

**Question for written answer E-008543/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Supervised centres for the safe use of drugs

Both the international literature and the annual reports of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) show that providing drug users with a safe and supervised place where they can use psychotropic substances, instead of public place (squares, streets, railway stations), protects both individual and public health.

Such centres help to limit the spread of infectious diseases and promote the health of active users of psychotropic substances and even help even prevent deaths from overdose.

In Greece, a pilot programme was launched in October 2013 for the first supervised centre for the safe use of drugs which was approved and funded by the European Union through the NSRF. However, in June 2014, the centre ceased operating because of an investigation into its legal basis.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Does it agree that the operation of such supervised centres is useful and effective in the light of the experience of other countries where such centres operate?
2. Does it agree that such programmes help to mitigate the harmful consequences of drug use where the only alternative available to users is the street? Does it believe that these programmes also provide drug users with other health services and at the same time prompt them to start treatment?
3. Does it agree that such centres protect the personal dignity of users, but also help rehabilitate areas with large populations of drug users?