



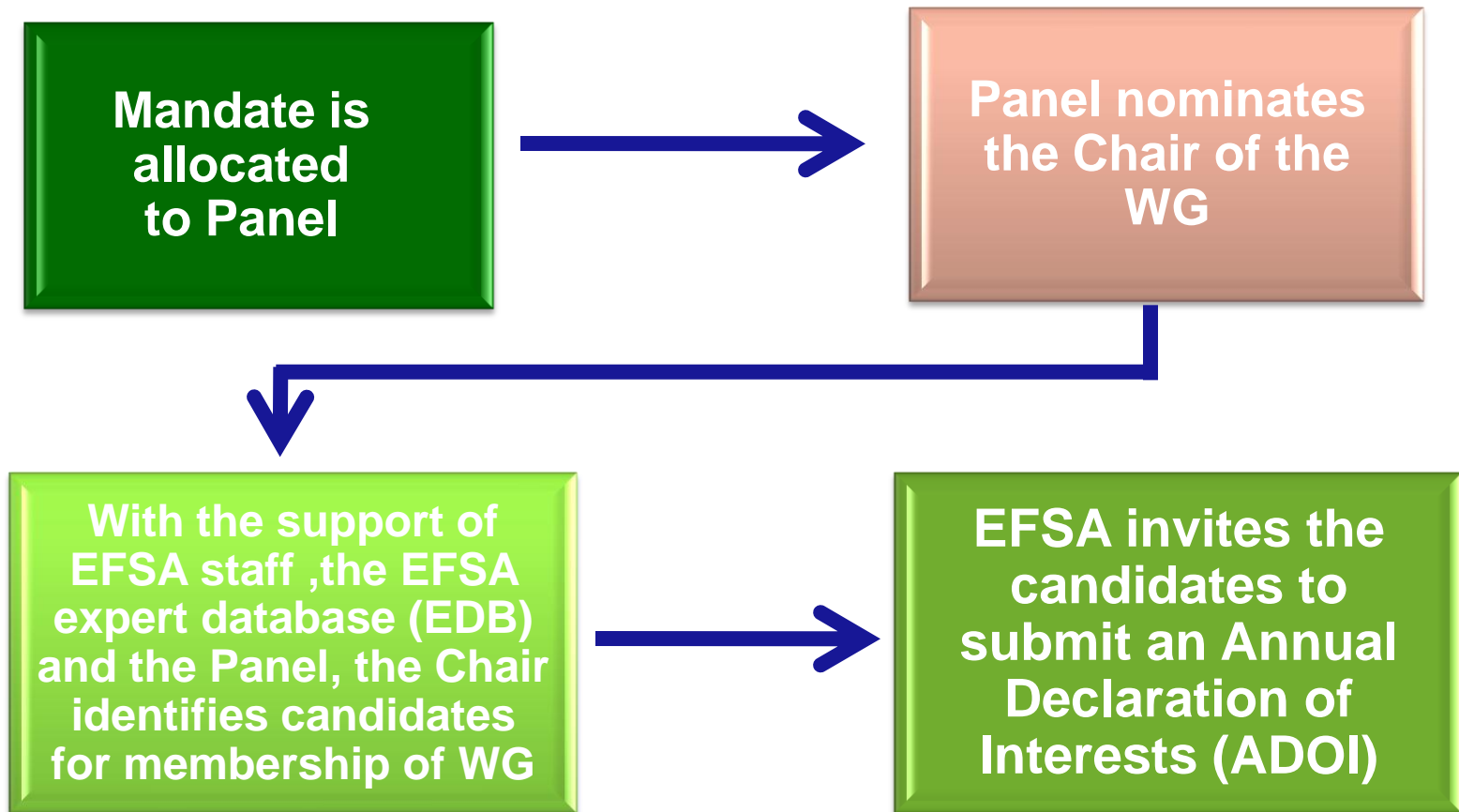
How are the interests of Working Group members assessed? Part I - Public health mandates

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

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Workflow initiation of a Working Group (WG)



Approved ADOI: expert can join the WG
WG composition + ADOIs published on EFSA's Website

Scientific Panels/Scientific Committee: Working Groups with one mandate

Scientific Panels/Scientific Committee addressing mainly generic questions in the area of public health, animal health and welfare and plant health:

- Panel on Animal Health and Welfare (**AHAW**),
- Panel on Biological Hazard (**BIOHAZ**),
- Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (**CONTAM**)
- Panel on Plant Health (**PLH**)
- Scientific Committee (**SC**)



