



Associazione Nazionale Italiana dei Club
degli Alcolisti in Trattamento (ANICAT)

Genova (Italy) december 3, 2024

We are the Italian National Association of Clubs of Alcoholics in Treatment (ANICAT), a network of about 300 self-help groups, present in 8 Italian regions. We have our roots in the method of Prof. Vladimir Hudolin that was developed in the 60s of the last century. We invite the entire family who has alcohol-related problems to attend the Club where we have sobriety rates over 60%.

We find ourselves operating in a country that is the largest wine producer in the world, where wine during meals and also in free time and celebrations is a millenary tradition. The sale of alcohol is not subject to any limitation, you can find it on every street corner, at any time and at prices that are much too affordable, a liter of wine in a carton costs just 1.20 euros, accessible to all.

We therefore fight against a widespread and pervasive drinking culture, which creates a strong social pressure to drink. More and more often, in the absence of a national law, municipalities are forced to introduce limitations on the sale of alcohol, in terms of opening hours, in case of public events, or by prohibiting consumption in public places and on the street. It is a small measure, but it goes in the direction of an ever greater limitation.

It is surprising to see that a country like Sweden, where the restriction on sales represented by the State Monopoly is in force, now wants to widen the net and facilitate the sale of alcohol. This is not the general trend, which instead sees, as already said, a progressive awareness of the dangers of alcohol, both in relation to health and to social harm, and not the opposite.

The proposed changes to the Swedish Alcohol Act threaten Sweden's alcohol retail monopoly, which is one of the most effective measures to prevent and reduce alcohol related harm. If adopted, these changes could have far-reaching and lasting negative impacts on public health across the country.

Given the arguments presented above, ANICAT urges the European Commission to reject the proposed legislation and to support measures that continue to protect and promote the health and well-being of Swedish society, in line with national and international commitments.

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