

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003435/26
to the Commission**

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(1 September 2026)

Subject: New liquid drugs and the evolving narcotics market in the EU

At Bologna airport on 6 July 2026, as part of Operation Black Poison, the Guardia di Finanza and Italy's Customs Agency seized over 130 litres of 'Monkey Tail' — a home-made liquid psychoactive mixture from Nigeria — transported in over 40 bottles supposedly containing alcohol. The two individuals involved had been in regular transit through Bologna for about six months.

The case highlights the evolution of the narcotics market, characterised by the spread of new psychoactive substances, mixtures of variable composition and new methods of concealment. According to the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA), in 2025, there were 50 new psychoactive substances recorded for the first time in Europe and 55 tonnes were reported to the EU Early Warning System.

The EU drugs strategy also recognises criminal organisations' growing capacity to adapt substances, routes and methods of trafficking.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of 'Monkey Tail' and its spread in the EU or similar liquid psychoactive mixtures or any other seizures?
2. How does it intend to adapt EU monitoring and warning tools to the rapid evolution of substances, mixtures and methods of concealment?
3. How can it strengthen cooperation between the EUDA, Europol, customs authorities, Member States and third countries to identify new substances, routes and trafficking methods in a timely manner?

Submitted: 1.9.2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(16 October 2026)

The EU faces an increasing diversification of the illicit drug market. While there is no certainty on the composition of the product 'Monkey Tail', it is referred by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime as a 'cocktail of homemade gin, cannabis seeds, leaves, stems, and roots' ⁽¹⁾.

The EU Drugs Agency (EUDA), in cooperation with Europol ⁽²⁾, monitors new psychoactive substances (NPS) via its Early Warning System (EWS).

No information on the specific substance 'Monkey Tail' has been reported through the EWS or identified through seizures monitoring.

As part of its reinforced mandate ⁽³⁾, the EUDA launched a new European drug alert system and a network of forensic laboratories, facilitating the rapid exchange of information on drugs-related threats.

In line with the EU Drugs Strategy ⁽⁴⁾, the EUDA is in the process of upgrading the EWS to identify even more swiftly and systematically NPS and disseminate this information to the Member States.

EU customs and law enforcement authorities fight illicit flows of substances across EU borders by adapting risk-management, data-analysis and control tools to evolving threats.

The Commission supports systems ⁽⁵⁾ for information exchange and risk analysis. The new Customs Code will strengthen cooperation and ensure faster, systematic sharing of drug-related intelligence among EU and national authorities, the EUDA and Europol.

⁽¹⁾ UNODC, World Drug Report 2026, <https://data.unodc.org/wdr2026?page=100>.

⁽²⁾ European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation.

⁽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, 30.6.2023: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1322/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2025) 743 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0743>.

⁽⁵⁾ Such as the Customs Risk Management System (CRMS2) and the Import Control System (ICS2).

The Commission is also implementing the action plan against drug trafficking ⁽⁶⁾ with concrete actions to enhance cooperation across law enforcement, judiciary and customs, as well as with third countries via dialogues and joint investigations, together with EUDA, Eurojust ⁽⁷⁾ and Europol, and within the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2025) 744 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0744>.

⁽⁷⁾ European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation.