



How are the interests of the Members, Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee assessed?

EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes: New Rules in Practice

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Hubert Deluyker
Director of Science Strategy and Coordination

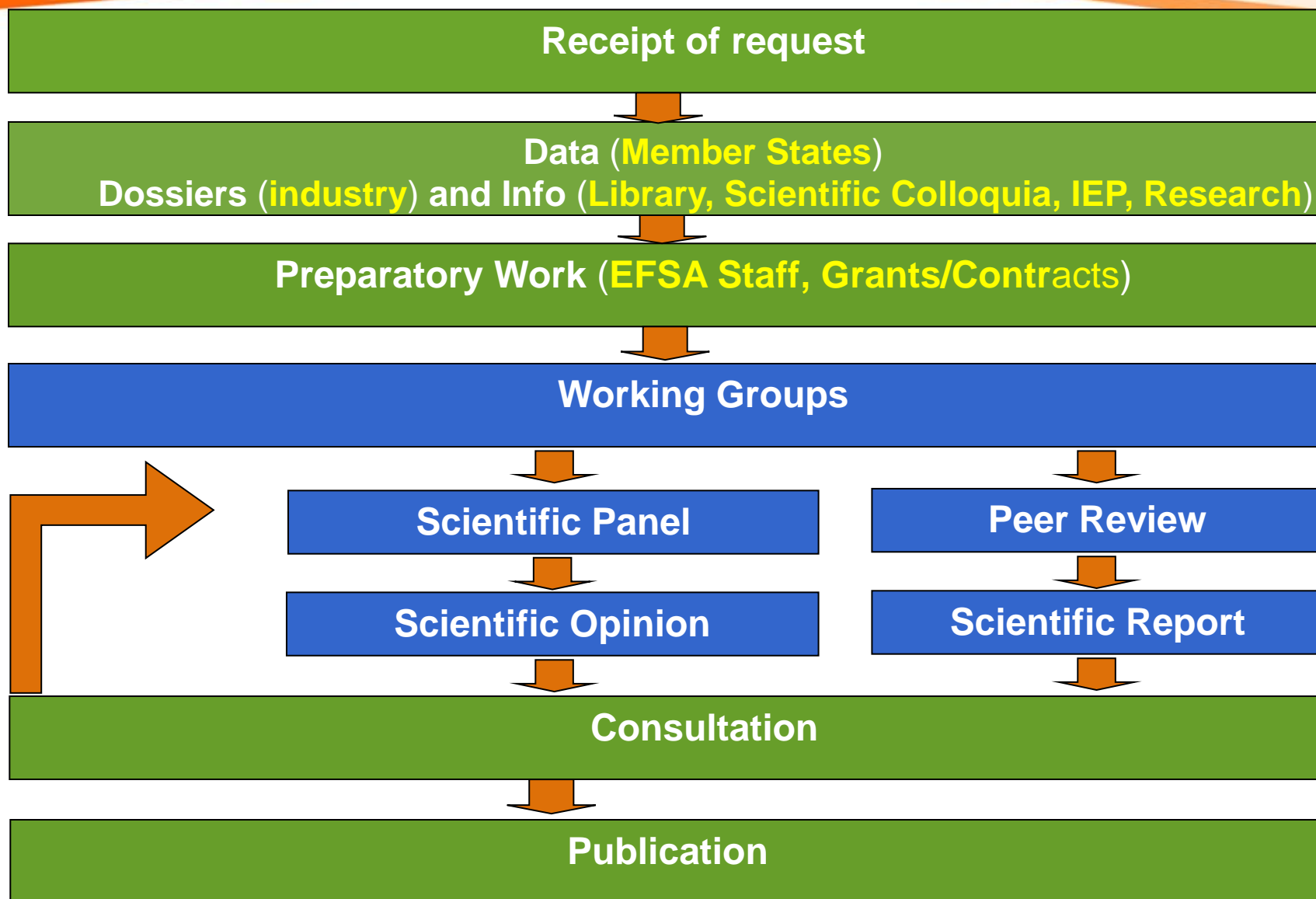
- **Scientific excellence**
 - Quality expertise
 - Information
 - Methods
- **Independence**
- **Responsiveness**
- **Transparency**
- **Openness and Dialogue**

