ANNUAL DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (ADoI)

(Please note that high quality of scientific expertise is by nature based on prior experience and that therefore having an interest does not necessarily mean having a conflict of interest)

Name: TEBBE, Christoph
Title: Prof., Dr.
Profession: Microbiologist, Research Director

Current EFSA involvements: Member-GMO Panel 2012-2015 (GMO), Member-Applications-Environment (GMO), Member-Genetically Modified Microorganisms (GMO), Member-Genetically Modified Microorganisms (FEEDAP) 2012-2015 (FEEDAP)

Nature of Activities	Period	Organisation	Subject matter
I. Economic interest			NO INTEREST
II. Member of a management body or equivalent structure			NO INTEREST
III. Member of a scientific advisory body	07/2009 - 06/2012	-Name: EFSA, European Food Safety Authority, Italy, Parma	Member - GMO Panel 2009-2012 (GMO)
	06/2009 - 05/2012	-Name: EFSA, European Food Safety Authority, Italy, Parma	Member - Updated GMM GD WG (GMO)

GMO = Genetically Modified Organisms; FEEDAP = Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed

	03/2006 - 04/2012	-Name: VDI (Verein deutscher Ingenieure; Association of German Engineers)	I was the head of a working group ("Fachausschuss") on "Molecular ecology - Effects of GMO on soils". This was an activity that had been initiated by the VDI to develop a recommendation how to measure the concentration of recombinant Bt-toxins from GM plants after a field release. My task was to invite experts and discuss the best methods and develop a suggestions for a method that can be applied for monitoring purposes. This activity was finished by spring 2009. The other activity of the group, which was finished in April 2012, was to discuss the sense and possible protocols to extract total DNA from soils in order to characterize the soil microbial diversity as a parameter for soil quality. The meetings of the group was not financially supported, each member had to find own traveling support and there were not payments or interests involved. My personal motivation was to discuss with other experts possibilities to apply methods developed mainly for basic research to environmental risk assessment. There was no objective or intention in relation to GMO applications and guidelines. - I am not a member of the VDI but acted as an independent invited scientist . Info on VDI: VDI The Association of German Engineers is a financially independent and politically unaffiliated, non-profit organization of 132,000 engineers and natural scientists. More than 13,000 of these members work for the VDI in an honorary capacity.
	03/2006 - 04/2012	-Name: VDI (Verein deutscher Ingenieure; Association of German Engineers)	I was an invited expert of Advisory Committee ("Fachbeirat") on "Monitoring of ecological effects of genetically modified organisms" - The committee discusses the need and best approaches for standardizing methods for monitor the ecological effects of genetically engineered plants in agriculture for the benefit of the people. There was no specific or personal interest in this activity. My role was to provide scientific expertise for questions related to microbiological analysis of soils and methods to determine soil quality. There was no financial compensation or payment in regard to participation. Expenses for participation were covered by my employee, the Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forest and Fishery (vTI). I am not a member of the VDI and I had been invited because of my scientific expertise. There was no objective or intention in relation to GMO applications and guidelines. - Info on VDI: The Association of German Engineers is a financially independent and politically unaffiliated, non-profit organization of 132,000 engineers and natural scientists. More than 13,000 of these members work for the VDI in an honorary capacity.
IV. Employment	04/1991 - now	-Name: Formerly (1991-2007) Federal Research Centre for Agriculture (FAL) - since 1/2008 renamed to "von Thünen Institut"	Applied Research in Agricultural Microbiology (e.g. organic waste treatment, microbial degradation of organic pollutants), Soil Microbiology and Biosafety Research, all with the objective to provide data and expertise to advise the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV). No direct involvement in the development of guidelines or the evaluation of applications for approval of genetically engineered organisms.
V. Ad hoc or occasional consultancy			NO INTEREST

