

John Dalli
Member of the European Commission

Brussels,
CAB D (2012) Ares

Dear Ms Perehudoff, dear Ms Cann, dear Ms Chailleu,

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2011 regarding improved coherence of the rules on independence and conflict of interest across agencies.

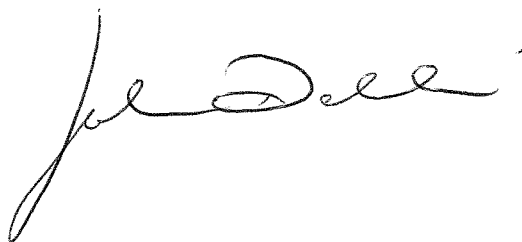
I would like to stress that I attach great importance to independence, avoidance of conflict of interest and good governance of the agencies for which I am responsible. Following the attribution of four EU Agencies to my portfolio it became evident that the individual agencies, which are responsible for implementing these provisions, had different approaches to issues of governance and independence. It was not clear to what extent these arose from differences in missions or otherwise.

In 2011, I launched the Inter-Agency Task Force to involve the agencies in a dialogue on declaration of interests and conflict of interest. The objective was to facilitate the adoption and implementation of best practices, thereby achieving better coherence across the agencies whilst recognising the differences in their responsibilities. The Task Force has to date met on two occasions and I am satisfied that it has already provided the necessary incentive for the agencies to review and modify their rules in this area.

EMA's new policy entered into force in September 2011 and applies to members of scientific committees, experts and representatives of patients' and healthcare professionals when they are members of the scientific committees. The implementing rules on handling of conflict of interests for EMA staff have recently been revised and the rules for the Management Board are expected to be also revised soon. The declarations of interest of the Management Board and of the members of the scientific committees are published on EMA's web site. It is also planned that the declarations of interest of experts included in the Agency's database will be published on EMA's web site.

I take note of your comments on the former Executive director of EMA which I dealt with in my letter to you of September 2011. With regard to the request regarding the Staff Regulations, I refer you to the recent letter of Commissioner Šefčovič which deals with this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Vicky Cann, ALTER-EU
Ms Anne Chailleu, Formindep
Ms Katrina Perehudoff, HAI Europe

katrina@haieurope.org