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## Hemicycle of EYE2018 ideas

Ideas for a better future

#EYE2018

of your house. The night is cold, but no problem, your solar panels produce enough electricity to keep your apartment warm. This life is possible, both citizens and leaders have to work on it and to invest time and money in those new cities. I didn't invent these propositions, I only looked at what already existed in some places and tried to make all of these initiatives work together. This is a long-time investment and it is time that we start planning a better future.

In order to make Europeans happier, the EU should finance the **cure of people affected by serious diseases** with the priority people affected by a more severe disease.

Include a youth preventive perspective in the social pillar, including the right for youth to live a fulfilling social life and the right for youth to live a life in an environment **free from drugs**.

In high school, if students want to smoke cigarettes or drugs in countries where it is legalized they should first **meet people knowledgeable about drugs** during one day. At the end of this day, interns would receive a small card with their name stating that they have been informed about the consequences of smoking.

If someone is arrested with Marijuana, it could be an interesting idea, instead of fining them, to require them to **spend a day within an association fighting against drugs** or to assist this association in supporting addict people.

It could as well be beneficial to organize every trimester or so a meeting at the European Parliament to talk about drugs, not from a political perspective but from a **medical and neuroscientific one**.

Every semester or so, one hospital in every country in the European Union **should invite young people to visit a drug unit** and to speak to drug addicts. La Pitie Salpetriere hospital could be the pilot.

**Marijuana should be legalised** at the state/country level. EP/EC shouldn't intervene too much into such specific laws. Better to leave countries to make some decisions, especially if the topic isn't essential. There shouldn't be any EC/EP level legal barriers for cannabis, and from EC/EP point view trade and commercial production should be allowed. However, if something has health and medical benefit it should be legal from EC/EP perspective. Recreational marijuana should generally be legal, since it is not worse than alcohol or tobacco. Also, it is easier to use well known drugs, than new ones like meth.

The use of marijuana hardly seems to have a negative impact on Dutch society does it? With the USA legalising it one state at a time, it surely is now only a matter of time it is **legalised** here in Europe.

Cannabis is one of the most known illegal drugs in the world and it is one of the most important source of money for criminal organizations. It was convicted to be illegal by the development of synthetic fibres industries, it isn't more

harmful than alcohol or smoke, and it can be a new source of money and work places. In this historical moment we have the power to control by telematic way who and how use it (for examples by the use of health card to buy it) so it can be useful to help and prevent. It's really a foolishness that we don't use it to develop new way to work, to use it in health sciences and in other way. History teach us that **Prohibition isn't the right way**. Make it legal.

I think we must make **marijuana legal**. There would be a lot more benefits to the country. If marijuana becomes legal, there would be much less crime, and less young people who stop school. E.g at the economic level France could collect billions of euros which would thus help to modernize hospitals, recruit people, more teachers and the construction of new structures. But marijuana must be well controlled, we could put a marijuana tax for consumption (not for health). Marijuana traders should have a license approved by the government. We should set a legal threshold to prevent over-consumption and an age limit. A **buffer card** could be a good idea, meaning that every time a consumer wants to buy marijuana, I swipe his card to track his consumption or do it with an electronic card.

On one hand if Cannabis was legal, people would consume more quantity but the **money would go to the government** and we suppose it would be better for us since the government would use it to improve our country and to have a better life. On the other hand if Cannabis would remind illegal, the money would go to smugglers.

We are pro-legalization of marijuana for many different reasons. The first one is an economical reason: if you consider that only in France each year, around 2.5 billion euros worth of marijuana is sold, you can imagine how much money the French government could make if it makes dealer a real job. Also, they could create taxes on marijuana, which would enable them to get a part out of these 2.5 billion euros, that could be reinvested in the hospitals or simply be used to increase French people's salaries. This is just an example but it works for all countries around the world. The second reason is that if you think about it, some people only smoke cannabis because it is illegal and so they would probably stop smoking if it is legalized. Another reason is that it is not as addictive as people imagine it is. It is different than heroin and other drugs to the extent that they directly release dopamine into the brain, whereas marijuana is addictive just like video games or sports could be, the addiction is more or less intense based on the behaviour that people adopt towards it. Cannabis can also help people who have a very difficult life to surpass their problems and feel happier instead of becoming depressed. Another advantage of this plant is that it has incredible medical virtues, such as reducing the pain of patients who have cancer or even asthma ; and in fact, even if it is illegal, the policemen patrolling out at night in the city who look out for smoking teenagers or young adults allow them to keep what they have if the quantity owned is small, so actually, legalization would change a lot, and eliminate the waste of time of the policemen out at night. Our last argument is that more than one million people smoke marijuana in France even if it is illegal and are pro-legalization, so make it legal !

