

Open letter - Tuesday 30 August 2022

Re: EU regulation and the UK cannabis industry

Dear Rt. Hon Rishi Sunak MP,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Cannabis Industry Council, the Cannabis Trades Association, the British Hemp Alliance, and the Scottish Hemp Association, the leading membership organisations representing the UK's entire cannabis sector.

The global cannabis market offers significant opportunities for U.K. jobs and exports. We are already a global leader in production and sales, controlling around 45% of this growing industry. However, we are risking our global position due to EU regulation which hinders our ability to develop the UK's own market, as well as making us uncompetitive abroad.

We note with interest your intention to identify areas of policy where the U.K. can diverge from EU rules, in order to help grow the economy. There are two particular areas where we would urge your support, in order to secure a Brexit dividend for the U.K., as follows:

- The U.K. currently uses the EU Novel Food Regulations to licence CBD products in our domestic market. These rules stifle competition, and hinder SMEs seeking to enter the market. We believe that CBD products produced safely for food supplement use should be exempt from these rules (with synthetic and isolated CBD remaining part of the rules).
- The U.K. currently uses the EU Plant Variety Database (and its linked subsidy arrangements) to determine which industrial hemp seeds farmers can cultivate. We believe that non-EU seeds should also be allowed under U.K. regulations to increase choice and competition. This would be a sign of the potential of Global Britain.

We would urge your commitment to considering reform of these bureaucratic and outdated rules, which are harming a potential dynamic industry in which the U.K. is currently a world leader.

Furthermore, once the Conservative Party leadership election has concluded, we would welcome discussions with Government officials on other reforms - such as enabling GPs to prescribe cannabis to their patients - to improve people's health, boost jobs, and create economic growth.

We will be in contact in due course, but please do feel free to contact us via mike.morgan-giles@cannabisindustryCouncil.org in the meantime.

Kind regards,

Mike Morgan-Giles, CEO, Cannabis Industry Council
Marika Graham-Woods, Executive Director, Cannabis Trades Association
Nathaniel Loxley, Director of Research, British Hemp Alliance
Kyle Esplin, Chair, Scottish Hemp Association



cannabis trades
association

