

**Question for written answer E-001600/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The flood of synthetic cannabis into Europe

Created in the 1940s, hexahydrocannabinol, or HHC, is a synthetic drug derived from cannabis that is currently flooding our continent because of the easy access to it. Sold legally and benefiting from a legal limbo, this product is causing a great deal of concern among doctors.

Its flower or resin can be smoked or it can be eaten – with similar mind-altering effects to cannabis – and it is sold in tobacconists or specialist shops. Far from harmless, HHC is not without risks to consumers' health: it has many adverse effects on the neurological, cardiovascular and digestive systems and can lead to anxiety and depression.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission preparing an evaluation plan for HHC?
2. Does it plan to ban this highly harmful substance from EU markets and does it intend to run a prevention campaign for the Member States, in particular via the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction?
3. More generally, how does it intend to combat the emergence and marketing of new synthetic drugs?

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