

**Question for written answer E-005322/2014
to the Council**
Rule 117
Nessa Childers (NI)

Subject: Scope of the EU action plan on alcohol

On 12 February 2014, during the ENVI Committee discussion on the EU Alcohol Strategy, the Commission suggested that, contrary to what it had agreed on 22 October 2013 at the 12th meeting of the Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action (CNAPA), the upcoming EU action plan on alcohol would exclude measures to tackle heavy drinking.

At the same time, the recent answer to question E-014098/2013 states that 'specific efforts are under way to reinforce action on youth, binge drinking and heavy drinking'.

Then on the 4 March, the CNAPA Flash Report was released, neglecting to mention heavy drinking in its areas for action.

It is fair to say that recent messages coming from the Commission and Council are incoherent on this matter.

Alcohol-related harm is not limited to youth or binge drinkers. The Commission's own 'Assessment of the added value of the EU strategy to support Member States in reducing alcohol-related harm', acknowledged the harm caused by heavy drinking.

If the scope of the upcoming EU action plan on alcohol is to remain so limited, can the Council confirm that a renewed and comprehensive EU Alcohol Strategy is needed, covering all aspects of alcohol-related harm?