

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Parma, 15 February 2012
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Corporate Europe Observatory
Rue d'Édimbourg 26
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To Corporate Europe Observatory, Earth Open Source

Your latest attempt to undermine EFSA science and the European food regulatory system is unconstructive. The misrepresentations of EFSA's work which you repeatedly recycle are as uninformed now as when they were originally made. It is disappointing that, despite our efforts to engage with you at a meaningful level such as at the recent consultative workshop in Brussels in October 2011, you appear unwilling to comprehend the complexity of the science we are dealing with or to appreciate the efforts and investment EFSA has made in protecting its independence.

In fact, we conclude from the workshop debate that, when open to the scrutiny of peers working in this complex area, your views hold little sway. If your scientific advisors wish to engage meaningfully with EFSA, we are willing to do so openly and transparently.

Therefore, I do not intend to give credence to the individual misrepresentations listed in your confused and error-ridden document by responding again because we have already done so, several times. I addressed many of your questions in an interview I gave to you before the stakeholder workshop in October 2011 but you choose for your own purposes not to refer to my detailed responses.

EFSA's achievements in protecting public health are widely acknowledged except by a small minority who instead, for whatever reason, scrutinise the minutiae of our work for any possible discrepancies. Our success in helping to reduce Salmonella cases in the EU by half in recent years is real, tangible proof of our success in protecting public health and our rigorous evaluation of health claims and regulated substances such as food colours is hardly the work of an agency that is somehow under the undue influence of industry, as you like to claim.

In conclusion, I would merely like to add that your efforts, whatever their motivation, only succeed in undermining our mission of protecting European public health and they are a great disservice to EFSA's experts and the European Union institutions who strive to protect our consumers.



Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

Cc: Miss Catherine Day, Secretary-General of the European Commission
Mr John Dalli, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy
Mr Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President and Commissioner for inter-institutional relations and administration
Mr Eoin O'Shea, Member of the European Court of Auditors