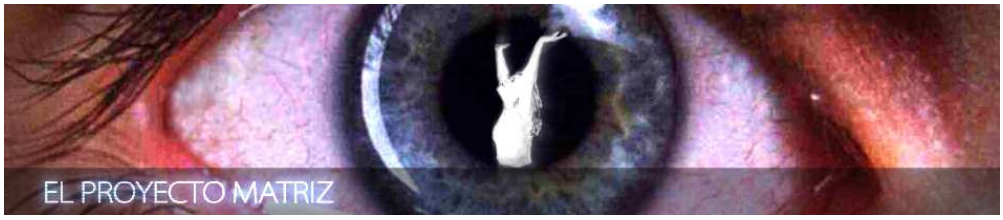


“EFSA lacks autonomy, it is subject to the lobbies.

Its mode of operation must be revised from top to bottom.”

JOSÉ BOVÉ

Translated by Gloria Mühlebach

THE MATRIX PROJECT

EFSA – EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

¿ SECURITY?

Who watches over the European food security? Who will defend us from the horrors that are intuited from reading articles like the one we published about: transgenically manipulated organisms, rice with human genes, spermicide corn, patents on foods?

The European Food Security Authority (EFSA) is responsible for evaluating and making the issue of food security known in the European Union, from the genetically modified organisms (GMO's) to the pesticides.

However, EFSA has been criticized because its scientific evaluations of the new transgenic crops and pesticides are based almost exclusively on data from the corporate investigations; that is, not from independent studies.

Some EFSA experts are also accused of being in positions too close to the food and beverage industry.

Towards the end of September, 2010, José Bové, European Parliamentarian and Vice-President of the European Parliament's Agriculture Commission, revealed that the Chairman of EFSA's Board of Directors, Diána Bánáti, was also Chairman of IlSI's Board of Directors, one of the biggest associations for the promotion de GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms), a pseudo-scientific organization created by Chemical and Bio-technological Multinationals of potentially dangerous foods, that defend their interests through pseudo-scientific reports and putting pressure on political organizations so that they don't conduct studies of their products.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF EFSA

Corporate Europe Observatory, February 23rd, 2011.

Recently, there were several well-known cases of *"revolving doors"*, where EFSA employees go directly to the industry, or from the industry to EFSA, and of conflicts of interest.

Now, Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) has discovered that three members of EFSA's Board of Directors are Advisers to big food companies, [*Big Food*], that work for *think-tanks* financed by the industry, and whose objective is to manipulate the political and scientific debate over food risks.

A fourth member of the Board of Directors is Chairman of a foundation with shares in a company who sells genetically modified feeds.

These conflicts of interest imply the risk that these members of the Board of Directors will influence the work they do at the EFSA, in particular when work programs are established and members are appointed to the scientific committee and management of the agency.

EFSA's Chairman, Diána Bánáti, made headlines in October 2010, when a member of the European Parliament, José Bové, asked to be dismissed from EFSA alleging conflict of interests.

- Diana Bánáti -

Milan Kováč (Eslovaquia), Matthias Horst (Alemania), Jiří Ruprich (Rep. Checa), Piet Vanthemsche (Belgica) -

Diana Bánáti was member of the Board of Directors of the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI), an organization founded by the food industry that tries to coordinate and finance investigations and advise on the risks, while she was working for the EFSA. A few weeks later, Bánáti resigned from ILSI, but not from EFSA.

The CEO (Corporate Europe Observatory) investigations have found further conflicts of interest among the members of EFSA's Board of Directors. In spite of Bánáti's resignation from ILSI last October, at least another three executive members have maintained strong ties with the European food industry – including ILSI -.

EFSA's Administrative Council was established in 2002, and is made up of 15 members. Each one is appointed for a period of four years, and they meet several times a year. Their main tasks consist of establishing the budgets and work programs, and appointing the Chief Executive Officer and the scientific committee's members and jurors.

The members of the Board of Directors "have a mandate to act in the public interest" and "they don't represent in any way a government, organization or sector", according to the agency's website.

"The Board plays a fundamental role in the management of EFSA, making sure that EFSA acts in an independent manner."

A member of the Board, Matthias Horst, nevertheless, has been working for the German Food and Beverages Federation (BVE) for over 35 years. In fact, Horst has been the BVE's lobby Chief since 1994, when he became Chairman.

Among the BVE members are Nestlé, Coca-Cola, Kraft, Mars and Unilever.

