

## LE DOMANDE DI REPORT E LE RISPOSTE DELL'OMS

**From:** "[CG] Redazione Report" <[REDAZIONE REPORT]>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 15 December 2020 at 10:10  
**To:** WHO/Europe Press Office <[WHO EUROPE PRESS OFFICE]>  
**Cc:** "STERN, Gabriella" <[STERN GABRIELLA]>, mediainquiries <[MEDIAINQUIRIES]>, "LINDMEIER, Christian" <[LINDMEIER CHRISTIAN]>  
**Subject:** [EXT] R: WHO response

Dear WHO Europe Press Office,

I thank you for your kind reply.

I will copy HQ Media Inquiries, Christian Lindmeier and Gabriella Stern, since my questions to Dr. Soumya Swaminathan were not answered and involve a wider level of responsibility which affects the whole WHO and especially Dr Tedros and Dr Swaminathan.

I will be glad if HQ will reply on what is related to HQ - and EURO on what concerns EURO.

I hereby inform you that we are preparing a new segment with additional evidence. A detailed response to the following questions will be of great help both for our work and for WHO reputation.

1 - You write that the report was removed because "it contained inaccuracies and inconsistencies."

**-Can you please mention exactly what inaccuracies and inconsistencies?**

2 – I have examined a HQ PRC meeting summary (dated May 11, 2020) and a Euro "approval for web an printing" signed by Dr Dorit Nitzan and Catherine Smallwood. They don't mention these errors.

**-Is it correct to state that PRC and EURO regional office didn't conduct their work accurately? Why these alleged inaccuracies where not properly detected by the reviewers?**

3 – **What is the current status of all the other documents approved by Publications Review Committee until May 15 (since the beginning of 2020)?**

**-If we are to consider the previous review mechanism ineffective, are the other approved documents still online and available or have they been put offline for review?**

4 - This is extremely relevant and will be shared to other international media outlets.

I have examined an internal e-mail dated May 11, 2020 - 11:51AM that clearly shows that Mr. Ranieri Guerra pushed researcher Francesco Zambon to falsify the date of our national pandemic prevention plan, pointing the date of last website update (2016) instead of the actual date of the national plan (2006). I have personally conducted a metadata analysis on the date of the plan, double-checked by a cybersecurity expert. There is no doubt that Italian pandemic plan is from 2006.

Also: in September 2017 Mr Ranieri Guerra (at that time DG Prevention at Italian MoH) wrote a letter to then Minister of Health admitting the national plan was still following 2005 WHO guidelines and needed an update. Therefore also on a subjective level he was well aware of the

actual date of the plan. This letter is now public.

Furthermore: the May 11, 2020 - 11:51 AM letter to Zambon contains aggressive language and boasts an involvement of Dr. Swaminathan: "Non fatemi casino su questo."(...) "Adesso blocca tutto con Soumya. Fammi avere la versione rivista appena puoi. Così non può uscire. Per favore niente ca[redacted]e". "Don't mess with me on this."(...) "I'm going to block everything with Soumya now. Get me the revised version as soon as you can. As it is, it can't be published. Please no bu[redacted]t."

4.1 The aforementioned behaviour apparently configures Misconduct and Falsification\* according to WHO Code of conduct for responsible Research. Furthermore Mr Guerra seemingly abuses his power as he attempts to block a publication without being in formal charge of the approval. Moreover Mr Guerra attempted to modify a research that covered also his work as DG Prevention 2014-2017 in Italy, being in conflict of interests.

**-Why has WHO not implemented sanctions on Mr. Ranieri Guerra yet?**

4.2 According to a number of internal e-mails that I examined, Mr. Guerra purported Dr. Swaminathan cooperation in providing him the document and delaying the final draft: "Appena mi rimandi provvedo alla clearance con Soumya che ho visto poco fa e a cui ho chiesto indulgenza per qualche ora" - "As soon as you send me back (*the revised document*), I will manage the clearance with Soumya who I saw just now and to whom I asked indulgence for a few hours".

**-To what extent Dr Swaminathan knew of the falsification requested by Mr Guerra to Dr Francesco Zambon?**

**-What measures did she take after the withdrawal of the report to assess what had happened to the document?**

**-How did Dr Swaminathan deal with a request of stopping a document from Guerra, a staff not in charge of the approval?**

**- Did any other HQ PRC member assess the reasons that led to the removal?**

5 I have examined an e-mail sent on May 28, 2020 from Dr Zambon to Dr Tedros and at least two other recipients informing Dr Tedros of "impeded key lessons learnt from Italy on COVID19 response to reach countries in need, preventing lives to be saved and WHO liability related to that" (...) "withdrawal of WHO publication" approved, "threats of dismissal". According to a number of sources I have contacted, Dr Tedros never replied nor take action.

