

## Noise from the North #5

March 15, 2010

Dear Readers,

Thank you all again for the positive feed back, which encourages me to continue. Of course, the business and reputation of Finola has been severely damaged by the combined ignorance, negligence and irresponsible actions of various authorities in Finland, Sweden and the EU during the past five years. These matters have already been reported in previous issues of Noise from the North (freely available at [http://www.finola.com/news\\_info.html](http://www.finola.com/news_info.html)).

### **In short; a good example of poor administration!**

On the upside, we have now finally obtained the required independent scientific evidence to clearly show that 1) sampling time for THC is important for Finola and other varieties of hemp and 2) late sampling of Finola does result in higher THC values that sometimes go over the 0.2% limit in the EU.

About this time last year, after several years of criticism and eventual public embarrassment, the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture (MMM) finally decided to fund a carefully controlled agricultural trial of Finola and other hemp varieties at two official testing sites in Finland. The purpose of this experiment was to take field samples every two weeks for THC analysis. The results were finally available late in 2009 and a meeting was called by MMM to discuss the results in February of 2010. These results clearly show that the “problems” with Finola were actually due the combined incompetence, negligence and ignorance of “responsible” sampling authorities in Finland, Sweden and the UK, who consistently ignored (or never really understood) the EU sampling regulations that are spelled out in Annex 1 of EC No 796/2004.

So, congratulations to the Finnish MMM for finally funding the required research to show the source of systematic error to be of human origin! Unfortunately, there is nothing nice to say about the Swedish Ministry of Agriculture, which continues to adopt its typical head-in-sand approach to dealing with any unpleasant problem. The UK Ministry of Agriculture has also not yet accepted any responsibility in this matter. The agricultural trial from 2009 will be repeated in 2010, and the results will be presented by MMM to the EU Commission in time for their November 15 meeting in Brussels, where it will be determined whether or not Finola may once again enjoy the agricultural subsidy that is freely given to all other industrial crops in the EU.

On the down side; this is now the third time that MTT (Agrifood Research Finland) has studied Finola for THC, in addition to earlier studies by the KRP lab (the Finnish Central Crime Laboratory), where low THC levels were already determined to be well below the EU limit of 0.2% in **ALL** cases. We only wonder how much more “research” and political dithering will be needed to convince the policy wonks that Finola has no potential for illegal drug use. At least, we assume this is the only purpose of a twisted and complex EU regulation that evidently favors Central European monoecious hemp fiber varieties grown in Central Europe, over an early-maturing dioecious oilseed

hemp varieties that is grown in more northern climes. Our evidence shows this situation to be yet another good example of how EU power circulates in a vortex near Brussels, effectively to the exclusion of countries further away.

But, OK, let us play the EU game, now that we are stuck with it.

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Our quote for this issue comes from **Article 41 of the EU Human Rights:**

***The Right to GOOD Administration***

- 1. **Every person has the right to have his or her affairs handled impartially, fairly and **within a reasonable time**...***
  - 2. **This right includes: the right of every person to be heard, **before any individual measure which would affect him or her adversely is taken**;***
  - 3. **Every person has the right to have the Community make good any damage caused by its institutions or by its servants...***
  - 4. **Every person may write to the institutions of the Union in one of the languages of the Treaties and **must have an answer in the same language.*****
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Each clause of this Right has been violated in the Finola example. The carefully collected evidence is in order and very clear on this point. Of course, no one is ever actually responsible for any administrative mistakes in the EU, or even the institutions of member states, but that does not really matter.

What matters now is that some institute of the EU will eventually have to pay compensation for the destroyed business and reputation of Finola, if the EU list of human rights actually stands for anything at all. Time will tell.

Onwards!

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