



Guidance for completing the Annual Declaration of Interests¹ (DoI) form (v3, 15 March 2023)

European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC)

I. INTRODUCTION

This guidance relates to the implementation of the provisions on independence and transparency of Commission Decision 2012/C 198/06².

It aims to give clear indications on how to declare any interest that could affect the ability of the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC) working group members to act in the public interest.

According to Decision 2012/C 198/06, 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 TFUE³.

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.

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

The following information covers the Declaration of Interests (DoI) form (version n°2) to be filled in by the members for the ECIBC working groups (Guidelines Development Group and Quality Assurance Scheme Development Group).

¹According to European Commission's Decision C(2016) 3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups, Articles 2(4) and 11 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](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=C(2016)3301&lang=en)

²Decision 2012/C 198/06. Setting up a multisectoral and independent expert panel to provide advice on effective ways of investing in health.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019D0521%2801%29>

³TFUE, Article 263. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:12008E263:EN:HTML>



II. WHAT TO DECLARE?

Experts shall declare past activities (for the last five years). 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, having an interest does not necessarily mean having a CoI.

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 and full-time, either paid or unpaid, in any legal entity.

3. Research

Any activity as an investigator in research studies related to breast 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 breast 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 breast cancer.

5. Other activities

Any interest other than the above which can be perceived as a potential source of conflict.

It should be intended as any membership or affiliation other than the above which can be perceived as an interest.

6. 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 breast cancer need to be declared. These can be copyrights, patents, trademarks as well as proprietary know-how in a substance, technology or process.



7. Interests of immediate family members

Known interests related to breast 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.

III. PUBLICATION

The DoI of the ECIBC members will be made public in accordance with the provisions on transparency foreseen by Decision 2012/C 198/06². These will be posted on the website of the Healthcare Quality Group dedicated to the ECIBC.

COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS ON PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

The European Commission processes personal data pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725⁴ 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 ECIBC 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-00656.1⁵, Data Protection Office public register.

⁴Protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1725>

⁵Personal data processing including the Declaration of Interests

<https://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register/detail/DPR-EC-00656>