

**Question for written answer P-002893/2017
to the Council**

Rule 130

José Inácio Faria (PPE)

Subject: Drug-related deaths in Europe

The Commission has completed a mid-term evaluation of the EU's Drugs Strategy for 2013-2020 and published a draft Action Plan on Drugs 2017-2020 on 15 March. As noted in its Communication on the evaluation of the implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy¹, EU citizens spend over EUR 24 billion annually on illicit drugs. This is a high cost for public health, public safety and for the labour market. There has been an increase in drug-related deaths since 2013 and 1.3 million adults are high-risk opioid users. The Commission is to be commended for proposing a stronger focus on risk and harm reduction measures for the new Action Plan with the aim of minimising the health and social impact of drugs, for example by upscaling access to harm reduction services and promoting best practices for treatment.

1. What is the position of the Council on the recommendations of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction on the use of naloxone for the prevention of opioid-related overdoses²?
2. Will the Council endorse measures to lower the number of drug-related deaths, such as those on naloxone recommended in the draft Action Plan on Drugs for 2017-2020?

¹ COM(2017)0195.

² Report 'Preventing opioid overdose deaths with take-home naloxone', January 2016