

From

Dear MEP

I/we address you as the representative of my/our country in European Parliament.

As member/representatives of the civil society, I/we urge you to consider:

- **t**he core European values of defending and upholding human dignity, freedom, and equality for all European citizens, included in the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights, particularly Article 7; respect for private and family life, Article 8; protection of personal data, Article 12; freedom of Assembly of Association, and Article 21; Non-discrimination;
- **t**he UN International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy placing human dignity and sustainable development at the centre of Member State responses to illicit drug economies;
- **t**he aims and priorities of the EU Agenda on Drugs (2021-2025) particularly enhanced security measures to disrupt criminal organizations, the use of alternatives to coercive methods, and broader inclusion of harm reduction tools to educate citizens and mitigate harm originating from substance use;
- **t**he potential risks associated with driving and operating heavy machinery under the influence of psychoactive substances and the need to ensure road-side testing reflects clinically determined impairment levels;
- **t**he high prevalence of cannabis consumption in the EU standing at 27.2% of life-time consumers and 1% of daily consumers;
- **t**he large proportion of cannabis law offences amount to 75% of all drug related offences and the shocking reality that the majority of reported seizures involve small quantities confiscated for personal consumption;
- **t**he current inconsistency between member state's approach to a non-violent personal choice to consume, cultivate and share cannabis, and the various legislative changes and ongoing discussions at national level to decriminalise the personal consumption and cultivation of cannabis.

Recommendations on next page»»»»»»

As representative of my country in the European Parliament, I/we are calling upon you to:

1. recognise the unjust and dangerous reality of criminalising a personal and private matter of consuming, cultivating, and sharing cannabis, including its derivatives and products;
2. honour the rights and freedoms enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights for people who consume cannabis and promote an inclusive and regulatory framework built on human dignity, respect for private life, and social justice;
3. take a strong stance in favour of human rights, public health, and harm reduction for all people, including people who use cannabis, and promote effective approaches to disrupt the criminal drugs market;
4. recognise the health and social benefits of allowing self-cultivation and initiate a discussion on the amount of plants allowed to grow per person for personal use in our country;
5. recognise the health and social benefits of Cannabis Social Clubs (CSC) and enable the creation of CSC in our country;
6. introduce the expungement of criminal records for non-violent and non-harming cannabis convictions in our country and ensure any administrative sanctions adopted in the case of a breach of rights are proportionate and do not impinge on the fundamental rights of our citizens;
7. consider experts opinions and ensure road-side testing reflects clinically determined impairment levels;
8. encourage a more active and inclusive approach with civil society organisations directly working with people who consume cannabis, including cannabis growers' cooperatives and experts in the field of cannabis, and promote a campaign on safe, organic, and sustainable personal cultivation practices.

Sincerely,

name/surname/organisation

place

date