

Legislative Reform for the Regulation of Cannabis

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Legal Framework Adopted in December 2021

- ▶ Allows possession up to 7g. Up to 50g at home.
- ▶ Cultivation up to 4 plants at the place of residence.
- ▶ Cultivation and distribution of cannabis by associations.
- ▶ Cannabis with $<0.2\%$ THC not illegal. This type of cannabis has no psychoactive effect and is found in various CBD products which are nowadays widely used.
- ▶ Consumption of cannabis in public places remained illegal.

Functions of the ARUC

- ▶ Setup in 2022 primarily to regulate cannabis associations setup as allowed in the new legislation.
- ▶ Regulatory framework introduced in February 2023. First association opened in October 2023.
- ▶ Associations are members' collective and operate on a not-for-profit basis.
- ▶ 19 licensed associations to date which cater for circa 2,500 members.
- ▶ Constant oversight of the associations. 98 inspections to date.
- ▶ No marketing and nuisance allowed.
- ▶ Associations cater for adult (18+) residents only.

Challenges Encountered

- ▶ ARUC is wrongly perceived to regulate anything related to cannabis, even though its current remit is solely as the regulator of the non-profit associations.
- ▶ Influx of complaints about:
 - ▶ Synthetic cannabis being sold openly by commercial shops, which has at times led to hospitalisation - recent case with CC9.
 - ▶ Nuisance caused by the smell of:
 - ▶ People smoking cannabis
 - ▶ Cultivation of cannabis plants.
- ▶ In blocks of apartments nuisance may be caused even when cannabis is smoked within one's residence as allowed in the legislation.

Commercial shops

- ▶ Operate in a grey area caused by the interpretation of the current legislation aimed for non-psychoactive CBD products.
- ▶ Synthetic cannabis products developed which compensate for the lack of THC with artificially enhanced psychoactive cannabinoids.
- ▶ Shops are not regulated:
 - ▶ Prominent shop signs.
 - ▶ Cater for everyone, including minors and tourists.
 - ▶ Use packaging which is attractive for youths.

Associations Regulated by ARUC



NAME

CHRA

C.H.R.A.00

Contact No.:
Email:



Contains THC









Harm
Reduction Info

WARNING!

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND PETS. For use by persons holding a Maltese residency permit who are 18 years and older ONLY

This is not a medicinal product

The use of cannabis in any form and during any time of the pregnancy or while breastfeeding may harm your baby

Smoking this product damages your health [It-tipjip ta' dan il-prodott jagħmel hsara lil saħħtek]

Cannabis use poses health risks and can be addictive

Cannabis can impair concentration and coordination. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of cannabis

Commercial Shops



420
SPECIAL
OFFERS



UP TO 50% OFF

WEEDELICIOUS

Way Forward

- ▶ Amendments to the 2021 legislation have been proposed.
- ▶ Being discussed by Parliament. Approved unanimously at committee stage last week.
- ▶ Remit of ARUC to be widened to include anything related to cannabis. This will allow ARUC to regulate commercial shops.
- ▶ Synthetic cannabis will be prohibited. ARUC is empowered to recommend immediate scheduling of Synthetic Cannabinoids to safeguard Public Health
- ▶ Consumption of cannabis in places where it may cause nuisance to third parties is prohibited. Likewise for the cultivation of cannabis plants.



Thank You