



Mr. Theodoros Rousopoulos
President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
Palais de l'Europe
67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France

June 2, 2025

**Subject: Urgent Call for PACE to Address the ECtHR's Rule of Law
Crisis and Uphold Human Rights in Cannabis Policy Reform**

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing on behalf of concerned citizens and human rights advocates to draw your attention to the systemic crisis at the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), as detailed in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report: Norway's Cannabis Laws – A Human Rights Crisis Without Legitimate Purpose by the Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies (AROD). For six decades, Norway's cannabis prohibition has inflicted 1 million punitive sanctions, fueled a 1.75 billion NOK black market, and caused 300 annual overdose deaths, all without evidence of deterrence. AROD frames this as a crime against humanity, estimating 400,000 annual deaths and 5 million wrongful imprisonments globally due to prohibition.

The ECtHR has exacerbated this crisis by dismissing cases like Mikalsen v. Norway (2012, 2023, 2024) as “manifestly ill-founded” without reasoned analysis, breaching procedural fairness under S.A.S. v. France and the 2019 UN Guidelines. Since 2010, the Court has refused to engage with evidence of systemic rights violations, betraying the rights of 700 million citizens and undermining its role as a guardian of human rights. Norway's Justice Department, alongside the ECtHR, has shielded this regime, violating ECHR Articles 6 (fair trial), 8 (private life), 13 (effective remedy), and 14 (non-discrimination), as well as Grunnloven §§ 89, 94, and 102.

As President of PACE, I urge you to lead the Assembly in restoring the rule of law. PACE's commitment to upholding the Council of Europe's values, particularly human rights and the rule of law under Article 3 of its Statute, is critical. I respectfully request the following actions:



- Secure a Grand Chamber Ruling: Promote a Grand Chamber review of Mikalsen v. Norway to assess the proportionality of cannabis prohibition, ensuring the ECtHR fulfills its obligation to provide reasoned decisions on novel legal issues.
- Support a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC): Endorse AROD's proposed 15-day TRC, modeled on Sámi and Kven commissions, to expose systemic failures and heal the wounds of 1 million sanctions in Norway, aligning with global models like South Africa's TRC legacy.
- Ensure Accountability: Establish mechanisms to review judicial conduct at the ECtHR, particularly addressing impartiality breaches by justices like Lorraine Schembril Orland, whose removal AROD demands.
- Educate and Reform: Organize parliamentary seminars to urge member states to align drug policies with ECHR standards, addressing failures like Norway's, and advocate for protocols tackling modern challenges, as seen with PACE's 2022 environmental rights initiative

The ECtHR's inaction undermines the Council of Europe's commitment to human rights and the rule of law. PACE must act as a watchdog to ensure the ECtHR upholds rights in practice, not just theory, especially for the 40 million cannabis users in Europe facing arbitrary persecution. I urge you to lead this effort, safeguarding the rule of law for 700 million citizens across 46 states. AROD's Requiem for the Rule of Law protest, scheduled for June 23–24, 2025, at PACE and the ECtHR, highlights the urgent need for your intervention. AROD will host annual cannabis protests outside PACE until the ECtHR's failure to uphold the rule of law is addressed. I look forward to your leadership in restoring justice and trust in the European human rights system.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Roar Mikalsen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Roar' and last name 'Mikalsen' clearly distinguishable.

Sincerely,

Roar Mikalsen

President of the Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies (AROD)