The primary responsibility for public health within the EU lies with the Member States. The EU complements and supports their actions in all aspects of drugs policy through the EU Drugs Strategy\(^1\) and Action Plan\(^2\), including measures to reduce drug demand and to address drug-related harm. Preventative measures such as targeted awareness raising activities promoting healthy lifestyle choices and increasing health literacy, in particular among young people and children are a priority.

The proposed strengthened mandate\(^3\) of the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction would allow it to use the analysis it produces to develop targeted EU-level prevention and awareness raising campaigns relating to drugs.

The use of cannabis for medicinal purposes, which is subject to separate provisions under the international drug control conventions and under Union and national law\(^4\), must be distinguished from ‘recreational’ use of cannabis. EU law\(^5\) lays down minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and sanctions for illicit drug trafficking, including the cultivation of the cannabis plant without right. Personal recreational consumption of drugs is not covered and it is for the Member States to decide how to address the personal use of drugs, including for cannabis.

In line with the EU Drugs Strategy, the Commission considers that drug policy should be evidence-based and follows developments in respect of cannabis both in Europe and globally. The World Drug Report 2022\(^6\) includes an analysis of the impact of cannabis legalisation while the European Drug Report 2022\(^7\) presents drug trafficking trends and the main developments regarding drug prevention, treatment, and policy in the EU.

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\(^4\) See notably the reply to Written Question P -000391/2022.