SCIENCE VS. LOBBYING

HOW TO ESCAPE REGULATORY CAPTURE?

A conference on the uses and misuses of scientific evidence in EU policy-making

22/23 SEPTEMBER 2015 – MUNDO-B & EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS

ORGANISERS

 # CORPORATE EUROPE OBSERVATORY

 # EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S INTERGROUP ON INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY, ANTI-CORRUPTION AND ORGANISED CRIME (ITCO)

---------- Funding self-serving research to use for their lobbying, discrediting critical scientists or scientific institutions, artificially prolonging scientific debate to preserve commercial positions, lobbying to shape the very administrative processes to gather and assess evidence... are some of the strategies used by lobbyists to influence the scientific basis of policy decisions and their outcome.

What can the EU do against such tactics? How to build a scientific advice and evidence appraisal system that serves the public interest by providing public representatives and officials with reliable, rigorous answers to their needs and questions?

I. EVIDENCE POLITICS: DOUBT-MONGERING TACTICS, A LEGITIMACY CRISIS FOR SCIENCE AND DEMOCRACY, LOBBYING AND RESEARCH-BASED REGULATION IN THE EU INSTITUTIONS

22nd SEPTEMBER, MUNDO-B (26 rue d'Edimbourg), 14-18.00

Everyone calls for evidence-based policies, but the power to produce evidence isn't evenly distributed

Moderator & welcome speech: Martin Pigeon (Corporate Europe Observatory, CEO)

Introductory testimony by José Bové MEP (Greens/EFA)

1. The Doubt Strategy: how industry engages with the scientific basis of regulation and legislation – ***Naomi Oreskes****, Professor of the History of Science and Affiliated Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Harvard University (by videoconference) - Q&A*

2. Science and democracy: two pillars of the European modern state in legitimacy crisis? ***Silvio Funtowicz***, *Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities, University of Bergen* - formerly with the European Comission's Joint Research Centre - *Q&A*

15.45 - Coffee break

3. Lobbying the EU : how the high technicality of EU affairs impacts lobbying in Brussels and its consequences – ***Sylvain Laurens****, Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) - Q&A*

4. What defines acceptable evidence for policy-making, in particular for regulated industry products such as medicines, foodstuffs, chemicals ? How are these definitions crafted, and by whom ? To what extent is this system permeable to special interests' influence ? ***David Demortain****,INRA,Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Sciences Innovations Sociétés (LISIS) & Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation (CARR) of the London School of Economics – Q&A*

5. The challenges of providing impartial evidence for policymaking*:* the view from the Commission's in house science service – ***David Mair****, Acting Director of Policy Support Coordination, Joint Research Center - Q&A*

Wrap-up: Erik Millstone, Science & Technology Policy, Science Policy Research Unit, Sussex University

18.15 – Aperitif – 18.45 – buffet dinner

II. EVIDENCE POLICIES: THE EU'S EVIDENCE ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS AND POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS

23rd SEPTEMBER, BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, P7C050, 09.00-13.00AM

The existing system of evidence appraisal in the EU : how do expert bodies work? What is the data they use? What are the problems they face from a regulatory capture perspective and how to solve them ? What about research policy ?

Moderator: Benedek Javor MEP (Greens/EFA), Vice-Chair of the ITCO Intergroup

Introduction: Erik Millstone, Sussex University

1. How can independence and transparency policies contribute to strengthening the reliability of public scientific opinions on regulated products? What are the obstacles ? Are such policies enough ?

- The European Medicines Agency and the management of clinical trials data: presentation by ***Noël Wathion*** (Chief Policy Adviser, European Medicines Agency), followed by responses by ***Sile Lane*** (Director of Campaigns, Sense about Science - on behalf of the All Trials campaign), ***Brendan Barnes*** (Global Health and IP Director, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations) and ***Fergal O'Reagan*** (European Ombudsman office) - *Q&A*

- The European Food Safety Authority's management of data, methods and expertise: presentation by ***Hubert Deluyker*** (Scientific Adviser, European Food Safety Authority), followed by responses by ***Martin Pigeon*** (Corporate Europe Observatory), ***Paul Leonard*** (Head of Corporate Innovation and Technology Policy, BASF) and ***Petri Sarvamaa*** MEP (EPP) - *Q&A*

2. Policy impact assessments and the European Commission's new Independent Scientific Advice Mechanism: "Better regulation", or better control of the regulators?

- The troubled origins of the EU's impact assessment policy - ***Katherine Smith*** (University of Edinburgh)
- What is wrong with evidence based policy?: ***Andrea Saltelli***, Centre for the Study of the Sciences and the Humanities (SVT) - University of Bergen, retired from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre
- The importance of regulation-induced innovation for sustainable development - ***Nicholas Ashford*** (Professor of Technology and Policy - Director, MIT Technology and Law Program)
- The European Commission's new Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM): ***Johannes Klumpers***, European Commission, Head of Unit in DG RTD, responsible for the SAM taskforce – *Q&A*

3. Investing in politically relevant knowledge production?

- *"Public Research should benefit Society" – statement by* ***Aude Lapprand*** (*Director, Fondation Sciences Citoyennes – confirmed) followed by a debate with the audience*

Wrap-up: Erik Millstone, Sussex University

Conclusive statements and next steps, Martin Pigeon (CEO) and MEP Benedek Javor

Contact: - Kasia Klein & Martin Pigeon, Corporate Europe Observatory
sciencevslobbying@corporateeurope.org, +32 2 893 09 30
- Zita Herman, Office of Benedek Javor MEP
benedek.javor@europarl.europa.eu, +32 2 284 55 73