

The Simon Clinic

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Dear Tony Lloyd MP,

My name is Simon Galloway. I am the managing clinician of the Simon Clinic a private surgery in South Manchester specializing in the nutritional treatment of Psychiatric illnesses.

I am writing to alert you to the potentially catastrophic consequences of new food supplements legislation pending in this country. The new European Directive on Dietary Supplements aims to outlaw therapeutic dosages of all vitamins, minerals and nutrients used by over 12 million of us in the UK and replace them with useless low-dose alternatives.

The publically stated objective of the Directive is to harmonize the laws of all European member states so that their dietary supplement regulations are no longer an obstacle to free-trade. Germany and France for instance have for a long time banned the sale of high dosage vitamins in the high street and forced them onto a doctor's prescription. They claim that countries like the UK who allow higher dosage products to be marketed are restricting free trade. So it appears that the rest of Europe including the UK will be forced to adapt to this outlandish standard and give up our basic health freedoms so big businesses can make more money

But ostensibly there are other forces at work here. Despite a landslide protest against the Directive last March by over 603 million outraged Americans and Europeans (an unprecedented response which causes the Europarliament's email system to crash!) the Europarliament shockingly voted for its implementation. It is now well understood that this result came after ferocious "behind-the-scenes" lobbying of the European commissioners by giant pharmaceutical companies evidently determined to wipe out competition to their prescription drugs.

The reason for this is well known. Natural substances unlike pharmaceutical drugs are non-patentable because they have existed in the food chain for millions of years and this makes them non-profitable. Each synthetic Pharmaceutical drug on the other hand costs 300 million dollars to be approved and patented which means drug companies will go to extraordinary lengths to ensure their markets are protected even if it means regulating the competition out of existence!

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It may come as no surprise then that a number of European Commissioners who put together the draft legislation for the EU Parliament to vote on have strong links to the pharmaceutical industry. For example EU commissioner Frits Bokenstein is a member of the supervisory board of the second largest pharmaceutical company in the world Merck, Sharp and Dohme. Is it any wonder then that almost two thirds of the EU Parliamentary delegates voted in favour of the Directive?

It is widely accepted that many foodstuffs like can be medicinal and actually out-perform drugs. For instance did you know that high dose Niacin (Vitamin B3) can cure certain types of schizophrenia? Or that high dose Vitamin C can prevent and cure heart disease like atherosclerosis and stroke? That high dose Vitamin B17 and the amino acid L-Lysine can even cure some cancers all without harmful side effects? It is for this reason that the directive is attempting to abolish all therapeutic dosages of nutritional supplements by reducing their legal limit to the minimum level required to keep you alive - the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA). This will effectively make it illegal to sell supplements at higher dosages which can make you well and will guarantee profits for the drug companies by removing their only source of market competition which are medicinal foods. Dietary supplements which exceed this dosage limitation will be brutally re-classified as prescription drugs and made available only through GP's who know nothing about them!

This legislation was already in force in France and Germany before any of this started and there therapeutic dosages of nutritional supplements have been taken off the high street shelves and restricted to a doctors prescription as "dangerous". This is despite the fact that there has not been a single recorded case of vitamin-related deaths in the last four years whereas in the same time ten of the headline-grabbing "wonder drugs" have been withdrawn after killing and injuring thousands of people in the US and Europe like the cholesterol lowering drug Baycol, the weight loss killer Fenfluramine and the habit forming antidepressant Seroxat! By the same token last year nobody in Britain died from taking a vitamin pill but at least 6000 Britons die every year from prescription drugs, most of which are still on the market. The unfair twist to all of this is that the Medicines Control Agency and Food Standards Agency already requires that food supplements and natural remedies are safe and appropriately labelled under the 1990 Food Safety Act which makes this new Directive unnecessary and superfluous.

The directive has had no teeth in this country because it was estimated that it might take up to 3 years for it to be locally interpreted and implemented. Well now earlier than expected the Directive is about to move into English law via the supplements (England) Regulations (2003 Statutory Instrument No. 1387). If this legislation is accepted in the UK it will deprive millions of the right to good health whilst ensuring a shake-down racket endures where side-effect producing and habit-forming prescription medicines are the only healthcare option left.

This is a national emergency. It is critical that you take this impending change to UK health freedom very seriously to protect your own right and your children's right to access these dietary supplements in the future. It may come as some consolation that in the United States through the greatest grass roots protest since the Vietnam war the

strength of public opinion stopped a similar attempt by the Food and Drug Administration to make vitamin supplements subject to the same laws as drugs.

At present however it looks like the legislation in one draft or another is inevitable so we are urging ministers to ensure that the UK government does all in its power to stonewall the European RDA dosages and ensure that the alternative Maximum Safety Levels (MSL) are implemented which are much fairer as proposed by Penny Viner of the Health Food Manufacturer's Association. We specifically ask you to block the Statutory Instrument 1387 that will implement the Food Supplements Directive unless the UK government has first secured an amendment that will allow safe supplements to remain on the Market.

Secondly we ask you to oppose the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive Subject of MLX 283 which threatens to reclassify safe, effective and longstanding herbal remedies as prescription medicines requiring expensive license fees. If Europe has its way Herbal products will have to show evidence that they have been on the market for 30 years (15 of which must have been in Europe) and any products not complying with this draconian law will be banned from the high street.

Thirdly we also ask you to oppose the proposed changes already under way in Europe to the Medicines Directive which threatens to reclassify food supplements in general to prescription drugs requiring expensive licenses.

Finally I would just like to extend my sincerest thanks for your valued time and attention on this important matter.

Kind Regards and God Bless

Simon Galloway
(Managing Clinician)

Supporters of the Consumers for Health Choice Campaign

P.S. If you wish to arm yourself with concise information about the ramifications of the proposed legislation then please visit Dr Matthias Rath's website campaign which is specifically directed at MP's, MEP's and EU parliamentary members at www.vitamins-for-all.org. You might also take a look at the Health Freedom Movement's website www.thehealthfreedommovement.com at 2 Salisbury Road, London, SW19 4EZ and the Consumers for Health Choice Campaign at www.healthchoice.org.uk 9 Old Queen Street, London, SW1H 9IA.

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