

Alleged Nestlé refusal to substantiate its claims

Nestlé communicates regularly and transparently with relevant authorities about its marketing practices and about the properties of our products. Nestlé considers it not useful to take part in events designed as mock trials where considered dialogue is not possible.

Analyst Reviews

To the contrary of the allegation that Nestlé received a poor score from the Global Accountability report from One World Trust, in fact Nestlé received the highest grade for transparency among all the transnational companies in the study⁵. This grade was also substantially higher than the average transparency rating obtained by those intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations included in the review.

The GMI Poll showed that along with Nestlé, several brands were widely boycotted. The most boycotted were generally the largest companies with the greatest visibility of which Nestlé is one. Many other analytical institutes have investigated Nestlé and our business practices and given us high ratings. GlobeScan, one of the world leading agencies specialised in the survey and rating of global reputation of institutions and corporations, reported that in the developing world Nestlé is viewed as one of the leading companies in corporate social responsibility: positive consumer ratings outnumber negative ratings 9 to 1. African consumers in particular are among the most likely to rate Nestlé's social responsibility performance positively.

Other institutes have also rated us highly. Nestlé is a member of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index since 2004. Storebrand SRI found Nestlé best in class in environmental social performance. In a study carried out by Oekom Research in 2004, Nestlé came 2nd out of 32 companies in corporate responsibility. Innovest Strategic Value Advisors gave Nestlé an AA rating (4th out of 25).

We appreciate the possibility to inform you of the background of these allegations. We consider it inappropriate that they keep resurfacing even after we have investigated and responded to them. These old allegations consistently come from a single source and we feel that it is less and less useful to respond directly, as our doing so only seems to encourage more of the same. Of course if a new allegation arises, we will certainly investigate and respond directly.

Since you were copied on the original letter, we did feel it important to give you our reaction to these allegations. If you would wish further clarification, we would be pleased to discuss with you.

Thank you for consideration

Best Regards,

**Signature obscured
for security reasons**

Gayle Crozier Willi, PhD

⁵ http://www.oneworldtrust.org/?display=index_2006_briefing_paper