



**Hervé J. Nordmann**

As a veterinarian by training, food production and nutrition have been driving factors in his professional choice. After a Ph.D. in human pharmacology, on the prevention of CVI (Chronic Venous Insufficiency) by plant extracts, he was trained in the chemical industry (agri & pharma) as a recognized expert in toxicology. This is where he started to think in terms of Risk and Benefit for the population as a whole. . In the industry the job cannot be politically influenced as it represents what is closest to the values and ethics of the company. The use of animals in research triggered enormous debates in the early eighties. This forced him to think about ethical aspects and to take a moral approach to the utilitarian use of living beings for the progress of science and for the safety of man and nature. For the past twenty years he has been responsible for the scientific and regulatory aspects within the food sector of an international company, specialized in the production of food ingredients and additives for animal and human use.

The strong link between science and public relations in food issues has added a further dimension to his understanding of communication, and the role of the media in particular. In certain circumstances, major ethical concerns have once again emerged which have been linked with the introduction of new products or new technologies. Due to the weaknesses in risk communication a very high price has been paid i.e. a loss in consumer's trust.

During the course of these activities he has built up an extensive net of relationships and friendships among scientists, members of the medical and nutritional community, civil servants of regulatory agencies, politicians, MPs and MEPs, representatives of the food industry who are part of many industrial associations, and members of international organizations like WHO, FAO, WTO, Codex Alimentarius, ILSI (International Life Science Institute) and ICD. This has taken place during repeated visits to over eighty countries. He is presently the chairman of ICD (Industry Council for Development) and he is also chairing the "Nutrition and Public Health" task force of ILSI Europe.