

Speech by President Juncker at the Plenary Session of the European Parliament on the debate on the Future of Europe with Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania

Monsieur le Président de la République, cher Klaus,

Monsieur le Président du Parlement européen,

C'est pour Madame Crețu, Commissaire européenne de la Roumanie, et moi-même un grand honneur d'avoir pu vous écouter, nous qui vous connaissons bien et qui vous aimons bien. C'est pour le Parlement européen un grand moment, parce que c'est la première fois – si je ne m'abuse – qu'un Président roumain en exercice et à la veille de la présidence de son pays – première présidence roumaine – s'exprime devant les représentants du peuple européen.

Dragi români, mes chers Roumains, puisqu'ils nous observent et nous regardent,

C'est pour moi aussi un moment de forte émotion personnelle puisque j'ai avec la Roumanie et avec son Président qui est en charge aujourd'hui une longue histoire. Elle est d'abord personnelle, entre nous deux, puisque nous nous connaissons depuis des siècles. Le Président roumain était maire de Sibiu – Hermannstadt – et il y a entre Hermannstadt et le Luxembourg une vieille histoire. Parce que contrairement à ce que prétendent les historiens allemands, ceux qui ont peuplé la Transylvanie n'étaient pas les Saxons mais les Luxembourgeois. Ce qui fait que nous pouvons nous parler dans un luxembourgeois en fait approximatif. Il y a entre nous une union qui fait que l'histoire ancienne perdure dans les temps qui sont les nôtres et pour les décennies et siècles devant nous.

En décembre 1997, j'ai présidé le Conseil européen à Luxembourg, sous présidence luxembourgeoise, jour de décembre où nous avons ouvert grandement les portes pour les pays qu'à l'époque on appelait les pays candidats, dont la Roumanie. J'ai pu sous une autre présidence luxembourgeoise, en avril 2005, signer au nom de l'Union européenne le traité d'adhésion de la Roumanie à l'Union européenne. Ce furent pour moi des moments inoubliables parce que ce jour-là, la réconciliation entre l'histoire et la géographie européennes était définitivement accomplie. Et donc la Roumanie pour moi n'est pas un pays neutre, mais un pays vers lequel me portaient mes sentiments les plus profonds, les rares qualités de cœur que je peux avoir. Et donc: bienvenue au Parlement et re-bienvenue en Europe, Monsieur le Président.

Je pense au peuple roumain que j'aime bien puisque, à travers ses autorités, il m'a couvert de distinctions et d'honneurs auxquels j'étais sensible, alors

qu'en règle générale on dit qu'on n'est pas sensible à ce genre de décorations et d'honneurs. Je pense au peuple roumain qui depuis le début a su s'intégrer dans la sphère de solidarité et de complicité européenne comme si la Roumanie avait été un Etat membre fondateur. La Roumanie, aujourd'hui et depuis longtemps même avant l'adhésion à l'Union européenne, était et est devenue un fournisseur de stabilité et non pas un consommateur de stabilité dans une région tourmentée, difficile, dramatiquement à travers son histoire éprouvée jusqu'au sang. Sans la Roumanie, l'Union européenne ne serait pas complète.

La Roumanie, dès le premier jour de son adhésion, a su se placer à la tête de l'intégration européenne. Je sais que le Président n'aime pas trop l'Europe des cercles concentriques, une Europe d'avant-garde et une Europe qui serait à la traine. Il n'aime pas ça du tout, tout comme moi je n'aime pas ce concept. Mais la Roumanie a prouvé par les faits qu'elle n'a rien à craindre d'un tel scénario qui n'est pas, pour le reste, le mien. Parce que la Roumanie s'est toujours placée à la tête du mouvement. J'en prends pour exemple l'accord de la Roumanie de mettre en place un parquet européen: d'autres, même des Etats membres fondateurs, n'ont pas le courage de faire cela. La Roumanie était parmi les premiers à dire oui à l'installation d'un brevet européen, alors que d'autres n'avaient pas la même volonté d'avant-garde que la Roumanie.

La Roumanie fêtera au 1^{er} décembre de l'année en cours son centenaire, le centenaire de la grande union comme disent nos amis roumains. Je voulais dire au Président que c'est oui une fête roumaine, mais aussi une fête européenne, parce que tout ce qui concerne la Roumanie concerne l'Europe, tout ce qui est propre à la Roumanie n'est pas étranger à l'Union européenne. Ce jour-là nous fêterons ensemble un grand moment de l'histoire roumaine et un grand moment de l'histoire européenne.

Dès 2014, en me présentant devant ce Parlement le 15 juillet, j'ai dit que la Roumanie, sous le mandat de la Commission qui est la mienne, devrait faire partie de la zone Schengen.

Seit Juli 2014 plädiere ich dafür, dass Rumänien Teil der Schengenzone wird. Und ich hätte gerne, dass wir dies auch bewerkstelligen bevor das Mandat dieser Kommission zu Ende kommt. Ich sage das aus allgemeinen Gründen, ich sage das aber auch aus Rumänien-spezifischen Gründen.

Allerdings möchte ich darauf aufmerksam machen, und das ist eine Bemerkung, die sich nicht so sehr an die Adresse des Präsidenten richtet, sondern eher an die Adresse der rumänischen Regierung und des rumänischen Parlamentes: Man darf das nicht in Gefahr bringen dadurch, dass man Abstand nimmt von rechtsstaatlichen Prinzipien. Mein Herzenswunsch wäre es, dass man in Rumänien vor Eintritt in die Präsidentschaft der Europäischen Union einen nationalen Konsensus hinkriegt, was Rechtsstaatlichkeit und den Kampf gegen Korruption anbelangt. Dies ist absolut notwendig. Ansonsten wird es der Kommission schwerfallen, die zielgerichtete Empfehlung, was den Schengen-Beitritt anbelangt, einvernehmlich vorschlagen zu können.

