

Unofficial translation

**NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS
IN THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SPHERE**
(based on mass media reports)

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CARICC MEMBER STATES

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



**MIA WANTS TO STRENGTHEN RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDERS
FOR DRUGS PROPAGANDA**

Ministry of Internal Affairs has prepared amendments to the Code of Administrative Offenses which imply an increase in the responsibility of owners of Internet resources and providers for promotion of drugs.

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, it is planned to increase fines for individuals, legal entities and officials. Penalties for citizens should range from 5 thousand to 30 thousand rubles, for officials - from 50 thousand to 100 thousand, for legal entities - up to 1 million rubles. Also for legal entities punishment is provided in the form of suspension of activity for up to 90 days.

"Current trends indicate that the most popular platform for the promotion and advertising of drugs is the Internet," - adds the website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Ministry of Internal Affairs also proposes raising fines for non-fulfillment by the provider of obligations to restrict access to resources containing prohibited information.

<https://www.asi.org.ru/news/2019/01/11/mvd-otvetstvennost/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

GEORGIA



**SALOME ZURABISHVILI COMMENTS ON THEME OF SMOKING
MARIJUANA IN GEORGIA DURING FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE AS
COUNTRY'S PRESIDENT**

TBILISI, January 11th - Sputnik. President of Georgia Salome Zurabishvili supported the amendments adopted by the Parliament concerning toughening the rules for smoking marijuana in the country.

"I support the tightening of control that followed the decision of the Constitutional Court to decriminalize marijuana," Zurabishvili said answering journalists' questions during her first press conference at the rank of the President of Georgia.

The Constitutional Court of Georgia abolished the only remaining punishment for consuming marijuana - a fine of 500 lari (about 188 dollars), and thus made smoking marijuana legal on July 30. The corresponding lawsuit brought the leaders of the party "New Political Center - Girchi" to the court.

In the autumn of 2018 the Parliament at the initiative of the Georgian Interior Ministry passed a bill according to which smoking of marijuana is possible only at home, provided there are no minors.

The use of "weed" is prohibited in public places, in the presence of children, in public transport, schools, educational institutions and in surrounding areas. Violation of the law is punishable by a fine in the amount of 800 to 2 thousand lari (approximately 300-750 dollars).

Smoking marijuana in Georgia is prohibited for those under the age of 21. This crime is also administratively punishable - a fine of 500 to 1,5 thousand lari (approximately 187-562 dollars).

For smoking marijuana at work, a fine of 1,000 (about \$ 375) to 1,500 GEL is provided.

<https://sputnik-georgia.ru/politics/20190111/243851874/Zurabishvili-podderzhala-uzhestochenie-pravil-kureniya-marikhuany-v-Gruzii.html>

ITALY



LEGALIZATION OF CULTIVATION AND PROCESSING OF MARIJUANA AND OTHER EASY DRUGS AT HOME IS PROPOSED IN ITALY

Senator Matteo Mantero introduced a bill to the Senate, according to the arguments of which all those who are against legalization are automatically considered lobbyists of the interests of drug mafia

The so-called "purified" marijuana, from which the drug component has been removed, has long been sold in Italian bio stores along with tea collections from Tibet, incense sticks from India, Himalayan salt lamps and other near-esoteric health products. Today, parliamentarians are seriously talking about allowing to grow cannabis itself and its derivatives.

Today we are faced with a situation where criminal organizations control the production, conversion and sale of all types of prohibited substances, explains Senator Mantero. The same National Anti-Mafia Directorate in 2016 and the annual report stated that it "advocates legalization, taking into account the data we have, facts, investigations and court proceedings about the failure of the prohibition policy".

He says that even in the United States, more and more states are legalizing the production and sale of marijuana for recreational purposes - Colorado, Washington, Oregon and Alaska as well as DC.

In addition to the well-known experience of Amsterdam, the progressive registration of the so-called Cannabis Club has also been observed in Spain lately. In Italy, the legalization of cannabis and its derivatives would save money associated with criminal suppression of this phenomenon. And on the contrary, we could get a significant part of criminal profits from the black market. In the world as a whole, drug trafficking is estimated at around 560 billion euros a year, in Italy it is estimated at about 30 billion euros, which is about 2% of national GDP, and more than half of the drug market is cannabis.

Those who oppose legalization, consciously or not, protect interests of organized crime,

the politician believes. He is also confident that “the permission for independent production of cannabis as well as regulation of the production and sale of soft drugs and approval of their use for recreational purposes will serve to protect public health as a form of consumption changes. Cannabis will move from the illicit market of products potentially harmful to health to the category of products grown with respect for the health of a user”.

At the same time, the senator assures, relying on the experience of those US states where the marijuana market is regulated in legal form, that the number of drug users does not increase as a result of their legalization, and in general has no direct or indirect influence on social situation and health of people.” And from the legalization come solid pluses, and most importantly, income to the budget.

The bill includes three main points:

1. Allow cannabis cultivation under certain conditions;
2. Provide for the legality of possession of cannabis in certain amounts, in addition to correcting the law on inflorescences, which are currently sold in so-called “light cannabis shops” for technical use, providing for the possibility of being sold for food or in herbs;
3. Prevent illegal consumer behavior by differentiating substances by type of hard drugs, soft drugs, etc.

<https://www.kp.ru/daily/26927.4/3977311/>

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