

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public Health
Health Information

Luxembourg,
sanco.ddg1.c.2 (2014) 377164

Mrs Leonie Hogervorst
ask+request-1072-8c2afa45@asktheeu.org

Dear Mrs Hogervorst,

Subject: Request for response – oral declarations of experts made in meetings of the Scientific Committees or their Working Groups recorded since March 2013

We took the view that your request did not concern documents available on our website and addressed only documents not publicly available. Therefore the two instances discussed in the document provided in our letter Ref. Ares(2014)270569 - 05/02/2014 are the potential conflicts of interests that happened from February 2009 to February 2013 and that were not published on the website.

The oral declarations you mention happened in three meetings and were recorded in the minutes of the meetings of Scientific Committees; they are published on the website.

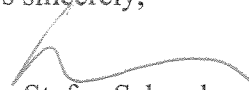
These oral declarations implement the routine policy concerning assessing and managing conflict of interest of experts of the Commission non-food Scientific Committees, as laid down in the following paragraphs of the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committees:

"23. Members, Scientific Advisors and external experts participating in meetings of the Scientific Committees or in a Working Group or in any other activity of the Advisory Structure shall declare at the beginning of each meeting or event any activity, situation, circumstance or other fact potentially involving a direct or indirect interest, as indicated in the explanatory notes included in the relevant Annex in order to allow the Scientific Committee and/or the Commission to identify those interests which might be considered prejudicial to their independence in relation to the items on the agenda for that meeting or event. This declaration shall be made in writing or verbally, following a request of the Chair or the Commission and should be noted in the minutes of the meetings.

26. Any member, Advisor or external expert who, in accordance with his/her declaration or in the opinion of the Scientific Committee, the Working Group or the Commission, may not be able to act independently, shall be excluded from the activities considered or may only be allowed to participate to the extent and in a way compatible with the objective to preserve the process from any undue influence. In such a case, the member, advisor or expert may not act as Rapporteur or as Chair in relation to the specific matter and may not participate in decision-making. The extent of the concerned individual's participation in the Committee's work shall be decided by the Chair in consultation with the Committee or Working Group members and in agreement with the Commission within the framework of these Rules of Procedure. Measures may include the physical withdrawal from the meeting for the point under discussion, or participation limited to the provision of factual information.

27. Conclusions and decisions taken in relation to the declarations of interest, as well as their rationale, shall be recorded. In the case of declarations presented during meetings, such records will be part of the minutes."

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefan Schreck', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Stefan Schreck
Head of Unit