



Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)
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Belgium

Brussels, 16 February 2012

Dear Mrs Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

cc Commissioner Sefcovic, Commissioner Dalli, Mr Eoin O'Shea (European Court of Auditors), EC Secretary General Catherine Day

We are very disappointed with your reply to our report, that still seems to deny that there is any problem. As we said during the independence workshop in October, EFSA's new independence policy does not provide an adequate answer to problems identified by civil society organisations, MEPs and journalists for years. It is not without reason that EFSA is currently under investigation by the European Court of Auditors. It has been accused by the European Ombudsman of maladministration in the revolving doors case.

We acknowledge that EFSA has been willing to provide some information by email and telephone. But both our organisations have also received very unconstructive replies from you to our previous reports. Your response to CEO called our allegations 'factual mistakes', but we have been able to rebut every one of those 'mistakes'. We have even been able to demonstrate that EFSA does not seem to know its own rules (on what should be declared by experts). You have not replied to our rebuttals. All correspondence can be found on our websites.

We are looking forward to see a strongly improved approach, similar to - but better than - the EMA's to ban conflicts of interest from EFSA's expert panels, on 5 March in Brussels.

Best regards,

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