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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU rules on the fight against drug trafficking¹ also apply to drug trafficking online. In line with the EU Drugs Strategy² and Action Plan against drug trafficking³, the Commission is assessing whether these rules remain fit for purpose and contribute to effective cross-border cooperation. The findings of the evaluation are expected in 2026.

The Action Plan addresses digitally enabled drug trafficking, including expanding the Europol's⁴ operational support to Member States to monitor online drug markets. The Commission is working with technology companies within the EU Internet Forum⁵ to include measures against drug trafficking in their terms of reference and content moderation processes. The Knowledge Package on Combating Drugs Sales Online helps online platforms and law enforcement authorities moderate and remove drug-related content online.

The Digital Services Act (DSA)⁶ requires providers of hosting services to have notice-and-action mechanisms for suspected illegal content. If found to be illegal under applicable national or EU law, the platform must act expeditiously to remove such content. The Commission is enforcing these rules to address the online sale and promotion of drugs and other illicit products⁷. A temporary ban of an online platform in the EU is possible as a last resort ordered by a national court, following a thorough investigation demonstrating the provider's continued breach of the DSA.

As a last resort and under strict conditions, the DSA allows national courts to leverage temporary suspensions or restrictions. To fight falsified medicines sold online, the EU Falsified Medicines Directive⁸ introduced safety features on medicine packs and stricter controls across the supply chain and requires common rules for legal online pharmacies⁹.

¹ Council Framework Decision 2004/757/JHA of 25 October 2004 laying down minimum provisions on the constituent elements of criminal acts and penalties in the field of illicit drug trafficking, OJ L 335, 11.11.2004.

² COM(2025) 743 final.

³ COM(2025) 744 final.

⁴ European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation.

⁵ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/networks/european-union-internet-forum_en.

⁶ Regulation 2022/2065 on a Single Market For Digital Services (Digital Services Act); <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁷ For example, in March 2026 it opened proceedings against Snapchat over concerns including the promotion of illegal drugs to minors – Commission investigates Snapchat's compliance with child protection rules under the Digital Services Act, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-investigates-snapchats-compliance-child-protection-rules-under-digital-services-act>.

⁸ Directive 2011/62/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2011 amending Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use, as regards the prevention of the entry into the legal supply chain of falsified medicinal products, OJ L 174, 1.7.2011.

⁹ For instance the EU-wide logo that helps citizens identify authorised sellers of medicines on the internet.