

European Court Rules that Fluoridated Water Must be Labeled as a Medicine

23rd May 2009

In a dramatic challenge, the UK's medicines regulator has been accused of deliberately failing to implement the 2005 European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling that requires all 'functional drinks' to be regulated as medicines.

John Spottiswoode, Chairman of 'Hampshire Against Fluoridation' (HAF), wrote to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) demanding to know why it has refused to recognise fluoridated water as a medicine. In reply, John Taylor (of the improbably-named 'MHRA Information Centre') had attempted to dismiss the complaint by referring it to its 'Medicines Borderline Section. However, Spottiswoode rejected this evasion, stating that

"Our reading of the 2005 ECJ ruling (HLH Warenvertriebs and Orthica (Joined Cases C-211/03, C-299/03, C-316/03 and C-318/03) 9 June 2005) is that the 'borderline product' classification has effectively been abolished."

Now, in collaboration with UKCAF, John has accused the Agency of claiming to rely on this ECJ ruling case to support its position, when it actually demolishes it altogether. He says

"There can be no more damning evidence of the deliberate and politically-influenced improper exercise of (your) regulatory function. The ECJ ruling **MUST** be enforced in every member state – failing to do so for the past four years appears to constitute very serious maladministration, and demands an immediate Inquiry."

In a dramatic escalation of the confrontation, Taylor has now informed Spottiswoode that the Agency has referred the matter to its solicitors for an opinion, and will reply as soon as this is available.

This is a very important escalation of the challenge to the Agency over its persistent refusal to concede that fluoridated water is a medicine. It has now been forced into a corner, and must explain its position publicly and in detail. Any opinion will now need to be completely robust and verifiable, in Court if necessary, as any cracks will be pounced upon by those expert lawyers who have been waiting for an opportunity to test the Agency's increasingly desperate attempts to justify its extremely shaky position.

There is no guarantee that the MHRA will just admit that its perverse interpretation of the EC law is wrong, forcing an immediate shut-down of fluoridation in the UK and a potential admission of liability for medical damages. After all, if the evidence of the high prevalence of dental fluorosis in all fluoridated communities is to be believed, thousands of children who were born in the UK

since the 2005 ruling will now develop this disfiguring condition within the next few years. This would have been avoided had the MHRA immediately complied with the ECJ ruling, forcing this unlicensed medicinal product out of the nation's water supply networks.

An accusation of maladministration is a very serious charge against any public authority, and one that even this beleaguered Government cannot ignore. This is especially the case where predictable and entirely avoidable physical damage to children has been, or will be, a direct consequence.

The challenge to the UK Government is heating up, but this is only the first of several legal confrontations that are developing here in the UK. Others are under way before the European Commission, and our friends in Australia are keen to get to grips with their own fluoride pushers.

What is needed now are independent expert opinions from legal specialists, to establish that my interpretation of the ECJ's ruling with respect to fluoridated water is correct, and applies to their own domestic legal codes. Once that has been done, the discredited practice of water fluoridation will be on borrowed time, worldwide, as both the medical damages caused by fluoride and the obstacles to trade in fluoride-contaminated products begin to bite.

The end of the road for water fluoridation? European Court ruling effectively bans water fluoridation and its use in preparing any foods or drinks.

The European Court has ruled that any food that may also have a medicinal function MUST be regulated as a medicine. And that would include fluoridated water!

The MHRA does not have the power to exercise its discretion – it MUST recognise fluoridated water as a medicine and subject it to full pharmacological scrutiny. In the meantime, all fluoridation in the UK and Ireland must stop.

Fluoridated water may not be used for processing food, and all exporting of any food made with it in the UK to other EC states is illegal unless the product has a medicinal license. So also is the importation into any EC member state of any processed foodstuff that has been made with fluoridated water – so the entire EC market could be closed to firms in fluoridated areas of the USA, Canada Australia, and New Zealand!

Are the highly dubious 'benefits' of fluoridation really worth this price, or is it not time to get rid of this stupid practice world-wide, once and for all?

Excerpts from <http://www.ukcaf.org/>