

# The Binomial Spliff Problem

Regulatory Coordination of Cannabis and Tobacco in  
the EU

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- ▶ What is the Binomial Spliff Problem?
- ▶ Dual regulatory challenges of cannabis and tobacco
- ▶ EU legal frameworks and harmonization
- ▶ Potential role of private distribution networks

- ▶ A conceptual issue: managing two interrelated substances-cannabis and tobacco
- ▶ Each has separate legal and regulatory regimes
- ▶ Shared modes of use (e.g., mixed in spliffs) but divergent policy treatment
- ▶ The problem: aligning these policies effectively

- ▶ Increasing legalization for medical and recreational use
- ▶ Fragmented national approaches: decriminalization vs. prohibition
- ▶ Lack of EU-wide harmonized policy
- ▶ Challenges: quality control, public health, and enforcement

- ▶ Well-established legal framework (Tobacco Products Directive)
- ▶ Strong public health focus: packaging, advertising bans, taxation
- ▶ Coordinated across member states

- ▶ Users often consume cannabis and tobacco together
- ▶ Regulation of one affects the other (e.g., taxes, usage patterns)
- ▶ Need for integrated policy on dual use
- ▶ Avoiding policy contradictions (e.g., banning cannabis but allowing spliffs)

- ▶ Could enhance supply chain efficiency
- ▶ Enable controlled access to both substances
- ▶ Require strong regulation: age limits, taxation, product safety
- ▶ Cannot bypass need for EU-wide policy coherence

- ▶ Harmonize quality standards and taxation
- ▶ Address dual-use behavior in public health messaging
- ▶ Consider cultural, legal, and market differences across states
- ▶ Role for the EU Commission in coordinating regulation



- ▶ The Binomial Spliff Problem reflects deeper regulatory tensions
- ▶ A dual-substance framework is essential for effective governance
- ▶ Private networks can help, but cannot substitute for legal harmonization
- ▶ Next steps: comparative legal analysis, policy experimentation, and EU coordination

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