



National Agency for
Cannabis Control

BULLETIN 01



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JANUARY- MARCH 2026



CONTENT

- 01** **Introductory remarks by the Director General**
 - 02** **The National Agency for Cannabis Control in focus**
 - 03** ***Cannabis and the challenges of Chapter 24***
 - 04** **Inter-institutional meeting on comments on the draft Criminal Code**
 - 05** **Progress of bylaws**
 - 06** **Meet the Agency staff**
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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Anila Alliu
Director General

Dear readers,

Medical cannabis is today part of an international development that is related not only to the treatment and relief of symptoms of certain diseases, but also to scientific research, the pharmaceutical industry, the food industry and university programs that are being developed in this field. In many countries, this is no longer treated as a taboo subject, but as a sector that requires knowledge, standards, clear rules and strong state control.

For Albania, this process does not mean opening an uncontrolled market nor normalizing the use of cannabis outside of the purposes defined by law. On the contrary, our approach is clear: to build a control system over a sensitive activity, where every link is monitored, traceable and in compliance with the law.

This means more security, more transparency, and less room for abuse, informality, or diversion from legal activity.

Essentially, it is not opening up an uncontrolled market; it is imposing state control over a sector that requires high public accountability.

The National Cannabis Control Agency was created to guarantee precisely this role: supervision, control and prevention of any deviation, in the protection of the public interest, security and institutional integrity.

This first issue of the newsletter reflects the work done during the first months of 2026, including inter-institutional cooperation, preparation of the regulatory framework, commitments in the European integration process, and steps towards consolidating a functional control model.

I believe that transparency, institutional accountability, and open communication with citizens are essential for building public trust in this process. I would like to thank the Agency staff, cooperating institutions, and national and international partners for their support and contribution.

Respectfully,

Anila Alliu



Director General National Cannabis Control Agency

THE ROLE AND MISSION OF THE AGENCY

The National Agency for Cannabis Control (the Agency) is the institution responsible for the supervision, control and monitoring of processes related to the cultivation and processing of the cannabis plant, as well as the production of its by-products for medical and industrial purposes, in accordance with Albanian legislation and international standards. The Agency's activity is based on Law No. 61/2023, "On the control of the cultivation and processing of the cannabis plant and the production of its by-products for medical and industrial purposes", which creates the legal and institutional basis for a controlled, safe and traceable system in the Republic of Albania.

In implementation of this law, the Agency has been established as a public budgetary legal entity, subordinate to the minister responsible for health, and exercises its activity at the central level, extending throughout the territory of the Republic of Albania. The Agency's mission is to establish and guarantee state control over any activity related to cannabis for medical and industrial purposes, ensuring that this sector develops only within the law, with full transparency, accountability and traceability. To this end, the focus of the Agency's activity is:

01 Implementation of the legal and regulatory framework	02 Strengthening control and monitoring mechanisms
03 Guaranteeing the security, integrity and traceability of processes	04 Preventing any deviation from legal activity
05 Protection of public interest and safety standards	06 Alignment with best European and international practices and standards.

THE AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES ARE BASED ON SEVERAL FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES:

LEGAL BASIS

Law No. 61/2023

"On the control of the cultivation and processing of the cannabis plant and the production of its by-products for medical and industrial purposes"

STRUCTURE

Public budgetary institution subordinate to the minister responsible for health

SCOPE OF ACTIVITY

The entire territory of the Republic of Albania

01 Inter-institutional cooperation

Coordination with national institutions and international partners to strengthen the regulatory and enforcement framework.

02 Alignment with European standards

Building practices and mechanisms that reflect the requirements of European integration and international control standards.

03 Transparency

Clear, documented and understandable processes for the public and institutions.

04 Traceability

Full tracking of the activity from cultivation to processing, storage, transportation and final destination.

CANNABIS AND THE CHALLENGES OF CHAPTER 24 | BRUSSELS 3-4 MARCH 2026



On 3-4 March 2026, in Brussels, the 17th meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement Subcommittee, European Union-Albania on Chapter 24: "Justice, Freedom and Security", took place, in which the Agency was represented by the Director General, Ms. Anila Alliu.

The focus of the discussions was cooperation in the field of drugs, with particular attention to seizures, destruction and implementation of measures against violations that may be related to the legal cultivation of the *cannabis* plant.

Participation in this process reconfirms Albania's commitment to building a controlled, transparent and reliable model, in line with the requirements of European integration and the responsibility that such a sensitive sector requires.

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TIRANA · JANUARY 25, 2026

INTER-INSTITUTIONAL MEETING ON COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT CRIMINAL CODE

On January 25, 2026, at the premises of the School of Magistrates, a consultative meeting was held on comments and suggestions for the draft Criminal Code, with the participation of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, dependent institutions, as well as other actors involved in the process.

The meeting served to coordinate inter-institutional positions on issues affecting the criminal and administrative framework of the relevant sectors, including provisions relevant to the control of medical and industrial cannabis.

For the Agency, participation in this process is directly related to the need to ensure that any lawful activity is protected from misuse, while any deviation is addressed clearly, with a legal basis and effective accountability mechanisms.



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JANUARY-MARCH 2026

PROGRESS OF BY-LAWS AND INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

During the first quarter of 2026, the Agency was engaged in the discussion, coordination and finalization of four draft decisions of the Council of Ministers, in implementation of Law No. 61/2023.

This process was not only technical, but an essential step to establish clear rules on how state control in the sector will function. To this end, the Agency held dedicated working meetings and communications with the responsible institutions, with the aim of clarifying roles, avoiding overlaps and guaranteeing the security of the process.

Inter-institutional cooperation is one of the main conditions for building a credible model. Only through clear rules, shared responsibilities and coordinated mechanisms can it be ensured that the sector develops within the law, with transparency and full traceability.

6

MEETINGS HELD

11

INSTITUTIONS PARTICIPATING
IN MEETINGS

MEET THE AGENCY STAFF



Pharmacist and graduate of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Medicine, Tirana. As part of the team at the National Agency for Cannabis Control, she works on the regulation, supervision, and quality standards governing the medical cannabis sector.

Alesia Vashu

"What has attracted me most to the field of medical cannabis is its complexity and dynamism. It is a sector where science, regulatory framework and public interest intersect every day, creating opportunities for building sustainable processes and standards. I believe that the more we rely on facts and scientific evidence, the more we can contribute to creating a more objective and balanced perspective on this field."



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