Working Group with one mandate: characteristics

- One mandate (task): Working Group deals with one specific topic
- The mandate and the terms of reference are known when initiating the Working Group
- The Working Group will be closed once the opinion is adopted by the Scientific Panel or Scientific Committee
- For membership and chairmanship to one mandate Working Groups different rules apply



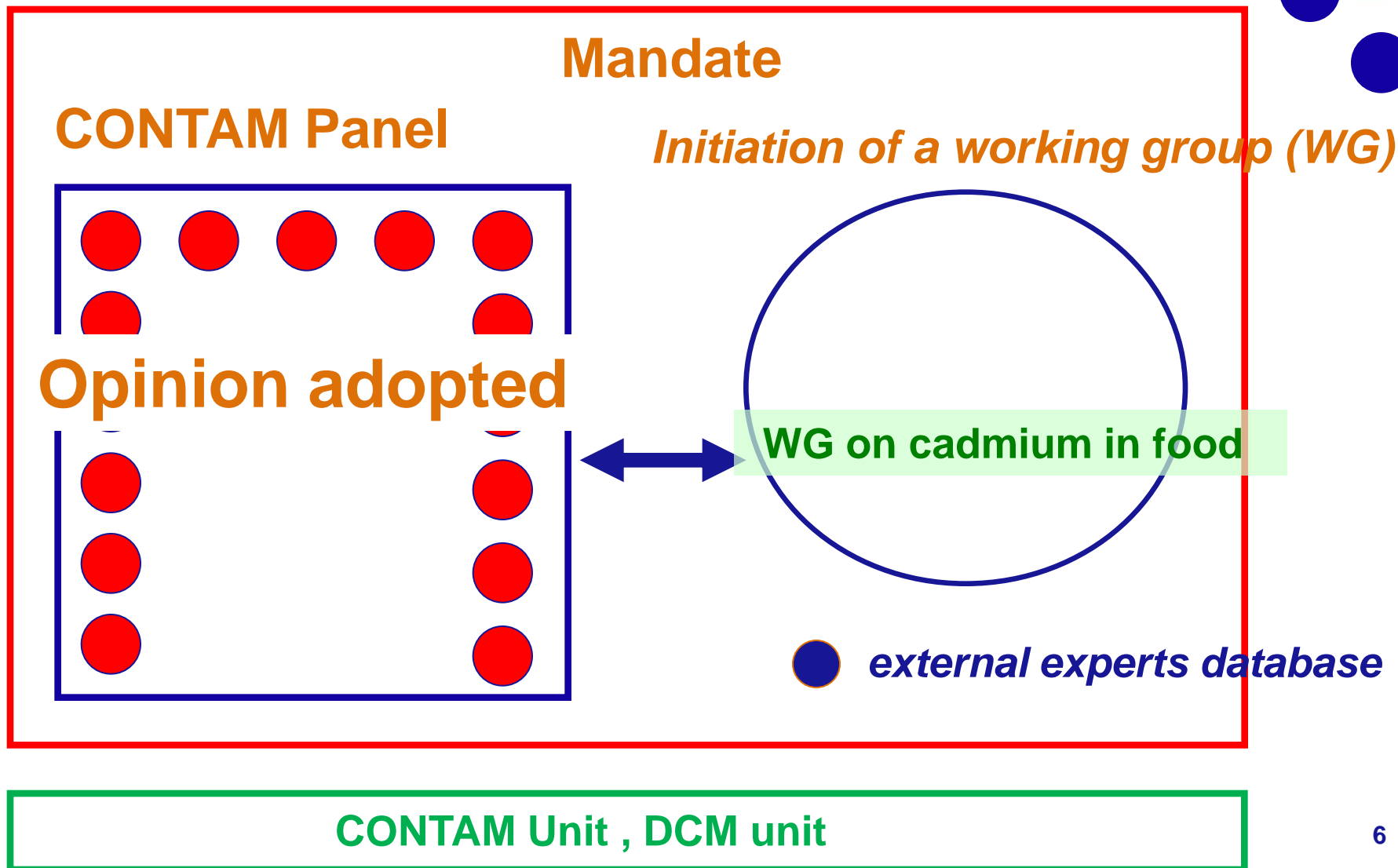
Example: Working Group with one mandate

CONTAM Panel was allocated a mandate on cadmium in food and decides to set up a Working Group.

