

# Subjecting the new psychoactive substance N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4-yl]oxolane-2-carboxamide (tetrahydrofuranylfentanyl; THF-F) to control measures

2017/0342(NLE) - 02/02/2018 - Legislative proposal

**PURPOSE:** to subject the new psychoactive substance N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-4yl]oxolane-2-carboxamide (tetrahydrofuranylfentanyl;THF-F) to control measures.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Council Implementing Decision.

**ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** the Council adopts the act after consulting the European Parliament but without being obliged to follow its opinion.

**BACKGROUND:** the risk assessment report on **tetrahydrofuranylfentanyl; THF-F** prepared by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and sent to the Commission and the Council on 14 November 2017 concludes that this substance - which was the subject of 53 seizures in one Member State in 2016 and in the first half of 2017 - is a **synthetic opioid** structurally related to fentanyl, which is a controlled substance widely used in medicine as an adjunct to general anaesthesia during surgery and for pain management.

The substance is typically sold in liquid form, for example in ready-to-use nasal sprays, or in powder form. It is sold online on the surface web in small and wholesale amounts, as a so-called research chemical or as a legal replacement to illicit opioids. It has no recognised human or veterinary medical use in the Union.

One Member State has reported **14 deaths** one case of acute non-fatal intoxication where exposure to the substance was confirmed.

The available evidence and information on the **health and social risks** that the substance poses, given also its similarities with fentanyl and furanylfentanyl, provide sufficient grounds for subjecting tetrahydrofuranylfentanyl to control measures across the Union.

**CONTENT:** the draft Council decision aims to **subject the new psychoactive substance tetrahydrofuranylfentanyl to the control measures** and criminal penalties provided for by Member States legislation, in accordance with their obligations under the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1971.

*For more details, see the summary of the Commission's initial legislative proposal dated 18.12.2017.*