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PRESS RELEASE

1st March 2013

For immediate release

EU HEALTH POLICIES THREATEN CHOICE AND HEALTH OF UK CITIZENS

ANH-Intl highlights concerns in consultation response to UK Department of Health

Grave concerns over the implications of European Union (EU) health policy for the country's citizens and natural health sector were detailed to the UK government yesterday. Natural health campaign organisation the Alliance for Natural Health International (ANH-Intl) were explicit in their response to a consultation on the EU-UK 'balance of competence' in the field of health.

Responding to the Department of Health (DoH), ANH-Intl stated that, *"Almost all the challenges faced by consumers requiring natural, whole, unprocessed foods, effective food supplements or products associated with traditional systems of medicine are created directly or indirectly by excessive EU competence"*.

Furthermore, EU over-reach is restricting freedom of expression and freedom of choice in the UK, while discriminating against those wishing to manage their health naturally – especially if they rely on non-EU systems of traditional medicine, such as Ayurveda from India.

Robert Verkerk PhD, ANH-Intl executive and scientific director, questions the EU's true motives over the issues covered in the response. *"Governments and trading blocs like the EU constantly claim to be removing barriers to trade while simultaneously protecting consumer health – yet when you drill down it seems the policies are more about protectionism, where one industry group in a given geographic area is given preference over another,"* he said. *"Nowhere do we see this more clearly than in the EU's attempt to sideline natural health and non-European traditional medicinal cultures based on the fallacy that these products endanger public health."*

"Promoting natural and sustainable healthcare through the use of good science and good law"

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ANH-Intl also pointed out that over-arching EU health policies are missing their stated goals. The EU Strategy on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-Related Issues, for example, *“Has failed to deliver any benefit to the UK, or any other EU member state, in terms of reducing the incidence of overweight and obesity”*.

Additional questions were asked of the EU double standards that are declaring many genetically modified (GM) crops safe to eat, while denying citizens access to perfectly safe herbs and food supplements on grounds of public safety. Overall, *“EU policies seem to be more about protecting the interests of big businesses, rather than a genuine interest in consumer protection and wellbeing,”* ANH-Intl said in its consultation response.

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EDITOR’S NOTES

Download ANH-Intl’s response to the UK Department of Health consultation on the EU ‘balance of competence’ as a PDF: http://www.anh-europe.org/sites/default/files/130228_ANH_Intl_EU_competence_review.pdf