Terms of reference:

- Assess whether tolerable weekly intake is still appropriate
- Update the exposure assessment of cadmium
 - Exposure from food including drinking water
 - Importance of other non-dietary sources (e.g. air, cigarette smoke etc.)
 - Exposure in specific population groups (e.g. infants and children, people following specific diets) and indication of age group most exposed to cadmium
- Take into account biomonitoring data

Example: Working group (WG) one mandate under CONTAM Panel



Declarations of interest of fictitious expert, Prof. Y

Senior toxicologist: not an existing EFSA Panel member

Wife owns 200 shares in an organic flower (non-edible) growing business – approximate value 8000 EUR (I)

Deputy Head of Unit for Risk Assessment at the Danish National Competent Authority for Food Safety (IV A)

Visiting Professorship at Swedish University where he worked until 7 years ago at the Department of Environmental Studies (IV A): 60% of that department's financing is commissioned by commercial operators (VI)

Until Sep 2011 a member of ILSI Europe's Working Group on Risk Assessment of Genotoxic Carcinogens (V)

Member of Friends of the Earth (VIII)

- 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: Has Prof. Y a conflict of interest for membership of the WG?

Interests
declared by an expert
Prof. Y

Transparency
Independence

Mandate
of the group
(**CONTAM WG cadmium in food**)

Role
of an expert
in the group
(chair, **member**,
hearing expert...)

Screening: Economic interests

Sector of external activity**		One Mandate Working Groups
I. Economic interest*	CURRENT	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

Wife holds 200 shares in an organic flower (non-edible) growing business

- The same consequences are to be applied when the relevant interests are declared with reference to a partner or dependent person.

Assessment: This interest does not relate to food, the operator grows flowers for ornamental purposes. No conflict of interest is identified and participation is allowed.

Sector of external activity**		One Mandate Working Groups
IV. A. Employment with a Food Safety Organisation	CURRENT	Allowed
	PAST	Allowed

- Deputy Head of Unit for Risk Assessment at the Danish National Competent Authority for Food Safety
- Visiting Professorship at Department of Environmental Studies, SE university; Research funding

Assessment: Both current employments are with Food Safety Organisations and do not constitute a conflict of interest; hence participation is allowed. Research funding has to be declared and assessed under VI.

Screening: Research

Sector of external activity**		One Mandate Working Groups
VI. Research funding from the private sector exceeds 25% for the area under concern	CURRENT	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

60% of that department's financing is commissioned by commercial operators

Assessment: The expert is asked for further clarifications to verify if over 25% of the annual research budget that is under his operation is sourced by the private sector and if so in which area.

Screening: Research

Sector of external activity**		One Mandate Working Groups
VI. Research funding from the private sector exceeds 25% for the area under concern	CURRENT	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

Prof Y declares that 40% of the annual research budget is from Secbat, a producer of cadmium-zinc batteries. The conducted research relates to cadmium exposure and biomarkers in urine.

Assessment: The expert states that over 25% of the annual research budget under his control comes from the private sector. The research topic is within the mandate of the WG. This constitutes a conflict of interest and participation is not allowed.

Screening: Ad hoc consultancy

Sector of external activity**		One Mandate Working Groups
V. B. Ad hoc or occasional consultancy to bodies other than Food Safety Organisation	CURRENT	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

ILSI Europe's Working Group on risk assessment of genotoxic carcinogens until Sept 2011

Assessment: This interest occurred in the past, thus no conflict of interest identified and participation is allowed. Chairmanship is not allowed.

Screening: Other membership

Sector of external activity**		One Mandate Working Groups
VIII. Other membership or affiliation including professional organisations regarding the relevant matter	CURRENT	Allowed or not allowed depending on the mission, scope of activities, funding of the relevant organisation, etc.
	PAST	

Member of Friends of the Earth, an environmental network in Europe campaigning for sustainable solutions to benefit the planet, people and our common future

Assessment: Expert is asked to clarify whether as a member of Friends of the Earth he is engaged in activities in relation to cadmium. If so, what are his/her tasks and role. Depending on the information provided, participation may or may not be allowed.

Decision for membership of Prof. Y in CONTAM WG cadmium in food

Outcome

- Prof. Y economic interests (wife), employment and ad hoc consultancy (past membership in ILSI Europe's Working Group on Risk Assessment of Genotoxic Carcinogens) do not constitute a conflict of interest.
- Prof. Y receives over 25% of the annual research budget under his control from industry and conducts studies which are within the remit of the Working Group on cadmium in food. This constitutes a conflict of interest.

Decision

- Prof. Y is not allowed to join the CONTAM Working Group on cadmium in food.