Question for written answer E-003533/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Violations of fundamental EU principles and lack of an EU framework for medical cannabis is forcing patients to turn to the black market

The use of cannabis for medical purposes is accepted worldwide. The WHO recommends the use of prescriptions for a wide range of conditions, while the European Parliament has called on European and national authorities to address regulatory barriers, provide funding for research and innovation and inform healthcare professionals.[1]

Greece legalised medical cannabis in 2017, allowing its cultivation and the production of cannabis products containing more than 0.3% THC. However, patients do not have access to these medical products[2] and the little national investment in medical cannabis that exists, is slow.

In November 2021, the Greek Government banned the import of medical cannabis products, violating Article 28 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and creating a market situation in which supply was controlled by a few who influenced prices, leading to unfair competition. As a result, for the past two years patients have been forced to turn to the black market to get treatment for a range of conditions.

In view of this:

1. How does the Commission plan to address the shortage in medicines for patients, caused by national measures that violate the fundamental principle of the free movement of goods and create a breeding ground for unfair competition within the Single Market?

2. Does it plan to introduce an EU legal framework that comprehensively regulates the issue as a whole, preventing the existence of a black market, regulating quality and labelling accuracy and ensuring legal and safe access to cannabis products for medical purposes?

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[1] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20190207IPR25221/take-medical-use-of-cannabis-seriously-say-meps
[2] https://cannabisnews.gr/i-kyvernisi-apagorefse-tin-prosvasi-ton-ellinon-asthenon-se-farmaka-kannavis/