

**Question for written answer E-000717/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Christine Anderson (ID)**

**Subject:** Women who are victims of sex crimes involving the use of date-rape drugs

Sex crimes involving the administering of date-rape drugs are often difficult to prove. Women and girls who are the victims of these crimes are secretly given drugs which knock them out before being brutally raped, often by 'groups of men'.

The women in question perhaps remember having one last drink, but then nothing after that, and wake up the next morning with pains in their genital area. They can often remember nothing else, which makes bringing cases to court difficult.

There are no uniform EU rules governing sales of substances which can be used as date-rape drugs, such as GBL ( $\gamma$ -butyrolactone). GBL is not classified as an anaesthetic in many Member States and is, for example, freely available in DIY stores, whereas countries such as the USA, Canada or Israel have imposed strict conditions on its sale and placing on the market.

1. Are there plans to introduce a uniform legal classification of substances which can be used as date-rape drugs?
2. To what extent can the Commission regulate the import and placing on the market of such substances without compromising their value to industry?
3. In addition to the availability of these substances, it is the willingness of men to use them to incapacitate women which is the main problem. How can the Commission support Member States in their efforts to protect women against crimes of violence of this kind perpetrated by men or groups of men?

**Supporters<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> This question is supported by Members other than the author: Bernhard Zimniok (ID), Joachim Kuhs (ID), Maximilian Krah (ID), Guido Reil (ID), Nicolaus Fest (ID)