

Captagon: understanding today's illicit market

EMCDDA, Lisbon, October 2018

Summary

Captagon is reported to be a commonly used stimulant in the Middle East. In addition, some recent media reports have linked this drug to perpetrators of terrorist acts in Europe or terrorist groups based in areas of conflict in the Middle East. This report aims to provide an overview of what is known about the captagon phenomenon, and how it may concern Europe, to assist those working in the illicit drugs field who may need to respond to the issue.

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Table of contents

- Introduction
- The development of captagon use – from medicine to illicit drug
- The production and supply of captagon
- Media reporting on captagon use and recent terrorist attacks
- Conclusion
- References

Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine

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Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the alignment of certain countries concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya

On 28 September 2018, the Council adopted Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1465 [\[1\]](#).

The Council has decided that the restrictive measures concerning three persons should be extended for a further period of six months, until 2 April 2019.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Armenia, align themselves with this declaration.

They will ensure that their national policies conform to this Council Decision.

The European Union takes note of this commitment and welcomes it.

[\[1\]](#) Published on 01.10.2018 in the Official Journal of the European Union no.

L 245, p. 16.

*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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[EU releases €7.2 million to step up fight against Ebola in Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

The EU funding will help partner organisations working on the ground to deploy extra capacities to the affected areas. It will improve surveillance and the capacity to trace victims of Ebola, notably early cases. It also covers communication with affected communities on risks and how to prevent the spread of the disease including psycho-social support and preparedness for safe and dignified burials.

"We need to win the fight against the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo which has claimed, so far, over 150 lives. Overall EU support includes technical expertise, humanitarian air service, research funding and humanitarian assistance. We are working closely with the World Health Organisation and the national authorities to fight the disease. We are not letting our guard down and we will continue our support for as long as it takes" said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management **Christos Stylianides**.

During the weekend Commissioner **Stylianides** spoke with Dr Tedros Gebreyesus, Director-General of World Health Organisation. He reiterated the EU's strong support in the fight against Ebola and discussed the latest developments.

From the very beginning of the outbreak, the EU has provided various supporting measures in North Kivu Province:

- The [EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#) was activated following a request for assistance from the World Health Organisation and a medical evacuation support team dispatched.
- [ECHO flight](#), the EU's humanitarian air service, has transported personnel, supplies and equipment to the Ebola-affected areas since early August. Commission humanitarian experts are on the ground in Beni, the Ebola-affected areas as well as in Goma and in Kinshasa. They are involved in the overall coordination of the response and they liaise

daily with relevant actors such as the Congolese Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation. The EU is the only donor having sustained presence in Beni.

- In bordering countries, the EU is financially supporting the Red Cross to reinforce preparedness and prevention measures in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi.
- The Commission is also financially supporting Ebola vaccine development with over €160 million, the development of Ebola treatments has received over €7 million, and diagnostic tests have also received over €7 million.

Background

An updated National Plan for the Response to the Ebola virus disease epidemic in North Kivu Province was presented on 18 October 2018. This updated national plan responds to a continuing outbreak, initially declared on 1 August 2018.

The outbreak affects the Provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, both areas of open and ongoing conflict, densely populated and with considerable movements of people.

In addition to the emergency response to the two Ebola crisis in Equateur (in May) and in the North Kivu (since August), the Commission is implementing a €155 million cooperation programme to support the health sector in DRC. This programme aims at strengthening services both at national level and in seven provinces (Kasaï Oriental, Lomami, Kasaï Central, Nord Kivu, Ituri, Haut Uélé, Kongo Central) of the DRC, in order to enhance quality and comprehensive access of health care services for the population.

For more information

[Factsheet on the EU response to Ebola](#)

Daily News 22 / 10 / 2018

L'UE débloque 7,2 millions d'euros pour intensifier la lutte contre Ebola en République Démocratique du Congo

La Commission alloue 7,2 millions d'euros supplémentaires pour renforcer sa réponse face au virus Ebola, qui n'est pas encore sous contrôle, en République Démocratique du Congo (RDC). Le montant total de la réponse de l'UE face à cette crise s'élève jusqu'à présent à 12,83 millions d'euros en 2018. Le commissaire en charge de l'aide humanitaire et de la gestion de crises, Christos **Stylianides**, a déclaré: *"Nous devons gagner la lutte contre le virus Ebola en RDC qui a déjà fait 150 victimes. Le soutien de l'UE comprend l'expertise technique, les services aériens humanitaires, le*

financement de la recherche et l'assistance humanitaire. Nous travaillons en étroit contact avec l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé et les autorités nationales pour lutter contre l'épidémie. Nous ne baissons pas la garde et nous maintiendrons notre assistance aussi longtemps que nécessaire". Le financement de l'UE va aider les organisations partenaires sur place à déployer des capacités d'appoint dans les zones affectées. Cela va améliorer la surveillance et les capacités de suivi des victimes d'Ebola, notamment les cas précoces. Le soutien de l'UE couvrira également la communication avec les communautés affectées sur les risques et les comportements à adopter pour prévenir la propagation de l'épidémie, y compris un soutien psychosocial et une préparation pour des funérailles sûres et dignes. Le communiqué de presse complet est disponible [ici](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Maja Kocijancic – Tel.: +32 229 86570; Daniel Puglisi – Tel.: +32 229 69140)

