EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Directorate F – Health and Food
Disease Prevention

Guidance for completing the Annual Declaration of Interests[1] (DoI) form (v5, 26 January 2026)

European Commission Initiative on Colorectal Cancer (ECICC)

I. INTRODUCTION

This guidance relates to the implementation of the provisions on independence and transparency of Commission Decision C(2016) 3301.

It aims to give clear indications on how to declare any interest that could affect the ability of the ECICC members to act in the public interest.

According to Decision C(2016) 3301, the responsibility for declaring all relevant interests is placed on the individuals completing their declaration. A false or incomplete declaration may have consequences on the acts adopted by the Commission on the basis of the experts' advice, since this could be challenged before the Court of Justice/General Court under the conditions of Article 263 TFUE[2].

Interests are declared as an indication if conflicts of interest (CoIs) could arise. The expert shall not assess whether a CoI is present. The assessment of whether a CoI exists will be performed by the CoI evaluation panel from the JRC.

To be noted that a declared "interest" is not automatically considered to lead to a CoI. It is well understood that, in general, individuals who are involved in a particular process have an inherent professional interest in the subject area and in being involved in the process as such.

The following information covers the Declaration of Interests (DoI) form to be filled in by ECICC members.

[1] According to European Commission's Decision C(2016) 3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups, Articles 2(4) and 10, each member of an expert group has to complete a DoI form
https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=C(2016)3301&lang=en

[2] TFUE, Article 263
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:12008E263:EN:HTML

II. WHAT TO DECLARE?

The European Commission recognises that high quality and up-to-date scientific expertise is by nature based on prior experience, connection to the scientific world and involvement in current research. Therefore, and as previously indicated, having an interest does not necessarily mean having a CoI.

ECICC members shall declare:

1. Investments

Stocks, bonds, stock options, other securities as well as to commercial business interests (e.g., proprietorships, partnerships, joint ventures, board memberships, controlling interests) in a legal entity. Holding any form of equity, bonds, and partnership interests in the capital of a company is included.
The holding of financial interests connected with a pension scheme or other complex investment funds would not be considered a financial interest, provided that the individual has no influence on its financial management.

2. Employment and consulting

All forms of employment and consulting, part-time or full-time, either remunerated or non-remunerated, in any legal entity.

3. Research

Any activity as an investigator in research studies related to colorectal cancer, including the drafting of research programmes or the selection of research projects and current funding of research in relation to matter or work financed by a private or public entity, including grants, rents, sponsorships and fellowships. Non-monetary support (equipment, facilities) and other type of support (i.e. honoraria for being a speaker, holding a training) are included.

4. Memberships

For example,

- Any participation in the internal decision-making body of a company, trade association or other private entity such as a non-profit organisation dealing with issues related to colorectal cancer (e.g. board membership, directorship).
- Any paid or unpaid, past, present or envisaged activity in which the expert or his depended collaborators provided technical or scientific advice or services in domains of relevance for colorectal cancer.

5. Intellectual property rights (IPR)

Rights granted to creators and owners of works that are the result of human intellectual creativity that bring personal financial benefit to the expert.
Only the IPR falling within the remit of the work of colorectal cancer need be declared. These can be copyrights, patents, trademarks as well as proprietary know-how in a substance, technology or process.

6. Public statements and positions

Expert opinion or testimony for a legal entity or other body as part of a regulatory, legislative or judicial process; holding an office or other position, paid or unpaid, where interests were represented or opinions defended in domains of relevance for colorectal cancer.

7. Interests of immediate family members

Known interests related to colorectal cancer held by family members and relatives (spouse, parents, children, brothers and sisters, irrespective of whether they live at the same address or not) or other persons under the care of the members of the household of the expert.

8. Other activities

Any interests other than those mentioned before which can be perceived as a potential source of conflict. It should be intended as any membership or affiliation other than those mentioned before which can be perceived as an interest.

III. PUBLICATION

The DoI of the ECICC members will be made public in accordance with the provisions on transparency foreseen by Decision C(2016) 3301. These will be posted on the website of the Healthcare Quality Group dedicated to the ECICC[3].

COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS ON PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

The European Commission processes personal data pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725[4] of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies on the free movement of such data.
The specific processing of data included in the ECICC DoI form by the JRC's Directorate F, Health and Food, F1 Disease Prevention Unit, Healthcare Quality Group is covered by the notification DPR-EC-00656.1[5], Data Protection Office public register.

[3] Note: Technical measures are in place to ensure that search engines do not index the content from the DoI form.
[4] Protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1725
[5] Personal data processing including the DoIs
https://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/detail/DPR-EC-00656