

Recommendations for the Albanian Legislation of the Industrial Cannabis Industry



National Albanian Hemp Industry Association

Joe Spencer, Chairman
Aleksander Laçaj, Executive Director

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Abstract

This report provides recommendations for the Assembly of Albania, as well as for the Parliamentary Commission that is considering the draft law on "Control of the Cultivation and Processing of the Cannabis Plant and the Production of its Byproducts for Medical and Industrial Purposes." The Albanian National Association of Hemp Industry has collected recommendations during meetings with local farmers, international hemp organizations, international hemp companies and interested investors, etc. These proposed changes in the bill would bring significant benefits to Albanian farmers, increasing solutions, reducing bureaucracy, making agriculture more competitive with the EU, the US and internationally as well as enabling farmers to have more many benefits of growing industrial cannabis.



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Introduction

On June 30, 2022, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection published the platform of the Draft Law "On the control of the cultivation and processing of cannabis plants and its by-products for medical and industrial purposes"¹ in the Electronic Register for Public Notices and Consultations. A revised version of the bill was published on October 6, 2022².

The recommendations presented are gathered from international hemp organizations, local farmers, international hemp companies and interested investors.

The Albanian National Association of the Hemp Industry appreciates the efforts and dedication made by the deputies and the committee of draft laws with their commitment to the drafting of new regulations. We are confident that efforts to re-develop the industrial cannabis industry in Albania can be successful.

What is Industrial Cannabis?

Industrial Cannabis, also known as Industrial Hemp, are varieties of the *Cannabis Sativa* L. plant species that contain very low levels of the psychoactive compound, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Industrial cannabis should not be confused with the "drug-type" varieties of cannabis plants, commonly known as "marijuana", which contain high levels of THC (up to 30%).

Industrial cannabis is a multi-purpose and multi-use agricultural crop in which all parts of the plant (stems, seeds, leaves, flowers and roots) can be harvested and processed to produce many different products such as textiles, paper, ropes, insulation materials, hemp fiberboard, bioplastics, composites, animal bedding, biofuel, paint, animal feed, human food, dietary supplements and cosmetics. The International Industrial Cannabis Market Since the beginning of the 21st century, industrial cannabis has been resurgent and is emerging as one of the fastest growing agricultural and industrial markets. The Federation of International Hemp Organizations (FIHO) predicts a 2000% increase in the cultivation of industrial cannabis during this decade. It is expected that 228,000 hectares will be planted globally during 2022. By 2030, the total global area of hemp crops will be almost 4.8 million hectares³. During 2021, the international hemp market was estimated to be around \$4.5 billion. By the end of this decade, the market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16.9%. With a value that is predicted to reach over 17.24 billion dollars by 2030⁴.

¹Draft Law on the Control of the Cultivation and Processing of the Cannabis Plant and the Production of Its Byproducts for Medical and Industrial Purposes, 06/10/2022

<https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-01/>

²Draft Law on the Control of the Cultivation and Processing of the Cannabis Plant and the Production of Its By-products for Medical and Industrial Purposes, 30/06/2022

<https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-02/>

³Peter McCusker, Newly Launched Federation Of International Hemp Anticipating Exponential Sector Growth, BusinessCann, 24/10/2022 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-03/>

⁴\$17.24 Billion Global Industrial Hemp Market Size Rise at +16.9% CAGR by 2028 - Market is Fueled by Superb Nutritional Value, Healthy Fatty Acid, Protein Composition of Hemp Globally, Facts & Factors, 05/08/2022 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-04/>

Agricultural Benefits

Industrial cannabis can be an important part of making the Albanian agricultural industry more dynamic and successful. The crop requires minimal or no inputs depending on the purpose of the harvest. Insecticides can be minimized or even avoided entirely as cannabis is susceptible to some serious natural predatory insects. Its use in crop rotation allows the yield of the following crops to increase by over 15%. Industrial cannabis plants also require less fertilizer than other crops such as corn, which reduces farming costs. The deep roots of industrial cannabis plants improve soil structure and nourish the soil.

