

## Press release

3 December 2020

### The cannabis sector sees a Christmas wish come true and celebrates two milestones in one week

Brussels – The European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA) received yesterday a letter from the Health services of the European Commission stating that CBD can be qualified as food. Moments before, the UN recognised the medical value of cannabis and accepted WHO recommendation to rescheduled it.

In light of the recent Court judgement C-663/18, **the Commission has reviewed its preliminary conclusion on cannabidiol, stating that it should not be considered as a drug** within the meaning of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. This breakthrough comes at the same time as the **United Nations' Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) votes to accept the World Health Organisation's recommendation to remove cannabis from Schedule IV** of the 1961 Convention, which was reserved for substances with "particularly dangerous properties" and little or no therapeutic value.

**"A truly historic moment for mankind:** The United Nations, based on WHO recommendations, recognises the medical value of cannabis and removes it from Schedule IV of the 1961 Convention. Finally, the medicinal usefulness of cannabis is officially acknowledged" Says Mr Daniel Kruse, EIHA President.

**"After this historic vote, it is worth highlighting that industrial hemp and non-medical CBD still remain out of the scope of the Single Convention.** That is why, the second decision of this week is even more important for our industry: in light of the comments received inter alia from EIHA and of the recent European Court of Justice ruling, **the European commission concludes that CBD should not be considered as drug and can be qualified as food.** As the President of EIHA and as a pioneer of the hemp industry for 26 years, I truly thank the UN and our EU commission for these absolutely great Christmas presents!"

In practical terms, the recent statement by the Commission means that the verification of the **validity of EIHA's Novel Food application has been resumed.**

**"As predicted, the ECJ ruling has had a positive effect on the Commission's position. Now that CBD can be qualified as food, the EIHA Novel Food joint application is perfectly set up for achieving safety assessment and standards for our growing industry."** Says Ms Lorenza Romanese, EIHA Managing Director. "We also welcome the vote of the United Nations, which leads to a modern and sound scientific approach regarding cannabis in general."



Daniel Kruse, EIHA President

## About the European Industrial Hemp Association

The **European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA)** represents the common interests of hemp farmers, producers and traders working with hemp fibres, shives, seeds, leaves and cannabinoids. Our main task is to serve, protect and represent the hemp sector in the EU and international policy-making.

EIHA covers different areas for the application of hemp, namely its use for **construction materials, textiles, cosmetics, feed, food** and **supplements**.

More at: [www.eiha.org](http://www.eiha.org)

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