

**Letter of 15 May 2025 from the Minister of Justice and Security, David van Weel, in conjunction with the State Secretary for Youth, Prevention and Sport, Vincent Karremans, to the House of Representatives on the developments in and progress on the Controlled Cannabis Supply Chain Experiment**

On 2 April 2025 we informed the House of the decision to start the experimental phase of the experiment on 7 April, with the ban on the sale of illegal hashish in participating coffee shops not being enforced until 10 June. We also stated that production would be monitored closely at the start of the experiment. To this end an inter-authority discussion with the relevant mayors was held on 15 May 2025. In this letter we inform you of the latest developments in the experiment, and go into further detail about a final extension to 1 September 2025 of the period during which the ban on the sale of illegal hashish will not be enforced. From this date onwards the ban on the sale of illegal hashish will be enforced.

**Issues raised by participating coffee shops and monitoring of supply and demand**

Since the experiment started on 7 April, our ministries have spoken once a week with coffee shop municipalities to discuss how the start of the experimental phase is going. Coffee shop owners have raised the issue of problems relating to the availability of popular types of cannabis, and not being able to buy the products they wish to buy at any given time. These shortages relate to certain types of cannabis, hashish, pre-rolled joints and edibles.

In recent weeks this has been followed up on by speaking to growers and consulting information from the track & trace system. The figures show that there is not a general shortage of cannabis. Seven growers currently supply products to coffee shops to one extent or another. Some of them are still scaling up production. We are seeing that enough cannabis is being produced to supply the coffee shops. Since the start of the experiment on 7 April, a steady flow of regulated cannabis has been passing from growers to coffee shops, and coffee shops are selling approximately the same amount from week to week. However, it is apparent that supply and demand are not yet optimally aligned, seeing as there is still a shortage of popular types. It will take time for growers to scale up the production of these popular types. We also looked at the production of regulated hashish. Based on forecast figures and current production, the expectation is that by 10 June just enough hashish will be produced and in stock to meet the previously established starting criteria. Not all growers' production of hashish

is as yet at full strength. Most hashish is produced by two growers, which means limited freedom of choice for coffee shops.

#### Inter-authority discussion of 15 May 2025

During an inter-authority discussion with the mayors of the participating municipalities on 15 May, we discussed developments since the start of the experimental phase on 7 April. We spoke with them about the issues raised by coffee shop owners and the results of monitoring relating to the production and stocks of regulated cannabis and hashish. It was noted that a balance between supply and demand has not yet been reached. This is not surprising because a new, regulated market is being created.

During the inter-authority discussion it was agreed that the enforcement of the ban on the sale of illegal hashish in participating coffee shops would be postponed one last time, to 1 September 2025. This is to prevent coffee shops experiencing problems in buying regulated hashish, in addition to the problems they are now experiencing in buying regulated cannabis. This period can also be used to optimise alignment between supply of and demand for cannabis and hashish. This postponement of enforcing the ban does not apply to illegal cannabis and cannabis products. Since 7 April, the participating coffee shops have only been permitted to sell regulated cannabis and cannabis products.

Finally, we discussed talking with growers to encourage them to tailor their production of cannabis and hashish to demand wherever possible and, in doing so, to take feedback from coffee shop owners into account. In addition, mayors will encourage coffee shop owners in their municipality to increase the amount of regulated hashish they buy before 1 September 2025, so that the transition after 1 September goes as smoothly as possible.

#### Conclusion

Mayors of participating coffee shop municipalities will not enforce the ban on the sale of illegal hashish before 1 September 2025. This extension will be made once only. As of 1 September, coffee shops will only be permitted to sell regulated cannabis and hashish. The balance between supply and demand will have to be found within the controlled supply chain. This is part of the findings of the experiment. We will continue to speak with all participants in the experiment and will keep the House informed of relevant developments.