

P. Nikiforos Diamandouros European Ombudsman

Dr Helen Wallace GeneWatch UK 60 Lightwood Road SK17 7BB Buxton ROYAUME UNI

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Strasbourg, 20 -03-2013

Complaint 346/2013/ANA

Dear Dr Wallace,

On 18 February 2013, acting on behalf of GeneWatch UK, you submitted a complaint to the European Ombudsman against the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concerning the manner in which EFSA dealt with various issues relating to Genetically Modified Insects.

I have asked EFSA to submit an opinion on the following allegations and claims.

Allegations:

- **1.** EFSA failed adequately to address the conflict of interest issues raised with respect to certain members of the Working Group on Genetically Modified Insects.
- **2.** EFSA failed properly to address the issue of ingestion of Genetically Modified Insects in its draft Guidance document for Environmental Risk Assessment on Genetically Modified Animals which it issued for consultation in June 2012.

Claims:

- **1.** EFSA should reconstitute the Working Group on Genetically Modified Insects and, in doing so, it should ensure that no members are biased or have a conflict of interest.
- **2.** EFSA should duly take into account the issue of ingestion of Genetically Modified Insects when drawing up its Guidance document for Environmental Risk Assessment on Genetically Modified Animals.