

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER POLICY

Notice to members

Oral Question no. 10/03 by Marit Paulsen

Pursuant to Rule 164 of the new Rules of Procedure, please find below an oral question to the Commission.

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMITTEES
AND DELEGATIONS

Subject: The dangers of DXP (Dextropropoxyphene)

Medico-legal studies in Sweden show that during the years 1992-1999, 1592 persons – 200 per year - were poisoned to death due to the painkiller Dextropropoxyphene (DXP) (1,2,3).

On 15 June 2001, the Swedish Medical Product Agency implemented restrictions when DXP was prescribed (3). However, in other parts of the union the consumptions of DXP is still increasing (4,5).

Is the Commission aware of the dangers with DXP? If so, is there already actions taken on Community level? If not, is the Commission prepared to initiate a thorough study of substance?

References:

- 1. Birgitta Jonasson. Studies on Dextropropoxyphene with special reference to dependence among chronic pain patients, classification of the manner of death in fatal poisoning and characteristics of the fatal poisoning victims. (Doctorial dissertation). Uppsala University 2000.*
- 2. Ulf Jonasson. Studies on the use of dextropropoxyphene from the aspect of public health. Influence on a regulatory framework. (Doctorial dissertation). The Nordic School of Public Health, Gothenburg 2001.*
- 3. Birgitta and Ulf Jonasson. Fatalities due to use or misuse of pain-killers. (In collaboration with the National Board of Forensic Medicine in Sweden). RMV-report 2001:1*

4. *INCB. The International Narcotic Control Board, Vienna, 2003.*

5. *IMS Health, 2002*

Brand names: Sweden e.g. Distalgesic and Dexofen, France e.g. Antalvic and Di-antalvic and UK e.g. Distalgesic and Coproximal

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