

Folketingets Sundhedsudvalg



Folketingets Sundhedsudvalg har den 22. januar 2010 stillet følgende spørgsmål nr. 296 (Alm. del) til ministeren for sundhed og forebyggelse, som hermed besvares. Spørgsmålet er stillet efter ønske fra Sophie Hæstorp Andersen (S) .

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Spørgsmål nr. 296:

'Vil ministeren sikre, at den danske regering er med til at rejse kritik af WHO's manglende åbenhed om økonomiske interesser i forbindelse med eksperter, der deltager i rådgivende udvalg om vaccine og beslutninger om, hvornår en given pandemi må anses for værende alvorlig og kræver større åbenhed i WHO?'

Dato:  
Sags nr.: 1000768  
Sagsbeh.: hek/SJUC  
Dok nr.: 176007

Svar:

Jeg henviser til mit svar af 18. december 2009 på §20 spørgsmål nr. S 638 stillet af Per Clausen (EL) den 15. december 2009, hvori der blev spurgt, om jeg vil arbejde for, at sammensætningen af alle WHO's rådgivende komiteer er offentlige, og at medlemmernes eventuelle forbindelser til medicinalindustrien også fremgår tydeligt.

Jeg gav i mit svar udtryk for, at vi fra dansk side naturligvis går ind for transparens og åbenhed i videst muligt omfang, både for så vidt hvem som rådgiver WHO's generaldirektør og disse rådgiveres interesser.

Jeg tilkendegav samtidig, at jeg havde til hensigt at bede WHO om en skriftlig redegørelse for den nuværende praksis vedrørende offentliggørelse af de rådgivende komitéers medlemmer og disse medlemmers interesseerklæringer, samt at jeg på baggrund af denne redegørelse ville overveje, om der er behov for yderligere tiltag.

Jeg har efterfølgende rettet skriftlig henvendelse til WHO's generaldirektør og bedt om en skriftlig redegørelse for den nuværende praksis. Jeg vedlægger til udvalgets orientering en kopi af dette brev.

Med venlig hilsen

Jakob Axel Nielsen / Helle Krarup

## Minister for Health and Prevention

Director General  
Margaret Chan  
World Health Organization  
Avenue Appia 20  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland



Dear Dr. Chan,

Fortunately, the course of the influenza A (H1N1) pandemic has not been as severe as we could have feared neither in Denmark nor in most other parts of the world, where the virus has hit as epidemics. It is my impression that you and your Organization handled the influenza A situation in a most responsible way in light of the information available during the course of time.

Nevertheless this very positive fact has in Denmark been accompanied by speculations among politicians and in the media concerning the interests embodied in the committees advising the WHO when responding to the pandemic. Specifically, some parliamentarians and newspapers have questioned the reasons for declaring phase 6 – which activated the vaccine guarantees in many countries – and speculated about possible links between the WHO and the pharmaceutical industry in this connection. However, we fully agree that by definition the world has an influenza pandemic with A(H1N1).

I welcome the WHO press release of 3 December 2009 which sums up the current practice concerning the use of expert committees in the WHO when responding to the influenza A pandemic. On the basis of this press release and pursuant to informal dialogue between my Ministry and your Organization (WHO principal legal officer Steven Solomon) I rest assured that the current practice concerning expert committees, the use of declarations of interests and nondisclosure of the composition of expert committees in general and the Emergency Committee in particular is based on thorough consideration and good reasons.

However, I also understand that these issues have not been subject to any debate or decision within the WHO governing bodies. On this background I would kindly encourage you to present a review of the current practice concerning the WHO's use of expert committees, declarations of interests and the question of whether or not the composition of expert committees (including the Emergency Committee) should be made public. I believe that getting these issues out in the open will further strengthen the WHO and dismantle speculations of the kind I have referred to above.

Please receive my best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

  
Jakob Axel Nielsen

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