

Follow up to the European Parliament non-legislative resolution on the murder of Mehdi Kessaci: urgent need for ambitious European action against drug trafficking

- 1. Resolution tabled pursuant to Rule 136(2) of the European Parliament's Rules of procedure**
- 2. References:** 2025/3020(RSP) / B10-0057/2026 / P10_TA (2026)0007
- 3. Date of adoption of the resolution:** 20 January 2026
- 4. Competent Parliamentary Committee:** No
- 5. Brief analysis/ assessment of the resolution and requests made in it:** The resolution strongly condemns the murder of 20-year-old Mehdi Kessaci, victim of drug-related violence in France, and stresses the increasing violent threat, direct or indirect, posed by drug trafficking and organised criminal networks to EU's internal security, public health, social cohesion and the rule of law. The resolution welcomes the adoption of the EU drugs strategy and the EU action plan against drug trafficking. It supports the strengthened public health and preventative approach of the strategy, the partnership approach as well as the action-oriented plan to tackle drug trafficking routes, increase drug detection and boost resilience of logistic hubs. The resolution calls for countering drug trafficking to become a pillar in the upcoming EU ports strategy and to recognise this crime as a priority area for Customs. It calls to integrate the protection of minors against recruitment into drug policies. The resolution calls on EU and Member States to fully implement the 2024 Directive on asset recovery and confiscation. It stresses the need for a common approach to tackle organised crime and calls to explore EPPO's role in addressing this crime. The resolution calls for proportionate and adequate resources for law enforcement and judicial authorities, ensuring coordination with Frontex, Europol, Eurojust and European Drugs Agency (EUDA), and calls for strengthened cooperation with customs and administrative authorities. It also highlights the importance of cooperation frameworks with third countries. It however expresses concerns on the envisaged funding for 2028-2034 stressing the crucial role of cohesion and development funds in this field. It welcomes the EU agenda for cities but calls for public investment in social development and cohesion for communities to strengthen security and social justice. Finally, it calls on recognising the role of civil society as well as of victims and their relatives, demanding that institutions protect their safety, integration (employment, housing) and freedom of expression.
- 6. Response to the requests in the resolution and overview of the action taken, or intended to be taken, by the Commission:**

The Commission adopted in December 2025 a comprehensive EU Drugs Strategy (the Strategy) to protect citizens well-being and public health, strengthen security responses to drug trafficking and to step up EU international cooperation and partnerships. This Strategy also aims to strengthen Europe's preparedness against drug-related threats to health and security. With this Strategy, the Commission shows its commitment to a multidisciplinary and balanced approach to drug policy integrating security, health and social measures with a person's centred approach and strengthening sectoral and partner cooperation and actively engaging civil society in implementation.

The Strategy aims to protect individuals and communities against social harm related to drugs, including drug-related violence, and calls for a reinforced community and regional approach to risk and harm reduction interventions. It therefore encourages Member States to step up support for recovery, housing, mental health assistance, and job opportunities for individuals affected by drug use and trafficking.

Prevention is notably a key pillar of the drugs Strategy and Action Plan. Evidence-based measures will be taken to address drug related violence and prevent the recruitment of minors into drug trafficking recognizing the role of the digital dimension.

Complementing the Strategy, the EU action plan against drug trafficking focuses on concrete areas for urgent action to disrupt organised criminal networks behind drug trafficking, targeting their routes and criminal methods. Its nineteen operational measures aim to support Member States to strengthen information-sharing, joint analyses, coordination and joint operations and investigations against illicit drug trafficking, reinforce detection of drugs and chemical precursors and to counter criminal methods. It seeks to improve the situational picture authorities have, effective multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels and foster relevant innovations and new technologies. This includes in particular the involvement of customs, law enforcement and judicial authorities, the military, penitentiary institutions, the private sector, third countries and international bodies, using where possible already existing operational, legal and financial instruments and taking into account new (legislative) developments such as the EU customs reform This will be supported at EU level by the EU Drugs Agency, and Europol, Frontex and CEPOL.

Later this year, the Commission intends to propose new rules on the fight against organised crime with the aim of strengthening the ability of authorities to fight criminal organisations more effectively. In this context, the Commission also examines how the current definition of organised crime and related offences could be updated to close legal gaps and to better reflect current challenges, including the recruitment of minors.

