

Annual report of the Conflict of Interest Advisory Committee for 2015



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1. Introduction

The Conflict of Interest Advisory Committee (“the ColAC”) is established as an advisory body in the context of the Agency’s Policy for Managing Potential Conflicts of Interest (MB/07/2014). It is available to the Management Board, the Committees and the Forum as well as to the Executive Director for advice on matters related to potential conflicts of interest of individuals staffing the Agency or members of its bodies. Where necessary and as appropriate, the Management Board working group for the issues related to the Board of Appeal may ask the Chair of the Management Board to consult the ColAC in order to guarantee consistency in the application of conflict of interest criteria within the Agency.

According to its Terms of Reference the Chair of the ColAC prepares an annual report to the Management Board on the activities of the ColAC. This is the third report given.

2. Members

The renewal of the mandates for members Mr. Antonello Lapalorcia, appointed by the Management Board, and Dr Thomas Henökl, appointed as an external expert by the Executive Director of the ECHA, took place in 2014 for a second term of two years. The Chair of the COIAC remained the Head of ECHA’s Legal Affairs Unit - Minna Heikkilä.

3. Meetings

In accordance with Article 3(1) of the Terms and Reference of the ColAC, meetings shall be held when necessary in presence of the three members at least once a year at the location of the Agency or, in exceptional cases, via video-conference or other technical means.

On 16 June 2015 a meeting took place in Helsinki where the ColAC mainly discussed its added value to the functioning of the Agency. The ColAC agreed to offer to meet some of the bodies in ECHA in order to promote the purpose and advantages stemming from the proper management of the conflicts of interest. Furthermore, the ColAC was informed about the developments in conflicts of interest policy in the Agency.

The second meeting took place on 1 December 2015 in Helsinki. In the first part of the meeting the ColAC discussed two requests for advice (see below). The same day, as the follow-up of the first meeting in 2015, in two separate sessions, Ms Minna Heikkilä and Dr Thomas Henökl gave presentations about the ColAC and the management of conflicts of interest to the Committee for Risk Assessment and the Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis, which was followed by a Q&A session.

4. Requests for advice

In 2015, the CoIAC has received two requests for advice.

On 23 November 2015, the CoIAC received a request via the Chair of the Management Board on secondment in the interest of the service and potential conflicts of interest.

On 26 November 2015, the CoIAC received a request from the Executive Director of ECHA for an advice regarding the ECHA policy on conflict of interest, including eligibility for membership in the context of recent selection and appointment of co-opted members for Committee for Risk Assessment. The request contains three examples how the RAC Committee managed the conflicts of interest of short-listed candidates for co-opted members.

Both cases are pending and it is foreseen that the CoIAC will issue its advice in 2016.

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