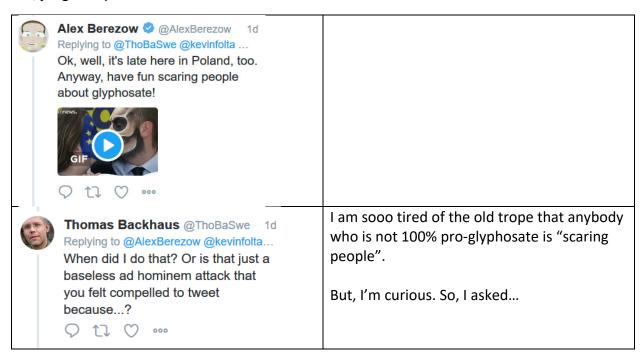
The following pages document the discussion that I had on 14-15th of June 2018 with an Alex Berezow from the "American Council of Science and Health" (ACSH). The exchange did not only end up with Berezow contacting various journal editors (he did not reveal which ones), in order to defame me see http://www.thomasbackhaus.eu/my-rampant-financial-conflicts-of-interest/

It also sparked a long and broad discussion on twitter with quite a few people involved. I therefore can't really list all tweets that were going back and forth between various participants. It's practically impossible to put them into a chronological order and an appropriate context without generating an unmanageable long document. So here is just the main discussion between Berezow and myself. Of course, all tweets related to the subject are available on twitter itself.

For me, Berezow's strategy is clear. First an attempt to ridicule me by asserting that "I have fun scaring people about glyphosate", with a cute little video attached to his tweet. As soon as I call him out, he fails to back-up his claim. Berezow then switches immediately to an almost classic intimidation tactic by going after my reputation. By accusing me to be paid off by... Yeah, well... I honestly still don't know by whom.

But, judge for yourself:





Alex Berezow @ @AlexBerezow 1d Replying to @ThoBaSwe @kevinfolta ...

Ummmm.... it's not an ad hominem attack to point out things you've actually done and said. So, let's get started!

thomasbackhaus.eu/glyphosate-









Berezow links to one of my blogposts on glyphosate at

http://www.thomasbackhaus.eu/glyphosatea-stupid-comparison-of-toxicity-data/



Alex Berezow @ @AlexBerezow Replying to @AlexBerezow @ThoBaSw... Here's more!



Berezow tweets the following two screenshots from two of my tweets from



Here is the #Glyphosate story in English, by @POLITICOEurope

politi.co/2ACZi6K



Thomas Backhaus @ThoBaSwe German Environmental Minister railroaded by the Minister for Food & Agriculture, in order to switch the German vote on the #glyphosate re-authorization to a "yes"....

And:





Thomas Backhaus @ThoBaSwe 1d Replying to @AlexBerezow @kevinfolta...

Mhh... Any of that information factually wrong? I mean, those are official labels, used by the producers themselves. So, where did I try to scare people?







Simple question.

But obviously too hard to answer, as can be seen in Berezow's reaction-



Alex Berezow @ @AlexBerezow Replying to @ThoBaSwe @kevinfolta ...

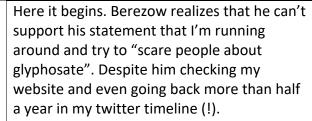
Here's a more interesting question: Why do your scientific publications fail to disclose the fact that you're an environmental consultant?

fb-envico.com









So, in an almost classical move, he's switching to attacking my reputation.

I am trying to call him out and get the discussion back to glyphosate.



Thomas Backhaus @ThoBaSwe Replying to @AlexBerezow @kevinfolta...

Nice evasion. So, again: where did I try to scare people about #glyphosate?









Alex Berezow

@AlexBerezow

Replying to @ThoBaSwe @kevinfolta @zaruk

It's not an evasion. It's now an interrogation. And I'm going to follow-up with the journals to find out why your very obvious conflict of interest hasn't been disclosed.

12:22am · 14 Jun 2018 · Twitter Web Client

Didn't work. Obviously, Berezow has now appointed himself as my prosecutor.



