

Question for written answer E-001072/2023/rev.1

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: Illegal trade in captagon

In the last three years, trafficking of the highly addictive amphetamine-type stimulant known as 'captagon' has intensified, with the market now worth over USD 10 billion and spanning the Middle East, Africa and even countries in Europe. Even more worrisome is the fact that the Syrian regime, Hezbollah and Iran-sponsored groups are heavily involved in captagon production and smuggling, using the resulting revenue to fund militant activities, undermine the effects of sanctions, weaken the rule of law and fuel human rights abuses across the Middle East.

1. Is there a European External Action Service strategy in place to respond to the growing captagon trade?
2. How are the Member States coordinating among one another and with regional partners and the USA to halt the expansion of the captagon trade?
3. The USA recently passed legislation creating a strategy to counter the Syrian regime's involvement in the captagon trade. Will the European External Action Service follow suit and create a counter-captagon strategy along these lines?

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