

Hi Margarida,

Thanks for your email. Hope you enjoyed our Forest EU launch event on May 31st - I remember our nice chat there.

Please find my answers below.

In the launch event for Forest EU, Simon Clark stated that the launch of a Brussels based chapter of the organisation was a consequence of Brexit and aimed at fighting the Tobacco Products Directive. Is this correct? What activities will that include?

The launch of Forest EU in 2017 is an extension of Forest long-term goal to represent the millions of consumers throughout Europe who enjoy smoking tobacco and don't want to quit. The idea of establishing a European organisation existed long before the idea of a Brexit referendum emerged. That's because we intend to give consumers and citizens throughout Europe information and resources so they can engage with politicians and regulators at national and international level. Establishing Forest EU is a natural way to achieve this goal. Regarding TPD, the directive is already implemented so Forest EU is [calling](#) for a neutral review of the impact of the Directive, as you can see on our website. But that's not the only issue we intend to cover. We are also concerned about [smoking bans](#) and [plain packaging](#) for example.

Forest EU has recently joined the EU Transparency Register, yet Forest UK has in the past already managed EU level campaigns. Why did the organisation only register now?

Forest EU [registered](#) to the EUTR on March 24, 2017 before the launch of its website and activities on March 27, 2017. If you have questions about Forest in the UK, I can give you their email address.

Forest EU was named as a close partner of the also newly launched Consumer Choice Center. What type of cooperation exists between the two organisations?

Forest EU doesn't work jointly with the Consumer Choice Center or any other organisation. It has an independent organizational structure, its own purpose and a principled-message championing consumer choice established since the launch of Forest in 1979. We're happy that other organisations share some of our views.

Do you cooperate with other organisations, bodies or funders?

Forest EU doesn't work together with any other organisation. We don't rule out future cooperation with other organisations on specific projects, on a ad hoc basis and only if it is necessary to better promote the Forest EU message. More importantly, Forest EU is open to meet, discuss with and publicize its activities to all interested institutions and organisations. We regret that our openness is not shared by [others](#).

In your website you disclose that 100% of your budget originates from Japan Tobacco International. 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 corporation funding you?

Forest EU doesn't take orders from any other organisation. The views expressed by Forest EU are those of Forest EU alone. Since its founding, Forest has shown that its principled-message is not for sale and like Forest, Forest EU will criticise the actions of corporations, institutions and organisations if they are in conflict with the interests of adults who choose to consume tobacco and don't want to quit.

How do you respond to concerns that the independence of such an organisation is threatened by accepting corporate donations?

Forest EU accepts donations on its own terms. We are happy to receive funding to continue to advocate our message that European informed adults have the right to consume a legal product without excessive taxation and regulation.

Please come to our next '[Why do smokers smoke?](#)' event on July 11th. And let's have a coffee soon, too.

Best wishes,

Guillaume

Guillaume Périgois

Director

Mobile phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

[Forest EU](#)

Landline: +32 2 895 36 12

Email: [contact@forestonline.eu](mailto:contact@forestonline.eu)

Check out our new website: <http://forestonline.eu/>

Twitter: [@ForestEU](#)

EU Transparency Register ID: 557563826416-83

On 22 June 2017 at 16:38, Margarida <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Guillaume Périgois,

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 Forest EU. 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. In the launch event for Forest EU, Simon Clark stated that the launch of a Brussels based chapter of the organisation was a consequence of Brexit and aimed at fighting the Tobacco Products Directive. Is this correct? What activities will that include?
2. Forest EU has recently joined the EU Transparency Register, yet Forest UK has in the past already managed EU level campaigns. Why did the organisation only register now?

3. Forest EU was named as a close partner of the also newly launched Consumer Choice Center. What type of cooperation exists between the two organisations?
4. Do you cooperate with other organisations, bodies or funders?
5. In your website you disclose that 100% of your budget originates from Japan Tobacco International. 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 corporation funding you?
6. How do you respond to concerns that the independence of such an organisation is threatened by accepting corporate donations?

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

Yours sincerely,

Margarida Silva

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Margarida Silva  
Lobbycracy Campaigner  
Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)  
Rue d'Edimbourg 26,  
1050 Brussels, Belgium  
<http://www.corporateeurope.org>

Tel. [REDACTED]  
skype: [REDACTED]  
twitter: margaridasilva2

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