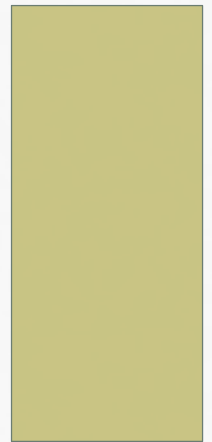


INDEPENDENCE POLICY - COI AND RESOURCES

DR ALEKSANDRA ČAVOŠKI



REVOLVING DOOR EFFECT

- Mechanisms for effective application and enforcement of standards
- Standards for preventing the Col

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

- EFSA and Col - main concerns:
 - The length of cooling-off periods
 - Professional involvement of experts
 - CiO and research funding rules
- Other concerns
- Member states and Col

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

- **The length of cooling off period:** “they are required to obtain preliminary clearance for all “outside activities” during their time at EFSA, and for all gainful activities in which they intend to engage for **two years** after their employment with EFSA ceases”

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Professional involvement of experts

- Para 3.3. of the EFSA's policy on independence: "This is why having worked as a self-employed professional or as an employee for a legal entity pursuing private or commercial interests in the sphere of the relevant expert group is deemed incompatible with membership of the Scientific Committee, Scientific Panels and Working Groups for two years after the conflicting activity has ended."

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

- **Research funding rules and the Col:** "In line with the EU approach to research funding, EFSA considers that for actors contributing to its operations, the acceptable level of research directly funded by the private sector is 25% of the total budget of the expert and his/her research team, for the sector of relevance. Private funding includes also funding coming from private organisations representing industry interests, such as industry associations. Private contributions to projects funded by public actors, such as those financed under the EU Research and innovation Framework Programmes (e.g. Horizon 2020), or equivalent programmes funded by international, national, regional or local public actors, do not count for this purposes."

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

- Other concerns
 - Enforcement - Tracking systems, scope of activities leading to Col; need for a specialised independent body responsible for the post-public employment
- MSs' and Col - different rules in MS;

LACK OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

- A Challenge both in EFSA and national authorities
- "Dependence on a small number of Member States that provide more than two thirds of the EFSA's Scientific Panels' experts and difficulties in receiving sufficient support from many Member States for its scientific work" (COM(2018) 179)
- Possible reasons: remuneration and demands on scientists' time; procedural deadlines;
- Recommendations