

Decriminalisation and differentiation of illicit drugs in European Union

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The paper deals with different aspects of the illicit drug policy of EU member states. Decriminalisation and differentiation of illicit drugs, that has taken place in recent years in a number of European countries concern in particular the classification of illicit drugs according to the type and quantity of the seized drug, as well as the illicit use, possession, and trafficking of prohibited drugs. Many changes also have taken place in the use of alternative forms of punishment. One of the illicit drugs which has been particularly exposed to these processes is cannabis; most of the EU member states are in process of changing its legal status or have already changed it in the terms of milder treatment of drug related delinquency. A basic hypothesis of the present paper is that the repressive model of drug policy has been exhausted and that a number of countries have consciously changed their attitudes towards the use and possession of illicit drugs, in particular cannabis. These changes will presumably improve the current situation in relation to the use of illicit drugs and especially the situation of those users of illicit drugs who do not represent with their habit any harm to their surroundings and are thus completely unproblematic.

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