

INEBRIA POSITION STATEMENT ON THE ALCOHOL INDUSTRY

INEBRIA aims to provide global leadership in the development, evaluation and implementation of evidence-based practice in the area of early identification and brief intervention for hazardous and harmful substance use. In so doing, one of our objectives is to promote integration of the study of brief interventions for hazardous and harmful substance use within the wider context of measures to prevent and reduce substance-related harm. It is appropriate, therefore, that INEBRIA considers its position with regards to industries whose interests may be in conflict with our aims and objectives, and this statement concerns the private sector alcohol industry.¹ This is increasingly concentrated in large companies acting globally, who seek to influence public policy at national and international levels, in order to advance corporate interests. This position statement follows a report of a working group convened to consider these issues in depth, whose full report is available on the INEBRIA website.

INEBRIA believes that the commercial activities of the alcohol industry pose a conflict of interest (COI) of such magnitude that any form of engagement with the alcohol industry may influence its independence, objectivity, integrity and credibility internationally. INEBRIA views any attention given by the industry to brief interventions as likely to be detrimental to evidence-based public health. INEBRIA will therefore manage in a transparent way its relationship with the alcohol industry, as well as seek the same transparency from its members.

INEBRIA discourages all members from seeking or receiving funding from, and indeed having any relationships with the alcohol industry. This includes any organisations funded directly or indirectly such as research funding bodies (ABMRF/The Foundation for Alcohol Research and ERAB/The European Foundation for Alcohol Research) and public relations organisations which claim to be concerned with social aspects of alcohol in order to influence policy. A list of these organisations is available on the INEBRIA website, which will be updated regularly.

While membership of INEBRIA will not be contingent on non-receipt of funds from the alcohol industry, all current members and individuals wishing to join INEBRIA will be invited to endorse this position statement. All individuals wishing to present at an INEBRIA meeting will also be required to complete a COI declaration for the work being presented. Members of the Co-ordinating Committee will also sign a COI declaration and may not have worked with or received funding from the alcohol industry, directly or indirectly, in the 5 years prior to their election date, or during their term of office.

¹ “The alcohol industry should be broadly defined to include producers, distributors, sellers and marketers of alcohol, including any company that derives significant revenues from producing, selling or marketing alcoholic products, or products necessary for the production of alcoholic beverages. The alcohol industry also includes beer, wine and spirit trade associations and alcohol social aspects and public relations organisations. INEBRIA draws a distinction between alcohol industry activities within the state sector (eg in distribution monopolies) which are managed in the public interest, and those which are in the private sector, where the pursuit of profit motivates industry actions. This position statement is concerned with the latter.

The Co-ordinating Committee will monitor developments in this area and will make decisions which advance INEBRIA's aims and objectives, as defined by the statutes, and guided by this position statement.