

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002595/26
to the Commission
Joachim Streit (Renew)
(24 June 2026)**

Subject: Regulations on drug precursors

In 2023, the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) recorded a new all-time high for the seizure of drug precursors essential for the production of synthetic drugs. Under EU legislation, the legal trade in drug precursors is regulated through requirements for transparency, registration and authorisation.

In order to circumvent statutory obligations, known drug precursors are slightly modified chemically. The Commission aims to counter the increasingly frequent use of such drug precursors via a new drugs strategy. The strategy aims to close legal loopholes and improve the identification of these substances. A crackdown on drug laboratories is also to be prioritised, as drug precursors are increasingly being processed into end products in Europe and existing substances chemically modified, resulting in new derivatives such as nitazenes or fentanyl derivatives.

1. To what extent does the strategy take into account ensuring that innovative actors in the development of chemical products are not exposed to accusations of developing drug precursors — and that what is known as the deterrent effect does not come into play?
2. How does the Commission ensure that research into new, legitimate applications and innovation remains possible, despite the prohibition under Article 16 of the Commission's legislative proposal on the possession and use of drug precursors and on performing intermediary activities involving them?
3. How does the Commission assess the added value of EU measures to combat production within Member States, compared to the actions of individual Member States, given that synthetic drugs are increasingly being manufactured within Member States?

Submitted: 24.6.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(14 September 2026)**

Action on drug precursors is a key element of the EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan against drug trafficking ⁽¹⁾. However, many precursors are chemicals with an essential role for legitimate industrial production, such as in pharmaceuticals, batteries, cosmetics or food additives.

The Commission Proposal for a regulation on monitoring and controlling drug precursors ⁽²⁾ aims to address the challenge of preventing the use of drug precursors in the illicit manufacture of drugs, while simplifying rules and procedures for legitimate trade.

The proposed Regulation will set out conditions for legitimate trade of these substances, thus providing for legal certainty to legitimate actors.

The proposal also acts specifically on designer precursors, i.e. substances with no known legitimate use only developed to circumvent the regime applicable to scheduled substances.

For these chemicals, the proposal contains provisions to safeguard their use for research and innovation purposes, either in small quantities via prior notification or by requesting a licence.

The EU Drugs Agency would also help businesses and authorities identifying the substances coming under the scope of the control measures by setting up an information repository on drug precursors.

The Impact Assessment supporting the proposal concluded that EU wide action benefits businesses, national authorities and society, ensuring the good functioning of the internal market and reducing administrative burden, while taking a harmonised and stringent approach across all Member States on fighting illicit drug production.

Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA ⁽³⁾ further allows a common approach to fight drugs and precursors trafficking by establishing minimum rules relating to these offences.

⁽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://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202500747.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02004F0757-20201203>.