

**GROUP OF HIGH-LEVEL SPECIALISTS ON THE FUTURE OF  
COHESION POLICY**

**DECLARATION ON THE ABSENCE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OF  
JOHN BACHTLER**

The Commission has set up a Group of high-level specialists on the future of cohesion policy to provide the Commission with advice and knowledge on maximising the impact of cohesion policy in terms of reducing economic, social and territorial disparities and contributing to a European Growth Model for regions built on a fair digital and green transition in a context of regional recovery and growth. The analytical contributions and recommendations about the future orientations of the policy should be presented in the format of a final report and should feed into the reflection on cohesion policy post 2027.

The appointment as member of the Group requires, in particular, independence and an impeccable record of professional behaviour.

The members of the Group shall, in all circumstances:

- carry out their duties impartially and objectively with due respect for the duty of loyalty and discretion with regard to the European Union and be guided solely by the interests of the European Union;
- abstain from taking instructions from any government, authority, organisation or person, in relation to their duties as member of the Group;
- refrain from accepting from any government or any other source any honour, decoration, favour, gift or payment in connection with their duties as members of the Group, outside of those planned for the reimbursement of expenses incurred during the meetings of the Group;
- abstain from dealing with any matter in which, directly or indirectly, they have any personal interest such as to impair their independence, in particular any personal interest, including professional, family and/or financial interests. Should such a situation arise, they must immediately inform the other members of the Group and the European Commission in writing.

According to article 5(2) of the Commission Decision governing the Group of high-level specialists on the future of cohesion policy, the members of the Group should submit a declaration on the absence of conflict of interests. If a potential conflict of interests appears, the member concerned should immediately inform the Chair and resign from the group if the Chair so requests.

**I hereby declare that I am aware of the obligations detailed above and confirm that there is no conflict of interest between my duties as member of the Group of high-level specialists on the future of cohesion policy and my other personal interests including professional, family or financial interests.**

**In addition, I engage to inform immediately the Chair of the Group of high-level specialists on the future of cohesion policy in writing and to withdraw from the latter if, in the performance of my duties, I am asked to deal with a matter in which I have a personal interest such as to impair my independence.**

**Date: 27.1.23**

**Signature:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Fontaine", is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.