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UN removes cannabis from the category of the most dangerous drugs

On the 2nd December 2020, the United Nations (UN) Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) removed cannabis and cannabis resin from the Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. Medicinal Cannabis Europe welcomes this decision, which will facilitate the development of a harmonised and effective regulatory framework on medicinal cannabis in the European Union.

The representatives of 53 countries considered a series of recommendations from the World Health Organisation (WHO) to reclassify cannabis, including a recommendation to remove cannabis from Schedule IV, where it was listed alongside the most dangerous and highly addictive drugs for the past 59 years.

Until now, cannabis was listed in the Schedule I and Schedule IV categories of the 1961 Single Convention. With its decision, the UN declares that cannabis is not as harmful as other drugs listed in the Schedule IV and recognises its potential for medicinal use. It could encourage the European Union (EU) and its Member States' governments to re-assess how they regulate medicinal cannabis and also encourage further research on its benefits for the treatment of the symptoms a variety of diseases and conditions.

Medicinal Cannabis Europe Secretary General Stuart Lambie declared: *"The decision of the UN to remove cannabis from Schedule IV marks a historic moment in the modernisation of the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. This decision should empower European countries and the European Union to create a common effective framework for medicinal cannabis, which will work for patients, the medical community and the industry. This is a landmark for improving patients' access to quality and safe medicinal cannabis."*

About Medicinal Cannabis Europe

Launched by Hague Corporate Affairs in 2018, Medicinal Cannabis Europe is the only pan-European multi-stakeholder association which aims to ensure patients' fair access to medicinal cannabis via the definition and establishment of a harmonised legislative framework on medicinal cannabis at European level. Medicinal Cannabis Europe comprises

members representing the whole medicinal cannabis value chain: scientific organisations, academia, patient organisations, NGOs and industry.

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