

Director General

Caryn Cohen
Office of Science, Center for Tobacco products
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993, USA

Dear Ms Cohen,

I have the pleasure of sending you some information on snus (oral moist snuff) for your consideration before the FDA's Tobacco Product Scientific Committee (TPSAC), which will be meeting on this issue on April 10-12, 2015.

In 2009, I and Director Generals from the other four Nordic countries jointly published an opinion paper in Tobacco Control (Tobacco Control 2009;18:250–251). The paper was based on a paper that appeared in the Journal of the Swedish Medical Association. I attach the two articles as pdf.

We, Jesper Fisker of Denmark, Bjørn-Inge Larsen of Norway, Pekka Puska of Finland, Matthias Halldórsson of Iceland and I, stated that snus does not qualify as a tobacco harm reduction product. We wrote:

- There are evidence-based methods for smoking cessation.
- The most effective methods are a combination of support and medication.
- There is no scientific evidence for the effect of snus as a smoking cessation aid.
- Scandinavian moist snuff has no place in cessation support

Our conclusion in 2009 that '*snus does not save lives: quitting smoking does. Snus only saves the tobacco industry*' is still valid in 2015 as no scientific evidence has been presented that proves otherwise.

The Swedish health warning on snus packages is: 'This tobacco product can damage your health and is addictive'.

Yours sincerely,

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Lars-Erik Holm
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