

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2026) 1534

Directive (EU) 2015/1535

Notification: 2026/0285/FI

Notification of a draft text from a Member State

Notification – Notification – Notifizierung – Нотификация – Oznámení – Notifikation – Γνωστοποίηση – Notificación – Teavitamine – Ilmoitus – Obavijest – Bejelentés – Notifica – Pranešimas – Paziņojums – Notifika – Kennisgeving – Zawiadomienie – Notificação – Notificare – Oznámenie – Obvestilo – Anmälan – Fógra a thabhairt

Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délai - Kein Fristbeginn - Не се предвижда период на прекъсване - Nezahajuje prodlení - Fristerne indledes ikke - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - No abre el plazo - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Ne otvara razdoblje kašnjenja - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Non fa decorrere la mora - Atidējimai nepradedami - Atlikšanas laikposms nesākas - Ma jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dewmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Não inicia o prazo - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nezačína oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Inleder ingen frist - Ní osclaíonn sé na moilleanna

MSG: 20261534.EN

1. MSG 001 IND 2026 0285 FI EN 09-06-2026 FI NOTIF

2. Finland

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4. 2026/0285/FI - C00C - CHEMICALS

5. Draft Government proposal to Parliament amending the Narcotics Act and section 3 of the Electronic Prescription Act

6. Psychoactive substances

7.

8. The proposal would introduce amendments to the Narcotics Act. The Narcotics Act prohibits the manufacture, import, marketing, storage and distribution of certain substances classified as prohibited psychoactive substances on the consumer market. The proposal would extend this ban to cover certain groups of substances, meaning that any substance corresponding to a group of substances on the basis of its chemical structure would be prohibited in the manner described above.

In addition, other amendments would be made concerning the record-keeping of the lawful use of psychoactive substances banned from the consumer market and cooperation between official laboratories, the definition of a narcotic drug, and the provision and receipt of international assistance within the RescEU framework.

The Acts are intended to enter into force on 1 June 2027. The draft Government Decree attached to the proposal would be adopted separately after the adoption of the Act and is also intended to enter into force on 1 June 2027.

9. The aim of the proposal, in accordance with the Government Programme, is to implement measures that support the prevention of drug use and the reduction of drug-related deaths among young people. The main objective of the proposal is to safeguard public health by reducing the supply and demand of new designer drugs and thereby preventing the health, social and societal harms caused by these substances.

With regard to the other amendments, their aim is to allow the efficient and timely provision and reception of international assistance and to clarify the regulations.

9a. A key risk is the rapid spread of new psychoactive substances or 'designer drugs' and the resulting significant risks to public health (including poisonings, deaths, infectious diseases and long-term harms). Furthermore, the use of these substances by young people and the fact that they have a lower barrier to entry due to being 'legal' are a particular highlight. Every year, Finnish Customs discovers roughly ten new psychoactive substances that are likely to present a health hazard about to arrive in Finland, but are not yet banned. The public health risks and regulatory challenges have been identified by the EU Drugs Agency (EUDA), among others. The proposal would allow for a pre-emptive ban, enabling the regulatory authorities to prevent the import of new psychoactive substances. The proposal would reduce the supply of 'legal highs' and, consequently, demand for them, whilst also improving the authorities' ability to seize such substances and combat crime.

9b. The proposal would impact cross-border (online) trade of substances, but would mainly target the market

for psychoactive substances, which already operates in a grey area of legality. Legitimate research and industrial use would continue to be permitted subject to a notification process. The amendment could reduce shipments to Finland from foreign online retailers that market these substances as legal highs, but it would not restrict normal legal trade, as the substances have no significant legitimate consumer use. The proposal includes an explanation of why the chosen approach would be the least restrictive: it would apply only to the placing of these substances on the market (not to their use or possession), would be based on a clear chemical definition, and would preserve the possibility for the lawful use of substances. Such a measure is necessary, as the alternatives would either be ineffective or problematic from the point of view of legal protection.

9c. The measure does not impose an excessive burden: the weight of the public interest (public health, right to life and security) clearly outweighs the resulting internal market restriction. The risks are serious (deaths, serious health risks, exposure of young people), and any intervention would be targeted at a specific activity (the sale of legal highs). Without these measures, several new psychoactive substances would be introduced onto the market each year, according to Finnish Customs data.

10. Basic text references:

11. No

12.

13. No

14. No

15. Yes

16.

TBT aspects: No

SPS aspects: No

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European Commission

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