



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Legal Affairs*

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**2013/0005(NLE)**

30.4.2013

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Legal Affairs

for the Committee on International Trade

on the proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Russian Federation on drug precursors (COM(2013)0004 – C7-0000/2013 – 2013/0005(NLE))

Rapporteur: Zbigniew Ziobro

PA\_Legapp

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Drugs are a major problem in the European Union, despite the fact that, according to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the last five years have seen a fall in the use of certain types of drugs, especially heroin, and in some countries also cocaine. Unfortunately, this has been accompanied by increased use of marijuana and so-called synthetic drugs, including highly addictive drugs such as amphetamines and methadone. Synthetic drugs are proving to be very dangerous, owing to their popularity and the availability of ingredients, making them easy to produce.

The fight against drugs in the EU calls for a strengthening of European and international cooperation in detecting the production and preventing the distribution of banned substances. An important element in this is the issue of regulating the trade in drug precursors, and close monitoring of their entry into the Union. The EU Drug Strategy (2005-2012) provided for a reduction in the supply of drug precursors and, consequently, a reduction in the production of drugs.

Until 2012, the biggest producer of precursors used in the manufacture of drugs was Russia. In view of this, it became necessary to strengthen cooperation between the European Union and the Russian Federation in order to prevent the diversion of drug precursors from legal trade. To that end it was decided to conclude a trade agreement.

Provisions on personal data protection are an important element of the agreement. In the rapporteur's opinion, these provisions provide citizens with sufficient protection in connection with the use of their data for achieving the objectives of the agreement, while ensuring an appropriate level of monitoring of the movement of the precursors in question and impeding the activities of criminal groups in this area.

The rapporteur takes the view that the Committee on Legal Affairs should recommend to the committee responsible the approval of the Council Decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Union and the Russian Federation on drug precursors.

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The Committee on Legal Affairs calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament gives its consent.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	25.4.2013						
<b>Result of final vote</b>	<table><tr><td>+:                   </td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>–:                   </td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>0:                   </td><td>0</td></tr></table>	+:	23	–:	0	0:	0
+:	23						
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<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Luigi Berlinguer, Sebastian Valentin Bodu, Christian Engström, Marielle Gallo, Giuseppe Gargani, Sajjad Karim, Klaus-Heiner Lehne, Antonio Masip Hidalgo, Alajos Mészáros, Bernhard Rapkay, Evelyn Regner, Dimitar Stoyanov, Rebecca Taylor, Alexandra Thein, Cecilia Wikström, Tadeusz Zwiefka						
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Piotr Borys, Eva Lichtenberger, Angelika Niebler, József Szájer						
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Jürgen Klute, Jacek Olgierd Kurski, Isabelle Thomas						