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BSEF is concerned about scientific credibility in WWF-Greenpeace Report

In response to a report published by WWF and Greenpeace, "A Present for Life", BSEF has so far been unable to obtain sufficient scientific data from the sponsors to assess their claims. BSEF has questions with regard to the report, the study's protocols and the method used in analyzing the data. For instance:

- why, of the 91 volunteers engaged, were only 42 samples reported?
- why is it reported that there were 35 chemicals tested for but only 8 were identified in the report? Were the 27 others not present?
- why do the Greenpeace press release and the study's accompanying "Factsheets" specifically refer to certain brominated flame retardants which do not appear to have been found in the study? It is especially noteworthy that Deca-BDE was evidently not found in any samples, thus contradicting the focus on Deca-BDE in the communications supporting the study.

"BSEF is concerned that when any organization makes claims based on scientific research, this information is made publicly available, clear and transparent" states Dr Ray Dawson, BSEF Chairman. "All studies, whether funded by industry or NGOs, need to follow basic scientific methodology."

With reference to the finding of the flame retardant TBBPA mentioned in the study's Executive Summary, of the 27 samples tested, only one was found with traces (0.05 ng/g) of TBBPA. TBBPA helps to provide increased resistance to fire of internal parts in most electronics goods on the market today. The low level of the finding would normally need to be confirmed as it is approaching the levels of what is feasible to be detected. TBBPA has been subject to an intense EU risk assessment which has concluded that it is safe for human health.

After the publication of the WWF-Greenpeace report, the BBC can be commended for the integrity of seeking external expert advice. The news organization quoted Professor Andrew Shennan who stated: "*It's not something to be alarmed about. These substances have probably been around for years and years.*"

For additional information:

www.bsef.com

[BBC Report on the WWF-Greenpeace action](#)

[Information on biomonitoring](#)

BSEF is the international organisation of the bromine chemical industry, whose remit is to inform stakeholders and commission science on brominated chemicals such as flame retardants.