

Open letter to the management and auctioneers of the NESTLÉ corporation:

„Reckless profiteering”

Open letter to NESTLÉ general meeting

On April 10, 2008 an open letter of trustees of „ethecon – foundation for ethics & economy” (Berlin) will be transmitted to the NESTLÉ general meeting. In the Open letter to the management and auctioneers of NESTLÉ which belongs to the „Black Planet Award 2007”, the corporation is accused of „profiteering” through „reckless enforcement of genetic engineering and the acquirement of natural groceries such as water”. The open ends with an appeal: „Secure social justice and human rights within your own corporation and around it. Save the ecology and creation.”

The „Black Planet Award 2007” was symbolically received by the teenager Sandra Ujpétery from Switzerland after the defamatory speech by Mr. Prof. Erich Schöndorf at the foundation’s meeting „economical criminality” in Berlin on 1st December, 2007.

Sandra Ujpétery is the representative of the organisation NescaFAIR which organised protests against the NESTLÉ corporation in Switzerland in order to achieve fair coffee prices for the producers in Third World countries.

Within the scope of this action, more than 4000 protest signatures were collected. On 19 December, Sanda Ujpétery took the prize to the general office of the NESTLÉ corporation in Vevey/Switzerland. Various action groups, including international ones, took part in this action, such as

- > International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN)
- > NescaFAIR
- > attac-Organisationen from Switzerland and Germany
- > MultiWatch

The counterpart to the „Black Planet Award” is the „Blue Planet Award”, an original artwork by ZERO legend Otto Piene. The „Blue Planet Award 2007” winner was the Indian quantum physicist Dr. Vandana Shiva, globalisation critic and Alternative Nobel Prize winner.

For more information please contact: Hubert Ostendorf (ethecon management),
(0)211/921628

www.ethecon.org

The Open Letter to the Management and Auctioneers

of the NESTLÉ corporation in exact wording

Dear Mrs. Bettencourt,

dear Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe,

dear auctioneers,

dear managers,

on 1st December, 2007 the international defamatory prize „Black Planet Award” of the year 2007 was awarded in the scope of a public meeting of our foundation. The auctioneers and managers of your corporation were the winners.

Our foundation based its decision on the facts which have been known in the international public for years, on the information collected by countless groups and organisations and not least on the material published by your corporation. Among the sources there are famous internationally active organisations such as attac and the correspondent of the United Nations for the Right to Food.

In summary, „ethecon – foundation for ethics & economy” states the following reasons for its decision:

The aggressive business strategy of your corporation conveys the capitally rested power of global companies and the ecological and socio-economic results connected with it. The NESTLÉ corporation is one of the leading representatives of a profit system based on the exploitation of man and environment.

As a globally leading food corporations headquartered in Vevey/Switzerland your corporation produces and markets on every part of the world. Hereby human rights and ethic agreements are constantly treated with contempt, social structures are damaged and environmental standards are neglected and the ecology is ruined in en masse.

Various incidents in different parts of the world stress the immorality of your corporation. Time and again NESTLÉ gets in trouble with organizations which fight against environmental destruction, unhealthy products and/or the deterioration of working conditions. From Columbia to Brazil, to the USA, to South Korea, to Russia, to China as well as all the way to Germany, France and England.

- For decades your corporation has been offended against the international codex for baby food and therefore is responsible for the death of infants, especially in Third World countries. The aggressive marketing of powdered milk products, especially in Third World countries is irresponsible!*
- Regarding profit maximization only, NESTLÉ derogates the social development of many countries. In particular, the corporation aggravates the work of trade unions so that employees in Columbia are forced to work under inhumane conditions.*
- NESTLÉ is part of those countries which industrialize and monopolize the food production and distribution by means of reckless enforcement of genetic engineering*

and the annexation of natural groceries like water. While MONSANTO manages the food production, NESTLÉ pursues the monopoly power in the matter of water.

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- *Although a stunning majority of farmers and consumers reject genetically engineered organisms all over the world, NESTLÉ still tries to enforce its genetically engineered food. This way NESTLÉ is not only a danger to world food, but it also threatens bio diversity, thus the livelihood of humanity.*

All in all, you, the management and the auctioneers backing you, are exemplarily responsible for the danger that our Blue Planet will become a „Black Planet”, an inhumane, a dead world. Hence, „ethecon – foundation for ethics & economy” internationally denounces your work by awarding you the ethecon defamatory „Black Planet Award” of the year 2007.

In order to avoid misunderstandings: ethecon is aware of the fact that there are auctioneers who actively stand up for human rights, ecology, peace and social justice on their general meetings, e.g. auctioneers who are untied in ACTARES. Of course these auctioneers are explicitly excluded from our allegations.

Other than that, we would like to add that the „Black Planet Award 2007” you, the auctioneers and the management of NESTLÉ are awarded, is combined with the „Blue Planet Award 2007” which went to the Alternative Nobel Prize winner Vandana Shiva. Contrary to you who endanger and ruin our Blue Planet irresponsibly, Mrs. Shiva puts herself out the preservation and the rescue of our Blue Planet.

We ask you to follow the example of people like Vandana Shiva by your personal commitment. Stop the exploitation and ruin of man and the environment by the NESTLÉ corporation. Ensure social justice and human rights in your corporation and around it. Preserve the ecology and creation. Use your money for ethic investments and solidary projects rather than profiteering according to what every Christian church in the world demands clearly and mutually in the unrestricted ecumenical „allying process of insight, learning and confessing (processus confessionis) / economic management in the service of life”.

This, combined with the „Black Planet Award 2007” is the call by the „ethecon foundation for ethics & economy” to you, the management and auctioneers of the NESTLÉ corporation.

Yours sincerely

Axel Köhler-Schnura