Environmental Benefits

Cultivation of industrial cannabis offers some unique environmental benefits. Remediation of contaminated soil through phytoremediation, absorption of atmospheric carbon dioxide in biomass, biomass waste management (biofuel, bioenergy, etc.)⁵

Rural Development

As an agricultural crop that has multiple end-product uses, industrial cannabis has the potential to contribute to rural development. New production opportunities in innovative product areas such as plastic alternatives, building materials and food production. Industrial hemp has the potential to breathe new life into traditional agricultural practice, create new job skills and employment opportunities in agriculture and ancillary industries, such as local manufacturing and construction.

Alternative Development

Over the past several decades, Albania has suffered from large-scale illegal cultivation of criminal cannabis, mainly due to mass migration from rural farming communities ⁶. Cultivation of industrial cannabis is an ideal alternative to replace illegal cannabis ⁷. The profile of illegal cannabis farmers in Albania is: a man, living in a rural area, in his thirties, with a low level of education, not previously involved in criminal activity and living in poverty ⁸.

Successful Opportunities

If the Albanian industrial cannabis industry is enabled to unleash its full potential, it will result in a more dynamic agricultural industry, generate economic growth, create opportunities for

⁵Dr. Arnab Bhowmik, Introduction To Hemp: Agronomics And Soil Health Benefits, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, 14/04/2020 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-05/>

⁶Jerola Ziaj, Generations of Albanians Lived off Cannabis Production. Can They Stop?, Balkan Insight, 12/04/2021 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-06/>

⁷Alternative Development helps farmers to escape the poverty trap of illegal drug crop cultivation, Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (GPPD) <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-07/>

⁸Martin Jelsma, Tom Blickman, Sylvia Kay, Pien Metaal, Nicolás Martínez, Dania Putri, A Sustainable Future for Cannabis Farmers 'Alternative Development' Opportunities in the Legal Cannabis Market, Transnational Institute (TNI), 04/2021 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-08/>

rural development, reduce illegal cannabis cultivation, and to support the fulfillment of Albania's commitments for the improvement of the environment.

International Legislation

International law defines industrial cannabis by its purpose, not by the variety of the cannabis plant or the THC content limit.

Article 29, Cannabis Control of the UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol⁹, defines industrial cannabis as "cannabis used for industrial or horticultural purposes".

The Convention expressly excludes the industrial cultivation of cannabis and the use of its by-products from its requirements for international control. The Convention does not regulate industrial cannabis at all.

Article 2.9 of the Convention states that governments "shall not be required to apply the provisions of this Convention to drugs ordinarily used in industry for purposes other than medical or scientific" and Article 28 explains that "this Convention shall not apply to the cultivation of the plant of cannabis exclusively for industrial purposes." The Convention's official commentary¹⁰ states that "the cultivation of the plant [cannabis] for any other purpose [than the purchase of products for medical and scientific uses], and not only for the purposes mentioned in [Article 28], is therefore excluded."¹¹

Revisions of the Draft Law

1. Definitions

Some of the definitions in Article 3 could be edited to add more clarity to the distinction between industrial cannabis and medical cannabis.

a. Cannabis plant for medicinal purposes and cannabis plant for industrial purposes:

The use of the cannabis taxonomy nomenclature in Article 3 to define medical cannabis and industrial cannabis is no longer accurate due to the hybridization that has developed in the cannabis industries over the past decades.

- i. All subgroups of *Cannabis sativa* L. (*Cannabis sativa*, *Cannabis indica* and *Cannabis ruderalis*) are being used to breed varieties of industrial cannabis and medical cannabis.

⁹UN Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, amended by the 1972 Protocol <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-09/>

¹⁰UN Publication No. E.73.X1.1, p. 312, § 1-2 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-10/>

¹¹Kenzi Riboulet-Zemouli, Sustainable Cannabis Policy Toolkit (Cannabis & Sustainable Development), FAAAT, 04/2021 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-11/>

- ii. Each of these subgroups can produce different physical characteristics (phenotypes) such as differences in life cycles, pest resistance, mildew resistance, drought resistance, harvest date and harvest yields.
- iii. Each of the subspecies can also produce different phytochemical characteristics (chemotypes) containing different ratios of Delta 9 Tetrahydrocannabinolic Acid (Delta-9 THCa), Cannabidiolic Acid (CBDa), Cannabigerolic Acid (CBGa), Cannabidiolic Acid (CBCa) and Cannabidiol (CBDa) and Cannabidiol (CBCa) and Cannabidiol (CBDa).
- iv. Different phenotypes and chemotypes are used for selective breeding of cannabis plant hybrids for the production of various industrial cannabis and medical cannabis by-products.
- v. Scientists, botanists, and plant breeders are using chemotype names instead of the taxonomic designation of subgroups to refer to the type of cannabis plant ¹².

