

Declaration of interests

(Please note that high quality of scientific expertise is by nature based on prior experience and that therefore having an interest does not necessarily mean having a conflict of interest)

Name : **Sebastian HIELM**

Title: **DR.**

Profession : **Head of Department**

Current EFSA Involvements

- Management Board (2022-2026)

Interests

I. Financial investments

No interests

II. Managerial role

No interests

III. Member of a scientific advisory entity

Period: **01/10/2017 - now**

Organisation: National Nutrition Council (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)

Impact on annual earnings: **0%**

Subject matter: In 2017-2020, I chaired the National Nutrition Council (continuing as vice-chair 2020-2023, and member 2023-2026), a horizontal body of 20 nutrition scientists and experts.

The Council takes an active part in the formation of our national nutrition policy, mainly by issuing dietary guidelines for the general population as well as for more specific groups.

Interest related to close family member: **No**

IV. Employment

Period: **01/08/2016 - now**

Organisation: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Government, Finland

Impact on annual earnings: **>25%**

Subject matter: I work full time as Food Safety Director, heading the Finnish government's Food safety unit, with a staff of 16. I am responsible for elaborating national food and feed safety policies, through the elaboration of EU and national legislation.

Duties also include steering of the Finnish Food Authority, which sees to the practical implementation of the food and feed safety legislation, including nutrition policies.

Interest related to close family member: **No**

Period: **01/01/2026 - now**

Organisation: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Government, Finland

Impact on annual earnings: **>25%**

Subject matter: I work full time as the Head of the Ministry's Food and Research Department, formed at the beginning of 2026, with a staff of 60. Among other duties, I am responsible for elaborating national food and feed safety policies, through the elaboration of EU and national legislation. Duties also include steering of the Finnish Food Authority, which sees to the practical implementation of the food and feed safety legislation, including nutrition policies.

Interest related to close family member: **No**

V. Occasional consultancy

No interests

VI. Research funding

No interests

VII. Intellectual property rights

No interests

VIII. Other memberships or affiliations

No interests

IX. Other relevant interest

Period: **01/08/2016 - now**

Organisation: Codex Alimentarius Commission

Impact on annual earnings: **0%**

Subject matter: Chairman of the Finnish delegation to the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Chairmanship of the Finnish delegation to the Codex Alimentarius Committee on Food Hygiene.

Member elected on geographical basis in the Codex Executive Committee (since 2022).

Interest related to close family member: **No**

Period: **01/08/2016 - now**

Organisation: The Nordic Council of Ministers

Impact on annual earnings: **0%**

Subject matter: Head of the Finnish delegation on food issues (ÄK-Livs) to the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Interest related to close family member: **No**

User Agreement

I confirm that:

- I think I do not have a conflict of interest with respect to my activity(ies) at EFSA
- ~~I think I have a conflict of interest with respect to my activity(ies) at EFSA~~

Remarks: -

I hereby declare that I have read the [EFSA Decision on Competing Interest Management](#) implementing EFSA's Policy on Independence and that the above declaration is truthful and complete.

Doi submitted on: 15-01-2026 - 10:41 (UTC)

Note regarding the processing of personal data

EFSA processes all Declarations of Interests (DoIs) in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. DoI processing is necessary in order to safeguard the independence of EFSA and enable the Authority to carry out its mission and comply with its obligations under Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.

The Executive Director of EFSA is the data controller with respect to the handling of DoIs.

Concerned individuals have the right to access, rectify, erase and object to the processing of their ADoI at any time. Nevertheless, for certain categories of individuals (e.g., experts), it may be a mandatory requirement to submit a DoI to EFSA

so as to verify the absence of conflicts of interests and thus protect the independence of EFSA. Concerned individuals will be contacted if EFSA becomes aware of information that is not consistent with the declared interest such as on the occasion of compliance monitoring activities outlined in the relevant [Standard Operating Procedure](#).

Certain ADoIs shall be made publicly available in accordance with Article 38(1)(d) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002. Furthermore, ADoIs may be transferred to bodies in charge of monitoring, auditing or inspection in conformity with EU Law.

The conservation period for ADoIs per category of data subjects is 10 years from the date of submission of the relevant ADoI.

Concerned individuals may direct any queries regarding personal data processing by EFSA to the data protection officer DataProtectionOfficer@efsa.europa.eu They are entitled to submit a complaint at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor: <http://www.edps.europa.eu>

The legal basis for ADoI processing is provided for in Articles 22, 37 and 38 of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.