

Margarida,

Our members are our supporters and activists based around the world. We are not a membership-based organization, but rather count among our numbers individuals who join in order to push for more consumer choice.

(Example of an article published just today in the U.S.: <http://rare.us/rare-politics/rare-liberty/war-on-drugs-rare-liberty/jeff-sessions-crusade-against-marijuana-hurts-the-most-vulnerable-i-would-know-im-one-of-them/>)

(And another example published just a few months ago: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article135297844.html>)

Considering we're the newest kid on the block, we hope we can be judged by the quality of our work rather than those who decide to support us. We will strictly provide any numbers and figures provided by EU law, and adhere to our own [code of ethics](#). It's in our interest to do so. And our base of support is growing each and everyday,

Adam Cleave is a senior advisor who gives advice from time-to-time. We are quite transparent with our work and our staff members.

For a better view of our work, please check out our [Recent Media](#) page on the website.

Thank you,

Yaël

On Wed, Jun 28, 2017 at 4:43 PM, Margarida <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Yaël,

Thank you for your answers. I have just a few follow up questions for clarification.

Your entry in the EU's Transparency Register discloses the CCC has 250 members that are natural people. Are these the activists you mention? How did they become members of CCC and what does that membership include?

You also specified that you have received funding from different industries. Do you plan on disclosing your list of funders? If not, why?

And finally, could you clarify what is the role of Adam Cleave in CCC?

Best regards,

Margarida

On 2017-06-27 16:49, Yaël Ossowski wrote:
Margarida,

Thank you for the email to my colleague Luca.

We're very proud of what we've built so far at Consumer Choice Center, and the influence we've had in just a few months.

We have a number of activists spread throughout the world. Our paid staff members are in Europe and throughout North America, but we can count on action in over 100 countries.

Students For Liberty is our sister organization and was generous enough to offer us seed funding so we could pursue this project. We've had a good number of other contributors from different industries (such as FMCG, Healthcare, and Energy) who believe in our mission and we've been very grateful to have their support.

We were delighted to receive financial support from both Students For Liberty and Japan Tobacco International for our launch event in Brussels. This helped us to realize a more than successful launch of the CCC with over 80 people from NGOs, media, Parliament, the Commission, and various industries attending.

In contrast to many NGOs in Brussels, we do not accept government or public funding, and thus remain vigilantly independent. We strictly adhere to our [Code of Ethics](#) which we proudly include on our website in all of our contacts with media and partners and supporters. This includes editorial independence of our activities, which we hold very dear.

We work with many organizations that further the mission of greater consumer choice and the idea of an empowered consumer. We hope to broaden this alliance in the future.

Thank you very much,
Yaël Ossowski

On Thu, Jun 22, 2017 at 9:34 AM, Luca Bertoletti <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Margarida <[REDACTED]>
Date: June 22, 2017 at 4:34:17 PM GMT+2
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Questions about the Consumer Choice Center

Dear Luca Bertoletti,

I work for an NGO called Corporate Europe Observatory which is a research and campaign group concerned with the access and influence enjoyed by corporations and their lobby groups in EU policy-making: <http://corporateeurope.org/>

I would like to ask you several questions about the Consumer Choice Center (CCC). It would be very useful to understand more about this from your side before we consider publishing an article on this issue. I would appreciate receiving a response from you as soon as possible and before Thursday 29 June.

1. How many members do you have and spread through how many countries?

2. How can one become a member and what does CCC membership include?
3. During your launch event you disclosed that CCC's current budgets originates from a donation from Students For Liberty (SFL) but that you were seeking support from other organisations, including companies. Is this correct and have you already achieved any funding apart from SFL?
4. Your launch event page listed that, among others, it was co-sponsored by SFL and Japan Tobacco International (JTI). What type of support did you receive from each for the event?
5. What is your relationship with JTI? Do you receive any other funding or cooperation from JTI?
6. In your launch event, a member of CCC also named a few organisations, like Forest EU and EPICENTER as close partners. What type of cooperation exists between the CCC and these organisations?
7. Do you cooperate with other organisations, bodies or funders?
8. From your staff webpage we can see that the majority of your employees has been or is currently engaged with the SFL network. The exception seems to be Adam Cleave who has joined the CCC to "provide ad-hoc experienced advisory support". What type of activities does this include? Is it a paid role?
9. You have openly declared that you will seek funding from corporations. How do you plan to guarantee your independence, specifically in such cases where a conflict appears between the interests of consumers and those of the corporations funding you?
10. How do you respond to concerns that your independence as a consumers organisation is threatened if you are accepting corporate donations?

I look forward to hearing from you; thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Margarida Silva

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Sign up to CEO's e-newsletter:
<http://www.corporateeurope.org/subscribe-our-newsletter>

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Yaël Ossowski

Public Relations Director



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