Panel Renewal (Decision of EFSA Executive Director)

- Call for expression of interest for membership of the Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels (Art. 2)
- EFSA Evaluation Team (Art. 3)
- Screening of candidates for validity and eligibility (Art. 4)
- Evaluation of all eligible candidates for scientific excellence by EFSA staff (Art. 5)
- External review of the internal evaluation process (Art. 6)
- Screening of Annual Declaration of Interests (Art. 7)
- Shortlist sent to Advisory Forum for comments (Art. 7)
- Candidates proposed for nomination (Art. 8)

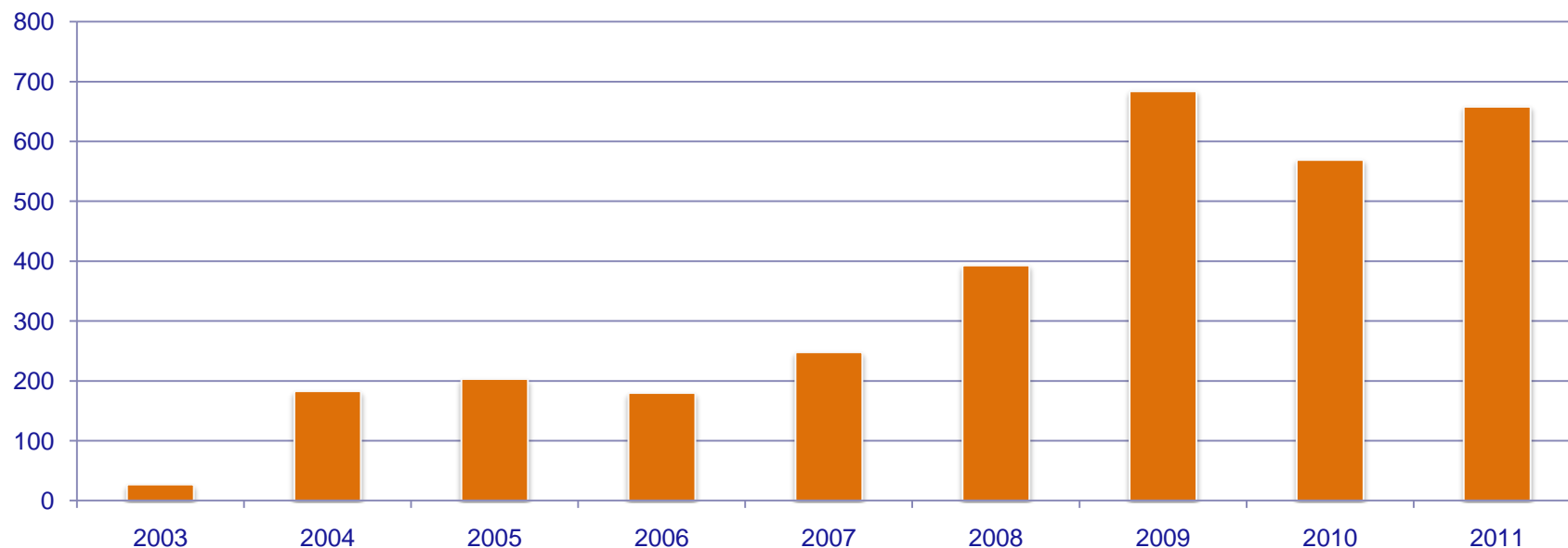
- **Planning and priority setting**
 - Medium term plan
 - Prioritisation
 - Emerging issues
- **Scientific Panels/Scientific Committee experts and internal expertise**
- **Cooperation with Member States: preparatory work, according to the same standard**
- **Cooperation with EU agencies, international and third countries organisations: work sharing**

