

Press release

5th of May 2023

The EIHA calls Czech Republic to recognize natural hemp extracts as traditional food

The EIHA reacts to the Czech Ministry of Agriculture note on the upcoming ban on the marketing of products containing CBD and calls for a clarification of the traditional status of natural hemp extracts, by filing an official request under Article 4 of the Novel Food regulation.

The Czech Ministry for agriculture announced on April 25th that it would regulate the marketing of CBD products, to comply to the Novel Food Regulation. Such provisional decision follows the publication of a "Statement of Cannabidiol as Novel Food" from the summary report of the EU Council meeting that took place on February 27th. This document reinstates that CBD should not be considered as a drug and considers all hemp extracts as Novel.

"We welcome the willingness of the Czech Government to regulate the CBD market in a way that would benefit both consumers and the hemp sector", says Daniel Kruse, EIHA President. "However, we regret that the Czech Ministry of Agriculture considered the possibility to follow the position of some EU Member States, that pushed for such statement, without taking into consideration the use of hemp extracts with natural occurring levels of cannabinoids as traditional food". To steer a deeper reflection on this point, the Association is in contact with the authorities and provided evidence of consumption that will hopefully steer the decision of the Czech Government towards a more positive direction.

A balanced, historically accurate, and transparent decision on the topic of the marketing of hemp extract is needed, according to EIHA. While isolate and enriched extracts should rightly be considered as Novel Food, full spectrum extracts containing natural level of cannabinoids (i.e. non-enriched extracts) shall be declared as traditional food. CBD and other cannabinoids have always been present in hemp food products over the centuries, particularly in hemp oil from whole seeds or from the tops with the ripe seeds. Such history of consumption is well documented, and the use of hemp extracts as food was even endorsed by the European Commission in a communication from 1998. By declaring natural extracts as traditional food, the Czech Republic would



simply re-establish the situation prior to 2019, when the Novel Food Catalogue entry for *Cannabis sativa* L. was arbitrarily changed.

The EIHA is looking forward to a constructive discussion with the Czech authorities in synergy with the Czech hemp cluster (CzechHemp), with the aim of achieving the best outcome both for consumers and business operators.

If EIHA succeeds to secure the traditional status for natural hemp extracts, the operators will not need a pre-market authorization for these products in Czech Republic and, hopefully, in other EU Member States.

About EIHA. The European Industrial Hemp Association represents the common interests of hemp farmers, producers and traders working with hemp fibres, shives, seeds, oil, leaves, and cannabinoids. Our main task is to represent, serve and protect the hemp sector in the EU and international policymaking. EIHA covers different areas for the application of hemp, namely its use for textile, construction material, paper, cosmetics, feed, food, and food supplements.

Want to know more? On 7th - 9th of June, the EIHA Conference, Europe's most important event on industrial hemp, will take place in Brussels. International speakers and experts will present the latest developments and future perspectives of the entire sector.

Contact: Monica Solano, Tel: (0032) 472854308, E-Mail: monica.solano@eiha.org