And then we have the problem of the budget. I had more than three talks with

my friend the President insisting on the need we have – after the Austrian Presidency, who will achieve it to put into place the negotiation boxes, which would be a major performance – under the Romanian Presidency, in the light, perspective of the summit in Sibiu, to conclude this chapter. The chapter of the financial perspectives has to be concluded before the European elections. Because we would lose more than a momentum – we would lose several dimensions. We would win if we were able to put into place the financial perspectives. I know that the Romanian President, my dear friend Klaus, is very committed to achieving this together with his government. We will not have an ordinary summit in Sibiu – Hermannstadt. It will be the moment when and where we have to deliver European perspectives talking to those who are called for the European elections in May 2019.

Ich bin sehr davon überzeugt, dass der Präsident und die rumänische Regierung, das rumänische Parlament alles in ihren Kräften stehende tun werden, um Sibiu zu einem großen Moment europäischer Zukunftsgestaltung zu machen. Ich habe letztes Jahr vorgeschlagen, dass wir diesen Gipfel in Hermannstadt – Sibiu – haben sollten, weil ich der Auffassung bin: Wenn es einem Land, das erst 2007, mit großer Verspätung auf den europäischen Geschichtsverlauf, der Europäischen Union beigetreten ist, es schaffen würde, die nächsten sieben Jahre rumänisch – sprich europäisch –, europäisch – sprich rumänisch – zu gestalten, trüge dies eine Symbolkraft in sich, die man nicht unterschätzen sollte.

Multumesc mult.

[New EMCDDA Paper explores the illicit captagon market](#)

What is captagon? Where is it used and produced? Can it be linked to terrorist attacks in Europe? These are some of the questions explored in the latest edition in the EMCDDA Papers series launched today [Captagon: understanding today's illicit market](#). The report provides an overview of what is currently known about the captagon phenomenon in order to assist those working in the illicit drugs field who may need to respond to the issue.

Captagon® was originally the brand name for a medicinal product containing fenetylline produced since the 1960s and serving licit markets in Europe and the Middle East. Sold in tablet form, with a characteristic logo comprising two half-moons, it was prescribed as a treatment for conditions such as attention deficit disorder and narcolepsy. Today, it is no longer produced or used for therapeutic purposes.

After fenetylline was placed under international control in 1986, traffickers sometimes based in eastern Europe started producing tablets containing other substances, especially amphetamine, which were then sold as 'captagon' on

markets for stimulants in the Middle East.

Captagon use as we know it today

The report reviews what is known about current use, production and supply of captagon. It describes how recent reports of captagon use no longer refer to the diverted medicinal product Captagon® but to clandestinely produced tablets commonly containing amphetamine and often caffeine (but which still bear a logo similar to original Captagon® tablets).

Where is captagon used?

Captagon is reported to be a commonly used stimulant in the Middle East. While little information is available on the captagon consumer markets in these countries, anecdotal and expert reports, as well as insights from supply-side information, suggest that, in many countries, the use of captagon may be significant.

Interviews with law enforcement officers suggest that, since 2014, captagon seizures have been increasing in a number of Middle East countries (particularly Israel, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates). Tens of millions of tablets, most of which carried the captagon logo, were also seized between 2010 and 2014 in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. These countries were usually assumed to be transit or production territories for captagon, and not large consumer markets, but recent data suggest that use in this area may be also on the rise (particularly in Syria).

Where is captagon produced?

While illicit captagon was originally sourced mainly from eastern Europe, production appears to have shifted into the Middle East, the drug's main consumer market. Production methods used there show many similarities with those used in Europe, suggesting that European organised crime groups may be involved in Middle East amphetamine production. The report also describes how amphetamine produced in Europe may be shipped to the Middle East in bulk or in the form of captagon tablets.

Can captagon be linked to terrorist attacks in Europe?

Some media reports have linked captagon use to the perpetrators of terrorist acts in Europe or terrorist groups based in areas of conflict in the Middle East. Forensic pathology findings did not detect the use of 'illicit drugs or alcohol' by the terrorists involved in the attack in the Bataclan venue (Paris) on 13 November 2015. Nor has captagon use been directly implicated in attacks in other European countries.

The report concludes that the suggested links between terrorism and captagon use featuring in media reports appear to have been overstated. As is the case for other types of drug, some terrorist groups may exploit the captagon market to finance their activities and some terrorists may at times use drugs, but the evidence available does not indicate any particular association between captagon and terrorism within the EU.

This report is based on a report in French [Captagon: déconstruction d'un mythe](#), published in July 2017 by the *Observatoire français des drogues et des toxicomanies* (the French national focal point in the Reitox network) and the EMCDDA.

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Captagon: understanding today's illicit market

EMCDDA, Lisbon, October 2018

Summary

Captagon is reported to be a commonly used stimulant in the Middle East. In addition, some recent media reports have linked this drug to perpetrators of terrorist acts in Europe or terrorist groups based in areas of conflict in the Middle East. This report aims to provide an overview of what is known about the captagon phenomenon, and how it may concern Europe, to assist those working in the illicit drugs field who may need to respond to the issue.

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