of the National Organisation for Preventing and Combating Addiction (EOPAE) and the consolidation of rehabilitation structures under a single format raise concerns about maintaining the diversification of therapeutic approaches and personalised care, in line with users' needs.

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights enshrines the right to life and health (Articles 2 and 35). In the EU drugs strategy and action plan for 2021-2025, the reduction of deaths, early intervention and personalised treatment services are set as priorities. The EUDA provides data, analysis and best practices, supporting the development of evidence-based and personalised policy approaches.

1. How does the Commission assess the recent legislative changes in Greece in terms of their compatibility with the European principles of personalised, differentiated and evidence-based treatment?
2. How is the effective implementation of personalised and evidence-based approaches to treatment and rehabilitation structures ensured at European level?
3. How are systems for monitoring, collecting and comparing data on deaths and therapeutic outcomes related to substance use in the EU strengthened?

Submitted: 20.4.2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(3 July 2026)

The organisation, management and delivery of health services, including prevention, early intervention and treatment of substance use, are primarily the responsibility of the Member States. The Commission does not assess the compatibility of specific national measures with treatment models.

The new EU Drugs Strategy ⁽¹⁾ promotes a balanced, evidence-based and multidisciplinary approach covering prevention, treatment, care and rehabilitation to reduce drug-related harm and deaths. It identifies prevention as a key priority and calls for stronger implementation of minimum quality standards nationally.

The Commission works closely with the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) ⁽²⁾, which provides data, analysis and best practices to support effective responses. Under the EU Drugs Strategy, the EUDA supports Member States in designing effective awareness-raising activities, developing guidance on minimum quality standards, and delivering advice on evidence-based prevention and treatment.

Implementation is supported through expert networks, exchange of best practices and programmes such as EU4Health ⁽³⁾, including actions under the Comprehensive Approach to Mental Health ⁽⁴⁾. Monitoring is reinforced through cooperation between the EUDA and Member States and will be supported by the European Health Data Space ⁽⁵⁾, once operational.

The Commission remains committed to supporting Member States in advancing evidence-based and person-centred approaches to substance use.

⁽¹⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-presents-new-eu-drugs-strategy-and-action-plan-against-drug-trafficking-2025-12-04_en.

⁽²⁾ https://www.euda.europa.eu/index_en.

⁽³⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/public-health/european-health-union/comprehensive-approach-mental-health_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/european-health-data-space-regulation-ehds_en.