

## **Doctors acquitted: appeal of the prosecutor**

### **Cannabis: the prosecutor appealed to the Supreme Court**

In early February, the district court had acquitted five doctors of Neuchâtel accused of prescribing cannabis for patients. The prosecutor decided to appeal to the Supreme Court against this judgment. He asked that doctors be fined. He said: "*Doctors have the right to prescribe drugs mentioned on a list of authorized medicinal products, but cannabis is not part of that list.*"

Between 1999 and 2001, doctors in question had prescribed cannabis for patients with serious and irreversible diseases because cannabis relieved effectively their pain. In his judgment acquitting the doctors, the judge (Nicolas Marthe) had indicated that the therapists concerned had not taken steps to encourage drug dependency, but simply to relieve pain sufferers.