

VITAMIN ACCESS AT A CROSSROADS

by Leanne Wylet, B.A. & Helen Lawler, M.A.

The world's largest pharmaceutical companies are looking to the World Trade Organization, Codex, the World Health Organization, international courts, and other agencies and regulatory bodies to give them a virtual monopoly over everything we depend on to maintain or improve our health. With this power, a few corporations could agree among themselves to reduce the dosage of a supplement—or stop producing it entirely—and no government or organization could require them to produce it.

The Alliance for Natural Health (ANH) of Great Britain needs massive donations to wage their lawsuit against the European Union (EU) Food Supplement law. More dietary supplements are sold in the U.S. than in any other country in the world, but U.S. contributions to the ANH lawsuit are lowest of any country. The dietary supplement trade association lobbyists in the U.S.—chosen by representatives of pharmaceutical companies—keep telling supplement producers and consumers that the U.S. is immune to international law. The Durban bill, SB722, is touted by Randy Dennin of the National Nutritional Food Association (NNFA) as adequate protection for U.S. consumers, but it is going nowhere in Congress. Dennin is the CEO of Capsugel, the primary source of capsules for supplements and a subsidiary of Pfizer, the world's largest pharmaceutical company. SB722 has only four co-sponsors and no new ones in the last six months. Even if it were to pass, it could be overridden in international courts.

According to Dr Robert Verkerk, Executive Director of the ANH, “This is a test case on the proper scope of the legislative powers of the Community

Legislator over member states and has far reaching implications for health and consumer and business freedom of choice.”

If ANH wins at the next stage, places like the UK, Holland, Sweden and Ireland can remain safe havens for innovative products. Amazingly, people in Denmark, Germany, France, Spain and Italy, all of which have highly restrictive regimes, are now getting behind ANH because they value access to innovative products and nutritional therapies.

According to Dr Robert Verkerk, “The industry and complimentary health organizations around Europe are hopeful that the European Court of Justice will give its ruling prior to the imposition of the ban which comes into on 1 August 2005, on up to 270 forms of vitamins and minerals that are currently available in food supplements sold in markets such as the UK, Sweden, Ireland and The Netherlands.”

Two organizations associated with the International Alliance of Dietary Food Supplement Associations (IADSA), are claiming credit for the ANH legal victory to siphon off ANH donations. Pharmaceutical companies acquired leadership roles in IADSA and member organizations by paying dues based on the market share of their food-supplement subsidiaries.

Donations to the NAHFS and the HFMA will not be used to support the ANH appeal, but rather to promote the pharmaceutical agenda and undermine the credibility of this consumer organization. The NAHS and the HFMA are already trying to “block Rob Verkerk and ANH legal director David Hinde from speaking at industry trade shows,” according to John Hammell.

For more information:

“EU vitamin rule change attacked,” *BBCNews*, January 30, 2004, www.bbnews.com

Verkerk, Robert and David Hinde; “ANH Obtains Reference to European Court of Justice on Food Supplements Ban,”

www.iahf.com

See also: “UK, Canadian moves set back drug industry globalism by inches,” *Independent Council for Health Freedom*, Volume VIII:1; Spring-Summer 2004

See the 3-hour documentary movie, “The Corporation,” by Mark Achbar, Jennifer Abbott, and Joel Bakan.

<http://www.thecorporation.tb/icorp/> . or <http://www.thecorporation.tv/usa>

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What you can do

Support ANH and help them fund the ongoing costs of this legal challenge

You can contact Dr Robert Verkerk, Executive Director, at Tel: 01252 371 275 (general enquiries) or Tel: 0771 484 7225 (direct) or by E-mail: robv@alliance-natural-health.org

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