Chemotype	Description	Classification
Chemotype I	Cannabis plants with Δ^9 -THCa as predominant cannabinoid.	Medical Cannabis Plants
Chemotype II	Cannabis plants with Δ^9 -THCa and CBDa as predominant infant cannabinoids.	Medical Cannabis Plants
Chemotype III	Cannabis plants with CBDa as predominant cannabinoid and low content of Δ^9 -THCa (0.2% up to 1%).	Industrial Hemp Plants
Chemotype IV	Cannabis plants with CBGa as predominant cannabinoid.	Industrial Hemp Plants
Chemotype V	Cannabis plants with almost no cannabinoids.	Industrial Hemp Plants

b. Cannabis plant for industrial purposes:

We recommend raising the THC limit to 1% in Article 3 to support competition with the international hemp industry.

- i. On November 24, 2021, the European Council approved the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which restores the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) levels of industrial cannabis varieties from 0.2% to 0.3% ¹³of dry weight effective January 1 2023. This regulation is set for farms that want to receive CAP subsidies, not as a regulation for the control of psychoactive substances ¹⁴.
- ii. Within the EU it is possible to grow industrial cannabis plants with THC levels above 0.3%, provided it is authorized by national regulations, such as 0.6% in Italy ¹⁵and 1% in the Czech Republic ¹⁶.
- iii. Italy allows up to 0.6% THC because industrial cannabis plants bred for Northern and Central European climates are known to produce higher amounts of THC in

¹²Stefano Salamone, Lorenz Walth, Anna Pompignan, Gianpaolo Grassi, Giuseppina Chianese, Andreas Koeberle and Federica Pollastro, Phytochemical Characterization of *Cannabis sativa* L. Chemotype V Reveals Three New Dihydrophenanthrenoids That Favorably Reprogram Lipid Mediator Biosynthesis in Macrophages, 16/08/2022 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-12/>

¹³The new Common Agricultural Policy has been adopted and the maximum THC level on the field has been restored to 0.3%, Press Release, European Hemp Industry Association (EHIA), 02/12/2021 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-13/>

¹⁴Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament And of the Council of 2 December 2021 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-14/>

¹⁵Legge December 2, 2016, n. 242 Provision for the promotion of the cultivation of hemp <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-15/>

¹⁶Zákon, Žóm se mění zákon č. 167/1998 Sb. 378/2007 Sb., o zákonách zákon o zákonů (zákon o zákon) 634/2004 [SB](#)

- Southern Europe due to the increased ¹⁷light spectrum and warmer temperatures of the earth ¹⁸.
- iv. The Czech Republic increased the amount of THC to 1% to allow a stronger competitive position in the international market. This change is also providing political pressure on the EU to increase the THC limit set out in the CAP to become more in line with the established international standard of 1% THC.
 - v. In the United States, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree has introduced the Hemp Advancement Bill of 2022 ¹⁹, which includes increasing the THC limit from 0.3% to 1% ²⁰.
 - vi. In the UK, discussions are underway to raise the THC limit to 1% ²¹.
 - vii. Australia, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Mongolia, Switzerland and Uruguay allow up to 1% THC.
 - viii. The UN suggests that industrial cannabis can be defined based on the ratio [THC+CBN]: [CBD] is <1 ²².
 - ix. There are probably only a few industrial cannabis varieties that can produce less than 0.1% THC, 100 varieties that produce up to 0.2%, 300 to 500 varieties that produce up to 0.5% THC, and a thousand varieties that can produce up to 1% THC.
 - x. Higher levels of THC create commercial advantages for countries that allow higher levels of THC and have created no opportunity.
 - xi. In order for countries that allow higher THC levels to export industrial cannabis products to countries with lower THC restrictions, industrial cannabis processors use technical processes to correct THC from their products.
 - xii. The international hemp sector proposes a THC threshold in hemp flowers and leaves to be set at 1% after decarboxylation ²³.

