

## **Protocol on consultation of external experts**

*Drawn up by the Committee Scientific Integrity  
on November 7, 2014*

1. The committee decides whether it is necessary to consult external experts in a particular case.
2. The committee asks scientists with no direct link to the matter to provide names of external experts, or calls upon a staff department if non-scientific expertise is required.
3. The committee approaches the expert with the request to assist with a matter relating to integrity (without providing information on the specific case). The committee informs the expert of the duty of confidentiality as described in article 2, paragraph 4, of the Scientific Integrity Complaints Procedure. In principle, this duty of confidentiality expires at the moment at which elements of the matter officially become public knowledge. This expiry of the duty of confidentiality applies only to those published elements. However, the committee advises experts not to involve themselves in any public discussion.
4. Following a positive response to the request by the expert, the committee will pass on the names of the persons concerned and ask whether there has been any past cooperation between the persons concerned and the expert.
5. If no involvement has taken place, the expert will receive the documentation along with the corresponding questions from the committee. The questions asked will relate to the background (scientific or otherwise) of a complaint. The expert will not be asked to give a judgement on integrity, and he/she will be asked not to give any verdicts on this in the advice provided. The expert will be asked to limit himself/herself to establishing facts and providing background information.
6. If the expert advice is added to the advice of the committee as presented to the Executive Board, this expert advice will be anonymised.