Should cannabis remain illegal or be tolerated as part of the European way of life? In every country of Europe alcohol is already legal but we know for a fact that it is more dangerous than marijuana. The most dangerous thing that happens when you smoke marijuana, is that you might fall asleep or just laughing uncontrollably. Whereas alcohol is killing people. Also by legalizing marijuana, every country could make a huge profit out of it and at the same time use it for medical purposes and therefore help some people with for example chronic pain or insomnia. It is true that there is some downsides with for example a risk of causing depression or dementia. But is any medication safe besides placebo? We personally do not think so and it could just create so much money that I just think it would be worth it to legalize it. Furthermore it is already used by a lot of people in Europe thus it does not need to create its market. We can just use the existing one. If it becomes legal people won't be tempted to try other illegal drugs as they will already be doing a legal one. We think that it is already mostly part of the European way of life, because as we already said, it is used by a lot of people. It could also easily be introduced in the European way of life to maybe be used instead of a lot of antidepressants that people are using. For example France is one of the biggest consumer of antidepressants and those medication are very addictive which is a problem in its own. Maybe by using marijuana instead it could help those people not having depression anymore and also stopping to take their pills for depression.

Marijuana should be made legal. It is not a dangerous drug, and has many **medical benefits**. Alcohol, a much more dangerous substance, remains legal whilst marijuana remains illegal. Marijuana is very easy to access in our modern day society, so those who seek to use it can still easily get their hands on it. By making marijuana legal it can be monitored, users can seek help without fearing legal repercussions and the government can regulate it.

Cannabis is one of the most known drugs to date. It is also illegal in most countries around the world. Aside from being a drug which a lot of people use as a scapegoat from their everyday life, it is also a drug which have been proven to be less harmful than alcohol and tobacco. In addition, it has also been proved to be an effective medicine for certain diseases/disorders such as depression, pain relief, cancer and aids. There is a common misconception that substances like cannabis are incredibly addictive. This is simply wrong, there has been several reports that have documented addictive behaviour as the main factor in drug addiction relating to cannabis and other illegal substances (e.g psychedelic substances). What this means is that addictive behaviour is the driving factor for the addiction and not the substance itself. In contrast, opioids (such as heroin, morphine, fentanyl etc.) releases massive amounts of dopamine which creates an euphoric experience. Over long time use, this will stop the brain's natural production of dopamine since it gets massive amounts from the substance. Therefore, individuals who stop using these substances will get withdrawal symptoms and possibly develop illnesses such as depression due to the lack of dopamine. This is also why these specific substances

are banned and deemed as dangerous since they have high dependency rates and horrible side-effects. This is not the case with cannabis, it does not create this effect and therefore it is not as addictive. People who have addictive personalities can be addicted to almost anything. Therefore, I believe that it **should be legal**.

Not all cannabis acts like Marijuana. The media and educational programs (Schools) have failed in teaching about the differences between the cannabis sorts and their effects. Therefore, one could make **some legal but not all of them**.

As for most of the issues, there are **both pros and cons** in making cannabis legal. On the one hand, prohibition of cannabis is undoubtedly a huge government intrusion into individual and total freedom of choice. Furthermore, it is not like cannabis is more harmful than alcohol or tobacco for our health and they are both used legally, not to mention that cannabis is proven to have medical benefits for cancer, AIDS, glaucoma and other diseases. Crime and violence are greatly increased due to illegal selling and buying of cannabis, thus legalization would eliminate such behaviour. Statistics show that many arrests are related to cannabis, while drug bursts offences often carry harsh penalties that can cause severe social harm with lifelong consequences. Last but not least, cannabis is one of the top- selling agricultural products, so if it was legalized billions would be saved annually. On the other hand, many people believe that cannabis is immoral and that their moral standards should be adopted by all the Europeans. In addition, long term or abusive use of cannabis can be harmful to a person's health and passive smoking of cannabis can turn out to be harmful to others. Moreover, cannabis can lead to addiction, that can have as a result use of more harmful drugs such as heroin and cocaine. Additionally, according to opponents of legalization, individuals involved in illegal buying or selling are highly likely to be involved in other criminal activities. Finally, law enforcement agencies don't want to be interpreted that they support drug use.

