Subject: The approach of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) to medicinal cannabis use in the EU

In October 2021, the EMCDDA published a European guide on the health and social responses to drug problems, which includes a section entitled ‘Cannabis: health and social responses’.

While the guide proposes a set of objectives intended to address the negative consequences of cannabis use, it disregards the lack of scientific research on and access to medicinal cannabis, as well as the lack of education for healthcare professionals and patients on the subject.

In general, cannabis research data shows how EU funding primarily focuses on the potential harms of cannabis use. The scientific information on the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes is very limited due to various legal restrictions, with inequality of information having a significant impact in terms of a lack of awareness among the public, especially the most vulnerable.

This has resulted in a significant disjunct between the overwhelming need to use cannabis for medicinal purposes and the lack of scientific knowledge to make this usage effective, reliable and safe. The EMCDDA’s mission should be to close this gap through intense and systematic research and training on the potential benefits of cannabis use. Its recent publications simply reaffirm the agency’s unbalanced stance.

How does the Commission plan to address this bias and lack of robust EU public health monitoring, research and training in medicinal cannabis?

Supporter

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1 This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)