

Press release

26 October 2020

The EU Parliament endorses the increase of THC level for industrial hemp on the field in a key vote on the Common Agricultural Policy

Brussels – Last week, the European Parliament voted on its negotiating position regarding the three regulations that shape the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). This text will be object of negotiations with the Commission and the Council, aiming at finding a common position to be adopted next year. MEPs **voted in favour** of the **increase of THC level** on the field **from 0,2% back to 0,3%** and of the possibility to establish **marketing standards** for hemp.

This vote represents a major achievement for the European hemp sector as, if confirmed by the Council, these two provisions will have a major impact on the development of European hemp businesses.

On the one hand, the increase of THC level would allow **new varieties to enter the market and to be bred**, resulting in a better adaptation of the crops to the climatic conditions of the different EU territories.

On the other hand, the possibility to establish marketing standards would translate into a **significant increase of quality and standardisation of hemp products**, as well as a clear regulatory framework covering a wide range of aspects. Marketing standards encompasses sales descriptions, classification criteria, presentation, labelling, packaging, product characteristics, specific substances used and farming methods, among others. These exist already for most agricultural products including wine, fruit, vegetables and olive oil, and it is thus just fair to add hemp to the list.

The European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA) is truly happy about the outcome of the vote in the Parliament and strongly encourages the Council to take on the proposals put forward by the legislative body of the EU.

“For decades, hemp has been considered as a minor crop, while, for centuries, it has been a key asset for our economies.” Said Mr Daniel Kruse, EIHA President. *“The vote of the Parliament reflects a renewed approach of our society to this wonderful plant that has the potential of decarbonising many different manufacturing sectors and provide farmers with a consistent and green source of revenues”*.

EIHA will keep up its efforts to advocate for a clear and science-based regulatory framework, envisaging a whole-plant approach.

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

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