¹⁷Michael W. Jenkins, *Cannabis sativa* L. Response to Narrow Bandwidth UV and the Combination of Blue and Red Light during the Final Stages of Flowering on Leaf Level Gas-Exchange Parameters, Secondary Metabolite Production, and Yield, 12/2021 [https:// albaniahemp.org/footnote-17/](https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-17/)

¹⁸Vladimir Siko, Janoš Berenj and Dragana Latković, Influence of agroclimatic conditions on content of main cannabinoids in industrial hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.), 01/2011 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-18/>

¹⁹Chellie Pingree, The Hemp Advancement Act of 2022, US Congress, 08/02/2022 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-19/>

²⁰Dario Sabaghi, How The 2023 Farm Bill May Reshape The Hemp Industry, Forbes, 08/03/2022 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-20/>

²¹UK Medical Cannabis & CBD Market Discussion Paper - Ten Recommendations for Government, Maple Tree Consultants and Mackrell, 04/2021 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-21/>

²²Recommended methods for the identification and analysis of cannabis and cannabis products, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2009 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-22/>

²³Common Position of the Industrial Hemp Sector on the Single Convention and the International Drug Control System, European Hemp Industry Association (EHIA), 09/2020 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-23/>

- xiii. The Global Hemp Association ²⁴and "Vote Hemp ²⁵" have written letters of support to the Parliament of Albania for increasing the THC limit from 0.1% to a maximum of 1% through the Petition for Industrial Hemp campaign ²⁶.

c. Byproducts for medical purposes:

In Article 3 the term "cannabis plant" is used instead of "cannabis plant for medical purposes" to define "by-products for medical purposes". This would require a medical cannabis license for common extraction manufacturing processes for industrial cannabis plants in order to produce many industrial cannabis by-products that require extraction processes, such as; hemp seed oil, hulled hemp seeds, hemp protein powder, hemp teas, hemp nutritional supplements, hemp cosmetics, hemp essential oil, hemp waste, hemp fiber, hemp bioplastics, hemp biodiesel, etc.

d. By-products for industrial purposes:

The way the definition "by-products for industrial purposes" is written limits the separation of plant parts to produce products. It is impractical to harvest, dry and export whole plants.

2. Advertising of industrial cannabis

Article 4.dh allows trading and advertising of industrial hemp and its by-products. However, articles 4.b, 40.1.a and 40.th limit the advertising of industrial cannabis and its by-products, because the term "cannabis plant" is used instead of "cannabis plant for medicinal purposes".

3. Track and Trace System for Industrial Cannabis

Article 4.b, Article 20.g, Article 32.1, Article 33, Article 34 and Article 38.2 require the use of a Track and Trace tracking system for industrial cannabis plants. Track and Trace applications have been developed to electronically tag individual medical cannabis plants, track their location, life cycle data and the production, sales and distribution of by-products.

Common methods of growing industrial cannabis for seed and fiber are to sow the seeds at a high density planting of 20 kg of seed per hectare (1,000,000 to 2,000,000 plants) required to produce high yields of industrial cannabis for the production of fiber and cereals. The high density of plants per square meter makes the tagging of individual plants necessary for use with computerized cannabis medicinal plant tracking and tracing systems physically and technically impossible.

²⁴Mandi Lynn Kerr, Letter of Support to Parliament of Albania, Global Hemp Association, 22/10/2021 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-24/>

²⁵Eric Steenstra, Letter of Support to Parliament of Albania, Vote Hemp, 12/07/2021 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-25/>

²⁶Industrial Hemp Petition, Vote Hemp, 01/06/2019 <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-26/>

4. Varieties of Industrial Cannabis

Articles 11.5 and 23.1 limit the import and cultivation of industrial cannabis varieties to only varieties that are included in the EU Common Plant Variety Database²⁷. These articles conflict with Article 8.bl which allows breeding and registration of new industrial cannabis varieties into the National Variety Catalog.

