

**Question for written answer E-008724/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)

Subject: Poppy cultivation on the rise in Afghanistan

In mid-October 2014, the Reuters news agency reported that poppy cultivation in Afghanistan had reached unprecedented levels. According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Afghan farmers grew 516 000 acres of opium poppies in 2013, surpassing the previous high of 477 000 acres in 2007. Afghanistan produces 80 % of the world's opium, and the US Government has spent an estimated USD 76 billion on the fight against narcotics in the country; however, its efforts have made little impact.

Can the Commission state what strategies are currently in place to tackle the illicit trade in opium products from Afghanistan?