

Summary of LOWI decision 2015-08

The Petitioners complained to the Board about an alleged violation of the principles of research integrity. Their complaint concerned a report that dates from 2009 and an article published in 2011. In its preliminary decision, the Board found the complaint inadmissible.

One of the present Petitioners had already submitted a complaint about the report in 2009, which the Board had then declared unfounded. The Petitioner subsequently petitioned the LOWI, which also declared the complaint unfounded.

In earlier opinions (see LOWI opinion 2015-05), the LOWI considered that its own Regulations and the General Administrative Law Act [*Algemene wet bestuursrecht*] prevent it from reconsidering a repeat petition. The present case concerns a repeat petition. After all, the *report* has already been the subject of a petition submitted to the LOWI. Although the *article* was published later, in 2011, the editors of the journal in which it was published had already accepted the final version of the article in 2009. The 2009 article also formed the basis for the one of the chapters of the report. That means that by issuing an opinion on the report, the LOWI has also issued an opinion on the article. On top of this, it should be noted that the Petitioners' objections to the article are the same as their objections to the report, i.e. that the researchers make statements which could be considered politically sensitive and wrong.

Because the Petitioners have not argued plausibly that there are new facts and circumstances at play that could justify a review of an earlier LOWI opinion, and because they have also failed to meet the reasonable submission deadline for repeat petitions, the LOWI has not considered the petition.

On 30 July 2015, the Board took a final decision in line with its preliminary decision.