



BBI-GB-9/20

**DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE BIO-BASED  
INDUSTRIES JOINT UNDERTAKING**

**of 10 October 2020**

**amending the rules on the prevention and management of conflicts of interests  
applicable to the bodies of the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking**

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE BIO-BASED INDUSTRIES JOINT UNDERTAKING,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) No 560/2014 of 6 May 2014 establishing the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking<sup>1</sup> ('BBI JU'), and in particular to Article 10(3) of the Statutes annexed to it,

Having regard to Article 19 of the Statutes annexed to Council Regulation (EU) N°560/2014 of 6 May 2014 establishing the BBI JU ("Statutes"),

Having regard to the Governing Board Decision, 13/17, of 13 December 2017, adopting the rules on the prevention and management of conflict of interest applicable to the bodies of the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking,

Having regard to the article 27(4) of the Financial Rules of the BBI JU,

**WHEREAS:**

- (1) Joint Undertakings are public-private partnership and as a consequence public and private interests are intertwined;
- (2) It is understood that the members the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) have a professional interest to work for BBI JU and to act for the good of BBI JU, notably pursuing its objectives, observing the applicable rules and protecting its general interest; on conflicts of interest and the highest standards of administration, professional ethics, integrity and independence;
- (3) The Internal Audit Service performed an audit on the Horizon 2020 grant process (from the identification of the call topics to the signature of the grant agreement) in BBI JU. This audit found ambiguities in the GB Decision 13/17, and issued a recommendation to update this decision, clarifying and aligning the provisions regarding the required

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 169, 7.6.2014, p. 130



declarations for potential conflict of interest of the Governing Board members, and to establish internal guidelines on the management of declaration of interests.

- (4) The annual update of the declaration of interests is only compulsory to the Governing Board members, regardless of any change in their situation in the precedent year. On the other hand, the advisory bodies' members only have to submit and updated declaration when any change affects the one made upon their appointment.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

The following paragraph is added in article 5(1) of the Governing Board Decision 13/17, of 13 December 2017:

‘In the case of declaration of interest by Governing Board members, the secretariat of this body shall carry on checks on the accuracy and completeness of information that will allow to react smoothly to any alleged conflict of interest, whether substantiated or not. Prior to the GB meeting the chair of the GB shall be informed of the assessment of fulfilment and completeness of the declaration of interest and the proposed necessary mitigating measures.’

*Article 2*

The text in article 5(2) should be replaced by the following:

‘2. The declarations of interest of the members of the Governing Board shall be updated and published annually on the BBI JU website. The declarations of interest of BBI JU advisory bodies shall be updated when there is a change from the situation mentioned in the original declaration’

*Article 3*

This decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, on 10 October 2020

For the Governing Board

*Mat Quaedvlieg*  
*Chairperson of the Governing Board*

