

# ECHA DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There is a conflict of interest where the impartiality and objectivity of a decision, opinion or recommendation of the Agency and/or its bodies, is or might in the public perception be compromised by an interest held by, or entrusted to, an individual working for the Agency.

Please note that having an interest does not necessarily mean having a conflict of interest. In particular, high quality of (scientific) expertise is by nature based on prior experience. Declaring an interest does therefore not automatically disqualify you or limit your participation in the activities of the European Chemicals Agency.

On the other hand it should be emphasised that this declaration of interest form does not contain an exhaustive list of potential interests and that all other elements that might jeopardise your independence when working with the Agency should thus also be indicated. Your answers will then be reviewed and dealt with in accordance with the ECHA Procedure for Prevention and Management of potential Conflicts of Interest.

**First Name:** *Maria Mercedes*

**Last Name:** *Viñas Viñas*

**Position in ECHA:** *Head of unit - unit C1*

**hereby declares to have the following interests**

## ***I. Employment, consultancy, legal representation or advice***

*Within the past 5 years, were you employed or have you had any other professional relationship with a commercial entity<sup>1</sup> or other organisation<sup>2</sup> with an interest in the regulatory field of activity of ECHA?*

- No*
- Yes, and more in particular*

<sup>1</sup> This includes any commercial business, consultancy, research institution or other enterprise whose funding is significantly derived from commercial sources. It also includes independent own commercial businesses, law offices, consultancies or similar.

<sup>2</sup> An 'organisation' includes governmental, international or non-profit organisations, as well as interested groups.

## ***II. Membership of Governing Body, Scientific Advisory Body or equivalent structure***

*Within the past 5 years, have you participated in the internal decision-making of a commercial entity or other organisation with an interest in the regulatory field of activity of ECHA (e.g. board membership, directorship) or have you participated in the works of a Scientific Advisory Body of such commercial entity or organisation with voting rights on the outputs of that entity?*

- No  
 Yes, and more in particular

### **III. Other membership, affiliation or position**

*Within the past 5 years, have you had any membership, affiliation or position other than the above, paid or unpaid, in a commercial entity or other organisation with an interest in the regulatory field of activity of ECHA?*

- No  
 Yes, and more in particular

### **IV. Research funding**

*Within the past 5 years, have you or the research entity to which you belong received any support from a commercial entity or other organisation with an interest in the regulatory field of activity of ECHA, including grants, rents, sponsorships, fellowships, non-monetary support?*

- No  
 Yes, and more in particular

### **V. Investments**

*Do you have current investments in a commercial entity with an interest in the regulatory field of activity of ECHA, including holding of stocks and shares, stock options, equity, bonds, partnership interest in the capital of such undertaking, one of its subsidiaries or a company in the capital of which it has a holding and which amounts to more than 10,000 EUR per commercial entity or entitling you to a voting right of 5% or more in such commercial entity?<sup>3</sup>*

- No  
 Yes, and more in particular

<sup>3</sup> You may exclude financial interests held through an investment fund, pension fund and/or interests in non-nominal unit trusts or similar arrangements, provided that these investments are broadly diversified and you have no influence on their financial management.

### **VI. Intellectual Property**

*Do you have any intellectual property rights (e.g. patent, trademark, copyright or proprietary know-how) in the regulatory field of activity of ECHA that might create a potential conflict of interest?*

- No  
 Yes, and more in particular

### **VII. Other relevant information**

*Are there any other elements that could be seen as jeopardising your independence when working for the Agency?*

- No  
 Yes, and more in particular

### **VIII. Interests held by close family members<sup>4</sup>**

*Do any of your close family members hold any current interests in the regulatory field of activity of the Agency (as specified above in the sections I.-VII.)*

- No  
 Yes, and more in particular

<sup>4</sup> For this purpose 'close family members' are considered to be the persons forming a household with the person making this declaration (spouse, partner, and/or dependent children, as well as other relatives under the care of the members of the household). For privacy reasons neither the relationship nor the name is to be included. Only current interests held by close family members are of relevance and not past interests.

<sup>5</sup> As full transparency is one of the general principles of this Procedure, this option should only be used in case the consent of the individual concerned has not been obtained, when he/she has objected to the disclosure on compelling legitimate grounds or if there is reason to believe that the legitimate interests of the individual involved might be prejudiced by the disclosure (see also Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of personal data)

***I hereby declare that I have read the [ECHA Procedure on Prevention and Management of Potential Conflicts of Interests](#) and that the above Declaration of Interest is at my best knowledge complete. I understand that for all members of the ECHA bodies, the Executive Director and the other ECHA management staff (Directors and Heads of Unit), as well as for the chairmen of the ECHA Committees this declaration will be published on the ECHA website.***

*Please note that the European Chemicals Agency will ensure on its part that your personal data hereby submitted is processed as required by [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data. The data is necessary for the purpose of implementing the Agency's Procedure for Prevention and Management of potential Conflicts of Interest and will be retained for a time period of 7 years. You have the right to access and rectify that data. Under certain conditions, a right to erasure, restriction, objection and/or data portability also applies. To exercise these rights, please contact the relevant secretariat. You can contact the Agency's [Data Protection Officer](#) for any questions or complaints with regard to the processing of your personal data. In case you do not receive a satisfactory outcome, you can have recourse to the [European Data Protection Supervisor](#).*

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