

## **\*CANNABIS SOCIAL CLUBS: A HEALTHY OPTION\***

Due to the prohibition of cannabis, millions of consumers and their surroundings are permanently exposed to risks concerning their health and safety. It is impossible to carry out an effective policy of protection to minors and prevention of problematic use.

There is a system for production and distribution of cannabis that will cause less problems as well as lower policing costs. A system where cannabis can be enjoyed in a responsible way, where authorities can monitor the entire process from cultivation to consumption.

Cannabis Social Clubs (CSC) are non-profit associations of adult citizens who organise, within a closed circuit, the production of a limited amount of cannabis to satisfy their own personal needs without breaking the law. CSC members are not allowed to sell their cannabis to third persons or share it with minors.

CSC's can be established in various forms, depending on the legal margins that national governments have within the international treaties on drugs. According to the European Convention on Human Rights, European citizens have the right to form an association that protects their interests, and when its activities pose no threat to public health or public order, public authorities have no right to interfere.

In a CSC, cultivation of cannabis can take place in accordance with health and safety rules. This would stop the use of many chemicals and reduce problems such as fire-risk and the theft of electricity.

Distribution would take place within an effective policy of prevention of irresponsible and problematic use. Membership of the associations would be limited to adults.

A Cannabis Social Club presents a healthy option to diminish the role of criminal organisations in the cannabis market, and reduce risks such as adulteration with toxic products such as glass.

At present, CSC's are effectively operating in the United States, Canada, Spain and Switzerland. In other countries, initiatives are being taken to establish such a model.

If you wish to promote the establishment of a Cannabis Social Club in your area, please contact us or visit our website, [www.encod.org](http://www.encod.org) <<http://www.encod.org>>. Here, you can also sign the international petition in support of the CSC proposal.

\*The war on drugs must end. Help us to declare peace. Support ENCOD.

EUROPEAN COALITION FOR JUST AND EFFECTIVE DRUG POLICIES

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