



European Industrial Hemp Association

# The Cologne Declaration on Industrial Hemp

**The European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA)  
Cologne (Germany), 7 June 2017**

Authors of the declaration: Michael Carus (Managing Director of EIHA), Mark Reinders (President of EIHA), Boris Bañas (Board member), Bernd Frank (Board member), Daniel Kruse (Board member), Daniela Sfrija (Board member)

**This Declaration has been signed by the following participants of the “14th International Conference of the European Industrial Hemp Association”, 7 - 8 June 2017, Maternushaus, Cologne, Germany**

**Industrial hemp delivers a remarkable global performance and attracts more and more investments. Hemp is a multi-purpose crop, a biorefinery by nature, delivering fibres, shives, seeds and active plant ingredients for food supplements and pharmaceuticals at the same time.**

## **Reasonable and harmonised legislation on THC guidance values for food**

Hemp seeds – small nuts with a high nutritional value – can be consumed raw or pressed into hemp seed oil, which has an excellent and unique fatty acid profile. Both seeds and oil are used for human food and animal feed. Hemp food faces a strong demand from the health and super food market. A patchwork of regulations and very strict guidance values for the THC content in food products in Europe are a barrier for faster market growth and investment. Hemp food products from Canada and US, countries with reasonable legislation, have strong competitive advantages.

**The signatories urge policy makers to develop a reasonable and harmonised legislation on THC guidance values for food in Europe and in all member states, to make sure that consumers are protected, to sustain the industry’s current double-digit growth rate, to attract new investors, create jobs and to boost product development.**

Europe should not miss this opportunity to promote consumer health and well-being as well as growth in agriculture and the food industry. Europe should create a level playing field with Canada and the USA. Canada and the USA can be taken as good examples for reasonable legislation.

For more information, please visit [www.eiha.org](http://www.eiha.org)

## **Reasonable and harmonised legislation on hemp extracts and non-psychoactive cannabinoids**

Industrial hemp extracts rich in non-psychoactive cannabinoids, especially Cannabidiol (CBD), are valuable ingredients for food supplements. Isolated CBD is finding its way into cosmetics sector and is also emerging as a substance for pharmaceutical use. Investments and market growth in recent years have been especially high.

Now, there is only a tenuous patchwork of regulation on cannabinoids and hemp extracts in the European Union, endangering the use in consumer products – to the detriment of consumers and industry. Today, several 100,000 citizens already benefit from CBD and CBG, dozens of companies show double-digit growth and increasing demand. However, without a reasonable and harmonised regulation framework, this positive trend will probably be short-lived.

**The signatories urge policy makers to develop a reasonable and harmonised legislation on cannabinoids and hemp extracts as food supplement ingredients as well as pharmaceuticals (depending on the dose) in Europe and in all member states, to make sure that consumers are protected, to sustain the industry’s current double-digit growth rate, to attract new investors, create jobs and to boost development of safe products.**

Europe should not miss this opportunity to promote consumer health and well-being as well as industrial growth in agriculture and the food industry.

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## Reasonable legislation on THC content in industrial hemp varieties

In almost all regions of the world, hemp varieties with a THC content below 0.3% are recognised as industrial hemp and can be cultivated in many countries. Only in the European Union, industrial hemp has to show a THC content below 0.2%. Such a requirement is not supported by scientific evidence – there is clear evidence that a THC content up to 0.3% does not pose any danger or disadvantage to consumers. Due to better access to more varieties, Canada and USA have strong competitive advantages to Europe.

**The signatories urge policy makers to create European legislation allowing for industrial hemp to possess a THC content below 0.3% in harmonisation with the rest of the world to create a level playing field especially with Canada and the USA.**

## End the ban of the cultivation of industrial hemp in the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs

First international treaties to control illicit drug production and trafficking were drafted in the early 1920s. When the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was passed in 1961, worldwide cultivation of industrial hemp had been in decline for decades already. Nowadays, with increasing demand for renewable and environmentally friendly raw materials and ingredients from all industrial sectors, this trend is clearly reversed and a strict application of the Single Convention is outdated.

Extensive breeding of modern cultivars of *Cannabis sativa* L. brings opportunities of safe usage of all parts of the plant, fibre, shive, seeds as well as active plant ingredients for food supplements and pharmaceuticals without endangering public health and welfare.

**The signatories refer in particular to the implementation of Article 22 of the Single Convention. This article creates provisions for national governments not only to limit the production of illicit cannabis, but also to ban the cultivation of industrial and medicinal hemp. EIHA and the signatories appeal to the UN to revise and update Article 22 of the Single Convention by excepting industrial and medicinal hemp. Meanwhile EIHA and the signatories urge world leaders to apply Article 22 using their *discretion and judgement* in good faith and in a contemporary way to support the industrial and medicinal hemp industry. A prospering global hemp market will contribute sustainably to public health and welfare.**

European Industrial Hemp  
 Association (EIHA)  
 Executive office: nova-Institut  
 für politische und ökologische  
 Innovation GmbH  
 Industriestrasse 300  
 50354 Huerth, Germany  
 Tel. +49 2233 - 4814-40  
 Fax +49 2233 - 4814-50  
 email [info@eiha.org](mailto:info@eiha.org)  
 internet [www.eiha.org](http://www.eiha.org)