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Translated from Dutch to English by Saveourshrooms.org/ Pslowyer

Global research UN-experts:
No reason to ban shrooms
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Shrooms are proved to be harmless. Banning them is therefore useless and dangerous, stated Prof.dr. F.A. de Wolff, emeritus professor of clinical and forensic toxicology at Leiden, and Dr. E.J.M. Pennings, neurobiochemist and toxicologist.

“This is a mayor measure for a product with such mild effects. Besides it is an unwise and dangerous decision, because the cultivation of and trade in shrooms will be criminalized. The demand for shrooms will remain, and so will the cultivation and trade. Because they are illegal by then, the market is no longer controllable. The prohibition of shrooms will not be charitable to public health.” Pennings and Wolff say in an NRC article, dated last april 2nd.

According to the Bureau Research and State Expenses (BOR), the examination office of the Parliament, Minister Klink has passed to easy the recommendations of his own researchers not to ban shrooms. “ The support that why the reasoning of the CAM is passed, it’s said that “no valid arguments” are used, said the BOR.

According to the CAM the risks of shrooms are low and these risks only occur in combination with other drugs or alcohol or used in an unstable setting.

The CAM even figured that with the use of shrooms just in 0,04% of all cases the assistance of an ambulance was called. According to Klink this number should be higher, but according to the BOR he doesn’t come up with concrete figures to confirm this.

Moreover the BOR also criticizes the report of the CAM. In the methodology of the research was to much room left for subjective assessment of risks by experts, according to BOR.

In his letter, dated February 4th, 2008, to the Second Chamber, Minister Klink responds to the report of BOR.

It’s noteworthy that the Minister in his response fully restores honor to the CAM; evidenced by the following extract:

1: “the procedure followed by the CAM I think is indeed a scientific approach of the problems”.

2: In summary I believe that the mentality of the CAM and the method used by the CAM is a reliable and valuable tool for policy preparation. Also in the past, the CAM exists since 1999, this has repeatedly shown. With this the Minister says that the risks analysis report of the CAM is indeed scientific, reliable and valuable, and the opinion of the CAM, as usual, should be taken over. The CAM opinion does reject a ban and calls for further regulation. In the same reaction to the Second Chamber in the BOR report the Minister writes all the more that he will not take over the recommendation. Here the Minister introduces a new reason: “The European Policy”.

The justification can be read in the next quote: “Indeed it is possible for the Netherlands to have their own policy concerning shrooms and our country is not bound by the policy in

other countries. In fact the Netherlands have done this so far.

At the same time also the CAM notes that the availability of shrooms the last few years has grown, as well as the number of outlets. Most European countries already have a ban. This information can attract potential users from other countries because of the exceptional position of the Netherlands, with all the risks considering their vulnerable situation as a tourist. From my responsibility as Minister of Health I find it totally inappropriate to our neighbors that foreign youth takes relatively high health risks because of the large supply of shrooms.

A greater contradiction is hard to imagine. The CAM concluded in its risk analyses 2007 (as in the analyses of 2000) that shrooms do not pose a risk to the health of the individual! The same applied to "potential users from other countries". Also this justification of the minister holds no sting. Conclusion: The response of the Minister to the BOR report means that the Minister should cancel his decision to ban; since he claims that the CAM had drawn the right scientific conclusions from its analyses, and that on that basis the opinion of the CAM, as usual, should be taken over by the Minister. The Minister does not, and shows no valid arguments!

Besides the CAM and Pennings and De Wolff, the list of experts, and concerning agencies, such as a large part of municipalities, which opposed the ban and in favor of further regulation, can be called substantial.

Also on UN-convention level seems, after a global research by experts of the International Narcotics Control Board, that there is no reason for banning shrooms.

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) is the institution of the United Nations that should guarantee the observing of drug agreements by the Member States. For this purpose, the INCB constantly researches and analyses the information about the possible harmfulness of certain substances, given by the Member States and the world health organization. The INCB can make recommendations to bring substances deemed harmful for the public health under supervision of the agreements. To optimize the purpose of the agreements – to ensure the public health – the INCB is in constant contact with the Member States about their national pursued drugs policy.

A few years ago the INCB again studied the possible harmful effects for the public health of psilocin and psilocybin containing mushrooms and their operations. This study was conducted by a team of experts on various fields. The result of this research was, that the position of the INCB concerning psilocin and psilocybin containing mushrooms remained unchanged, it says that, based on its collected data there was no justification for an advise to the Commission of Narcotic Drugs of the UN to ban the use of hallucinogenic mushrooms, which have not been processed, so there was no reason for the INCB on the basis of this research to place psilocin and psilocybin containing mushrooms either this or their processions under supervision of the UN-agreements.

The position of the INCB is endorsed by the Dutch Health Inspectorate. Many research institutes, such as the Trimbos-institute and the Drugs Consultant Company as well as individual scientists indicate that the ban is not only useless but in respect of the effects is also dangerous.

http://www.nieuwsbank.nl/_payment/order/230167968/inp/2008/05/27/A016.htm

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