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European Alliance for Vision Research and Ophthalmology (EU EYE)

Financial and Disclosure Policy Document

The European Alliance for Vision Research and Ophthalmology (EU EYE) is a non-profit pan European advocacy group. We draw from the experience of our ophthalmology community across Europe to provide a forum for the integration of research priorities, policies and strategies in eye healthcare and vision research. We rely on individuals to represent the views and interests of our organisation in multi-stakeholder and public events, briefing sessions at the EU institutions, public hearings, etc.

The following internal Code of Ethics applies to all those assisting the EU EYE in public work - EU EYE Members and all other individuals selected at times to represent the organisation.



European Innovation
Partnership on Active
and Healthy Ageing

PARTNER

Guidelines on sponsoring

Introduction

The European Alliance for Vision Research and Ophthalmology (EU EYE) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) independent of political parties and economic interests. The EU EYE is registered in Belgium as an International non-profit association, with registration number 0643482261 and ruled by Book 10 of the Belgian Code of Companies and Associations ((BCCA; original term in Dutch: Boek 10 van het Belgisch Wetboek van vennootschappen en verenigingen) of 23 March 2019, as well as the laws and decrees relating to international non-profit associations.

The EU EYE is fully-funded by its members, which are European subspecialty societies, and receives no grants and donations towards its operation from any industry. The EU EYE has adopted a membership business model that guarantees independence while funding the operations of the organisation: the annual membership fee of each member organisation is calculated on the basis of number of events organised by the member organisation and the number of event participants.

Each member society has one vote, irrespective of its size or the extent of its contribution to the budget.

1. General

All EU EYE members have a duty to avoid financial, business or other relationships that might cause a conflict with the performance of their duties as EU EYE officers or might be opposed to the interests of the EU EYE as an organisation.

Those Board members who are medical professionals, are subscribed to the Code of Conduct of the medical profession of their own Member State and the Code of Conduct of their individual societies.

2. Guidelines on grants, donations and loans

The EU EYE, represented by the Board, may receive grants, donations and loans from the institutions of the European Union, foundations and others, provided that it does not affect its independence. The EU EYE must always proclaim its financial independence and declare any grants and donations that it receives other than membership contributions.

3. Guidelines on industry-sponsored events

The EU EYE maintains a collaborative approach regarding its work with external organisations, groups and companies to achieve its mission and vision.

The EU EYE is often invited to speak at events organised by other organisations with similar interests and scope. Such events may be sponsored by one company or several

companies or an agency acting on behalf of the sponsor(s). The EU EYE decides on whether to participate or not after examining the nature of the event and conditions.

Nature of events and conditions

The EU EYE can accept invitations to speak at multi-stakeholder or public events provided:

1. Speaking at the event supports EU EYE's strategy and help to achieve its mission and vision;
2. The EU EYE has a position on the subject matter of the event;
3. There is a relevant audience.

If one or more of the above conditions are not met, the Board of EU EYE can decide that there are other reasons why the EU EYE should accept to participate such as awareness events on topics of interest to the EU EYE or to support fellow NGOs on subjects of interest to the EU EYE.

No member society will accept invitations to speak as a representative of the EU EYE at or participate in companies' in-house meetings or conferences or provide scientists or other experts unless approved by the Board of the EU EYE.

4. Guidelines for individuals selected as EU EYE representatives

Advertising

No advertising or marketing of products, interventions, etc should accompany any communication with the EU institutions, the EU agencies, the Scientific Committees and expert panels of the European Commission.

Relationship with industry

Any representative of the EU EYE should never allow any offer, inducement, or promise from any industry or business to affect his or her independence when advocating for the goals of the EU EYE in his/her communication with the EU institutions, the EU agencies, the Scientific Committees and expert panels of the European Commission.

Conflicts of interest and EU EYE activities

Conflict of interest for the purpose of the EU EYE public work is defined as *"financial and other conflicts of interest that might bias one's work as EU EYE representative in public relations."*

The EU EYE has adopted a policy similar to that of the Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Policy of the medical journals. The EU EYE maintains an internal list of disclosures for all board members from the past two years for all financial relationships or other competing

interests which are deemed related to the thematic areas of the EU EYE work and which could be perceived as biasing their public relations work. Board members should err on the side of more complete disclosure if there is a question about which disclosures are relevant. The Board members may update their disclosure forms at any time.

Whenever a representative of the EU EYE faces a conflict of interest between her or his personal, professional, or financial interest and the best interests of the EU EYE, the representative must disclose that to the EU EYE Board. Potential conflicts of interest can arise when a representative of the EU EYE benefits from a relationship that could influence how he/she communicates on the behalf of the EU EYE with the EU institutions, the EU agencies, the Scientific Committees and expert panels of the European Commission. Potential conflicts of interest can arise from receipt of any payment, inducement, benefit, gift, or reward, including cash, honoraria, commissions, salaries, shares, or other interest in a company, loans, sponsorship, interest, dividends, hotel expenses, and travel costs. Such conflicts can also arise when a business partner, family member, friend, investor, or employer of a Society member or participant receives any such payment, inducement, benefit, gift, or reward. The EU EYE Board reserves the right to decide what constitutes a potential conflict of interest in any given circumstance. Individuals are selected to represent the EU EYE as experts in a number of activities. Such individuals should disclose all conflicts between their financial interests and the best interests of the EU EYE. Such disclosure would include conflicts of interest involving:

1. The financial relationship of the individual with the manufacturer or supplier of a medical device, product, or service linked to the EU EYE activity for which the individual has been selected as a representative of the EU EYE;
2. The financial relationship of the individual's business partner, family member, investor, employer, or employee with the manufacturer or supplier of the medical device, product, or service linked to the EU EYE activity for which the individual has been selected as a representative of the EU EYE;
3. The financial relationship of the individual with any person or entity where the relationship could be reasonably interpreted by the EU EYE Board as a potential conflict of interest with the individuals's role as a EU EYE representative.

The list of examples is not exhaustive. Should any individual in a EU EYE activities be in any doubt about the application of this Code of Ethics, she or he should contact the EU EYE at info@eueye.org

Submitted to the Board by email on 9 January 2019

Approved by the Board by email on 10 January 2019

Amended and approved by the Board on 17 July 2025