Another member of the Board, Milán Kováč, former permanent representative for the Slovak Republic in the FAO (Food Agriculture Organization), has been part of ILSI Europe's Administration Council for seven years – the same *think tank* from which Diána Bánáti was forced to resign -.

Kováč was also a member of the *think tank's* Scientific Advising Board, sponsored by the food industry, EUFIC (European Food Information Council) since the year 2000.

A member of EFSA's Administration Council, Jiří Ruprich, is Director of the Czech Public Health National Institute, has been a member of the Scientific Committee of the Danone Czech Institute for over 10 years.

Ruprich is Very active within the EFSA: he holds a position in the Group of Experts on Chemical Incidents, in the Group of Experts on Food Consumption Data and in the Total Diet Studies Work and Group.

On October 21st, 2010, EFSA announced that Bánáti had "resigned from the positions that could create a potential conflict of interest with EFSA's

activities". However, the only position from which Bánáti resigned was as a member of ILSI Europe's organization , according to the declaration of interests signed on October 28th, 2010.

Neither did Kováč, Horst or Ruprich resigned from their positions that are in conflict of interest.

ILSI (Internacional Life Sicences Institute), EUFIC (European Food Information Council), the Danone Institute and other *think tank* financed by the industry promote specific information and lines of investigation in which the food industry has a direct interest – which is the reason why they pay for it.

Members of ILSI Europe:

Abbott Nutrition
ADM Research
Ajinomoto Europe
Barilla G & R Fratelli
BASF SE
Bayer CropScience BioScience
Beverage Partners Worldwide
Bionov
Biosearch Life
Campbell Soup Company
Cargill
Chiquita Brands International
Clasado
Coca-Cola Europe
Colloïdes Naturels International
Cosucra Groupe Warcoing
Danisco
Danone
Dow Europe
Dr. Willmar Schwabe
DSM
DuPont de Nemours Firmenich
Givaudan
H J Heinz
International Nutrition Company
BioMérieux
Kellogg Europe
Kikkoman Foods Europe
Kraft Foods Europe
Lallemand SAS
Luigi Lavazza
Mars
Martek Biosciences Corporation
McDonald's Europe
McNeil Nutritionals
Mead Johnson Nutrition
Merck Consumer Healthcare
Monsanto Europe
National Starch
Naturex
Nestlé
PepsiCo International
Pfizer Consumer Healthcare
Premier Foods
Procter & Gamble
Puratos Group
Red Bull
Roquette Group
Royal FrieslandCampina
Rudolf Wild
Sensus
Seven Seas
Solae Europe
Soremartec Italia – Ferrero Group
Südzucker/BENEO Group
Swiss Quality Testing Services
Syral
Syngenta Crop Protection
Tate & Lyle Ingredients
Tetra Pak Research
Ülker Bisküvi
Unilever
Yakult Europe

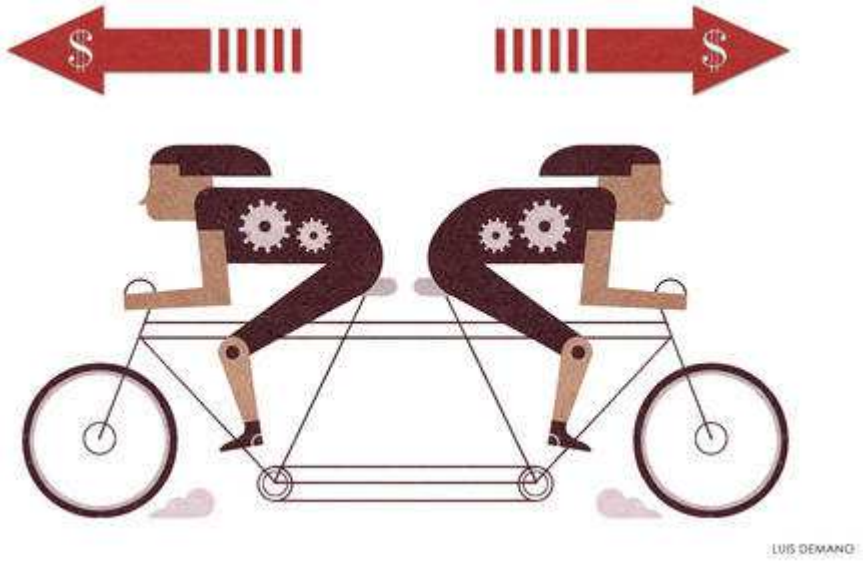
Members of EUFIC:

.

