

Management Board

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Review of EFSA's Decision on Competing Interest Management

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- Scope of the review by Economisti Associati
- Activities undertaken
- Main findings
- Next Steps

- Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and proportionality;
- Compliance with the Policy on Independence;
- Contribution to EFSA's reputation;
- Room for correction, clarification or simplification of the rules in place;
- Need for amendments following applicability of the Transparency Regulation;
- Need for change following policy developments;

- **Desk review** (over 70 documents);
- **Interview programme** (19 semi-structured interviews); and
- **Web-based survey** (22 EFSA staff members).

- **Relevance and coherence** - The Decision on Competing Interest Management complies with the principles outlined in the Policy on Independence in all areas.
- **Effectiveness and impact on reputation** - Accuracy of assessment of Declarations of interest and EFSA capacity of detecting conflict of interest increased – EFSA’s reputation in preventing conflict of interest also improved.
- **Efficiency and room for simplification** - Positive assessment of the semi-centralised screening process and high appreciation of the IT tool – little room for improvement as compared to the previous situation.
- **Proportionality and sustainability in light of the Transparency Regulation** – broadening of sourcing model might require need to revise holistic screening criteria.
- **Policy changes** - a considerable degree of harmonisation reached on the main principles underlying conflict of interest prevention among “life sciences” European Union agencies.

Opportunity for clarification of current CIM rules regarding:

- Concept of “Risk management”;
- Concept of “Industry employment”;
- Concept of “Public institution”;
- Concept of “Indirect interests”;
- Concept of “Expert’s own work”;
- Simplification of procedures applicable for less relevant cases of breach of the rules or omissions.

Opportunity for further IT improvements including:

- Extending online IT tool to procurement and grants;
- Automatic elimination of outdated interests.

- **Independence Policy review (by July 2023)**
 - concepts of close family members and financial interest and employment with non-governmental organisations;
 - hearing experts' DoI submission requirement and involvement;
 - requirements for public institutions;
 - explicit rules on participation to closed and other industry sponsored events;
 - cooling-off provisions applicable to various actors.
- **Draft Decision on the Prevention and Management of Conflicting Interest of staff members.**