

EMCDDA initial report on the new psychoactive substance 4F-MDMB-BICA

EMCDDA, Lisbon, November 2020

Summary

Methyl 2-([1-(4-fluorobutyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]carbonyl)amino)-3,3-dimethylbutanoate (4FMDMB-BICA) is a synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonist. Similar to other synthetic cannabinoids, it is sold as a 'legal' replacement for cannabis. Because of their high potency, synthetic cannabinoids can pose a high risk of severe poisoning, which in some cases can be fatal.

Based on potential public health risks, an initial report has been prepared and submitted to the Commission and the Member States, in accordance with Article 5b of Regulation (EC) No 1920/2006 (as amended). Its purpose is to provide scientific evidence to the Commission to allow it to make an informed decision regarding whether or not there is a need to request a risk assessment on a new psychoactive substance.

Please note: this is an advance copy of the report which has not yet been edited.

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Main subject:

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The aim of Alicante News is to provide up-to-date information on EUIPO-related matters, as well as on other general IP issues, to the users of the EU trade mark and design registration systems.

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[COPEAM and the EIB launch an online training course for journalists on reporting climate change](#)



An e-learning course for journalists to improve the reporting skills in the field of climate change: this is the goal of the project developed by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and [COPEAM](#). This free professional training will be open to journalists coming from the [Mediterranean partner countries](#) and [Balkan countries](#) and will be available in English and Arabic on the didactic platform of the International [Telematic University Uninettuno](#), partner of the project.

This new joint initiative comes after four years of collaboration between COPEAM and the EIB aimed at raising the awareness of the information professionals about the current environmental and climate challenges and at increasing the reporting skills in this field.

The program will be composed of video-lessons, exercises and supporting training material delivered by the two main trainers appointed: Ahmed Kandil, Head of the Energy Studies Program at al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo and Kevin Burden, former BBC correspondent and international expert in scientific journalism. Several contributions “from the field” will also give the floor to academics, experts and senior professionals working in the domain of scientific communication, among which experts from the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (Oxford University) and from the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC). A final Q&A session, open to all the beneficiaries, will be organized online at the end of the course.

Interested candidates can send their application form to COPEAM until November 16. The call for participation can be downloaded at the following link

Slaughter of cattle: welfare issues assessed



EFSA has published an assessment of the welfare of cattle at slaughter, based on the most up-to-date scientific studies and research. The scientific opinion is the latest in a series on the welfare of animals at slaughter requested by the European Commission. It follows assessments covering [poultry](#), [rabbits](#) and [pigs](#).

A total of 40 welfare hazards that could occur during slaughter are identified. Most – 39 out of 40 – are the result of staff not possessing necessary skills or of staff fatigue. The opinion proposes measures to prevent and correct the hazards.