VI. Research funding	12/2011 - now	-Name: European Community	General statement relevant for all my reserach funding projects: I did not receive any (co-)funding from the private sector in the latest full budget year, and for the areas covered by the Panels Information on AMIGA: AMIGA - Assessing and Monitoring the Impacts of Genetically Modified Plants on Agro-ecosystems - Soil Fertility. This project is concerned with defining baselines of microbial diversity and their variability in different biogeographical regions in Europe in the context of defining thresholds and levels of concern or harm caused by cultivation of genetically modified crops. Soils from different agricultural sites in Europe will be analyzed using next-generation high-throuput DNA-sequencing technologies and bioinformatics. Furthermore we at vTI coordinate activities in the Workpackage "Soil Fertility"
	10/2011 - now	-Name: Lower Saxony State Ministry of Agriculture	Characterization of the microbial diversity in agricultural biogas plants with special emphasis to the occurrence of Clostridia
	06/2007 - now	-Name: DFG (German Reserach Foundation, Deutsche Forschungsmeineinschaft)	Partitioning of organic chemicals into soil micro-sites. Analysis of their fate and interactions with the resident microbial communities.
	01/2007 - now	-Name: Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)	Genetic reservoirs in semi-arid - Ecological functions and effect of agriculture (collaboration with Mexico).
	04/2008 - 12/2011	-Name: Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)	Exploration of alkalophilic microbial communities from a soda lake (Collaboration with India).
	10/2008 - 04/2011	-Name: Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology	Cultivation independent molecular analysis of the structural and functional diversity of microbial community developing in agricultural biogas reactors and analyses of their resilience
	07/2008 - 04/2011	-Name: Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)	Degradation of Cry-proteins from Bt-maize with stacked genes and effect on soil microorganisms
	10/2007 - 03/2009	-Name: BASF	My employer, the vTI, signed an agreement with BASF, in order to enhance the possibilities of the Institute to develop and evaluate cultivation independent molecular profiling techniques which can help to understand the effects of crop roots on soil microbial diversity and to compare the importance of different environmental factors in this regard. The agreement focused on potatoes and their effects on soil bacterial diversity. In this context, soil microbial communities associated with different potato cultivars, among them one genetically engineered potato with a modified amylopectin, were analyzed. The collaboration was driven by the Institute’s interest to develop new sensitive tools for the detection of effects of crops including GM crops on soil bacteria in order to protect soil microbial diversity as an important factor of soil quality. vTI obtained from BASF financial support for hiring one scientist and buying consumables for 18 months to conduct the study. I contributed to the experimental planning of the project and I participated in the analyses of the scientific data. A final report with the results of this study which focused on the detection of differences between the cultivars and the GM potato was provided to BASF. Publication of all results from this research, independent of their outcome, was contractually granted by BASF to vTI before the onset of the project. In order to avoid conflicting interests I will not take part in assessing applications of GM potatoes nor will I assess applications from BASF.
	05/2005 - 04/2008	-Name: Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)	Joint research project on the ecological effects of Bt-maize with Cryl Ab (MON810) or Cry3Bb1 (MON88017) on non-target organisms: Degradation of the Bt-toxins in soil and effects on soil microorganisms.

VII. Intellectual property rights			NO INTEREST
VIII. Other membership or affiliation	09/2001 - now	-Name: ISME - International Society for Microbial Ecology	A non-profit organization dedicated to promote international research in the field of Microbial Ecology. I have a plain membership with no specific functions.
	07/1989 - now	-Name: ASM - American Society for Microbiology	A non-profit organization which is dedicated to the utilization of microbiological sciences for the promotion of human welfare and for the accumulation of knowledge. I have a plain membership in this society and I have no specific activity or responsibility in this society.
	06/1984 - now	-Name: VAAM - Verein Allgemeiner und Angewandter Mikrobiologie	A non-profit making organization which promotes the exchange of scientific information and co-operation of its members with a view to translating the results of microbiological research to the benefit of society and the environment. - I have a plain membership in this society and no specific activity or responsibility beyond that.
IX. Other relevant interest	04/2007 - now	-Name: Elsevier Publisher	Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Soil Biology.
	05/2006 - 07/2012	-Name: Blackwell Publisher	Editor of FEMS Microbiology Ecology.
	05/2005 - 07/2009	-Name: Blackwell Publisher	Environmental Microbiology - Editorial Board member.
X. Interests of close family members			NO INTEREST

I hereby declare that I have read both the Guidance Document on Declarations of Interests and the Procedure for identifying and handling potential conflict of interests and that the above Declaration of Interests is complete.

Date: 20/09/2012 Signature: SIGNED