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28 April 2011

Claire Robinson, Earth Open Source
clairejr@sky.com

Dear Ms. Robinson,

The governing body of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), the SETAC World Council, found the recent April 2011 Earth Open Source article "Europe's pesticide and food safety regulators: Who do they work for?" to misrepresent SETAC and its Global Partners program in the portion on Theodoros Brock. Unfortunately Earth Open Source did not contact us before publishing the report; as a result, the Council would like to correct the record.

In addition to the organizations that are cited in your article as chemical and petrochemical company "partners" to SETAC, organizations from academia and government are Global Partners or Affiliates as well, such as Environment Canada, Defra in the United Kingdom, and the University of Michigan in the United States.

The funds that derive from SETAC's Global Partners and Affiliates provide memberships to students and scientists in developing countries, who might otherwise not be able to join SETAC, engage in the scientific forum it provides, or have access to the scientific literature that it publishes. In addition, such funding has allowed SETAC to provide electronic and face-to-face training for scientists in emerging economies, with the goals of reinforcing sound scientific principles and of building scientific capacity.

SETAC is a non-profit, worldwide professional society comprised of more than 5,500 individuals and institutions in over 90 countries. Its mission is to support the development of principles and practices for the protection, enhancement, and management of sustainable environmental quality and ecosystem integrity.

SETAC fulfills that mission by providing a forum where scientists, managers, and other professionals can exchange information and ideas. It is essential that such a forum offer open discussion among academicians, business and industry, and government and regulatory representatives if we are to facilitate educated decision- and policy-making. In SETAC's governance, meetings, workshops, and publications, every attempt is made to ensure that no one sector has undue influence.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide input for future reporting efforts, and we would hope that future references to SETAC by Earth Open Source would reflect more accurately the spirit and governance of a society that works hard across sectors to bring the best science possible to the global environmental challenge and discussion.

Sincerely,

Paul van den Brink
President

Michael C. Mozur
Executive Director