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VLOS.nl wants a year postponement of shroom ban

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Amsterdam should get one year to show that regulating magic mushrooms works. A prohibition is not necessary, certified smartshops say.

Halve the number of places that sell magic mushrooms, introduce a respite of three days and certify the sales. Amsterdam should get one year to prove the effect of these measures, says the National Smartshop Association (VLOS). The association wants minister of Health Ab Klink to abandon altering the Opium act, which implies that using and trading fresh mushrooms becomes actionable. The parliamentary parties of the PvdA, GroenLinks, SP, and D66 are against banning and in front of regulation. They are accompanied by the Association of Dutch Municipalities, the Amsterdam city council, the Municipal medical and health service, Addiction Rehabilitation North Holland, the Coordination Assessment and Monitoring new drugs (CAM) and the International Narcotics control board of the United Nations.

"Such a ban is nothing but sentiment", says VLOS spokesman Paul van Oyen. "Based on nothing." A majority of the House of Parliament voted last spring in favour of the prohibition on magic mushrooms. The cause was the death of a French student after she jumped -or fell- of the roof of Nemo museum. "It is not even certain whether she was under the influence of magic mushrooms. There has never been an autopsy on her body." Also the ambulance rides turn out to be not that bad after further examination, Van Oyen says. "Last year there were 149 magic mushroom related rides. Nine of them ended in hospitalization. In the other cases also alcohol, heroine or coke had been used."

Member of Parliament Lea Bouwmeester of the PvdA has another objection against the prohibition. "This cannot be maintained. The fly agaric (red with white dots, editor) that is also prohibited, is everywhere. Am I going to be arrested because such a mushroom accidentally grows in my garden?"

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