

## Open letter (14/07/09)

To all Members of the House of Commons, the House of Lords, the GLA and the Scottish, Wales & Northern Ireland Assemblies

# WILL YOU HELP STOP THE MADNESS?

## CRUNCH TIME FOR NATURAL HEALTH IS HERE!

We are approaching crunch time when it comes to our ability to choose natural health products to manage our own health! A collection of European Directives and Regulations, many of which have yet to be fully implemented, sit in the wings—like ticking time bombs—ready to ban vitamin, mineral and herbal ingredients, higher dosages and health claims made about foods and natural health products. Shadowing the process in Europe, and controlling the global food trade, are a series of **over 300 global guidelines and standards** enacted through the **Codex Alimentarius Commission** (Latin for 'food code'), an inter-governmental organization controlled by the world's most powerful governments and corporations, under the auspices of the United Nations.

The **EU Food Supplements Directive** imposes a ban on many vitamin and mineral forms as soon as **1 January 2010**. The ban has nothing to do with any evidence for lack of safety. It is simply down to the inability of manufacturers to meet the very high data requirements imposed by the Directive. Among the casualties are likely to be all forms of silver products used by thousands to help their bodies deal with common infections.

In **2010**, we also expect to see draconian limits on maximum doses of vitamin and mineral food supplements. Key tools used by tens of thousands of nutritional therapists and other natural health practitioners will be removed overnight. Once the **European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)** in Parma, Italy, has completed its evaluations on allowed health claims under the EU's new Nutrition & Health Claims Regulation, we will witness probably the greatest infringements yet seen on our ability to communicate with each other about the health benefits of foods and natural products and merits of natural healthcare.

On the heels of these restrictions, the **Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive** will ban, as of **1 April 2011**, a host of products from the great, non-European herbal traditions, including Ayurveda and Traditional Chinese Medicine, that have up until now been exempted from the Medicines Act 1968. Many of these will not be allowed to be sold as botanicals under the Food Supplements Directive, effectively falling between two regulatory stools.

## UK AUTHORITIES GET IN ON THE ACT!

We are seeing increasingly vigorous enforcement of European legislation on natural health in the UK. Prosecutions by local Trading Standards officers and the Advertising Standards Authority are becoming more and more common. The **Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)** is using its newfound powers from the EU, which gives medicinal law supreme power over all other laws, to fire its permanently loaded gun at small businesses that pose a threat to its accomplices in the pharmaceutical industry.

## RESTORING FAITH IN GOVERNMENT

Fundamental reform in constitutional laws—and the UK's relationship with the EU—are needed NOW! As citizens of a supposedly democratic country, we can no longer accept the indiscriminate and undemocratic powers of bureaucrats in Brussels and London, the people who now wield the key power when it comes to what we are allowed to put into our bodies or what we can say about the health benefits of foods or natural health products. We will only vote for politicians who are prepared to stand up and resist this 'regulatory creep'. We are appealing to UK citizens and a growing band of celebrities who are JOINING HANDS IN HEALTH to STOP THIS MADNESS.

## YOUR PARTY CONFERENCE 2009

Your party conference is a suitably convenient time and place to debate these critical issues. We appeal to every Member of both Houses, and the Regional Assemblies, to contact **JOINING HANDS IN HEALTH** (email [info@joininghandsinhealth.com](mailto:info@joininghandsinhealth.com); tel. **0208 470 8751**) if they are prepared to meet campaigners, scientists, doctors and celebrities associated with the campaign to see how we can work together to make a difference.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

**Donne Alexander MBE.**

on behalf of JOINING HANDS IN HEALTH