

**Question for written answer E-000760/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Mireille D'Ornano (EFDD)**

Subject: Combating the increasing consumption of fentanyl

In 2017, for the third year in succession, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction noted an increase in the consumption of synthetic opioids which contain high concentrations of their main active component, in particular fentanyl. An increasing number of heroine addicts are using products 'cut' with fentanyl, a substance which is becoming ever more readily available to dealers and is cheap.

Although the number of overdoses involving fentanyl remains small in Europe, it is much higher in the United States, where cases of this kind now constitute a serious public health problem and are the cause of tens of thousands of deaths each year, a phenomenon which is even being reflected in a lower average life expectancy for Americans.

1. Does the Commission regard efforts to combat synthetic opioids as a public health priority, and if so does it plan to put forward practical measures in the very near future?
2. What areas will the Commission focus on in an effort to ensure that Europe does not go the same way as the United States? In particular, will it seek to raise public awareness of the dangers linked to the use of this substance and involve the health authorities and agencies responsible for combating drug addiction?