Tackling criminal finances is essential in the fight against organised crime. Therefore, the European Commission attaches importance to the timely and effective transposition of the new Asset Recovery and Confiscation Directive and will continue to support Member States in this process. In this context, the European Commission also highlights the reuse of confiscated property for public or social purposes as a best practice that Member States are encouraged to adopt, as it sends a strong signal that justice prevails and strengthens community resilience against organised crime infiltration. As announced in ProtectEU – the European Internal Security Strategy, efforts are being undertaken to further strengthen maritime security to effectively address emerging threats, secure ports, and enhance EU supply chain security. To this end, the Commission will ensure its robust implementation and support the strengthening of national practices and authorities such as customs whose efforts prioritize the fight against illicit drug trafficking. For that purpose, the EU Ports Alliance¹ focuses amongst other things on improving operational cooperation and information exchange, fighting corruption and criminal infiltration, and enhancing port security measures. Moreover, the EU customs reform aims at strengthening information sharing, analyses, and risk assessments supported by the EU Customs Authority. In the coming months, those efforts will be further elaborated within a dedicated EU Ports Strategy.

The Commission is also committed to ensuring the protection of victims and recalls that the EU Victims' Rights Directive provides for a set of rights that are applicable to all victims of all crimes, including to victims of organised crime. In December 2025, the EU co-legislators have provisionally agreed to revise the Victims' Rights Directive and thus further strengthen victims' rights. According to the new rules, victims will have improved right to individual assessment of their needs for support and protection, and more focus will be on victims' physical protection. Such strengthened standards on victims' rights may prove particularly useful to victims of organised crime, who often need specialised support and protection. Under the new rules, victims will also benefit from improved coordination and cooperation among the organisations and bodies encountering victims. Furthermore, the Commission may also promote good practices for victims of organised crime via the upcoming EU Strategy on Victims' Rights (2026-2030) to be adopted by the end of 2026.

The European Affordable Housing Plan, adopted in December 2025, aims to support Member States in increasing the supply of affordable and social housing, especially for those who are most affected by the housing crisis. It is up to Member States to define

¹ The EU Ports Alliance is a its Public-Private Partnership to strengthen the resilience of logistic hubs against organised crime and drug trafficking.

the specific target groups of their housing policy, possibly including families affected by drug trafficking. High housing costs are a barrier to relocation, therefore working on housing affordability contributes to helping families to relocate if they wish or need to do so. Member States as well as cities and regions can also work with social economy organisations that foster social inclusion and work integration, including for people affected by drug trafficking and drug use.

The Commission recognises the links between homelessness and situations of vulnerability, including among people who use drugs or are affected by drug use, as well as other groups facing multiple and complex needs. In this context, the activities of the European Platform on Combating Homelessness provides a framework for knowledge-building, cooperation and mutual learning among Member States, EU institutions and stakeholders on issues related to homelessness. Through this work, the Commission actively promotes integrated and person-centred approaches which address the needs of people in vulnerable situations experiencing or at risk of homelessness. As already announced in the European Affordable Housing Plan, the Commission will propose a Council Recommendation on fighting housing exclusion, in the context of the forthcoming Anti-Poverty Strategy, with the aim to support vulnerable persons, in precarious housing situations.

The Commission takes note of the concerns of the European Parliament that programme planning, negotiation and responsibility should remain at the regional level. The proposed new long-term budget aims to bring together EU Funds implemented by Member States and regions under one coherent strategy in National and Regional Partnership Plans (NRPPs), with economic, social and territorial cohesion, agricultural and fisheries policies and security at its core. The Commission is of the view that the modernised cohesion policy will continue to follow a place-based and multilevel governance approach, building on shared management and the partnership principle, in full respect of the subsidiarity principle.

The proposed National and Regional Partnership Plans would give Member States the flexibility to better tailor the budget to regional and local needs for more impactful actions, while strengthening synergies between policies. Regions would continue to be closely involved in the design and implementation of the policy and will be able to liaise directly with the Commission. Each Member State would be able to design its Plan in line with its own administrative and institutional framework. The key principles of cohesion policy – place-based approach, partnership, shared management, and multilevel governance – would be preserved. Regional and local authorities must be part of the partnership and must be involved in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the relevant chapters of the Plans, including through participation in monitoring committees.

Member States with transition and more developed regions should continue supporting addressing their specific challenges, also through specific measures focused on urban areas, based on local strategies and in direct involvement of local actors. Focusing on specific needs of urban areas are among the requirement that Member States and regions should address when preparing and implementing their National and Regional Partnership Plans. In particular, in the Commission's proposal, Member States would be required to allocate resources for integrated sustainable urban development strategies. In addition, urban authorities would be able to benefit from support under the EU Facility² to develop innovative projects, strengthen capacities of cities and provide a knowledge environment to share know how on sustainable urban development.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0570>