

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Parma, 21 DEC 2010  
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Olivier Hoedeman  
Research and Campaign Coordinator  
Corporate Europe Observatory

Christoph Then  
Executive Director  
Testbiotech

Gabriella Zanzanaini  
Director of European Affairs  
Food & Water Europe

Via email to: [Olivier@corporateeurope.org](mailto:Olivier@corporateeurope.org)

**Re: Your letter of 29 November 2010**

Dear Mr Hoedeman, Mr Then and Ms Zanzanaini,

In your letter of 29 November 2010 you outline some concerns regarding the selection and appointment of Ms Laura Smillie as Advisor to the Communication Directorate of the Authority. In particular you argue that Ms Smillie should have been excluded by the Selection Board that took care of selection procedure EFSA/AD/2009/016 for the reason that Ms Smillie had worked for the European Food Information Council prior to joining EFSA.

After careful consideration of your statements I did not find any breach of the related governing legal provisions. Moreover you can be assured that every EFSA staff member is constantly assessed in relation to Article 11 and 11a of the Staff Regulations. Both provisions provide the appropriate legal instruments to ensure that EFSA staff members carry out their duties objectively, impartially, keeping with his duty of loyalty of the Communities and avoid any conflict of interests.

In addition, EFSA has decided autonomously to subject its staff to the EFSA Declaration of interests policy. Under this policy all EFSA administrators are required to complete and submit at least once per year a thorough Declaration of interests that is duly screened by their hierarchy. In case a staff member is found to be in potential conflict of interest with respect to certain activities or dossiers, and that situation cannot be otherwise remedied, appropriate measures might be taken to avoid that a conflict of interests occurs. These may include the exclusion of that staff member from certain dossiers or his or her reassignment to another unit or section where no potential conflict of interests can be identified.

Further to this I would like to inform you that EFSA has been putting into place implementation measures in relation to external activities of staff (in the context of Article 12b of the Staff Regulations) as well as with regard to staff members leaving the Authority (referring to Articles 16, 17(2) and 19 of the Staff Regulations and related to subsequent occupational activities and unauthorized disclosure of information acquired in relation to the staff member's duties).

I trust that the above has addressed your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

Cc. Maroš Šefčovič, European Commission Vice-President for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration  
Catherine Day, Secretary-General of the European Commission