EU and Japan discuss economic cooperation at the 1st High-level Industrial, Trade and Economic Dialogue

The discussions covered a range of strategic topics of importance for EU-Japan relations and their cooperation in addressing global challenges. The High-Level Dialogue focused on four main areas: global trade challenges; economic transformations linked to energy, environment and climate change issues; international investment and connectivity initiatives; and the digital economy. This Dialogue is a specific platform for strategic discussions whose establishment was endorsed by the 25th EU-Japan Summit held on 17 July 2018. The Dialogue was held by between Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Mr. Hiroshige Seko and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Taro Kono, as co-chairs on the Japanese side, and the European Commission's Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Mr. Jyrki **Katainen**. Both sides confirmed the EU and Japan's commitments to aim for the early entry into force of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement and make their utmost effort to promote the completion of respective domestic procedures by the end of this year. For more information, a full press release is available [here](#). (For more information: Daniel Rosario – Tél. : +32 229 56 185; Christian Spahr – Tél.: +32 229 50055, Kinga Malinowska – Tél.: +32 229 51383, Sophie Dupin de Saint-Cyr – Tel.: +32 229 56169)

Aides d'État: la Commission donne son feu vert à un soutien public de 200 millions d'euros aux énergies renouvelables en faveur des autoproducteurs d'électricité en France

La Commission européenne a autorisé, en vertu des règles de l'UE en matière d'aides d'État, une mesure d'aide en faveur de la production d'électricité à partir de sources renouvelables à des fins d'autoconsommation en France. La mesure est destinée à encourager la production d'électricité à partir de sources renouvelables par des entreprises et des particuliers pour leur propre usage (autoconsommation), plus spécifiquement pour les cas où seule une part limitée de l'électricité qu'ils produisent est vendue au réseau. Ce régime, doté d'un budget indicatif de 200 millions d'euros, est financé sur le budget de l'État français. Les bénéficiaires seront sélectionnés dans le cadre d'appels d'offres organisés jusqu'en 2020, auxquels toutes les

technologies liées aux énergies renouvelables peuvent participer. Les installations sélectionnées bénéficieront d'un soutien sous la forme d'une prime venant s'ajouter au prix du marché, qui sera accordée pour une période de 10 ans. La Commission a apprécié le régime au regard des règles de l'UE en matière d'aides d'État, en particulier sur la base de ses [lignes directrices de 2014 concernant les aides d'État à la protection de l'environnement et à l'énergie](#). Elle a constaté que le régime français encouragera le développement des énergies renouvelables à des fins d'autoconsommation et évitera toute surcompensation pour les bénéficiaires du soutien public et est ainsi parvenue à la conclusion que cette mesure permettra à la France d'augmenter la part d'électricité produite à partir de sources d'énergie renouvelables afin d'atteindre ses objectifs en matière de climat, conformément aux [objectifs environnementaux de l'UE](#), tandis que les éventuelles distorsions de concurrence engendrées par le soutien de l'État seront réduites au minimum. Margrethe **Vestager**, commissaire chargée de la politique de concurrence, a fait la déclaration suivante: *«Ce régime stimulera la concurrence entre les sources d'énergie renouvelables pour les autoproducteurs et augmentera davantage encore la part des énergies renouvelables dans le bouquet énergétique de la France. Les appels d'offres neutres du point de vue technologique contribueront à la transition de la France vers un approvisionnement énergétique sobre en carbone et durable sur le plan environnemental, conformément aux objectifs environnementaux de l'UE et à nos règles en matière d'aides d'État.»* Le communiqué de presse est disponible en ligne en [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#). (Pour plus d'informations: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Giulia Astuti – Tel.: +32 229 55344)

Celebrating EU labour mobility: 60 years of social security coordination and 50 years of free movement for workers

