

**Question for written answer E-003033/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Using dogs trained to find narcotics

The Finnish Customs have, in a progressive and effective manner, put paid to much illegal importing of narcotics, among other methods, with the help of dogs that have been trained to search and find narcotics. However, searching inland mail traffic has been assigned to the police, as a result of which the Customs does not have the power to search inland mail traffic or to use trained dogs to search mail and freight terminals in order to find narcotics. That method would make a very effective way to prevent selling and distributing drugs, as the use of individual letters and other mail to distribute narcotics has increased exponentially.

Using trained dogs to monitor inland mail as well has been declared impossible in Finland owing to EU regulations on the matter. This has left both experts and citizens astonished, given that drug use inflicts a cost of approximately EUR 500 000 000 on Finnish society each year. Seamless cooperation and resource-sharing between the authorities would not only reduce costs but also add coverage and efficiency to the fight against drugs.

Do EU regulations restrict the use of trained dogs to search for drugs in inland mail?