

Subject: FW: Noise from the North #2

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From: J Callaway <jcallaway@finola.com>

To: <recipients>

Conversation: Noise from the North #2

----- Forwarded Message

From: Jace Callaway <callaway@finola.com>

Date: Thu, 16 Oct 2008 15:31:03 -0200

To: Recipients

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Conversation: Noise from the North #2

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Dear Readers,

“There is nothing more frightful than ignorance in action” Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

Sometimes people mistake their opinions for knowledge. Is there something especially mysterious about hemp that prevents otherwise intelligent people from making intelligent decisions? Or, is it simply a lack of knowledge that drives people into this irrational mental state of “cannabiphobia”? Either way, I hope to help “cure” this obnoxious mental “disease” by continuing to present scientific facts in a way that is accessible to anyone who can read.

Last week, in Noise from the North #1, I focused on the complexities of determining the end of flowering in a hemp crop, which is crucial for calculating the correct sampling time for hemp in the EU. The article that was featured last week was by Dr. Stefano Amaducci and colleagues, who carefully described the complexities of hemp flowering, and especially the inherent differences between monoecious and dioecious varieties, which are not discussed or even defined in Annex 1 of EU Regulation No 796/2004. I’ve since posted Noise from the North #1 on the Finola web site (<http://www.finola.com>), for permanent access to a larger audience. This site has averaged over 10,000 hits per month during the last three years.

This week, in Noise from the North #2, I continue to present information that will help in discussing the peculiar politics of hemp in the EU. The article attached to this issue of Noise from the North analyzes the inherent methodological problems in Annex 1 of EU Regulation No 796/2004, with examples and specific suggestions on how to improve the accuracy and precision of these methodologies. These problems are not obvious, and the misapplications of these methodologies seem to be both unconscious and inevitable products of the current regulation. However, the results of such misapplication can be devastating to the hemp industry.

A Hungarian colleague of mine has recently pointed out one mistake in this article; Tiborszálási is a dioecious variety of hemp, not a monoecious variety. I apologize for that mistake. The fact that Tiborszálási is actually dioecious only adds support to my point; i.e., that the current sampling methodologies in Annex 1 of EU Regulation No 796/2004 are inadequate and disfavor dioecious oilseed varieties of hemp. Like Finola, Tiborszálási was also removed from the list of subsidized hemp cultivars after 2006. Is this a coincidence or an inevitable consequence of these peculiar regulations?

My esteemed Hungarian colleague also pointed out that the article attached to this issue of Noise from the North may make some officials unhappy. While that may be true, I should point out that it is not my purpose to make officials either happy or unhappy. My purpose is to fill an obvious gap of ignorance with information, knowledge and reason. I respectfully suggest everyone to do the same. Opinion-based political decisions continue to be made at Member State and EU levels when it comes to hemp, even when those political opinions fly in the face of logic and scientific fact. In fact, the poor administration of these regulations has been frightfully shameful at times; a perfect example of ignorance in action, as if there were no time or place for logic in this process. We must have an effective mechanism to reverse the consequences of this ignorance in action.

Again, the question begs asking; Who really benefits from these complex and peculiar regulations?

One more time... Hemp is not a drug. There is no evidence to suggest that any hemp variety can be effectively used for drug purposes. The levels of THC are simply far too low in hemp, even in the most extreme examples. Moreover, the higher levels of CBD in hemp will effectively attenuate the possibility of a psychoactive drug effect, even if someone were to try and use hemp for drug purposes. CBD and THC in hemp will be discussed from a scientific point of view in next week's Noise from the North #3. Stay tuned!

In the mean time, you are welcome to learn more about healthy nutrition from hempseed at <http://www.finola.com> , where back issues of Noise from the North are available for free!

Sincerely yours,

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A More Reliable Evaluation of Hemp THC Levels is Necessary and Possible

J. C. Callaway

ABSTRACT. Most industrial crops that are cultivated within the 27 member states of the European Union (EU) are supported by agricultural subsidies. An official list of the hemp varieties that receive an agricultural subsidy in the EU is maintained by the EU Commission, and EU member states are expected to sample, analyze, and report *delta*-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) values for eligible crops of each cultivated variety by the end of each year, according to EU Regulation No. 796/2004. Based on this information, additions to and deletions from this list are made early in the following year. The main criteria for being included on the EU list of subsidized hemp varieties seems to depend on two important factors: the variety be included in the EU Common Catalogue of recognized plant cultivars, and the variety, on average, must have less than 0.2% THC, according to the sampling and testing methodologies described in Annex I of EU Regulation No. 796/2004. By comparison, values for common drug-Cannabis typically range from 5–10% THC. The purpose of this article is to point out important features in the EU sampling protocols that favor monoecious fiber varieties from western Europe and disfavor dioecious oilseed varieties from eastern and northern Europe, in addition to other peculiar features. Also, potential systematic problems that exist within the current analytical protocol for analyzing THC are identified and discussed. Direct criticism is leveled at the ignorance and incompetence demonstrated by civil servants who are responsible for correctly understanding and implementing EU

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