

EU Drugs Strategy and Action Plan Against Drug Trafficking

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#ProtectEU

The Commission is presenting a new EU Drugs Strategy, an Action Plan against drug trafficking and updated rules on drug precursors, to protect citizens and communities while dismantling criminal networks.

Drug trafficking is a global criminal business and poses a major threat to Europe's security and public health. Cocaine, synthetic drugs and emerging substances are driving violence and corruption, while traffickers adapt rapidly, shifting routes and expanding online. New substances have increased the risks of poisoning and overdoses, affecting particularly children and youth. Drug production leaves behind toxic waste and significant environmental harm.

419 tonnes of cocaine
seized in 2023

500 synthetic drug labs
dismantled every year

Over 50% of the most threatening criminal
networks are involved in drug trafficking

Priority areas and key actions



PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- Strengthen situational awareness by improving monitoring, substance identification and response capacities, with:
 - A European drug alert system for rapid health and security alerts;
 - Threat assessments on new drug-related health and security threats including on highly potent synthetic opioids;
 - An upgraded EU early warning system to identify swiftly new psychoactive substances.
- Advance research, development and innovation: with a new **Security and Innovation** Campus to be launched in 2026.



PUBLIC HEALTH

- Step up prevention activities, including the roll-out of the **Healthier Together** initiative;
- Raise awareness about the impact of drug use, promote reintegration and social inclusion.



SECURITY

- Step up the fight against illicit drug production, trafficking and criminal infiltration;
- Stricter rules against organised crime and an evaluation of the Framework Decision on drug trafficking;
- A new **Ports Strategy** to strengthen port security against drug trafficking.

ACTION PLAN

- Expand **Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre - Narcotics (MAOC-N)** operations and cooperation to disrupt maritime drug trafficking;
- Use **Frontex** to support Member States in detecting drug trafficking at the external borders;
- Build **public-private cooperation** to disrupt drug trafficking via post and parcel services;
- Increase law enforcement capabilities to disrupt drug trafficking online, with support from Europol;
- Proposal for **updated rules on monitoring and controlling drugs precursors**, with real-time reporting of seizures, faster procedures, a ban on designer precursors, and streamlined digital processes for legitimate operators;
- New **guidelines** and **training** for law enforcement on dismantling illicit synthetic drug production sites.



HARM REDUCTION

- New EU toolbox to address the recruitment of minors by criminal networks;
- New EU Action Plan on protecting children against crime.

ACTION PLAN

- Create an **EU-wide platform** connecting experts across Europe to tackle online recruitment;
- Provide a **common handbook** to dismantle illicit synthetic drug production sites to minimise the risks for public health, law enforcement personnel and the environment;
- EUDA to create a new **EU-wide substance database**, to support Member States in identifying new synthetic drugs and drug precursors.



STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS

- Enhance international cooperation on drugs through strengthened dialogues and operational cooperation with key third countries and regions;
- Step up engagement with civil society and the private sector.

ACTION PLAN

- Strengthen port resilience in third countries via **joint assessments** in selected third-country ports to disrupt drug trafficking;
- Set up **joint investigations** to enhance cooperation between authorities from the EU and third countries.