

## Management Board Meeting

11 September 2007

### Explanatory Memorandum on the Declaration of Interest

1. Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and laying down procedures in matters of food safety<sup>1</sup> states that members of the Management Board, the members of the Advisory Forum, the members of the Scientific Committee and the Scientific Panels and the Executive Director shall undertake to act independently.

EFSA has decided to review its procedures and arrangements and to further strengthen the robustness and transparency of the system of handling declarations of interests, based on the experience gained in handling declarations of interests since its establishment.

2. The Management Board is presented with the draft documents related to the policy, guidance and procedure, which find their basis in the principles deriving from Article 37 of Regulation No 178/2002.

3. The policy impacts on the Rules of Procedure of the Management Board and the Decision concerning the Establishment and Operations of the Scientific Committee and Panels. These internal rules have been put to the Board for their consideration under a separate agenda point. The Management Board is asked to adopt the policy on Declarations of Interest.

4. The drafts are presented as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Journal* L 31, 1.2.2002, p. 1 as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 575/2006 of 7 April 2006.

- the “Policy on Declarations of Interest” which provides the general objectives of the new procedure for declarations of interest at EFSA. The Management Board is asked to adopt this document.
- the amended “Guidance on Declarations of interest” which reflects the design of the new declarations of interest forms in order to strengthen the coherence and level of detail of the interests that are declared. This is presented to the Board for their information in annex.
- the “Procedure for identifying and handling potential conflict of interests” which sets out the use and screening of the new declaration of interest forms and the consequences linked to the interests declared. This is presented to the Board for their information in annex.

In Annex:

The Policy on Declarations of Interest

The Guidance on Declarations of interest

The Procedure for identifying and handling potential conflict of interests