Cargill, Cereal Partners, Coca-Cola HBC, Coca-Cola, Danone, DSM Nutritional Products Europe Ltd., Ferrero, Kraft Foods, Mars, McDonald's, Nestlé, PepsiCo, Pfizer Animal Health, Südzucker and Unilever.

THE MEMBERS OF EFSA's COUNCIL:

DO NOT HAVE THE LEGAL OBLIGATION "TO DECLARE CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS"



Legally, the members of EFSA's Council do not have the obligation to make public their declaration of interests: according to the EU regulations, these declarations are not available to third parties, for they remain under and in accordance with the Regulation (CE) nº45/2001 relative to the personal data protection.

However, EFSA has decided to make them available: "This was a transparent measure adopted pro-actively by EFSA's administration team, for there is no legal obligation to do so", said Dirk Detken, Head of EFSA's legal team, said Corporate Europe Observatory.

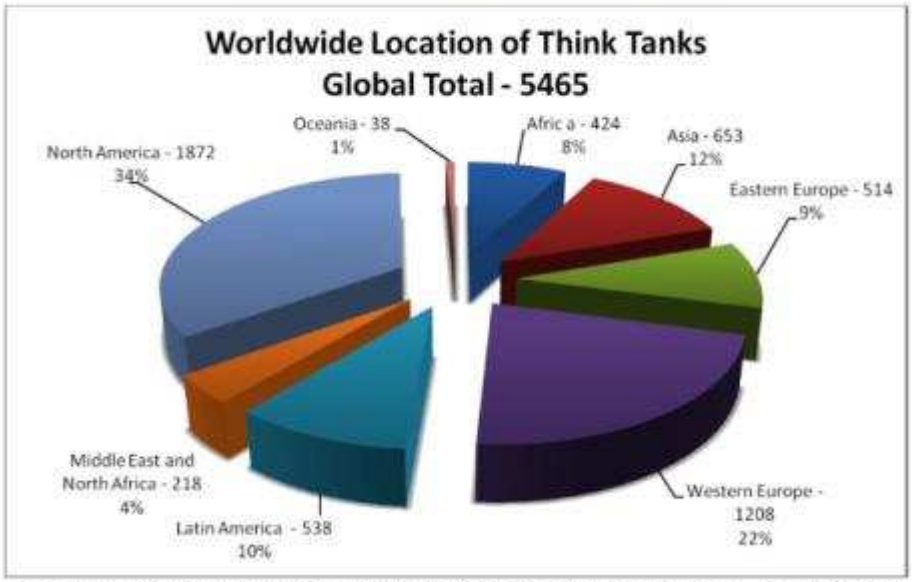
There are no controls either – or only minimal controls – on the accuracy of the declarations. Bánáti was appointed member of ILSI's Administration Board in April 2010, but she did not declare it until September 28th, when Bové invited the media to a media conference with the intention to expose ILSI.

In the same declaration, Bánáti herself also declared that she was a shareholder in EFSA – which is not compatible. In a previous declaration presented in March 2010, she declared that ILSI (Internacional Life Sciences Institute), founded by the corporations, was a *"public"* organization. None of these errors was corrected by EFSA.

Before the Bánáti scandal broke out, only two thirds of the members of EFSA's Administration Council had published her declarations. Now, all of them have done so.

DETRIMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF THE THINK TANKS SPONSORED BY THE CORPORATIONS

Global Distribution of Think Tanks by Region



Created from 4376 Date Established records in the FPRI Global Think Tank Database –August 31st 2008

The 494 members of ILSI's (International Life Sciences Institute) industries are the main world manufacturers of food and food ingredients, chemical products, pharmaceuticals and other consumer products.

During the last 10 years, the investigation of ILSI Europe has been utilized to weaken EFSA's evaluation processes of GM plants (genetically modified).

BEFORE JOINING EFSA, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GMO's (GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS) COMMISSION, HARRY KUIPER, PARTICIPATED IN ONE OF ILSI's 'WORK GROUPS', WHICH, ACCORDING TO ILSI, SUCCESSFULLY INFLUENCED EFSA's DIRECTIVES IN REGARDS TO THE EVALUATION OF THE RISKS POSED BY GENETICALLY MODIFIED PLANTS.

In 2006, Kevin Glenn, of Monsanto, Chairman of one of ILSI's work groups, boasted in a seminary in Athens, Greece, that the key 2004 report on ILSI had had a great impact on EFSA's directives.

At the end of 1990 and the beginning of 2000, ILSI collaborated with the tobacco industry in order to pressure the World Health Organization (WHO) to limit the tobacco control.

