

French shops use loophole to sell 'ultralight' weed

PARIS: Technically, the fragrant marijuana buds on offer at a new Paris boutique are not meant to be smoked, as the friendly staff and disclaimers remind clients—brewing the herb in hot water is advised, as is adding it to food. "Smoking is bad for you," a smiling young salesman tells a customer. But judging by the 45-minute wait to get inside the Cofyshop near the Republique square on a recent afternoon, not to mention the smoking paraphernalia behind the counter, that certainly seems to be the goal. France is one of Europe's biggest users of cannabis, with an estimated 22 percent of people aged 15 to 34 partaking at least once in 2016, according to the latest data available.

A recent French poll showed 51 percent in favor of limited legalization, reflecting a growing trend toward more relaxed rules in Europe and the United States. Despite an easing of penalties under President Emmanuel Macron, however, government officials show no appetite for allowing recreational use. But Joaquim Lousquy, who opened Cofyshop in early June, and other boutiques across France think they

have found a loophole for letting people light up. Lousquy claims his range of buds have less than 0.2 of THC, the psychotropic compound that gets people high—below the limit set for French growers of marijuana or hemp for industrial uses.

Instead the plants contain cannabidiol, or CBD, a compound which is used for medical marijuana use and which is authorized in France. "I use the oil because it's a good pain-killer, and you don't get addicted," an elderly woman said while waiting in line—before the doorman escorted her straight inside. CBD oil had sold out earlier in the day, so most clients were choosing among three or four different strains of potent-smelling weed—the popular Swiss Cheese was priced at 30 euros for a 2.3-gram bag (\$35 for just under one-tenth of an ounce).

'Smell that!'

Unlike the coffee shops in marijuana-friendly Amsterdam, no coffee is served and no smoking is allowed at Cofyshop. Fans of its "ultralight" buds as

well as cannabis resin say they appreciate the calming effects without the heavy buzz of traditional marijuana. "Smell that, it's fantastic!" said a 37-year-old dentist at a boutique on the hip Rue Oberkampf in Paris, who said he smokes a joint or two every now and then, mainly on the weekends. He said he liked the CBD products because they give "that little magic buzz from when I would smoke when I was young," since they are not as strong "and have fewer psychotropic effects".

Bechir Bouderbala of the cannabis advocacy group NORML said the market was also benefiting from "the growth of the 'well-being' industry, with higher quality products coming from Switzerland". But despite the claim the sales are legal, an official in France's anti-drug task force Mildeca said only the seeds and fibres of marijuana plants can be legally sold—not the flowers, regardless of the purported levels of THC. And no police officer would be able to tell if a person smoking a zero-THC joint wasn't getting high on traditional weed. —AFP



PARIS: Crystals containing CBD (Cannabidiol) are seen in a shop. —AFP

CLINIC

PAGE





248 33 199

Al Salam International Hospital

DR KHALED ALMERRI

Consultant interventional Cardiology
Department: Heart & Vascular Center



Specialized in:

- 1- diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization (Angiography and Angioplasty). Aortic valve implantation.
- 2- Diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery diseases
- 3- Diagnosis and treatment of heart failure, cardiomyopathies and valvular diseases.
- 4- Diagnosis and treatment of high blood pressure and high cholesterol.
- 5- Diagnosis and treatment of syncope, palpitations and cardiac arrhythmias.
- 6- Non-invasive diagnostic procedures echocardiography, exercise stress test, and 24 hour blood pressure and Holter monitoring





Telephone: 1830003 Ext: 2400 Al Salam International Hospital

 [alsalam.int.hospital](https://www.instagram.com/alsalam.int.hospital)



Global Medical Center Welcomes

Dr. Marzouq Al-Bader

Consultant vascular and general surgery

All general and specialized surgeries such as:

- All critical and non-critical arteries and veins surgeries
- Carrying out delicate procedures such as removing the extra rib
- All methods of treating varicose
- Treating excess perspiration
- Special department for care of injured diabetic foot
- AV connection for dialysis





Telephone: 1871111 Global Medical Center, Bneid Al-Qar
Bour Saeed Street, Block-1, Building-128.

 [@globalmedcenter](https://www.instagram.com/globalmedcenter)
www.globalmed-center.com





Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician إستشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368