

EXAMPLES OF TEMPLATE EMAILS TO MEPs

Herbal products and vitamin and mineral food supplements

Example wording for emails/letter to send to your MEP expressing your concerns about two key areas of EU law affecting natural health. One relates to herbal products, the other to maximum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

You can let your MEP know about just one issue, or you can combine both issues into one letter.

Find your MEP via the following link:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/members/public/geoSearch.do;jsessionid=F3A1B9606ACC20A20463E9B25CA9E60F.node2>

ISSUE 1: Traditional herbal medicinal products directive

Dear _____

I am a great supporter of long-standing traditional medicinal systems, including those that have developed over thousands of years in non-European countries.

So far not a single Chinese or Indian (Ayurvedic) herbal product has been licensed under the scheme provided by the directive. I am very concerned that herbs from these traditions that I have been using as food supplements for the last ___ years will be banned when the directive's transition phase expires on 31st April 2011.

I am concerned that the Directive acts disproportionately on these non-European traditions, as explained in an open letter to Commissioner Dalli by Dr Robert Verkerk of the Alliance for Natural Health International:
<http://www.anh-europe.org/news/open-letter-to-commissioner-dalli>

Amendments to this Directive are urgently needed, as is the development of a new framework specifically for practitioners of herbal medicine.

I urge you to put pressure on our government and DG SANCO to initiate such amendments.

Please let me know your views on these issues and what actions you might be able to take.

Very best wishes

ISSUE 2: Maximum doses of vitamins and minerals

Dear _____

I am greatly concerned about the way in which the European Commission, the European Food Safety Authority and Member State governments are planning to restrict maximum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements in the coming months (on the basis of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive, 2002/46/EC).

I am aware that there are major scientific problems with the methods being used and these problems have been published in a leading peer scientific journal, Toxicology;

Verkerk & Hickey (2010): <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20035821>
Verkerk (2010): <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20188138>

There are also 5 petitions on this issue active in the European Parliament's Petitions Committee, and Dr Robert Verkerk of the Alliance for Natural Health International has already twice defended these petitions successfully following attempts by the European Commission to close them down.

If the European Commission proceeds with its intended approach, I will be prevented from accessing supplements containing levels of nutrients that are both safe and highly beneficial to me.

I urge you block any legislative act on this subject unless it is based on sound scientific principles as judged by leading integrated medicine institutions, the Alliance for Natural Health International and other respected and independent organisations.

Please let me know what action you might be prepared to take when the European Commission's proposal on maximum levels of vitamins and minerals is delivered to the European Parliament for scrutiny.

Very best wishes
