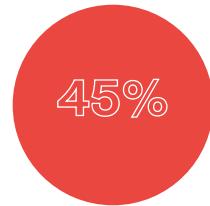


Cannabis: moving away from the *status quo* towards controlled legalisation

FLORENT COMPAIN AND HELNO EYRIEY

France has the highest proportion of the population that has ever used cannabis in the European Union. In an international context marked over the last 10 years by waves of legalisation of the "recreational" use of cannabis, it seems necessary to question our current public policies and to outline ways of changing them.

Between September 2021 and August 2022, more than 226,000 offences were recorded for simple drug use. 90% of these offences concern cannabis.



In France, 45% of 15- to 64-year-olds have used cannabis at some point in their lifetime, compared with 27% in the EU as a whole

AT THE ESEC

WHAT PUBLIC POLICIES ON CANNABIS USE?

By taking a cross-sectional view of the subject, looking at it from the medical, health, legal, educational and economic angles, the ESEC takes stock of current public policies and makes 11 recommendations for their development.

Drawing on the testimonies and experiences of nearly 30 experts in the field, this opinion recommends changes to public policy on cannabis. To this end, the opinion proposes a three-stage action plan: deployment of emergency measures to protect consumers as quickly as possible, organisation of a wide-ranging societal debate on the subject and, finally, construction of a model for the controlled legalisation of cannabis.

The desirable legalisation model advocated by the ESEC is based on a precise and comprehensive approach: the production, distribution and use of cannabis are defined in order to provide the best possible input for future discussions.

To build a model for the controlled legalisation of cannabis

OPINION

1 DEPLOY EMERGENCY MEASURES FOR BETTER REGULATION OF CANNABIS IN FRANCE

- No longer penalise the use and cultivation of cannabis for personal use while deploying a specific cannabis prevention and risk reduction policy and strengthening the repression of trafficking aimed at minors
- Create a national cannabis institute under the aegis of the OFDT to develop basic research and disseminate clear, objective and accessible information on cannabis

2 ORGANISE A PUBLIC AND PARTICIPATORY DEBATE FOR A NEW REGULATION OF CANNABIS

- Put the participatory approach at the centre of the democratic process and upstream of the legislative process to change the current legislation

3 BUILD A MODEL FOR THE CONTROLLED LEGALISATION OF CANNABIS

- Make organic farming the standard for cannabis production and allow self-cultivation and Cannabis Social Clubs, with supervision
- Regulate distribution by allowing it only to adults in licensed outlets and prohibit any propaganda or advertising for cannabis, as well as any free or promotional distribution on the model of the Evin law
- Strengthen the repression of trafficking and control the quality of products while securing the chain from production to distribution

The rapporteurs

Florent Compain
florent.compain@lecese.fr • 01 44 43 60 00

Florent Compain, a spokesperson for Friends of the Earth France, is a member of the Environment and Nature Group at the ESEC. He sits on the Labour and Employment Committee and the Temporary Committee on Cannabis. He has already co-reported on an opinion on vocational retraining.

Helno Eyriey
helno.eyriey@lecese.fr • 01 44 43 64 41

Helno Eyriey, a former Vice-President of UNEF, is a member of the ESEC's Student Organisations and Youth Movements Group. He is a member of the Social Affairs and Health Committee and the Education, Culture and Communication Committee, the Delegation for Women's Rights and Equality, and the Temporary Committees on Cannabis and End of Life.