Articles 11.5 and 23.1 limit the import and cultivation of varieties of industrial cannabis only to varieties that are included in the common database of EU plant varieties. These articles conflict with article 8.bl which allows the breeding and registration of new varieties of industrial cannabis in the National Catalog of Varieties.

- a. There is a need for testing new varieties outside the EU because most of the varieties approved by the EU have been specially bred for cultivation in Central and Northern Europe which have different environmental conditions from Albania.
- b. The EU does not restrict the cultivation of industrial cannabis varieties that are not in the EU Common Plant Variety Database. The use of these varieties is for the qualification of CAP subsidies.

5. Importing Industrial Cannabis Seeds

The Director of the State Entity of Seeds and Seedlings this year refused to allow the importation of seeds that have DUS (distinctiveness, uniformity, stability) to perform the tests required for the registration and inclusion of varieties in the national catalog of seeds and seedlings claiming that Law no. 10416, dated 04.07.2011, "On planting materials and plant propagators" and law no. 105/2015 "On some additions and changes to the law no. 10416, dated 07.04.2011, "On planting materials and plant propagators" and Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 319, dated 24.04.2016 "On determining the procedures of the rules for testing varieties", restricts the import of varieties with DUS documentation. The action is also contrary to Article 8.2.b.ii of the draft law.

Also this year, the director of the State Entity of Seeds and Saplings requested that hemp seed samples be illegally imported without an import authorization as a prerequisite for obtaining an import authorization, which is in clear contradiction to Law no. 9271, dated 09.09.2004, for some additions. and change no. 7975, dated 26.07.1995, "On narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" Article 9, item no. 3 and Instruction no. 7, dated 03.05.2007, "On the control and monitoring of entities that plant industrial hemp".

If these actions are not corrected before next year, this will create financial and legal risks for farms, companies and investors who want to import industrial cannabis seeds.

²⁷EU Common Plant Variety Database <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-27/>

6. Raw Material Inspection

Weighing the wet weight of seed and fiber crops will be challenging. The seeds should be dried as soon as they are collected. Harvested stalks may remain in the field to complete a recovery process in preparation for fiber production.

Article 27.6 does not mention a time period for the completion of the inspection that may cause delays in the packaging of by-products that may damage the quality of the product. This requirement is more practical for medical cannabis due to the need to be responsible for the production of psychoactive substances.

7. Collection of Samples and Laboratory Analysis

Drafting Articles 27.6 and 37 in line with EU regulations would minimize future changes as Albania moves forward with EU membership requirements.

EU Regulation No. 639/2014 C(2017) 735 Annex I ²⁸defines how sampling and laboratory analysis are carried out in the EU.

8. Security

Requiring security to accompany the transport of industrial cannabis by-products in Article 20.1.dh and Article 29 will add a great deal of coordination, work and expense as well as consume unnecessary state resources for the delivery of small quantities and large amounts of raw and finished by-products. products that do not contain psychoactive substances.

- a. This requirement is more practical for the transport of medical cannabis due to the need to be responsible for the distribution of psychoactive substances.
- b. Under current Albanian laws, companies are able to import hemp husk, hemp fiber, hemp seed food, hemp cosmetics, hemp textiles and hemp nutritional supplement without the need for specialized security transport.
- c. Industrial cannabis contains only a small amount of psychoactive substances which has a marginal value compared to medical cannabis.
- d. The requirement to use high security using fences, cameras and security guards in Article 30 will negatively affect the cost of growing industrial cannabis and the size of the crop.
 - i. There are no countries that require unit security for industrial cannabis. Entities are allowed to choose the type of security they require to secure their business activities.
 - ii. The average unit size for industrial cannabis grain and fiber is 100 dunums (10 hectares). The installation and active monitoring of security fences and cameras along the perimeter of the fields greatly influence the return on investment.

²⁸Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1155 of 15 February 2017 amending Delegated Regulation (EU) No 639/2014 as regards the control measures relating to the cultivation of hemp <https://albaniahemp.org/footnote-28/>

- iii. Industrial cannabis contains only a small amount of psychoactive substances and the value of industrial cannabis is marginal compared to medical cannabis that requires safety.