Thomas Backhaus @ThoBaSwe 1d Replying to @AlexBerezow @kevinfolta... Knock yourself out.

But ok, so you can't back up your accusation that I "scare people about glyphosate". Noted.







My conclusion regarding our glyphosate debate.



Here's a more interesting question: Why do your scientific publications fail to disclose the fact that you're an environmental consultant?

fb-envico.com







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Berezow keeps on coming. Not about glyphosate, mind you.



Alex Berezow @ @AlexBerezow 1d Replying to @AlexBerezow @ThoBaSw...

This is interesting. You're an environmental consultant. But you don't mention this in any of the scientific articles that you write... even one that is explicitly about conflicts of interest. Now, that's interesting.

ehp.niehs.nih.gov/EHP644/



One has to give it to him, he is certainly persistent...



Thomas Backhaus @ThoBaSwe 1d Replying to @AlexBerezow @kevinfolta...

Again, not true. Here's my latest Col declaration, if you're interested peerj.com/manuscripts/28...









I link to a recent letter to an editor, which is currently online as a preprint

(https://peerj.com/manuscripts/28375/)

And, given that the topic indeed is partly also about undisclosed conflicts of interest, I have of course provided an extensive declaration of interest

https://peerj.com/manuscripts/28375/files/5 37119/download/?rid=55926 . As have all my co-authors.



Alex Berezow @ @AlexBerezow 1d Replying to @ThoBaSwe @kevinfolta ...

You've been a consultant since at least 2014. Yet, your conflict of interest isn't mentioned here: ehp.niehs.nih.gov/EHP644/

Or here:

sciencedirect.com/science/articl...

Berezow links to the two following papers:

- 1) https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/ehp644/ which is on the risk assessment of food contact materials
- 2) https://www.sciencedirect.com/scien ce/article/pii/S0160412015000288 on planetary boundaries for chemical pollution.

Two guick comments: I have never been doing any consultancy work that was related to food contact materials, not even for a governmental authority. And how writing a review on the topic of planetary boundaries should relate to financial conflicts of interest of any sort is completely beyond me.



Thomas Backhaus @ThoBaSwe Replying to @AlexBerezow @kevinfolta...

What kind of conflict of interest am I supposed to have there? Certainly not a financial one... So?









So I thought I'd ask...



Alex Berezow @ @AlexBerezow Replying to @ThoBaSwe @kevinfolta ...

Oh.... so, you do your environmental consulting for free?









Ok, so Berezow is insisting that it is a financial conflict of interest...



Thomas Backhaus @ThoBaSwe 1d Replying to @AlexBerezow @kevinfolta...

I won't honor that with an answer. But where's the "conflict"?









I still don't get it, so I keep on asking...



Alex Berezow @ @AlexBerezow 21m Replying to @ThoBaSwe @ksenapathy ...

You have an undisclosed financial conflict of interest. That's a big problem. And two of the editors I've contacted told me they're investigating the matter. That's not intimidation; that's holding a scientist accountable for conflicts of interest.

But (not surprising anymore), Berezow doesn't actually have an answer for me.

Instead he repeats a baseless accusation and tries to hammer it home as a fact. For the audience, I guess.



Thomas Backhaus @ThoBaS... 17m Replying to @AlexBerezow @ksenapat...

No I don't and hence it isn't. You simply try to defame people that you don't agree with.

I've already asked you yesterday, and you couldn't even explain what you actually mean. If you'd really be interested in facts, you'd have continued the conversation directly with me.







Intimidation tactics 1-0-1



Alex Berezow @ @AlexBerezow 21m Replying to @ThoBaSwe

Keep tweeting. I'm screencapping. Two of the editors I spoke with are investigating your financial conflict of interest. This won't help your case.









Thomas Backhaus @ThoBaS... 15m Replying to @AlexBerezow

Sorry, intimidation tactics won't work. Call me out on facts, and I'm happy to discuss and perhaps revise my standpoint. But bullying...? Not so much.

But sure, and editor worth his/her salt will investigate. That's their job.

Typo. Should be "...any editor worth his/her salt".