

## **A CALL FOR AN OPEN DEBATE, TRANSPARENCY AND FREEDOM OF CHOICE**

Dear legislator,

On April 19th 2018, the European Parliament has voted a resolution on 'Vaccine Hesitancy and Lower Vaccination Rates in Europe' in order to address the lack of confidence from the public in health authorities and in vaccine science. Measles epidemics in Europe and lower measles vaccine uptake have been raised in its motivation and are constantly invoked in the media to promote new vaccine mandates.

However, in its article 14, the resolution "Recalls the importance of transparency in building and maintaining public trust in medicines". This need is further repeated in 4 other articles :

- Art. 4 "...calls for greater transparency in the production of vaccines and for measures to reassure European citizens".
- Art. 5 "...points out that researchers must declare any conflicts of interest."
- Art. 15 "... Recalls the importance of the Clinical Trials Regulation in stimulating and facilitating research into new vaccinations and ensuring the transparency of the results of clinical trials"
- Art. 20 "Stresses that increased transparency in the process of evaluating vaccines and their adjuvants, and the funding of independent research programmes on their possible side-effects, would contribute to restoring confidence in vaccination"
- Art. 24 also encourages the "dialogue with stakeholders from civil society, grassroots movements, academia, the media and national health authorities in order to combat unreliable, misleading and unscientific information on vaccination;

In February 2017, a debate on vaccine safety that was scheduled at the European Parliament involving several European experts on different concerning issues such as aluminium adjuvants or nanoparticles for example, has been cancelled to prevent the screening of this movie. Further screening and debates were also censored in Paris and London. In this documentary, we hear the confession of William Thompson, a whistleblower from the CDC about how his institution has compelled his team to manipulate data and destroy evidence of a study that was investigating the link between the MMR vaccine and autism. Bearing the previous articles in mind, we hope that you will now review the following materials and initiate further investigations on vaccine safety issues and conflicts of interest. Both legislators and citizens need to make informed decisions on how to achieve better health.

It is mind boggling that, even when confessed by one of its authors such as in the movie *Vaxxed*, scientific fraud and conflicts of interest linking the vaccine industry to regulatory agencies are still going on. Recent scientific controversies regarding the efficacy of the HPV vaccine, its safety and that of its adjuvants were even made public in scientific journals such as the *Nordic Cochrane Collaboration* and the *British Medical Journal*. They confirm that there is no scientific consensus and that biases and conflicts of interest undermine most publications in the field of vaccine research.

Further articles from the resolution raise questions about possible contradictions in the legislator's intent. How can the European Parliament rely on its agency for vaccine safety in art. 5 "vaccines are rigorously tested through multiple stages of trials before being prequalified by the WHO and approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), and regularly reassessed' while at the same time, it implicitly recognises that it needs more transparency to operate in its next article?

-Art. 6 "Proposes that researchers subject to a conflict of interest be excluded from evaluation panels; calls for the confidentiality of the deliberations of the EMA's evaluation panel to be lifted; proposes that the scientific and clinical data which inform the conclusions of the panel, and whose anonymity is guaranteed in advance, be made public"

How can politicians further recommend vaccines such as the MMR, the HPV or the flu vaccines in the same document, while scientific controversy around their safety and efficacy is blatant? In a common open letter, more than 130 organisations around the world have asked the World Health Organisation to revise vaccine safety issues by submitting data to open independent researchers before further approval and recommendation.

Before promoting a program that will 'extend vaccine coverage beyond early childhood and encompass all population groups in a lifelong vaccination approach' such as intended in art. 18, an open debate on vaccine safety and efficacy is indispensable. As an example measles vaccination is directly responsible for the rise in measles morbidity and mortality rate amongst young infants and adults, as it has moved the risk to more fragile categories. This trend is observed in all countries. Understanding measles disease and the limits of measles vaccination before deciding on vaccine policies could not only save more lives but also substantial money spent on vaccines by public health policies.

Vaccines are fast-tracked and not tested as regular drugs, but they are nonetheless imposed on a global scale to a healthy population. Where there is risk, there must be choice. Otherwise this becomes a forced medical experiment where individual human rights are breached and where the laudable intention of protecting the health of populations could turn into a tragic disaster.

We hope that these materials will alert you to the necessity for an open debate, transparency and freedom of choice. Those fundamental measures will not only guarantee a better health, but also scientific advance and, most of all, keep our democracy alive.