In 2006, this UNO agency - the WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - PROHIBITED ILSI FROM PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES OF THE WHO RELATED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD AND WATER REGULATIONS DUE TO ITS HISTORY OF PLACING THE INTERESTS OF ITS CORPORATE MEMBERS BEFORE THE SCIENTIFIC AND HEALTH AFFECTS.

A previous investigation conducted by CEO (Corporate Europe Observatories) has demonstrated that all members of EUFIC's Administration Council are members of an elevated status pressure group of the food and beverage industry in the EU.

Some of the above mentioned corporations form part of the European Round Table (ERT).

What is the European Round Table (ERT)?

The ERT is a lobby or pressure group created in 1983, that groups the chairmen of the 47 main multinational companies of Europe (one can only be a member by personal invitation). A pressure group is an organization representing a determined social sector (in this case, the business sector), whose mission is to make their interests known to the political powers AND PRESSURE THEM SO THAT THEY HAVE THEM IN MIND WHEN THE TIME COMES TO IMPLEMENT LEGISLATION.

Practically none of the European politics prosper if they don't have the ERT's previous approval.

IN WHOSE HANDS IS EUROPE?

IN WHOSE HANDS ARE WE?

IN WHOSE HANDS IS OUR HEALTH?

In the European Parliament's web, this logical question was posted:

After the revelation of the conflict of interest that has affected EFSA's (European Food Security Authority) Chairman, who, until her recent resignation, was a member of ILSI's (International Life Science Institute) Administration Council, wouldn't the Commission consider that the gathered data on the GMO's are conditioned by the interests of the very strong food and bio-technology industries?

Wouldn't it, therefore, consider that the studies conducted until now by EFSA in relation to the GMO's must be reviewed, as well as the administration of EFSA itself, according to the report indicated by the Environment Council of Ministers of December 2008?

ACCORDING TO COMMON SENSE, IT SHOULD BE LIKE THAT…

ALTHOUGH IT IS ALSO SAID THAT THE COMMON SENSE IS THE LEAST COMMON OF OUR SENSES.


CIENCIAS

ROSA AGUILAR

"Yo como alimentos transgénicos sin problemas"

Comentarios: 26 | MANUEL ANSEDE

Ministra de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y Marino. La ex militante de IU viaja el martes a la cumbre del clima de Cancún para defender un recorte efectivo de las emisiones.

FORO DE DEBATE DE 'EL MUNDO'

Cristina Garmendia: 'Los transgénicos son seguros. Yo me los comería tranquilamente'

- La ministra se muestra a favor de los alimentos modificados genéticamente
- Prevé que en 2015 España será una de la principales potencias en I+D+i

Actualizado domingo 29/06/2008 10:59 (CET)

ELMUNDO.ES

MADRID.- El nombramiento de Cristina Garmendia al frente del Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación ha sido uno de los elementos que más expectación ha generado en el nuevo Gobierno de José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero.

El desafío que tiene por delante, sin embargo, es inmenso, y está por ver hasta qué punto será capaz -como apuntó el director de 'El Mundo', Pedro J. Ramírez, al inicio de este Foro de Debate- de "romper con la inercia en la que se han estrellado tantas veces los buenos propósitos modernizadores en la ciencia y, en general, en la sociedad y la economía españolas".

(Vídeo: VEO)

Translated by Gloria Mühlebach

THE MATRIX PROJECT

EFSA – EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

¿ SECURITY?

FUENTES

http://www.corporateeurope.org/content/2011/02/efsa-conflicts-interest-board

http://www.corporateeurope.org/system/files/files/article/EFSA_board_conflict.pdf

http://www.corporateeurope.org/agribusiness/content/2011/03/conflicts-interest-efsa-board-letter

http://semillasysalud.wordpress.com/2010/12/18/atentos-a-los-conflictos-de-interes-en-la-agencia-europea-de-seguridad-alimentaria/

http://www.infogm.org/spip.php?article4646#forum2789

http://vimeo.com/user8955633/videos

http://www.powerbase.info/index.php/European_Food_Safety_Authority

http://www.larevistaintegral.com/5462/politicos-y-%E2%80%98lobbistas%E2%80%99.html

http://www.temoignagechretien.fr/ARTICLES/France/Jose-Bove- %3B%C2%AB-Madame-Banati-doit-demissionner-!-%C2%BB/Default-2-2092.xhtml

VIDEOS RELACIONADOS

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=rOygWqxjgB4

http://vimeo.com/33337236