

**Question for written answer P-002142/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Tom Berendsen (PPE)

Subject: How can the EU contribute to tackling drug-related crime in North Brabant?

It is a known fact that the Netherlands is not just one of the top drug-producing countries but also a major drugs import and distribution point for the EU market as a whole. Drug users can be found throughout the whole of the EU. That makes this problem a cross-border issue and one, therefore, for which Member States share responsibility.

Drug-related crime and its attendant social degeneration is particularly rife in the province of North Brabant. Action to tackle this needs to be improved, with better cooperation across the borders, because the problems in North Brabant (and in the rest of the Netherlands and Europe) seem to be on the increase rather than the opposite. Reports of Mexican drug cartels active in Brabant are one recent example of this.

- 1) Is the drugs problem a cross-border one, in the Commission's opinion, and should tackling it, therefore, be a shared responsibility?
- 2) Which of the tools and financial means available to tackle this problem have the Netherlands and North Brabant still not drawn on sufficiently, in the Commission's opinion?
- 3) What action will the Commission take in this field in the short and longer term and what does it expect with regard to this from local, regional and national authorities and from the European Parliament?