9. Direct Sales and Retail Sales

Article 4.2.c restricts businesses that do not have a license for the cultivation of industrial cannabis from the retail sale of by-products of industrial cannabis that are currently allowed, such as hemp seed oil, hemp protein powder, hulled hemp seeds and hemp cosmetics.

Article 40.1.a limits direct sales of industrial cannabis and its by-products. This would force many companies to stop retail sales of hemp products.

10. Industrial Cannabis Unit

Articles 3 and 22 place restrictions on the expansion of the production of industrial cannabis by-products by requiring that the agricultural land and the production facility share the same prosperity.

Recommended Draft Law Revisions

Article 3

"Cannabis plants for medical purposes" are cannabis plants cultivated and produced for medical purposes and scientific research under controlled conditions and regulated by this law that contain more than 1% THC.

"Cannabis plants for industrial purposes" are cannabis plants cultivated and produced for industrial purposes, including all fresh or dried parts of the plant and seeds containing not more than 1% THC.

"Medical by-products" are substances and preparations that are produced from the cannabis plant for medical purposes.

"By-products for industrial purposes" are the products which are produced from any part of the cannabis plant for industrial purposes; including stem, seed, leaf, flower and root.

"Unit" is the area of land from 5 to 10 ha, limited, which also includes warehouses and other premises dedicated only to processes related to the cultivation and production of by-products of the cannabis plant for medicinal purposes and the area no longer smaller than 1 hectare, for the cultivation of the industrial cannabis plant. The area of the unit for the cultivation of the cannabis plant for industrial purposes is not less than 1 hectare and the production unit for the processes related to its by-products may be separate from the cultivation unit.

Article 4

b). the cultivation of the cannabis plant for medical purposes and the production of its by-products, their circulation and possession if they are not marked and traceable, according to the provisions of this law.

c) possession of equipment and instruments for the production of the cannabis plant and its by-products, with the exception of the cases declared by the entity equipped with a license, provided for in this law.

d) advertising the cannabis plant for medicinal purposes and its by-products made directly or indirectly or in any other form, in any way, regardless of the means of publication, for the production, circulation, keeping and use of the cannabis plant for medical purposes and its by-products, with the exception of scientific and professional medical publications.

dh) advertising in print and electronic media of products and by-products from plants containing concentrations higher than 1% of the THC component in the final product.

Article 11

5) The unit monitors the process of importing seeds and seedlings that are varieties of cannabis cultivation for industrial purposes.

Article 20

1.dh) the self-declaration for the conclusion of the preliminary storage agreement;

1.g) to delete

Article 22

1. The activities defined in the license or permit according to this law take place only in the premises of the Production Unit, in special areas, with limited and monitored access.
2. The production unit is the area of land from 5 to 10 ha, limited, which also includes warehouses and other premises dedicated only to the processes related to the cultivation and production of the by-product of the cannabis plant for medical purposes and area not less than 1 hectare, for the cultivation of the industrial cannabis plant. The area of the unit for the cultivation of the cannabis plant for industrial purposes is not less than 1 hectare and the production unit for the processes related to its by-products may be separate from the cultivation unit.
3. The license for the medicinal cannabis plant allows the production of up to 4 Marginal Production Units. For unlimited units, a new license or permit is required.
5. Licensing of the cannabis plant for medical purposes determines the number, area and location of the production units.

Article 23

1) The registration of seeds and seedlings is done according to the relevant legislation in the institution responsible for the registration of seeds and seedlings.

Article 26

2) After the end of the process of harvesting the cannabis plant for medical purposes, the Agency performs checks on the quantities of the harvest carried out and the material produced and records in the minutes the number of seedlings collected and the quantity according to the weight of the wet mass.

Article 27

Cannabis plants for processing and raw materials for medicinal purposes

1) The material produced from the cannabis plant for medical purposes is dried, cleaned, separated, packaged and labeled.

2) After the end of the harvest, the above-ground part of the cannabis plant is dried in a specially arranged space.

3) The cannabis grower keeps a separate record, in three copies of the quantity produced, before using it for the production of medicines in the presence of Agency inspectors. One copy is sent for medical purposes to the ministry responsible for public order and security, while one copy is kept by the signatory parties.

