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From:	Mathias Ruete, Commission, DG for Migration and Home Affairs
date of receipt:	21 December 2017
To:	Ambassador Kaja TAEL
Subject:	Request for risk assessment on the new psychoactive substances: cyclopropylfentanyl and methoxyacetylfentanyl

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Delegations will find attached a request from the Commission for risk assessment on the new psychoactive substances: cyclopropylfentanyl and methoxyacetylfentanyl.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

The Director-General

Brussels, 21 December 2017

**H.E. Mrs Kaja TAEL**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary

Permanent Representation of Estonia to  
the European Union  
Rue Guimard 11-13,  
1040 Brussels,  
Belgium

Your Excellency,

On 19 December 2017, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and Europol presented to the Council, the Commission and the European Medicines Agency Joint Reports on the following new psychoactive substances:

- *N*-phenyl-*N*-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]cyclopropanecarboxamide (cyclopropylfentanyl)
- 2-methoxy-*N*-phenyl-*N*-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]acetamide (methoxyacetylfentanyl).

These Joint Reports, 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 substances<sup>1</sup>, provide an overview of the available information on detections, patterns of use and incidents reported on each of these substances.

The two substances are synthetic opioids (closely related to fentanyl which is internationally controlled).

According to the Joint Reports, cyclopropylfentanyl has been available on the EU market since at least June 2017. Despite the very short availability on the market, 59 deaths with confirmed exposure to cyclopropylfentanyl were reported by Sweden (Latvia also reported four deaths with possible exposure to cyclopropylfentanyl). Cyclopropylfentanyl was detected in five Member States. All the seizures and deaths occurred in a relatively short period of time, *i.e.* between June and November 2017. A public health alert was issued in August 2017. Methoxyacetylfentanyl has been available on the EU market since at least December 2016. Six deaths with confirmed exposure to methoxyacetylfentanyl occurred between December 2016 and June 2017 in Sweden. Methoxyacetylfentanyl was detected in nine Member States. A public health alert was issued in September 2017.

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 127, 20.5.2005, p.32.

Moreover, these substances are not yet subject to national control measures in many Member States. The two substances are not under assessment within the United Nations system.

Given the health and social risks posed by the manufacturing, trafficking and use of these two substances, as well as the possible involvement of organised crime and consequences of control measures, I consider that they should be further assessed through risk assessments, as foreseen by Article 6 of Decision 2005/387/JHA.

I should be grateful if you would notify this request to conduct risk assessments of cyclopropylfentanyl and methoxyacetylfentanyl to the members of the Council.

Yours faithfully,

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

Annex 1: EMCDDA-Europol Joint Reports

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