

**Question for written answer E-011377/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Emilie Turunen (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Smuggling of khat and other substances into and within the EU

I have learned that khat is being smuggled into Denmark via the Netherlands. Khat is illegal in Denmark, since the use and abuse thereof causes major social and integration-related problems. Despite being illegal in the country, it is being smuggled in across the border in large quantities. The Danish Border Police in Padborg has estimated that, each day, about one tonne of khat is smuggled into Denmark from Germany. That khat is thought to be produced in East Africa, from where it is flown in to Amsterdam and taken by car through Germany, finally ending up in Denmark.

Khat is allowed in the Netherlands. That means that the Danish anti-smuggling authority cannot expect the Dutch authorities to provide assistance in detecting and combating khat smuggling.

1. Can the Commission confirm that khat is chiefly being smuggled into the EU via the Netherlands and distributed from there to other EU countries, including Denmark?
2. Is the Commission aware of the problem of smuggling within the EU, especially where legislation differs as to how legal or illegal particular drugs are in EU Member States?
3. What is the Commission doing to stop the smuggling of drugs such as khat, for instance, into and within the EU?