On Monday, 22 October, the Commission will launch a campaign celebrating several big milestones of the European integration, as the year 2018 marks the 60th anniversary of EU rules on the coordination of social security systems, and the 50th anniversary of the founding regulations on freedom of movement for workers. On the occasion of the campaign launch, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne **Thyssen**, said: *“Free movement is more than a fundamental right established in the EU Treaties. It is a living reality, enjoyed by millions. This free movement could not be established in one go. It required legislation to make it concrete. And right from the outset it had to be accompanied with appropriate safeguards. Today, we commemorate the first and crucial legislative steps, while continuing to improve the rules. Indeed, we still have a couple of proposals on the table setting clear, fair and enforceable rules to ensure fair labour mobility. In the coming weeks, I will dedicate all my energy to make sure these proposals get approved and become a reality on the ground.”* Free movement is one of the most cherished accomplishments of the European Union. Since taking up office in 2014, the Juncker Commission has made a considerable effort to facilitate free movement of workers and protecting their rights, while avoiding social dumping and giving national authorities the tools to fight risks of abuse or cases of fraud. We put several initiatives in this sense on the table – from the [revision of the posting of workers directive](#) to the [modernisation of the coordination of social security](#)

[systems](#) and the proposal for a [European Labour Authority](#). Commissioner Thyssen's speech launching the campaign is available [here](#). More information on the campaign [here](#). (For more information: Christian Wigand – Tel.: +32 229 62253; Sara Soumillion – Tel.: + 32 229 67094)

Mergers: Commission clears acquisition of joint control of certain industrial gas and helium assets of Linde and Praxair by Messer and CVC

The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the acquisition of joint control of industrial gas assets and businesses in North and South America, as well as global helium sourcing contracts and related assets (together, the “Divestment Business”), by CVC Capital Partners SICAV-FIS S.A. (“CVC”) of Luxembourg and Messer Group GmbH (“Messer”) of Germany. The Divestment Business is being divested in the context of the [merger between Praxair and Linde](#). Messer is a supplier of industrial gases, which is mainly active in Europe and Asia. CVC is a private equity and investment advisory firm. The Commission examined the effect of the transaction on the markets for the supply of helium and concluded that the proposed acquisition would raise no competition concerns because of its limited impact on the markets concerned. As regards the merger between Praxair and Linde, the Commission's August 2018 decision requires the companies to sell the global helium sourcing contracts and related assets included in the Divestment Business to a suitable purchaser(s). The decision adopted today does not prejudice the outcome of that separate assessment. More information is available on the Commission's [competition](#) website, in the public [case register](#) under the case number [M.9059](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

Mergers: Commission approves acquisition of GitHub by Microsoft

The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the proposed acquisition of GitHub by Microsoft. Microsoft and GitHub both supply tools that organisations and individuals use when developing and releasing software (“DevOps tools”). In particular, (i) both companies provide access to platforms for software development allowing developers to collaborate on source code and (ii) both provide code editors and integrated development environments. The Commission found that the combination of Microsoft and GitHub's activities on these markets would raise no competition concerns because the merged entity would continue to face significant competition from other players on both markets. The Commission also assessed whether there would be a risk of weakened competition, if Microsoft were to leverage the popularity of GitHub's software development platform to boost its own sales of DevOps tools and cloud services. The market investigation confirmed that Microsoft would not have the market power to undermine the open nature of GitHub to the detriment of competing DevOps tools and cloud services. Therefore, following its phase I investigation, the Commission concluded that the transaction would raise no competition concerns in any of the affected markets and cleared the case unconditionally. The full press release is available online in [EN](#), [FR](#), [DE](#). (For more information: Ricardo Cardoso – Tel.: +32 229 80100; Maria Tsoni – Tel.: +32 229 90526)

EU adopts new actions to enforce rule of law in Jordan bringing the overall support to the country to nearly €2 billion

Commissioner **Hahn** signed a new €50 million programme to support [Jordan's](#) justice sector reform efforts to enhance the rule of law, effectiveness of the justice sector and access to justice. With this programme, the EU has provided nearly €2 billion in support to Jordan since 2011. At the signing ceremony in Amman, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes **Hahn** said: *"The EU has been a strong supporter of Jordan's justice reforms over a number of years, because, as His Majesty King Abdullah II has said, the rule of law is the guarantor of any individual and public rights, providing the effective framework for an efficient public administration and the basis for a safe and fair society. This €50 million programme takes EU support to Jordan since 2011 to nearly €2 billion of total financial support. The EU remains committed to keep supporting Jordan and its ambitious reforms at this difficult time"*. The full [press release](#) is available online as well as a dedicated [factograph](#) and the [factsheet](#): "Responding to the Syrian crisis – EU support to resilience in Jordan" (For more information: Maja Kocijancic – Tel.: +32 229 86570; Alceo Smerilli – Tel.:+32 229 64887)

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