



Mr. Michael O'Flaherty
Commissioner for Human Rights
Council of Europe
Avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France

June 05, 2025

Investigating Norway's Human Rights Violations in Cannabis Policy and Supporting AROD's Requiem Initiative

Dear Mr. Commissioner,

On behalf of the Alliance for Rights-Oriented Drug Policies (AROD), I seek your support in addressing the systemic human rights crisis perpetuated by cannabis prohibition, as outlined in our letters to PACE [President](#) Theodoros Rousopoulos, Pompidou Group Deputy Executive Secretary Thomas Kattau, and Secretary General Alain Berset (dated June 2, 5, and 25, 2025). In Norway, six decades of prohibition have imposed 1 million punitive sanctions, fueled a 1.75 billion NOK black market, and contributed to 300 annual overdose deaths, with no evidence of deterrence. AROD's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report: Norway's Cannabis Laws – A Human Rights Crisis Without Legitimate Purpose [estimates](#) 400,000 annual deaths and 5 million wrongful imprisonments globally.

The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) has exacerbated this crisis by dismissing cases like Mikalsen v. Norway (2012, 2023, 2024) as "manifestly ill-founded" without reasoned analysis, violating procedural fairness under S.A.S. v. France (2014) and the 2019 UN Guidelines on Legal Aid. The refusal to examine cannabis prohibition's legitimacy erodes judicial integrity, with national courts confirming their opposition to judicial review by citing the ECtHR's dismissal and barring defense attorneys from referencing UN and CoE documents supporting AROD's arguments. This [occurred](#) in the Oslo City Court on November 25, 2024,



reflecting a 17-year pattern (since 2008) of denying defendants the opportunity to challenge cannabis prohibition. These failures violate ECHR Articles 6 (fair trial), 8 (private life), 13 (effective remedy), and 14 (non-discrimination), as well as Norway's Constitution (§§ 89, 94, 102).

These judicial failures extend beyond Norway. Other CoE states can draw critical lessons from Norway's failure to uphold the rule of law in drug policy, as it has abandoned two centuries of legal tradition rooted in its 1814 Constitution to protect cannabis prohibition from review. Your mandate to investigate systemic violations aligns with AROD's call for accountability. We respectfully request:

- Investigate Norway's Judicial Practices: Examine barriers to fair trials in cannabis cases, including the Oslo City Court incident.
- Endorse a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC): Support AROD's 15-day TRC, modeled on Norway's Sámi and Kven commissions, to address 1 million sanctions' human rights toll.
- Join the Requiem for the Rule of Law Event: Attend or acknowledge our [protest](#) on June 23–24, 2025, outside PACE and the ECtHR, exposing prohibition's harm to 40 million European cannabis users.

We invite you to meet with AROD to discuss these proposals. Your leadership can restore justice for 700 million CoE citizens. We await your response.

Sincerely,

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.

Roar Mikalsen

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