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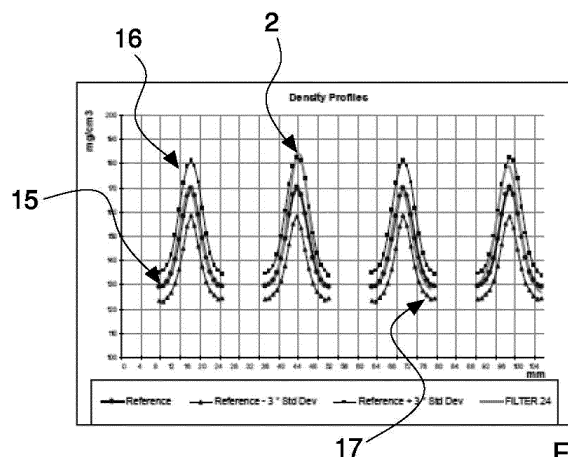
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(54) **Method for inspecting an elongated element made of fibrous material**

(57) A method for inspecting an elongated element for smoking articles comprises the steps of: obtaining at least a first profile (2) of a first measurable physical quantity, for example density, and a second profile (4) of a second measurable physical quantity, for example humidity, by means of at least one sensor interacting with the elongated element along the same elongated element; processing at least one of the first profile (2) and the second profile (4) to determine the presence of at least one capsule made of non-fibrous material, for example an aromatising additive inserted inside the elongated element; if the capsule is present, evaluating the intactness of the capsule, comparing the first (2) and the

second profile (4) respectively with a first (16, 17) and second threshold reference (21, 22). The method further comprises the steps of moving the first profile (2) and the second profile (4) to an ideal reference position of the capsule along the elongated element; establishing, during the operational functioning, the first threshold reference (16, 17) by statistical processing of the first profile (2); establishing the second threshold reference (21, 22) by statistical processing of the second profile (4), the first and the second statistical processing being performed respectively on moved profiles of a preceding inspection cycle, defined by a predetermined number of inspected elements.



**Fig. 9**



## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 13 17 6710

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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                         |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                         |
| Place of search<br><b>Munich</b>                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                        | Date of completion of the search<br><b>19 December 2017</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Examiner<br><b>Marzano Monterosso</b>   |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                        | T : theory or principle underlying the invention<br>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date<br>D : document cited in the application<br>L : document cited for other reasons<br>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document |                                         |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone<br>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category<br>A : technological background<br>O : non-written disclosure<br>P : intermediate document |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                         |

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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