

Declaration of Interest 2023

This Form should be used for the Declaration of Interests, as referred to in the Decision of the Administrative Board of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators No 02/2015 of 31 January 2012 and Decision No 16/2022 of 14 December 2022 (the latter applicable for the Administrative Board) and where relevant, reflecting the legislative background (Regulation (EU) no 2019/942, Directive (EU) 2019/944, and Directive 2009/73/EC).

Broadly speaking, 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. However, having an interest does not necessarily mean having a conflict of interest. In particular, high quality of expertise is by nature based on prior experience. Declaring an interest does therefore not automatically disqualify someone or limit their participation in the activities of the Agency.

The Declaration of Interests form is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of potential interests: other elements that might jeopardise the independence of those involved when working in or with the Agency should also be indicated in the Declaration.

The completed Declarations will be reviewed in accordance with the Agency's Policy for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest.

Name and surname: Benoît Esnault

Position in ACER¹: Vice-chair of the ACER Gas Working Group, co-convener of the Gas Infrastructure Task Force

☒ **I hereby declare the following interests that could be prejudicial to my independence (please specify the interest that you or your close family members² currently have or have had in the recent past³).**

I. EMPLOYMENT, CONSULTANCY, LEGAL REPRESENTATION OR ADVICE

In order to assess the possibility of a conflict of interest, please provide details of any employment held or any other professional relationship entered into in the recent past⁴ by you or your close family members⁵ with a natural or legal entity⁶ or other organisation⁷ with an interest in the field of activity of the Agency.

☒ **I have nothing to declare in this respect**

☐ **I declare the following interests**

II. MEMBERSHIP OF MANAGING BODY, ADVISORY BODY OR EQUIVALENT STRUCTURE

In order to assess the possibility of a conflict of interest, please provide details of any participation by you or your close family members⁸ in the recent past⁹ in the internal decision-making of a commercial entity or other organisation or in the works of an Advisory Body with voting rights on the outputs of such an entity, when there may be an interest in the field of activity of the Agency.

☒ **I have nothing to declare in this respect**

☐ **I declare the following interesets**

III. OTHER MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION

In order to assess the possibility of a conflict of interest, please provide details of any membership or affiliation either of yourself or of your close family members¹⁰ in the recent past¹¹. For completeness, please also provide details of any other arrangements, other than those declared in Sections I and II above, which can be perceived as creating a potential conflict of interest.

☒ **I have nothing to declare in this respect**

☐ **I declare the following interesets**

IV. RESEARCH FUNDING

In order to assess the possibility of a conflict of interest, please provide details of any support (including grants, rents, sponsorships, fellowships, non-monetary support) that you, your close family members¹² or any research entity to which you or your close family members belong(ed) has received in the recent past¹³, from a commercial entity or other organisation with an interest in the field of activity of the Agency.

☒ **I have nothing to declare in this respect**

☐ **I declare the following interesets**

V. INVESTMENTS

In order to assess the possibility of a conflict of interest, please provide details of any current investment that you or your close family¹⁴ members have in a commercial entity with an interest in the field of activity of the Agency (including holding of stocks and shares, stock options, equity, bonds, partnership interest in the capital of such undertaking) or in one of its subsidiaries. Investment should generally be declared only if they exceed 10,000 EUR per commercial entity or if they entitle to a voting right of 5% or more in a commercial entity¹⁵.

☒ **I have nothing to declare in this respect**

☐ **I declare the following interesets**

VI. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

In order to assess the possibility of a conflict of interest, please indicate any other elements that could be seen as jeopardising your independence when working for the Agency.

☒ **I have nothing to declare in this respect**

☐ **I declare the following interests**

AGENCY POLICY

I, hereby, declare that I have read Decision No 02/2015 containing Agency's Policy for the prevention and management of conflict of interests and any relevant additional decision applicable to me and that the above Declaration of Interests is to my best knowledge complete and in compliance with such Decisions and where relevant, the legislative background and its further implementing acts whenever existent. I understand that the Declarations of Interest will be processed according to the Policy for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest and entered in a register held by the Agency.

☒ **I've read and I agree**

DATA PROTECTION

The Declaration of Interest of Agency's board members, of Agency's Working Group's Chairs and Vice-Chairs, of Task Force's Conveners, of the Agency's Director and Senior Management will also be published on the Agency's website. For security and data protection reasons the signatures provided on the Declaration of Interest will not be visible when it is published on the Agency's website. Please note that the Agency will ensure that your personal data hereby submitted is processed in line with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 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. For more details on the processing of your personal data, see the privacy statement applicable to your situation. If you include information on close family members, please inform them that the Agency will be processing data related to them.

☒ **I've read and I agree**

IDENTITY CONFIRMATION

Please note that the Agency will ensure that your personal data hereby submitted is processed in line with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 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 data¹⁶. For more details on the processing of your personal data, see the privacy statement applicable to your situation¹⁷, available at <https://acer.europa.eu/the-agency/about-acer/data-protection>.

☒ **I, Benoît Esnault, hereby confirm, on my honor, that I am personally submitting this declaration**

1 If you are both a member of the Board of Regulators and of an Agency Working Group, please indicate both functions.

2 'Close family members' are considered to be the persons forming a household with the person making this declaration (spouse, partner, and/or dependent children). In case you add information on your close family members, please inform them that the Agency will be processing these data about them and that further information is available on the Agency's website.

3 It is suggested that the Declaration covers current interest as well as those held over at least the last 5 years.

4 See footnote 3.

5 See footnote 2.

6 This includes any commercial business, industry association, consultancy, research institution or other enterprise whose funding is significantly arrived from commercial sources. It also includes independent own commercial businesses, law offices, consultancies or similar.

7 This includes governmental, international or non-profit organisations.

8 See footnote 2.

9 See footnote 3.

10 See footnote 2.

11 See footnote 3.

12 See footnote 2.

13 See footnote 3.

14 See footnote 2.

15 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.

16 OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39.

17 http://www.acer.europa.eu/en/The_agency/Pages/Data-Protection.aspx.