

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

25 AUG 2017

Ref. DD/mm (2017) – out-18245365

Testbiotech e V.  
Frohschammerstrasse 14  
DE-80807 Munchen  
Deutschland

**Subject/Re: EFSA expert – sponsored by Monsanto?**

*Ref.: open letter*

Dear Mr Then,

I am writing to you with regard to the open letter shared on 18 august 2017, in which you put forward several allegations regarding Mr José Tarazona, Head of EFSA's unit responsible *inter alia* for managing the peer review processes of pesticides active substances. I also address herewith the revised version that you shared on 21 august 2017 in which you somewhat rectify some of the wrong information of your initial letter of 18 august 2017 but which is still based on a remarkable misinterpretation of basic facts. I have to admit that the content of both your letters surprised me. I would like to clarify the misleading information you disseminated with these open letters.

First of all, as you have acknowledged by now, EFSA's pesticides staff member and head of unit Mr José Tarazona never attended the Society of Toxicology 2017 conference. This is a fact that could have been easily checked by Testbiotech before issuing an open letter with such strong accusations.

Indeed, it was a member of EFSA's Pesticide Unit, Ms Danièle Court Marques who actually attended the conference to present EFSA's conclusions on the risk assessment of glyphosate, which was published in 2015, given that the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting and ToxExpo is considered to be one of the most important global annual conferences on toxicology. Ms Danièle Court Marques had already presented the EFSA assessment of glyphosate at the US EPA FIFRA Scientific Advisory Panel meeting and at ECHA Risk Assessment Committee and it was considered logical she should participate to the scientific debate.

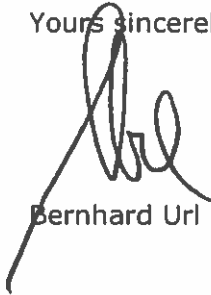
In any event, participation of EFSA staff to scientific conferences to present the Authority's official position is an activity within EFSA's mandate of communicating on its outputs and interacting with its interested parties as described in our founding regulation 178/2002. Furthermore, in line with EFSA's policy on these matters, no travel reimbursement, sponsorship or fee is accepted by the EFSA delegate from the conference organisers, or by anyone else, to facilitate the participation of EFSA staff to this event.

The insinuation generated in your letters that EFSA staff would be indirectly funded by an applicant company is untrue. I would like to kindly invite you to rectify this

falsehood by informing the same audiences you addressed with your two letters about the facts.

EFSA staff work with passion and professionalism to help the EU implement one of the world's most stringent legal and regulatory framework applicable to pesticides. Communications like yours of 18 and 21 august 2017 provide a clear disservice to the EU food safety system as they fabricate unsubstantiated doubts to undermine the integrity of our staff and EFSA's reputation.

Yours sincerely,



Bernhard Url

cc: Mr J. Tarazona (EFSA)