



Brussels, 03 February 2020

Patients' access to medicinal cannabis: multi-stakeholder platform Medicinal Cannabis Europe officially kickstarts

On 30 January 2020, Medicinal Cannabis Europe's first General Assembly took place, officially establishing the only European multi-stakeholder association representing the whole medicinal cannabis value chain.

Medicinal Cannabis Europe¹ comprises *patients', medical and scientific organisations, NGOs and industry representatives*, with the ultimate goal of **ensuring patients' fair access to medicinal cannabis in Europe**.

The therapeutic properties of medicinal cannabis applications are increasingly being acknowledged by the scientific world, however access to these medicines remains fragmented within and between Member States. This seriously affects patients' ability to receive the care they need, as well as the industry's capacity to produce, process and distribute safe and high-quality medicinal cannabis products across the European Single Market. Against this background, Medicinal Cannabis Europe calls for:

1. An EU harmonised regulatory framework on medicinal cannabis;
2. The allocation of EU funds for research on medicinal cannabis;
3. The promotion of an open, societal dialogue on the benefits of medicinal cannabis.

Medicinal Cannabis Europe has already been actively advocating at European level for almost two years and intends to continue its advocacy activities, amongst others via:

- The promotion of a policy [pledge](#), launched in 2019 seeking the support of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on the above-mentioned points;
- The promotion of research on medicinal cannabis via Horizon Europe, the future EU research and innovation framework programme;
- The elaboration of a European Citizen Initiative (ECI) on medicinal cannabis, whose process will be initiated in the first quarter of 2020.

Medicinal Cannabis Europe's activities will be carried out by the Secretariat, represented by its Secretary General Stuart Lambie, under the aegis of the association's Executive Board, chaired by Dr. Vincenzo Costigliola.

¹ Formerly "Cannabis Europe"

Dr. Vincenzo Costigliola, President, stated:

'We need to bring paradigm shifts on medicinal cannabis, and start considering it as a real treatment for patients suffering from several conditions. A mindset change needs to occur at European level to give clarity and certainty to patients. Honored and delighted to be at the heart of this multi-stakeholder platform!'

Basia Zieniewicz, Vice-President:

'As an educator, I view cross-collaboration and multi-disciplinary teams as basic foundations behind progress. I am honored to stand alongside such thought-leaders from across Europe and grateful to have the opportunity to learn from colleagues' strategies. Health has no borders. As an advocate for safe access to cannabinoids for patients, I feel that the more we work collaboratively and cross-culturally, the sooner we can help each other help those who need help most.'

Fabian Friede, Treasurer:

'I am honored to be joining the Executive Board of Medicinal Cannabis Europe as Treasurer. I believe Medicinal Cannabis Europe is paving the way in facilitating a long-lasting dialogue between patients, medical and scientific communities, industry and policymakers. Only by working together can we promote the health benefits of medicinal cannabis and ensure fair and safe access to patients in Europe. I am enthusiastic about contributing to this mission.'

Stuart Lambie, Secretary General:

'Addressing the topic of fair access to medicinal cannabis requires an integrated approach and the collaboration of all the stakeholders across the entire value chain. Medicinal Cannabis Europe puts the interest of patients first, whilst promoting the creation of a regulatory environment which would support research on medicinal cannabis and allow the harmonised development of the medicinal cannabis industry across Europe. I am thrilled to represent this one-of-a-kind association and to give my contribution for the benefit of European patients!'

Contact details:

Stuart Lambie, Secretary General
Medicinal Cannabis Europe
info@cannabiseurope.org
+32 (0)2 786 30 41

URL: <https://cannabiseurope.org>
Rue Belliard 40 - 1040, Brussels
Twitter: [@MedCannabisEU](https://twitter.com/MedCannabisEU)
LinkedIn: [Medicinal Cannabis Europe](https://www.linkedin.com/company/medicinal-cannabis-europe/)

Medicinal Cannabis Europe members:

Patient Organisations



Families4Access



Cannabis Patient Advocacy and Support Services - CannPass



CannTalks



Stichting Patiënten Groep Medicaal Cannabis Gebruikers - PGMCG



WeAreSofie



L'Union Francophone des Cannabinoïdes en Médecine – UFCM i Care



MAMAKA – Mothers for Cannabis



NORML Benelux

Scientific Organisations and NGOs



European Depression Association - EDA



European Medical Association - EMA



European Association for Predictive, Preventive and Personalised Medicine - EPMA



IASIS



Centre for Medicinal Cannabis



Società Italiana Ricerca Cannabis - SIRCA



Wetenschappelijk InformatieCentrum Cannabis - WIC

Industry



MedicalHemp



Cannabis Cultivators



Sanity Group