4) Packaging with the dry cannabis plant for medical purposes is marked with the following information:

- i. the name and headquarters of the legal entity (growers/producers);
- ii. date (day, month and year) of harvest and production;
- iii. the name of the raw material;
- iv. net and gross amount of dry matter;
- v. shapes (leaves, flowers, plants, whole, cut);
- vi. packing date and expiration date.
- vii. unique identification mark in the form of a code, stamp or label.

5) The grower/processor of cannabis for medical purposes submits a report to the responsible structure of the Ministry Responsible for Public Order and Security and the Agency for the completion of the production process, cultivation and dry mass obtained, within ten days from the day of completion of the process.

6) Before the dry material of the cannabis plant for medical purposes is packaged, the Agency performs quality control in certified and accredited laboratories with the best methods for quality control, according to the Guidelines approved by the minister responsible for health, in relation to cannabinoid content. and components of tetrahydrocannabinol, as well as physico-chemical and microbiological control, for the method, form and amount of packaging.

Article 28

Substances and preparations produced from the cannabis plant for medical purposes:

1) Substances and preparations intended for medical use produced from the cannabis plant for medical purposes, by the authorized manufacturer, are subject to all the provisions provided for in the legislation in force on drugs and pharmaceutical services and the legislation on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, forward by putting them into circulation.

Article 29

Transportation of the cannabis plant for medicinal purposes

The activity of carrying, moving, accompanying and transporting seeds, seedlings, raw material, the cannabis plant for medical purposes and its by-products, from one place to another, is done with prior notification to the Agency and with specialized accompaniment by the entity that has concluded the contract of storage and security of the unit.

Article 30

Providing the cannabis plant for medicinal purposes:

The storage and security of the unit, the transport and trade of the cannabis plant for medical purposes and its by-products is done by the entity that has concluded the contract of storage and security of the unit.

Article 32

1) The Marking and Tracking System is a state database, through which organized and stored information is collected in electronic form for the placement of unique marks and tracking of all stages of seed and seedling provision, cultivation, production, circulation , supply, transport that serves the identification of the cannabis plant for medicinal purposes.

Article 33

The licensed subject is obliged to enter the data in the marking and tracking system, for all seeds, seedlings, the cannabis plant for medical purposes and its by-products processed by him, for all phases of the licensed activity.

Article 34

1) Marking and tracking defined in this law, through a unique mark in the form of a provisional code, stamp or label is mandatory at all stages, including import, cultivation, production, processing, storage, storage, export and use of the cannabis plant for medicinal purposes and its by-product.

Article 38

2) The cannabis plant for medicinal purposes and its by-products are seized immediately if they are not marked and traceable according to the provisions of this law.

Article 40

a) Advertises the cannabis plant for medicinal purposes and its by-products, directly or indirectly, or makes direct sales; retail sales;

f) Exceeds the deadline set for the collection of the quantities of cannabis produced in the plan for medical purposes.

th) To delete

Endorsements

The following industrial hemp and cannabis organizations support these recommendations for the Albanian Draft Law “for Control of the Cultivation and Processing of the Cannabis Plant and Production of Its by-products for Medical and Industrial Purposes.”

"CannaCasa — Portuguese Industrial Hemp Association fully endorses National Albanian Hemp Industry Association recommendations for the Albanian Industrial Cannabis Law, since the present recommendations and contents of the document submitted represents and covers the detrimental topics for integrating a strong and competitive hemp industry in Albania that is able to compete in Europe and in the World. Congratulations to the National Albanian Hemp Industry Association for stepping forward on the matter of defending the hemp industry."



António João Carvalho da Costa, VP of Board of Directors
CannaCasa — Portuguese Industrial Hemp Association

"Hemp used for industrial and horticultural purposes is a positive economic and environmental opportunity for Albania. Industrial hemp is not a drug, there is no health risk from the THC present. Free access to industrial hemp will enable an industry to grow. The control requirements for drug varieties are not required for industrial hemp."



Richard Barge, Chair
New Zealand Hemp Industries Association



Kimmo Wilska, Member of the Executive
Finnish Cannabis Association