

BREAKING NEWS ON THE SUBSIDY SITUATION FOR FINOLA IN THE EU as of 15 March 2010

In 2008, The EU Commission decided to reconsider new THC results for FINOLA. Such results were recently obtained from two well controlled, independent agricultural trials in 2009 by Agrifood Research Finland (MTT). This research was funded by the Agricultural Ministry of Finland (MMM), and these results now clearly shows that the FINOLA THC "problems" were due to human error through late sampling and poor laboratory practice. These agricultural trials were repeated in 2010. This is now the forth time that MTT has tested FINOLA for THC, and each time the levels of THC have been shown to be below the 0.2% limit when samples are taken and analyzed in accordance with the procedures described in Annex 1 of EU regulation 796/2004. This fact of nature was already established in extensive testing since 1995, and more carefully described in a scathing technical critique by Dr. J.C. Callaway that was published in Volume 13 Number 2 Journal of Industrial hemp 2008.

We do wonder how much more testing will be required...

MMM presented these results to the EU Commission at their meeting on 15 November 2010. The EU Commission is expected to return the subsidy to FINOLA, which will once again enjoy the agricultural subsidy that is so freely given to other industrial food crops in the EU.