Scientific process: workflow



EFSA Scientific Outputs – 2003-2011

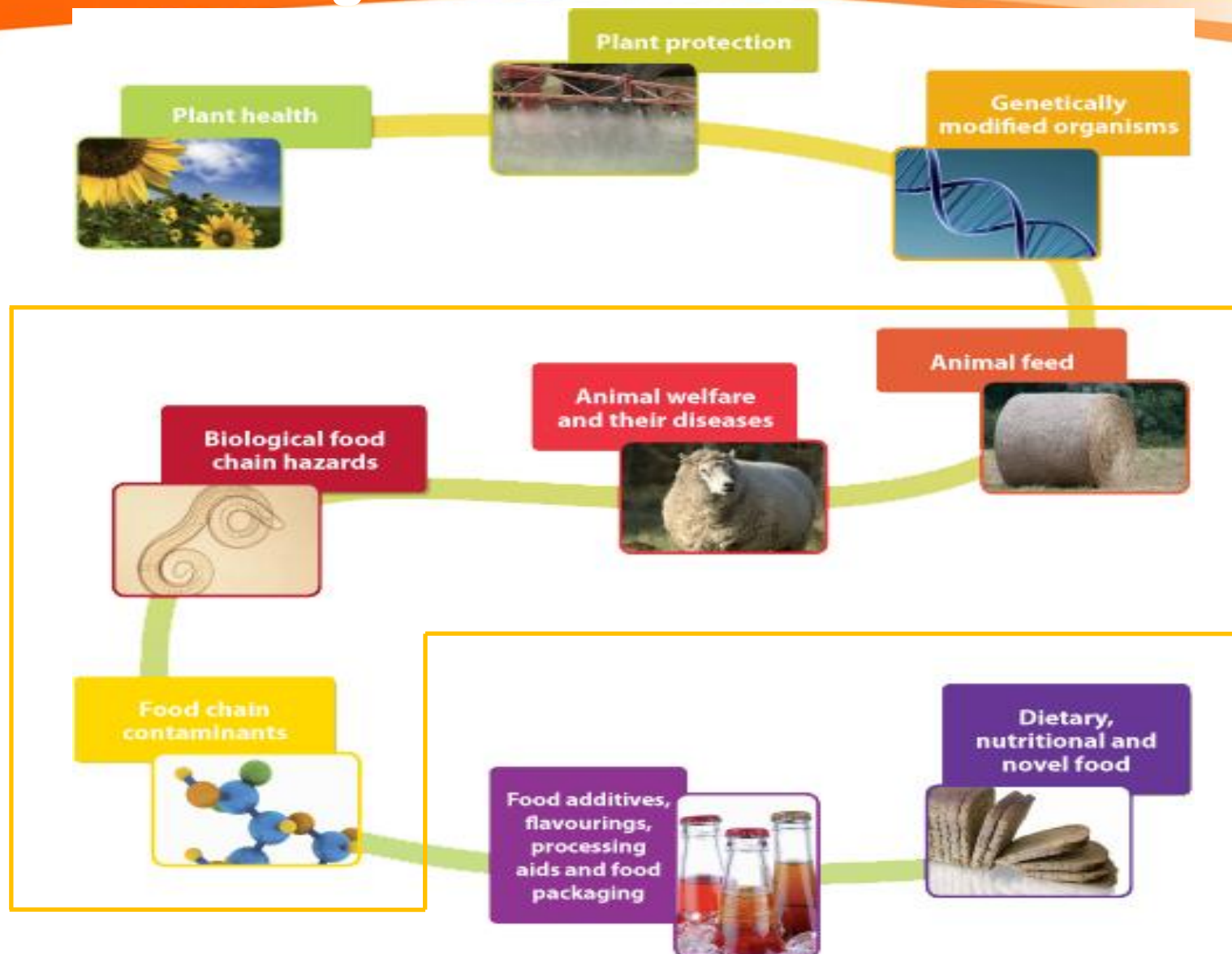
Total Adopted Outputs divided by Adoption Year