The consumption of Marijuana is a fact, especially at our age. Who would profit from a legalization? First the consumers, because they could have a better quality of Marijuana (quality control). Secondly, the state because it can impose taxes and the police and judges would have less work. Thirdly, the economy because they can earn money with new products. Who profits from illegality? Criminals. Of course, Marijuana is not healthy, but alcohol and cigarettes are not healthy too. The use of medicaments including Marijuana shows also the comparatively low level of harmfulness. Keeping **Marijuana illegal is bad for all persons involved**.

I think we can make **marijuana legal**, it's not more dangerous than alcohol or cigarette and cannabis-related traffic could be less important by favouring marijuana distributed by the state while being beneficial economically. We can also add the medical benefits of smoking cannabis that helps calm and relieve the patient's pain.

Ladies and gentlemen, this drug-situation should be embraced and used in a productive way. So many people talk about

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marijuana being legally allowed. Do something about it. Use this people's strong wish in order to get what you want from them. For example, "yes, you can buy and consume marijuana as long as you want, but...". And there it goes, this "but" will allow you to manipulate the people that choose to smoke it. "You are allowed to buy and consume marijuana, but you must pay some fees and taxes, you must visit the doctor twice a month specifically for this matter" and so on. **Impose your conditions**, make sure the people will accept this idea, by fulfilling their wishes. Taking in consideration that marijuana is not as harmful as the abuse of alcohol, I think that by making it legal is not a bad idea at all. Another fact I want to highlight is that, by allowing the consume of cannabis you will know entirely the amount bought, and there will not be necessary to hide and buy it from the black market. These kind of actions will be discouraged. In conclusion, I spoke up and told you my point of view. I hope you have the time to read my opinion!

Marijuana is a drug which is frequently abused and has devastating effects due to the psychological effect it has on people. If this is made legal then it would create less devastating effect due to the fact that it would be **regulated by medical professionals** and there should be a rule implied where it should not be sold or taken by anyone under the age of 25. The reason for this is because when you are under the age of 25 your brain is not fully developed therefore the psychological effects of Marijuana will affect you in a negative way. It should also be regulated so that individuals do not become addicted to the drug.

I believe that we should make marijuana legal. By doing this we will eliminate a large percentage of the black market and we will be able to save the money that would have been going into criminal hands. Also, marijuana can benefit you in several ways. For example, it can be used as medicine (cure depression or anxiety) and according to a study done by the American Medical Association marijuana does not damage the lungs unlike tobacco. In addition, studies have concluded that no one in history died purely from the overdose of marijuana. To summarize, we should make the use of marijuana legal because its benefits although the necessary precautions need to be taken.

It is ALREADY in the European way of life, everybody has heard of it, seen it, or tried it. And nobody died. Except people involved in traffic. So yes, we should definitely **tolerate it**, and offer medical support to the users, like with any other drug.

Should we legalise a substance which is less dangerous than tobacco and alcohol, and which can be used as an analgesic, anti-emetic? It could be used for anorexia treatment and has been shown to have a slowing effect on specific brain tumours. I don't see cannabis as a public health risk. Cannabis is used to fund criminal organisations and it is a huge lost, taxable commodity. The best thing we could do is legalise cannabis, tax it, put it in stores with an **age restriction of 18-21**, and make sure the **police confiscate cannabis from younger people**. Education is also key!!! Also we need to study cannabis more, for its harmful effects and medicinal effects.

Marijuana should be treated as like any other drug - a lot of young people are just curious about the behaving effect after using it. There is plenty of addictive substances not illegal, because their side effects is just temporary and after some time, there shouldn't be any bad health results. Narcotics are different - it is harder to create it and controlling someone after taking them- that's why **marijuana should be completely banned**.

Social media do overexpose teenagers (everyone in fact) to a constant online feedback and idealised images. I believe that **anyone under the age of 18 should not be allowed to be present on social media** so that they are given enough time to adapt to real life, adjust their mind-set realistically and have little distractions so early on at school. The later they are introduced to social media the better the chances are for them to develop a stronger mind-set and friendships in real life rather than only online. They will also be given a chance to develop their interpersonal skills in reality. There is also a need to ban "fake news" completely and do something about media outlets spreading false news online and spreading it around because this is miseducating our youth and creating unnecessary division which is creating hate as a result.