

Assessment of the interests declared pursuant to Article 13(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the EFSA Management Board

The present note provides an assessment on whether the interests newly declared by Board members before their 76th meeting represent a potential conflict in accordance with EFSA's internal rules and Code of Conduct. Based on this assessment, the Board should reach a conclusion and where appropriate recommend a follow-up.

The following evaluation concerns newly declared interests. The advice takes into account the employment and activities of the member, his/her role in the Board and the responsibilities of the Board in view of the fact that, in terms of impact on EFSA's business, it primarily looks at the regularity of the appointment and selection processes of EFSA's Scientific Committee or Panels and of EFSA's outsourcing programmes.

If an identified conflict that is substantially affecting the work of the Board or EFSA's reputation is not resolved by the proposed assessment and a member of the Board is not fulfilling his/her obligations in relation to independence in such a manner that this is substantially affecting the work of the Board, the Board, acting on a two-thirds majority, may ask for his or her replacement¹.

Robert Van Gorcom

DoI submission date: 18 December 2017

New declared interest: Coordination of statutory tasks at the Wageningen University & Research, from January 2017.

Assessment: Since January 2017, Mr Van Gorcom is engaged in the coordination of all statutory tasks at the Wageningen University & Research. Among others, he represents the statutory tasks within the Board of Directors and towards the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. He also performs interviews of the heads of statutory task units. This interest had already been declared orally in occasion of the Management Board meeting held on 12 Dec. 2017. Mr Van Gorcom carries out this activity in favour of a public institution (also in EFSA's Art. 36 list of organisations) and in the public interest. In addition, this relates to a wide range of areas not always directly related to those falling in EFSA's remit. Hence, it is unlikely that this interest may lead to a conflict of interest, but as a precautionary approach, it is suggested that the Board re-examines its relevance to assess whether specific conflicts may exist when it discusses EFSA's outsourcing programmes (scientific).

¹ Article 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Management Board.

Michael Winter

DoI submission date: 19 February 2018

New declared interest: Chief food safety officer at the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture since March 2018.

Assessment: In accordance with the conclusions reached by the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture's Conference held in Sept. 2017, as of March 2018 Mr Winter covers the role of Chief food safety officer. The German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture is Mr Winter's employing organisation, for which he performs activities in the public interest. Hence, it is unlikely that this interest may lead to a conflict of interest, but as a precautionary approach, it is suggested that the Board re-examines its relevance to assess whether specific conflicts may exist when it discusses EFSA's outsourcing programmes (scientific).

Didier Houssin

DoI submission date: 20 February 2018

New declared interest: End of employment at the University Paris-Descartes and at the Greater Paris University Hospitals. Past consultancy in favour of the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office.

Assessment: Mr Houssin's employment at the University Paris-Descartes and at the Greater Paris University Hospitals ended in Sept. 2017. A new consultancy was provided to the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office in relation to the assessment of the health system transformation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This activity does not highlight any conflict with the overall mandate of EFSA and of its Management Board, since it was carried out in favour of an international organisation and in the public interest.

Annex:

- DoI Robert Van Gorcom
- DoI Michael Winter
- DoI Didier Hooussin