

Toulouse School of Economics

Statement on Scientific Integrity

May 14, 2011

1. The objectivity, non-partisanship and scientific rigor of the research undertaken by researchers at TSE are our most important assets. TSE is committed to providing researchers with an environment that fosters independent and rigorous research. Both the users of our research and its sponsors have a right to expect it to be carried out to the highest standards and to be submitted to rigorous peer review. TSE is committed to transparency regarding its sources of funding. TSE accepts that its sponsors and users, as well as the general public, have a legitimate right to know of any factors that might cause any risk of bias in its research. To the extent that TSE researchers are also active in discussion about policy matters of public interest, we are committed also to promoting the highest standards of integrity in public debate. TSE is also committed to ensuring that its scientific reputation is not used to give unwarranted authority to purely partisan assertions.

2. Consistently with these principles the Board of TSE declares:

2.1 That it holds no institutional views on matters of public policy and seeks to impose no such views on its researchers, each of whom is free to draw conclusions on the basis of scientific evidence and his/her own value judgments, and to publish such conclusions when and where s/he judges appropriate. All such conclusions and opinions remain the exclusive responsibility of the researchers concerned.

2.2 That in accepting funding from sponsors for the purposes of research, it cannot make any advance commitments as to the conclusions to be drawn from the research.

2.3 That in accepting funding from a sponsor it cannot undertake to induce any individual member of TSE to make available their time for additional consulting activity on an individual basis.

2.4 That the results of all research will be eligible for submission for publication in scientific journals except where they concern confidential data, for which a limited exception to the eligibility for publication must be negotiated in advance with the sponsor concerned.

2.5 That it will publish on its website a list, to be updated at the end of each calendar year, of all sources of funding greater than 5,000 Euros in cash or in kind, including a separate list of donors who have donated sums larger than 100,000 Euros in the previous calendar year.

3. Similarly, TSE expects from each of its members

3.1 That s/he will maintain the highest standards of integrity in the conduct of research.

3.2 That s/he will not allow the conduct or the conclusions of that research to be influenced by partisan objectives, including those of any sources of institutional and/or individual funding s/he may have received.

3.3 That, in the interest of transparency about any possible conflict of interest, s/he will mention in research publications and other public studies the institutions funding this work.

3.4 That s/he will publish on his/her individual TSE web page a list of the institutions from which s/he has received funding. This list may include the names of institutional funders of research projects in which s/he is significantly involved as well as other sources of income, funding or commitment that could be considered sources of conflict of interest.¹

3.5 That s/he will make her/his best effort to ensure that any dissemination of his/her research in non-scientific media (press, television, internet blogs etc) does not distort the scientific conclusions of that research for partisan ends.

3.6 That in undertaking any consulting activity on an individual basis s/he will bear in mind that his/her value as a consultant derives in large measure from the collective scientific reputation of TSE, and will refrain from any conduct that might cast doubt on his/her scientific integrity or that of other members of TSE.

4. An ethics committee will be established to make recommendations on the implementation of these principles.

¹ In cases of doubt individuals may consult the ethics committee.