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COVER NOTE

From:	Mathias Ruete, Commission, DG for Migration and Home Affairs
date of receipt:	3 August 2017
To:	Ambassador Kaja Tael
Subject:	Request for risk assessment on the new psychoactive substance: methyl 1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-[phenyl(propanoy)amino]piperidine-4-carboxylate (carfentanil)

Delegations will find attached a request from the Commission for risk assessment on the new psychoactive substance: methyl 1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-[phenyl(propanoy)amino]piperidine-4-carboxylate (carfentanil).



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION and HOME AFFAIRS

The Director-General

IM 08337 2017
04.08.2017

Brussels, 3 August 2017

H.E. Mrs Kaja Tael
Presidency of the Council
Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgique/BELGIE

Your Excellency,

On 28 July 2017 the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and Europol presented to the Council, the Commission and the European Medicines Agency a Joint Report on the new psychoactive substance carfentanil. This Joint Report, drawn up in accordance with Article 5(1) of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA on the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances¹, provides an overview of the available information on detections, patterns of use and incidents reported on this substance.

According to the Joint Report, carfentanil has been available in the European Union since at least December 2012 and has been detected in 8 Member States. 47 deaths associated with carfentanil have been reported by 6 Member States; most of the deaths have occurred in the last six months.

Carfentanil belongs to a group of synthetic opioids known as the fentanils. Carfentanil is closely related to fentanyl, which is controlled under the 1961 United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.

Carfentanil will be reviewed at the 39th meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence in November 2017. However, as the substance is not in an advanced stage of assessment in the United Nations system there is nothing which would preclude that a risk assessment is carried out in line with Article 7(1) of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA.

Given the health and social risks posed by the manufacture, trafficking and use of carfentanil, as well as the possible involvement of organised crime and possible consequences of control measures, I consider that this substance should be assessed through a risk assessment, as foreseen by Article 6 of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA.

¹ OJ L 127, 20.5.2005, p. 32.

I should be grateful if you would notify this request to conduct a risk assessment on carfentanil to the Members of the Council and of the Horizontal Drugs Group.

Yours faithfully,

Matthias RUETE
*[e-Signed by delegation
by Simon MORDUE]*

Enclosed: EMCDDA-Europol Joint report on carfentanil, prepared in accordance with Article 5 of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA

C.c.: Ms Christine Roger, Director-General, Secretariat General of the Council
Ms Nathalie Pensaert, Director, Secretariat General of the Council
Ms Jurga Valančiūtė, Secretariat General of the Council
Ms Diane Schmitt, Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Avramopoulos
Mr Konstantinos Chatzifotis, Member of Cabinet of Commissioner Avramopoulos