



Volargne (VR) March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Ms. Loiseau,

**A.St.A. WORLD-WIDE** is the International Association of Engineered Stones Manufacturers. Our association is aimed at promoting the development and progress of its Members Industries, and supporting the qualification of operators, industries and their products and services.

**A.St.A. WORLD-WIDE** assists, safeguards and represents its Member Industries when facing issues regarding them directly or indirectly, promoting mutual collaboration among its Members.

With regards to the article "*Les plans de cuisine en quartz de synthèse sont-ils dangereux?*" published on your online publication [60 Millions de Consommateurs](#) on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, I would like to state the following:

- You are publishing wrong and devious information.
- The use of agglomerated stone products, or synthetic quartz products as you mention in your article, is absolutely safe and implies no health risk whatsoever for the end user, neither for the professional stonemason as long as the stonemasons respect the fabrication recommendations established in the Good Practice Guides established by each manufacturer.
- Agglomerated stone products of all A.St.A. Members comply with the NSF requirements and hold the NSF certification for direct contact of the material with food ([www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)).
- The information you publish mentions analysis undertaken for Mr. Philippe Ledrans by the company IRES. About these studies undertaken by IRES we consider that:
  - The tests are not implemented independently. The results are false, malicious and not objective.
  - This analysis responds to personal interests, which are not related to the material.
  - The tests have not been undertaken under adequate conditions.
    - The materials have not been tested in their daily use, but in extreme conditions, which do not correspond to the normal use of the product.
    - The extraction of the samples material was done with a metallic hammer and a metallic chisel, which can have produced the contamination, being this procedure not adequate.

I remain available to answer any future information request you may need.

Yours sincerely,

Pierpaolo Tassone,  
**A.St.A. WORLD-WIDE Director**  
via del Marmo 919 - 37020  
Volargne - Verona (Italy)  
[info@astaworldwide.com](mailto:info@astaworldwide.com)  
[www.astaworldwide.com](http://www.astaworldwide.com)