Role of Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee (Reg. 178/2002)

- **10 Panels, covering the food chain**
- **Responsible for providing the scientific opinions of EFSA**
- **Nominated for a three-year term**

SCOPE: scientific advice on safety of food and feed throughout the food chain



Functioning of Scientific Panels (MB Decision 17 Sep. 2009)

- High level of collective scientific expertise
- Maximum 21 Members
- Maximum three consecutive terms for the same Panel
- Appointed in a Personal Capacity
- Declaration of commitment
- Chair and 2 Vice-chairs are elected
- Ability to self-task
- Consultation (including public)
- Outputs adopted by consensus or by majority decision
- Include minority opinions

Declarations of interest of fictitious expert, Dr. X

Declared interests of Dr X for the positions of Chair and Member of EFSA's Panel on Biological Hazards

Microbiologist

Head of Portuguese University's Food Technology Department for past 17 years

Publicly funded research from which he personally owns patents for decontaminating agents

Editor of the Journal of Applied Bacteriology

Currently a Work Package leader of a FP7 funded project on Antimicrobial Resistance – the consortium comprises economic operators

Member of Joint FAO/WHO expert meetings on microbiological risk assessment (JEMRA)

- **Food safety**
- **Food-borne disease**
- **Food-borne zoonoses and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (e.g. BSE)**
- **Microbiology**
- **Food hygiene and associated waste management**

- I. Economic interests**
- II. Member of a Managing Body or equivalent structure**
- III. Member of a Scientific Advisory Body**
- IV. Employment**
- V. Ad hoc or occasional consultancy**
- VI. Research funding**
- VII. Intellectual property rights**
- VIII. Other membership or affiliation**
- IX. Other relevant interests**
- X. Interest of close family members**

Assessment: Economic interest?

Sector of external activity**		Participation in the relevant EFSA activity			
		Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship		Membership	
		Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups	Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups
I. Economic interest*	CURRENT	not allowed		not allowed when the expert has a potential conflicts of interest of a general nature that would regularly lead to the exclusion of the expert's from the meetings of the scientific group.	
	PAST	allowed			

Assessment: This expert did not declare any economic stake or share in a body that falls in EFSA's remit.

Assessment: Member of a management body?

Sector of external activity**		Participation in the relevant EFSA activity			
		Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship		Membership	
		Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups	Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups
II. A. Member of a management body or equivalent, of FSO*	CURRENT	not allowed		allowed	
	PAST	allowed			
II. B. Member of a management body or equivalent, other than FSOs*	CURRENT	not allowed		not allowed when the expert has a potential conflicts of interest of a general nature that would regularly lead to the exclusion of the expert's from the meetings of the scientific group.	
	PAST	not allowed when interest ended within past two years		allowed	

Assessment: *The expert did not declare membership of a management body*

Assessment: Member of a scientific advisory body managed by an FSO

Sector of external activity**		Participation in the relevant EFSA activity			
		Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship		Membership	
		Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups	Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups
III. A. Member of a scientific advisory body managed by an FSO*	CURRENT	allowed	not allowed	allowed	
	PAST	allowed			

Member of JEMRA: Joint FAO/WHO expert meetings on microbiological risk assessment

Assessment: *Allowed as Member and Chair of the BIOHAZ Panel*

Assessment: Member of a scientific advisory body, other than scientific groups of FSOs

Sector of external activity**		Participation in the relevant EFSA activity			
		Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship		Membership	
		Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups	Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups
III. B. Member of a scientific advisory body, other than scientific groups of FSO*	CURRENT	not allowed		allowed	not allowed when the expert has a potential conflicts of interest of a general nature that would regularly lead to the exclusion of the expert's from the meetings of the scientific group.
	PAST	allowed			

