



31.1.2019

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition No 0559/2018 by T. W. (French) on the EFSA**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioner reflects on alleged conflicts of interest and their impact on the EFSA and refers to the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Article 169(1) TFEU.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 22 November 2018. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 31 January 2019

#### The Commission's observations

Most of the references provided date back to the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 (except one from 2017). It should be noted that meanwhile the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has revised and refined its policy on independence. Already in 2012, the European Court of Auditors recognised EFSA as one of the agencies with the most advanced rules on independence and avoidance of conflicts of interest.

The Commission notes that EFSA adopted its revised policy on independence in June 2017, following an extensive public consultation as part of the revision of its policy<sup>1</sup>. The technical

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<sup>1</sup>EFSA Policy on Independence

[http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/policy\\_independence.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf)

EFSA implementing rules on independence

[www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate\\_publications/files/competing\\_interest\\_management\\_17.pdf](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf)

report “Outcome of the public consultation on EFSA’s draft Policy on Independence” is published<sup>2</sup> and took account of the comments received from more than 200 interested parties, including industry, non-governmental organisations, researchers, national public authorities and individuals. The policy revision also took into account comments made by the European Parliament through the discharge procedure.

Furthermore, the Commission highlights that a legislative proposal on the transparency and sustainability of the EU risk assessment in the food chain was adopted by the Commission in April 2018 and it is currently under discussion with the Council and the European Parliament. The proposal will further enhance transparency and independence of the risk assessment system. The Commission hopes that an agreement will be reached before the end of the current legislature of the European Parliament.

### Conclusion

The Commission considers that EFSA’s rules on independence are highly developed.

The Commission is confident that the EU food safety system ensures a high level of protection of human health and consumer interests in relation to food.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/corporate/pub/outcomeconsultationindependence>