

P-PG (2021) 19
10 December 2021

2nd Pompidou Group Symposium on experience with new evolutions in drug policy

Evolution of cannabis policies: experiences and lessons learned

Lisbon, 15 December 2021

Programme

09:30 Welcome and opening

- João Goulão, Presidency of the Pompidou Group, National Drugs Coordinator of Portugal
- Denis Huber, Executive Secretary of the Pompidou Group
- Alexis Goosdeel, Director of the EMCDDA

10:00 Keynote presentation: Decriminalisation policies and cannabis regulations policies—
an overview of developments over the past 5 years
*Ivana Obradovic, Deputy Director of the French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
(OFDT), France*

10:40 Session 1: Medical cannabis policies

- Introduction to the medical use of cannabis
Liesbeth Vandam, EMCDDA
- Assessment of medical use of cannabis: what WHO has done so far
Benedikt Huttner, WHO

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

Remarks by António Lacerda Sales, Deputy Minister for Health of Portugal

- The use of medical cannabis – The Israeli roadmap to medicalization
Yuval Landschaft, Director of the Israeli Medical Cannabis Agency
- Medical cannabis: the Portuguese regulatory framework
*Vasco Bettencourt, Coordinator of Cannabis Office, Portuguese Authority of Medicines and
Health Care Products*
- Polish experiences with legalization of medical cannabis
Janusz Sieroslawski, Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Poland

Questions and comments from the floor

13:00 - 14:15 Lunch

14:15 Session 2: Lessons learned from cannabis regulation policies and changes underway in different countries

- The importance of terminology and concepts in the current debate
Brendan Hughes, EMCDDA
- Impact of regulatory changes on health and well-being
Vladimir Poznyak, WHO
- International regulations on cannabis for medical and non-medical purposes: new developments and challenges
Jallal Toufiq, INCB
- Experiences and lessons learnt in the Netherlands
John-Peter Kools, Trimbos Institute, Institute of Mental Health and Addiction
- Impact of different cannabis regulations in the USA on prevalence rates, violence, and organised crime
Dessa Bergen-Cico, Department of Public Health, Syracuse University

Questions and comments from the floor

16:00 - 16:20 Coffee break

- Overview and early results of Canada's approach to the legalization and strict regulation of cannabis
Jordan Brydon, Director of External Relations, Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch, Government of Canada

Questions and comments from the floor

Changes underway:

- *Mariam Bregadze, Legal adviser, Ministry of Justice, Georgia*
- *Gražina Belian, Deputy Director for Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Control Department, Lithuania*
- *Gady Zabicky Sirot, National Commissioner Against Addictions of the Ministry of Health, Mexico*

Questions and comments from the floor

17:30 Closing

- Conclusions and perspectives
- Farewell by the Pompidou Group Presidency and Executive Secretary

19:00 Dinner hosted by the Pompidou Group's Presidency at Sala Amália at Pousada de Lisboa, Praça do Comércio, 31-34