



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 2 December 2015
(OR. en)

14785/15
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CORDROGUE 95
SAN 415
ENFOPOL 385

NOTE

From:	EMCDDA
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	11558/15
Subject:	Risk assessment report on a new psychoactive substance: 1-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentan-1-one (α -pyrrolidinovalerophenone, α -PVP) In accordance with Article 6 of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA on the information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances

Following the Council's request to conduct a Risk Assessment on a new psychoactive substance, 1-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentan-1-one (α -pyrrolidinovalerophenone, α -PVP), the EMCDDA hereby presents the above-mentioned Risk Assessment Report drawn up by its Scientific Committee pursuant to Article 6 of Council Decision 2005/387/JHA on information exchange, risk assessment and control of new psychoactive substances.

Section E. Social Risks

E1. Individual social risks

There is no data on the effects of α -PVP on individual social risks.

E2. Possible effects on direct social environment

There is no data on the possible effects of α -PVP on the direct social environment.

E3. Possible effects on society as a whole

There is no specific data on the possible effects of α -PVP on society as a whole.

E4. Economic costs

There is no data on the effects of α -PVP on economic costs.

Given the lack of data available on acute health emergencies and healthcare utilisation related to the use of α -PVP, it is not possible at this time to estimate whether this substance is associated with greater healthcare costs than other stimulant drugs.

E5. Possible effects related to the cultural context, for example marginalisation

There is no specific data on the possible effects of α -PVP related to the cultural context.

Data reported to the EMCDDA suggests the use of α -PVP by high risk drug users, including those who inject opioids and stimulants. These user groups are often marginalised.

E6. Possible appeal of the new psychoactive substance to specific population groups within the general population

There is no specific data on the possible appeal of α -PVP to specific population groups.

The available data suggests that α -PVP is used by recreational stimulant users and high risk drug users. In the latter case this includes people who inject opioids and stimulants. The extent of the possible appeal of α -PVP to these groups of users is unknown.

Section F. Involvement of organised crime

F1. Evidence that criminal groups are systematically involved in production, trafficking and distribution for financial gain

Poland reported the seizure of two illicit production sites synthesising α -PVP. The first production facility, where brephedrone was also manufactured, was seized in July 2013 in Chorzow. Approximately 50 kg of α -PVP were produced in this site, which were destined both for the domestic market and for export. The second synthetic drug production facility,

dismantled in October 2014 in Krakow, also produced brephedrone and NEB (N-ethylbuphedrone). The amount of α -PVP and brephedrone seized totalled 4.5 kg. According to the Polish authorities, both cases were linked to a local group of 'football hooligans'. The synthesis was supervised by trained chemists, and the laboratories were operated by suppliers, producers and distributors of chemicals. The companies involved operated their own websites offering the sale and distribution of those substances across Poland.

Hungary reported that α -PVP was detected in two tablet manufacturing sites, dismantled in 2013 and in 2014, respectively. The synthesis of α -PVP did not take place in these sites. The site seized in 2013 was a tableting unit where pentedrone tablets were produced; 24,908 tablets containing pentedrone and 800 grams of α -PVP in powder form were seized. In 2014, the Hungarian police dismantled a tablet manufacturing site where pentedrone tablets were also produced. In the storage location linked to this site, 1.5 kg of α -PVP in powder form was seized. According to the Hungarian police, in both cases, the suspects intended to produce tablets using the α -PVP powder.

Information related to trafficking routes was provided by seven Member States (Bulgaria, France, Germany, Latvia, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Spain). In 10 of the 11 cases where trafficking route information was provided, China was noted as the source country for α -PVP. In the remaining case, Poland was indicated as a country of origin. Germany and France would appear to be transit points in the EU, possibly due to the location of air freight hubs. The large quantities of α -PVP seized in or en-route to Spain suggest that it may be an important point in the distribution chain of α -PVP. Romania reported that the main source country for importation of α -PVP is China, mainly via mail parcels. The Czech Republic reported that α -PVP is imported using mail shipments and courier services.

Four Member States (Hungary, Latvia, Romania and Spain) provided information in relation to the involvement of organised crime in the manufacture or trafficking of α -PVP. Hungarian authorities reported that there are no 'classical' organised crime groups involved in the manufacture or trafficking of α -PVP. Latvian authorities reported that since 2014, a new trend has been observed in relation to the market in new psychoactive substances: a Latvian organised crime group was involved in the mixing and distribution of NPS in herbal form and in one such case, the herbal substance was mixed with α -PVP. Romania reported that criminal groups are not involved in the trafficking of α -PVP. Spain reported that they do not have any intelligence about α -PVP being linked to criminal groups.

F2. Impact on the production, trafficking and distribution of other substances, including existing psychoactive substances as well as new psychoactive substances

Based on the information available to the EMCDDA and Europol it does not appear that the production, trafficking and distribution of α -PVP impacts on other existing psychoactive substances or new psychoactive substances. α -PVP has been sold surreptitiously as drugs that are under international control, such as methamphetamine and MDPV, as well as 'ecstasy'. The extent of this practice is unknown.

F3. Evidence of the same groups of people being involved in different types of crime

No information has been received by Europol of evidence of the same groups of people being involved in different types of crime in connection with α -PVP.

F4. Impact of violence from criminal groups on society as a whole or on social groups or local communities (public order and safety)

No information has been received by Europol on incidents of violence in connection with α -PVP.

F5. Evidence of money laundering practices, or impact of organised crime on other socioeconomic factors in society

No information has been received by Europol on incidents of money laundering or impact of organised crime on other socioeconomic factors in society in connection with α -PVP.

F6. Economic costs and consequences (evasion of taxes or duties, costs to the judicial system)

There are no published data to be able to determine the impact of α -PVP in this area.

F7. Use of violence between or within criminal groups

There are no published data to be able to determine the impact of α -PVP in this area.

F8. Evidence of strategies to prevent prosecution, for example through corruption or intimidation

There are no published data to be able to determine the impact of α -PVP in this area.

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**Annex 2. List of participants at the risk assessment meeting of
1-phenyl-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentan-1-one
(α -pyrrolidinovalerophenone, α -PVP)**

18 November 2015

A. Extended Scientific Committee

Dr Henri BERGERON

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Professor Dr Gabriele FISCHER

Medical University Vienna, Center of Public Health

Professor Dr Krzysztof KRAJEWSKI

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Professor Félix CARVALHO

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Elsa MAIA

DG HOME – Anti drugs policy unit, European Commission, Brussels

Fabiano RENIERO

Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP), Joint Research Centre, Ispra

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Section Pharmacology, Toxicology and Biotechnology (FTBB), College ter Beoordeling van Geneesmiddelen, Medicines Evaluation Board, Utrecht (on behalf of European Medicines Agency)

Werner VERBRUGGEN

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Paul GRIFFITHS

Scientific Director, EMCDDA, Lisbon

Dr Roumen SEDEFOV

Head of unit, Supply reduction and new drugs unit, EMCDDA, Lisbon

B. Invited Experts / EMCDDA

Dr István UJVÁRY

Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Budapest

C. EMCDDA Staff

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