Assessment: *If it was a non-FSO activity there would have been a conflict for Membership (and thus Chairmanship)*

Assessment: Employment with an FSO

Sector of external activity**		Participation to the relevant EFSA activity			
		Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship		Membership	
		Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups	Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups
IV. A. Employment with an FSO*	CURRENT	allowed	not allowed	allowed	
	PAST	allowed			

Head of Portuguese University's Food Technology Department for past 17 years

Assessment: *Allowed as Member and Chair of the BIOHAZ Panel*

Assessment: Employment, other than FSO

Sector of external activity**		Participation in the relevant EFSA activity			
		Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship		Membership	
		Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups	Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups
IV. B. Employment, other than FSO*	CURRENT	not allowed		not allowed when the expert has a potential conflicts of interest of a general nature that would regularly lead to the exclusion of the expert's from the meetings of the scientific group.	
	PAST			not allowed when the expert has a potential conflict of interest of a general nature that would regularly lead to the exclusion of the expert's from the meetings of the scientific group and interest ended within past two years.	

Assessment: *Would not be accepted if it were not an FSO*

Assessment: Research funding from the private sector exceeds 25% for the area under concern

Sector of external activity**		Participation in the relevant EFSA activity			
		Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship		Membership	
		Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups	Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups
VI. Research funding from the private sector exceeds 25% for the area under concern*	CURRENT	not allowed		not allowed when the expert has a potential conflict of interest of a general nature that would regularly lead to the exclusion of the expert's from the meetings of the scientific group.	
	PAST	allowed			

Publicly funded research. Currently a Work Package leader of a FP7 funded project on Antimicrobial Resistance – the consortium comprises economic operators

Assessment: *If the total private funding exceeds 25%, chairmanship is not allowed and membership may not be allowed either*

Assessment: Intellectual property rights

Sector of external activity**		Participation in the relevant EFSA activity			
		Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship		Membership	
		Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups	Scientific Committee, Panels and multiple mandate Working Groups	One Mandate Working Groups
VII. Intellectual property rights*	CURRENT	not allowed		not allowed when the expert has a potential conflicts of interest of a general nature that would regularly lead to the exclusion of the expert's from the meetings of the scientific group.	
	PAST	allowed			

Publically funded research from which he personally owns patents for decontaminating agents

Assessment: This is weighed in light of the importance of this activity for the BIOHAZ Panel

Mid Term Planning: BIOHAZ Panel

Subject	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL 2012-2015
Guidance development	0	1	0	0	1
TSE - test		1	1	1	3
Animal-by products not intended for food consumption	2	2	2	2	8
General questions on BSE/TSE	3	3	3	0	9
Food Hygiene	3	2	2	2	9
Zoonoses and microbiological criteria	2	2	2	2	8
AMT	2	2	2	2	8
AMR	0	1	0	1	2
Fresh produce-food of plant origin	0	0	0	0	0
Meat inspection	1	4	0	0	5
TOTAL	13	18	12	10	53

Assessment: Other membership or affiliation or other relevant interest

Sector of external activity**		Participation in the relevant EFSA activity			
		Chairmanship and Vice-Chairmanship		Membership	
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VIII and IX. Other membership or affiliation or other relevant interest, including professional organisations, regarding the relevant matter	CURRENT	<p>allowed or not allowed</p> <p>depending on the mission, scope of activities, funding of the relevant organisation, etc.</p>			
	PAST				

Editor of the Journal of Applied Bacteriology
Assessment: *Normal scientific activity*

Carcass disinfection is anticipated to be regularly on the agenda of the eight annual BIOHAZ Panel meetings. This would lead to exclusion, should the expert decide to retain ownership of his patent. He clarified, that, while being the inventor, the patent was owned by the Institute who decided to terminate ownership a year ago.