



NEW YEAR 2012 - UPDATE FROM IAF

Dear Ayurveda Associate Members of International Ayurveda Foundation, UK, India and Switzerland, many stakeholders and other experts,

Greetings from Praful Patel of International Ayurveda Foundation! *Firstly, may I, on behalf of International Ayurveda Foundation, wish you a Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful New Year..!*

When we wrote to you at Diwali on 18 October, we mentioned that we will issue an update about IAF's ongoing efforts to study in-depth the potential consequences of a legal challenge to THMPD. Obviously, we are being cautious and are involved in consultation with Barristers, our legal team and other experts who know more about this issue, particularly so regarding what transpired with an unsuccessful legal challenge to the EU's Food Supplements Directive (FSD) that was heard in the European Court of Justice in 2005.

We have been discussing key aspects of legal and political strategy with a number of our experts over the past couple of months. We have not reached any conclusions on the future course of legal action because our consultations are incomplete and we will know more about it in the new year.

As regards political strategy, we have been consulting our friend and well-wisher Paul Anthony Taylor, Executive Director of Dr. Rath Health Foundation, a non-profit NGO that carries out research work on scientifically based natural therapies and educational work in the area of health politics. <http://www.dr-rath-foundation.org/>. I also have had discussions with many of our active supporters. Based upon our discussions with Paul Anthony Taylor and others, the key strategic elements that we are currently considering and recommending to our stakeholders and other experts to embark on pursuing the ideas that Paul Anthony Taylor has outlined for 2012 which includes the following:

- Publication of online articles and press releases outlining:
 - Concerns re. the undemocratic structure of the European Union;

- The viability of natural and Ayurvedic therapies as a safe and effective means of healthcare to replace the current increasingly unaffordable and outdated pharma-orientated model;
- Concerns re. European Union legislation affecting natural and traditional system of medicine therapies, such as the THMPD;
- Ways in which politicians, and also ordinary people, can act to help bring about positive change.
- Organizing conferences and public meetings, as a means of bringing the above issues to greater awareness.
- Promoting the European Referendum Initiative <http://www.eu-referendum.org> and its three petitions – which have now been signed by over 250,000 people from all 27 European Union countries:
 - Referendum for Natural Remedies campaign http://www.eu-referendum.org/english/petitions/natural_remedies_info.html
 - Petition for a Europe for the People – by the People http://www.eu-referendum.org/english/petitions/europe_for_the_people_info.html
 - Reject the Lisbon Treaty campaign. http://www.eu-referendum.org/english/petitions/lisbon_info.html
- Promoting the World Health Alphabetization campaign. <http://www.wha-www.org> A key goal of this campaign is to bring about a greater global understanding of the fact that a chronic deficiency of micronutrients is the most frequent cause of today's most common diseases.
- Promotion of the fact that heart disease <http://www.why-animals-dont-get-heart-attacks.org> and cancer <http://www.victory-over-cancer.org> are now largely preventable and controllable without recourse to pharmaceuticals.
- Raising awareness and improving education at the global level through supporting the Call for a Movement of Life. <http://www.movement-of-life.org> A campaign for Health, Peace and Social Justice, its key goals are Health for All (i.e. ending global dependency upon patented drugs and eradicating diseases); Food for All (i.e. ending the GMO madness and fighting world hunger; and Energy for All (i.e. ending the global dependency on oil and bringing about a change to renewable energy).

Finally, in view of the European Union's ongoing legislative attacks on natural therapies, we see it as a particularly positive development that the United Kingdom chose to veto the proposed new treaty at the EU summit in Brussels earlier this month. As the euro crisis continues to evolve, and with protests against the European Union becoming increasingly commonplace around Europe, it is starting to look increasingly likely that some countries may ultimately exit the single currency – and perhaps even the EU itself. In our opinion, the breaking up of the EU, and its redesign in the interests of its people, with their democratic consent and support, would undoubtedly be in the interests of Ayurveda and TSMs. Henceforth, therefore, we shall be throwing our hats in the ring with those who advocate it. The IAF wishes to express their gratitude to Paul Anthony Taylor of Dr. Rath Foundation and we confirm that we are willing to work with like-minded organisations throughout the European Union to take this legal and political challenge further. If any of the stakeholders need our advice, please do not hesitate to write to us.

This update also appears on the website of IAF: www.iaf-ngo.org.

With all our good wishes.

Praful Patel

General Secretary, IAF