

Parma, 11 JAN 2010
Ref OR/SG/DD/rl (2009) – out-4499402

E-mail: christoph.then@testbiotech.org

Re: Your requests of 8 November 2009 and of 24 November 2009

Dear Mr Then,

Thank you very much for your message of 8 November 2009 in which you request further information and for your request of 24 November 2009 regarding access to documents to Ms. Renckens' case.

First, for what concerns your request for further information, please allow me to highlight that as already outlined in my previous communication dated 4 November 2009 (our ref. OR/DD (nm) 2009 – 4408336), EFSA is subject to precise obligations concerning processing personal data and to precise limits regarding the right of access to documents.

As you may be aware, Ms Renckens was Head of the GMO Unit from 01/04/2003 to 31/03/2008. The Unit to which she was assigned provided the Secretariat to the Scientific Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO Panel). As Head of the GMO Unit, she managed the scientific and administrative staff of the Unit, with the objective of providing the Scientific Panel with the appropriate secretarial support.

All Heads of Units of EFSA are appointed following a public call for expressions of interests. The specific requirements EFSA considered as essential for the position of Head of the GMO Unit are laid down in the call.

All applications received by EFSA are evaluated against the eligibility and selection criteria and a comparative assessment of all the applications received was carried out.

EFSA applies a strict Policy on Declarations of Interests¹. EFSA DOI Policy ensures the independence of scientific experts and EFSA staff members alike. In this respect, it should be highlighted that EFSA decided to apply the requirement to declare interests also to members of its staff who carry out administrative, advisory, linguistic and scientific duties, although that is not a legal requirement foreseen in EFSA's Founding regulation or in the Staff regulations applicable to EFSA staff. However, EFSA is also bound by the Staff Regulations applicable to its staff, as adopted by the Council, and cannot enforce legal requirements different from those foreseen therein. Therefore, EFSA did not add for its staff and former staff any limitations in addition to those foreseen by the mentioned Staff Regulations.

¹ The Policy and its implementing acts are available on EFSA's website at the following link: http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/AboutEfsa/WhoWeAre/efsa_locale-1178620753812_DeclarationsInterest.htm

Secondly, as regards your request on access to documents please find enclosed the requested documents. No objections were raised by EFSA.

Thank you very much for your interest in EFSA's scientific activities.

Yours sincerely,



Olivier Ramsayer

Enclosures: 2