

**Question for written answer E-000430/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: European Ports Alliance against drug trafficking

Ports contribute to 75 % of EU external trade volumes. As such, they are particularly vulnerable to drug smuggling and exploitation by criminal networks. In recent years, the annual amount of cocaine seized across the EU has been over 300 tonnes. German seaports have not been spared, with the authorities having intercepted several tonnes of drugs over the past years. According to the customs audit, out of a total of approximately 14.4 tonnes of cocaine seized across Germany in 2022, the Hamburg customs area accounted for 9.7 tonnes, and the Bremen customs office, which supervises the port of Bremerhaven, 1 tonne.

Effective protection can only be achieved at EU level. The European Ports Alliance aims bring the EU's ports, policy-makers and security authorities together to strengthen cooperation in the fight against international drug trafficking.

1. What measures will the Commission take to support the European Ports Alliance, with a view to improving the exchange of information between affected ports, while preventing criminals from being able to just change location?
2. What can be done to increase both public and private port staff's awareness of bribery, corruption and threats?
3. When and according to which criteria does the Commission intend to distribute the announced sum of EUR 200 million among EU customs authorities?

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