

Contents

5	Introduction
9	PART 1
	Why is defining cannabis important?
9	What are cannabinoids?
10	Does all cannabis contain THC?
10	What are the challenges in quantifying an individual's cannabis consumption?
11	Route of administration: why is this important?
12	What is hemp?
13	PART 2
	What are countries' international obligations to control cannabis?
13	Why should countries control cannabis?
16	What types of cannabis are controlled?
16	Are countries under any obligation to penalise cannabis users?
17	Do countries have flexibility in how they interpret the UN conventions?
19	PART 3
	How do EU countries respond to illegal use and supply of cannabis?
19	Is there a harmonised EU law on illicit cannabis?
19	Do EU countries impose the same penalties for cannabis as for other drugs?
20	Will a positive drug test for cannabis lead to police action?
21	Can you be imprisoned for possession of a small amount of cannabis?
22	Where is cannabis possession for personal use decriminalised?
22	What limits have European countries set for possession for personal use?
23	How and why have countries changed their laws (or punishments) for possession of cannabis?
23	Does changing the penalty in the law have an impact on levels of cannabis use?
25	What alternative approaches do countries take to respond to cannabis use?
27	How do countries respond to the cultivation of cannabis for personal use?
27	What are the possible penalties for cannabis sale or trafficking?
29	Is it illegal to drive with cannabis in the body?
31	PART 4
	Is there a trend towards cannabis regulation in Europe — and if so, why?
31	Is it true that selling cannabis for recreational use is already legal in some places in Europe?
32	What forms of cannabis regulation are proposed in Europe, and why?
36	What are the possible effects of cannabis regulation?
39	PART 5
	What laws cover medical and commercial cannabis-derived products?
39	Is the medical use of cannabis legal?
41	Are products containing low THC levels legal?
42	Is it legal to sell low-THC cannabis products for smoking?
43	Is cannabis legal as a wellness product?
44	Are cosmetic products containing cannabis legal?
44	Is cannabis legal as a food or food supplement?
46	Is industrial cannabis legal?
47	Is it possible to trademark cannabis varieties or cannabis products?

49	Conclusion
52	Abbreviations
53	References
55	Resources
55	Acknowledgements

Project group: Brendan Hughes, Liesbeth Vandam, Alexander Söderholm, Eoghan Quigley, Danilo Ballotta, Nicola Singleton, Ana Gallegos, Rachel Christie, Jane Mounteney, Paul Griffiths