This seemingly amounts to a cover-up.

I have gathered evidence that also Ethics and Office of Oversight have been informed of the facts.

**-Why Dr. Tedros as WHO DG did not take action (or ensured the dedicated departments take action) despite paragraphs 12, 87, 125 and 128 of the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct?**

**-Is it correct to state that so far no internal control mechanism verified either that Dr Zambon reported malicious and unfounded allegations or that the reported misconducts actually did occur, thus issuing the appropriate disciplinary measures?**

6 – Mr. Ranieri Guerra mentions 10 million EUR of voluntary funding from Italy to WHO in this year and zero funds in the past 6 years. **Can you please detail all the funding (both assessed and voluntary) received from Italian government, Italian regions or any other Italian governmental body in the past 6 years?**

7 – You stated that Mr Guerra spoke with Bergamo’s public prosecutor in his personal capacity. **Can you confirm that Mr Ranieri Guerra received from WHO an allowance “for duty travel” for his travel from Milan to Bergamo on Nov.5, 2020?**

Due to our airing schedule, I kindly ask you a thorough and exhaustive response to the above questions within Thursday Dec. 17, 10 am CET,  
In case of a less than satisfactory response to these legitimate questions, we will report the same questions and all of the above facts to the Executive Board.

Best regards,

Cataldo Ciccolella  
Report – Rai3

\*Misconduct - any improper action by a staff member in his official capacity; any conduct by a staff member, unconnected with his official duties, tending to bring the Organization into public discredit; any improper use or attempt to make use of his position as an official for his personal advantage; any conduct contrary to the terms of his oath or declaration.

Wrongdoing in research - intentional, fraudulent or grossly negligent behaviour such as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, deliberate misrepresentation or other practices by a staff member or collaborator that seriously deviate from this Code

Falsification - deliberate manipulation of data to change, or omit data, including the deceptive manipulation of images

**Da:** WHO/Europe Press Office [mailto: ]

**Inviato:** giovedì 17 dicembre 2020 17:09

**A:** [CG] Redazione Report < >

**Cc:** WHO/Europe Press Office < >

**Oggetto:** Re: [EXT] R: WHO response

Dear Cataldo,

Please see below. We are replying to your questions as relevant to WHO.

1 - You write that the report was removed because “it contained inaccuracies and inconsistencies.”

**-Can you please mention exactly what inaccuracies and inconsistencies?**

There were inaccuracies in data as well as inconsistencies with regards to working methods and conditions for clearance.

2 – I have examined a HQ PRC meeting summary (dated May 11, 2020) and a Euro “approval for web printing” signed by Dr Dorit Nitzan and Catherine Smallwood. They don’t mention these errors.

**-Is it correct to state that PRC and EURO regional office didn’t conduct their work accurately? Why these alleged inaccuracies were not properly detected by the reviewers?**

No. Inaccuracies and inconsistencies and the need for data verification had been flagged by reviewers and clearance was contingent on these being addressed by the author. It is the author's responsibility to ensure the data and evidence have been vetted and that they are correct.

**3 – What is the current status of all the other documents approved by Publications Review Committee until May 15 (since the beginning of 2020)?**

**If we are to consider the previous review mechanism ineffective, are the other approved documents still online and available or have they been put offline for review?**

The review mechanism applied by the Publications Review Committee (PRC) to the document in question was a fast-track review, which excludes verification of data. The authors were asked to verify data and amend inaccuracies. The report was not reviewed again before it was published.

**Regarding your questions 4 (for 5 see above):**

WHO has internal mechanisms to address differences of opinion between its staff members and to review allegations made by or against them. WHO cannot comment on personnel matters or any of the issues you mention, as these are subject to strict confidentiality.

**6 – Mr. Ranieri Guerra mentions 10 million EUR of voluntary funding from Italy to WHO in this year and zero funds in the past 6 years. Can you please detail all the funding (both assessed and voluntary) received from Italian government, Italian regions or any other Italian governmental body in the past 6 years?**

The 10 million EUR were Italy's contribution to the global Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19. For Italy's contributions to WHO, see: <http://open.who.int/2020-21/contributors/contributor?name=Italy>

**7 – You stated that Mr Guerra spoke with Bergamo's public prosecutor in his personal capacity. Can you confirm that Mr Ranieri Guerra received from WHO an allowance "for duty travel" for his travel from Milan to Bergamo on Nov.5, 2020?**

Mr Guerra's meeting with the public prosecutor was not related to his work for WHO and WHO was not aware of it. We understand from external sources that Mr Zambon has now spoken with the Prosecutor in his personal capacity.

Kind regards  
WHO/Europe Press Office