

**Question for written answer E-002421/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Aurélia Beigneux (ID)

Subject: The COVID crisis reinforcing addiction to psychotropic drugs and medicines

From a human and economic point of view, the COVID-19 crisis is a tragedy. While we can easily quantify the number of cases and the number of deaths, many unknowns about the collateral damage remain. A recent survey carried out by the BVA Institute for Association Addictions France¹ is telling.

The fear, anxiety, stress and isolation caused by the lockdown measures have created a context which is particularly conducive to the development and reinforcement of addictive behaviours. The consumption of legal (alcohol, tobacco, psychotropic medicines) or illegal substances (cannabis and other drugs) has increased considerably right across the continent. Some 56% of respondents think that they have tripled their consumption over the past year, using substances as a substitution for social connections. The figure rises to 64% among students.

Therefore:

1. Given the clear health risk, does the Commission intend to support the Member States in preventing high-risk behaviour?
2. Given that drug use is a scourge which takes advantage of Europe's porous borders, does the Commission plan to take measures to curb trafficking and thereby protect the health of Europeans?

¹ <https://addictions-france.org/actualites/addictions-et-crise-sanitaire-enquete-bva-addictions-france-2-4453/>