

**Question for written answer E-002306/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The EU harm reduction approach and addictions

Harm reduction is a holistic and comprehensive approach encompassing interventions, programmes and policies that seek to reduce the health, social and economic harms of drug use to individuals, communities and societies as a whole. It is based on scientific evidence and significantly helps to reduce the risks associated with drug use and addictions. It is also one of the three pillars of the EU drugs strategy 2021-2025¹ and the related action plan².

Nevertheless, the EU's policy towards harm reduction remains fragmented and incoherent.

1. Does the Commission intend to integrate legal and illegal substances and non-substance addictions into a single, comprehensive EU drug policy, taking into account the fact that many EU Member States have already established such a policy? The lack of attention paid to non-substance addictions, including the fast-developing areas of gambling and digital technologies, should also be considered, as should the Commission's failure to deal with these addictions at Directorate-General level.
2. Does it intend to increase funding for harm reduction in order to show the EU's support for this effective approach?

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¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/49194/eu-drugs-strategy-booklet.pdf>.

² https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/drugs-library/eu-drugs-action-plan-2021-2025_en.