

To Mr. Marc van Montagu
Public Research and Regulation
Julianalaan 67, NL-2628 BC Delft

Brussels, 3 July 2006



Dear Mr. van Montagu

Thank you for your letter of 29 June to Friends of the Earth Europe.

We do not agree with the points you have raised.

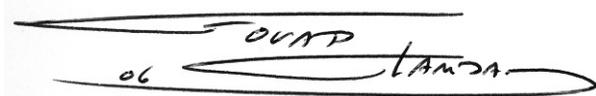
The PRRI has constantly lobbied for weaker biosafety legislation, usually echoing the position taken by the biotechnology industry itself. For example, you do not support a strict liability scheme under the Biosafety Protocol, you do not support the need for stand-alone documentation to fulfil the identification requirements of the Protocol and you even appear to be in favour of the use of "terminator" technologies. These positions are in stark contrast to those of developing countries who have worked hard over the past years towards making a strong Protocol that will afford them the protection they desire from GMOs.

We are even more surprised that you take issue to the fact that we refer to you as industry-funded. It is clear from your website that you do receive funds from the GMO industry and also from organisations that have very strong industry links (like the Syngenta Foundation). It is no coincidence that the two private sector organisations that support you are also the loudest critics of the Protocol and have done the most to weaken it (CropLife International US Grain Council). In order to clarify the situation we would be grateful if you could indicate what percentages of your income come from what sources for every year since you started.

Your last point is with regard to your positions against public access to information. We find it hard to understand why you should disagree with this. During the Aarhus Convention negotiations in Kazakhstan in May last year, the PRRI took a strong position against an amendment that would have enabled the public the right to participate in decisions about GMOs. Once again the same position taken by industry.

We thank you for taking the time to write to us and would be grateful if you could clarify your funding status with the information requested above.

Yours sincerely



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