



Commissioner of the
Federal Government for
Drug and Addiction Policy



Speakers & Panelists

Consultation Process

„Cannabis –but safe“

Expert Hearing on International Experiences

Welcome remarks and moderated talk



Prof Dr Karl Lauterbach
Federal Minister of Health



Burkhard Blienert
*Commissioner of the Federal Government
for Drug and Addiction Policy*

Keynote speeches



Dominique Mendiola
Senior Director,
Marijuana Enforcement Division,
Colorado Department of Revenue,
Colorado (USA)

Dominique Mendiola serves as the Senior Director of the Colorado Department of Revenue's Marijuana Enforcement Division (MED). She began her work in marijuana policy and regulation with MED in 2014. Previously she served as the Division's Deputy Director of Policy, Licensing and Communications as the primary liaison between the Division and Governor's Office.



Mariella Dimech
Executive Chairperson,
Authority for the
Responsible Use of Cannabis,
Malta

Mariella Dimech has held the position of Executive Chairperson for the Authority for the Responsible Use of Cannabis since its inception in January 2022. Ms. Dimech is a warranted psychotherapist, a psychology graduate from the University of Malta and a strategic manager by profession. She was one of the local pioneers in creating and managing the concept and services for rehabilitation offered to persons with substance misuse - a field which she worked in for a span of over 30 years.



Dr Angela Me
Chief of the Research Branch,
United Nations Office
on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Dr Angela Me oversees global, regional and national research in the areas of drugs and crime. She is responsible for global reference research publications such as the World Drug Report, the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, the Global Study on Homicide, and the World Wildlife Crime Report.

Panel 1



Gabriele Sauermann
Member of the Board,
German Central Office for
Addiction Issues (DHS)

Gabriele Sauermann holds a diploma in social education. She is a consultant for participation of disabled children and young people, addiction support in the Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband - Gesamtverband e. V. She is also a member of the board of the German Central Office for Addicition Issues (DHS).



Esther Neumeier
Executive Director,
**German Monitoring Centre
for Drugs and Drug Addiction
(DBDD)**

Esther Neumeier is a graduate psychologist and psychological psychotherapist. As head of the German Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (DBDD) at the institute for therapy research (IFT), she is responsible for all reporting on the topic of illicit drugs within Germany as well as to the EU and is a German member of the Informal Scientific Network of UNODC.



Georg Wurth
CEO,
German Cannabis Association (DHV)

Georg Wurth has been involved in drug policy since 1996. He founded the state working group on drugs in NRW and became involved in the expert forum on drugs of the Green Youth. In July 2001, he became the executive director of the Federal Network for Drug Policy (BND) of the Green Party. In 2002, he became managing director of the freshly founded German Cannabis Association, which he then took over as sole owner in 2004 and still leads today.

Keynote speeches



Bob Lessel
Health Policy Expert,
Ministry of Health,
Luxemburg

Since May 2019, Bob Lessel is the coordinator of the Luxembourgish interministerial Cannabis Task force. He is the main point of contact for numerous international, European and national stakeholders and other ministerial departments concerned. As a cannabis policy expert, Lessel advises the Luxembourgish Government on all cannabis-related topics.



Prof Dr André Knottnerus
Chairman,
Independent Advisory
Commission
“Closed Coffeeshop Chain
Experiment”,
Netherlands

Prof Dr André Knottnerus holds positions in various national and international scientific and public health boards. From 2018 to 2020 he chaired the independent expert committee that advised the Dutch government and parliament on the national experiment with a controlled legal (‘closed’) cannabis supply chain and elaborated how this closed chain could operate and how the effects of this closed chain on public health, crime, safety and public nuisance could be evaluated.



Dr Rosario Queirolo

*Chair,
Department of Social and Political
Sciences, Universidad Católica del
Uruguay
Uruguay*

Dr Rosario Queirolo has been chair since 2016 and lecturer since 2007 at Universidad Católica del Uruguay in the Department of Social Sciences. She has authored a variety of academic publications on cannabis legalization in Uruguay. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh (USA).



*John Clare
Director General,
Controlled Substances and
Cannabis Branch,
Health Canada,
Canada*

John Clare is the Director General of Strategic Policy with the Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch of Health Canada, the federal office that provides overall coordination of the Government of Canada's commitment to legalize, regulate and restrict the sale of cannabis. Clare has varied experience working in legislative and regulatory policy and has held a range of positions over his 20 plus years with the Government of Canada.

Panel 2



Prof Dr Justus Haucap
Director,
**Düsseldorf Institute
for Competition Economics
(DICE)**

Prof Dr Justus Haucap is Director of the Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics (DICE) at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf. He was chairman of the Monopolies Commission of the German Federal Government for four years. His research focuses on competition economics, the digital economy and the regulation of network-based industries such as telecommunications, electricity and transport.



Dirk Heitepriem
Deputy Chairman,
**German Cannabis Industry
Association (BvCW)**

Dirk Heitepriem is deputy chairman of the German Cannabis Industry Association (BvCW) and is working as the Vice President External Affairs for Aurora Europe, a subsidiary of Aurora Cannabis Inc. He has been involved in the Cannabis Industry since 2018. As the deputy chairman of BvCW he is leading the working group on Regulation of a recreational cannabis market in Germany.

Workshops



Martin Jelsma
Programme Director Drugs & Democracy,
Transnational Institute (tni)

Martin Jelsma is a political scientist who has specialised in Latin America and international drugs policy. In 1995 he initiated and has since coordinated TNI's Drugs & Democracy Programme. Jelsma is a regular speaker at international policy conferences and advises various NGOs and government officials on developments in the drugs field.



Dr Mafalda Pardal
Senior Analyst,
Drug Policy Research Center
RAND Europe

Dr Mafalda Pardal is a senior analyst at RAND Europe, working in the area of home affairs and social policy. Her research interests include the study of illicit markets, cannabis regulation and drug policy more broadly. She is also the European lead for the RAND Drug Policy Research Center. In recent years, her research has focused on the Cannabis Social Club model in several jurisdictions, and she is currently editing a book on that topic which will be published later this year.



Maja Wegener
Executive Director,
**Federal Working Group for Child and
Youth Protection (BAJ)**

Maja Wegener holds a degree in social science and is a systemic therapist. Since March 2020, she has been the executive director of the Federal Working Group for Child and Youth Protection. Before, she professionally engaged with human and women rights and managed a sponsorship project for children from families affected by addiction.



Steve Rolles
Senior Policy Analyst,
Transform Drug Policy Foundation

Steve Rolles has been working on drug policy reform with Transform Drug Policy Foundation for nearly 20 years. As senior policy analyst, he has been the lead author on many of Transform's groundbreaking publications. He is a regular contributor to the public debate on drug policy and the law in print and broadcast media, and has been a speaker at events, conferences and inquiries in the UK and around the world.



Sofia Wahl
Advisor,
**Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit
(GIZ)**

Sofia Wahl has been working as an advisor in the Global Drug Policy and Development project (GPDPD) of GIZ since 2015. Over the past seven years, she has gained a wide range of experience in the field of development-oriented drug policy, including advising international partner governments and as a regular member of the German delegation to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).



Tom Blickman
Senior Project Officer,
Transnational Institute (TNI)

Since 1997, Tom Blickman has been working for TNI's Drugs & Democracy Programme, specializing in international drug control policy and the UN conventions, drug markets, alternative development, money laundering and organised crime. Blickman is a regular speaker at international policy conferences and advises on developments in the drugs field. He is co-editor of the TNI Drug Policy Briefing series.