

Biosafety Advisory Council



Secretariat

Biosafety Council – Scientific Committees 'Transgenic plants' and 'NovelFood/Feed' CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EXPERTS
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DECLARATION OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. The task of the expert is to give a scientific advise regarding the public health and environmental issues of particularly
 - deliberate release of genetically modified plants for any other purpose than for placing on the market
 - deliberate release of genetically modified plants for placing on the market
 - GM Food/Feed applicationsThis advice will take into account the evaluation of direct or indirect risks and immediate or delayed risks.
2. He/she will use his/her best endeavours to achieve this and deliver a constant and high quality of work.
3. The expert works as an independent person. He/she is deemed to work in a personal capacity and, in performing the work, does not represent any organisation.
4. The expert will sign a Declaration of Confidentiality and a Statement of Interest before starting the work. In doing so the expert commits him/herself to strict confidentiality and impartiality concerning his/her tasks. He will not act as representative or defender of a group or particular interests.

If an expert has a direct or indirect link with a project or a notification he/she must declare such facts to the Secretariat of the Biosafety Council as soon as he/she becomes aware of this.

An expert is deemed to have a direct link with a project or a notification if:

- he/she is currently or has recently (within 6 months) been employed or financially supported by the notifier; or
- he/she has been involved in the preparation of the notification ; or
- he/she is related to a notifier or a member of the notifying company.

An expert is deemed to have an indirect link with a project or a notification if he/she is employed by an organisation which has contractual links with one of the organisations in the field covered by the project or the notification, or if he/she has any direct link with or works for a competing organisation.

The expert will inform the Secretariat of the Biosafety Council of any change with regard to his/her interests, which could be prejudicial to his/her independence.

5. Where it has been decided that projects or notifications are to be posted or sent electronically to experts, who then work from their own or other suitable premises, the expert will be held responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of any documents or electronic files sent and erasing or destroying all confidential documents or files upon completing the evaluation. In such instances, experts may seek further advice or information in order to allow them to complete their examination of the projects or notifications provided that any discussions or contacts with others respect the overall rules for confidentiality and impartiality.

STATEMENT OF EXPERT'S INTERESTS

Dossier nr :

Name: _____

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, I hereby notify the Belgian Biosafety Council that I have the following commercial and non-commercial interests relevant to the performance of tasks undertaken by me as scientific expert of the Scientific Committee 'Transgenic plants' or of the Scientific Committee 'Novel Food/Feed':

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I hereby notify the Council that I do not have any interests which I believe might be perceived as prejudicial to my independence

When during the meeting of the Committee the discussion may raise a potential conflict of interests for me, I will remind the meeting of my interests before the start of the discussion.

I agree that the above information could be accessible to the public and communicated or made available to third parties.

Done at :

Date :

Signature :

DECLARATION CONCERNING CONFIDENTIALITY

Name : _____

I hereby declare that I am aware of my obligation to respect confidentiality. I know that I am obliged not to divulge information acquired as a result of the work as an Expert, if this information is subject to a request for confidentiality.

In particular, I will

- ⇒ respect the confidentiality/restriction of any information brought to my attention during the performance of my work
- ⇒ not divulge any information to third parties
- ⇒ not use any information for my own benefit or that of any third party
- ⇒ not make any information available to the public, even after completion of my assignment,

Done at _____ on _____

Signature : _____