

To: Vicky Cann, Corporate Europe Observatory

20th August 2012

Dear Vicky Cann,

Thank you for your email of 8 August 2012, which was sent to the general inbox of NDA Partners and delivered to me on 15 August 2012.

I indeed much appreciate your efforts ensuring full transparency in the EU institutions and in particular watching out potential conflict of interest between corporations and the EU policy makers.

In my particular case, I decided in 2011 to leave the European Medicines Agency (EMA) due to familiar reasons and I gave notice to the Agency approximately 7 months in advance. In preparation of my departure I had a number of internal meetings in order to get clarifications regarding what was considered to be seen as potential conflict of interest with respect to my professional activities after leaving the Agency. I have expressed at that time and reiterate now my full commitment in following the EMA' rules in this regard. In particular, I have not accepted proposals to join the pharmaceutical industry and I have rejected to contribute to products and procedures which were directly or indirectly under my responsibility at the Agency.

Since I left the EMA I have declared to the Agency all activities I have committed to and, as you have seen, all of them have been assessed and declared that are not in conflict with the interest of the service and are authorised subject to the restrictions outlined. Of note my declarations included a number of activities for public institutions and non-for-profit organisations that were not mentioned in your email.

I have been working for the EMA for approximately 6 years, but my previous experience includes several years practising as medical doctor, teaching at the university and more than 18 years conducting international drug development programmes. My collaboration with the companies you mentioned are based on the whole experienced acquired over 25 years and not only on that from the EMA's 6-year period.

For your information, in a different situation, but by analogy, when I joined the EMA (EMEA at that time) I voluntarily produced an internal declaration to avoid any potential conflict of interest with regard to products from the pharmaceutical company where I worked before and delegated to another person dealing with each and every issue coming from such company.

I would like to point out two issues which in my view may become relevant when looking at the full picture: when I got contracted by the EMA in 2005, continuing duty of confidentiality was included in the context of the EMA Code of Conduct, but none of the current conditions and restrictions regarding professional activities after leaving the Agency were in place, although I have afterwards adhered to; furthermore, no provisions have been implemented in order to compensate staff members leaving the institution with regard to the repercussion of such conditions and restrictions in their professional and personal life.

Finally, I assume that you are going to fully comply with the EU regulations on protection of personal data and with the relevant national ones regarding the use of commercial confidential information and I kindly request you to keep me informed in advance concerning any activity and publication referring to me.

If you required further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Xavier Luria, MD
Senior Consultant
Drug Development & Drug Regulation
+447726836337
+34629213841
xavierluria@gmail.com

cc: 1) Mr. Guido Rassi, EMA's Executive Director
2) CEO of NDA Partners
3) CEOs of Oryzon, Trial Forum Support and Kinesys