

***CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE
PLATFORM ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCE***

1. Background to the Platform on Sustainable Finance

As a follow-up to the 2018 Action Plan on sustainable finance, Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (the “Taxonomy Regulation”) sets out the legal provisions to define “sustainable investment”. It establishes an EU-wide classification system for sustainable economic activities (“EU Taxonomy”), allowing non-financial and financial companies to share a common definition of sustainable economic activities for the purposes of investment and thereby providing protection against greenwashing¹.

The EU Taxonomy focuses on classifying economic activities that are environmentally sustainable, covering six objectives: (1) climate change mitigation; (2) climate change adaptation; (3) sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources; (4) transition to a circular economy; (5) pollution prevention and control and (6) protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. Legal provisions in the Taxonomy Regulation determine, for those six environmental objectives, the principle that an environmentally sustainable economic activity must substantially contribute to at least one environmental objective and do no significant harm to any other objective.

The EU Taxonomy is an important tool to facilitate sustainable investments and help the EU deliver on the European Green Deal. The European Green Deal aims to transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy while reaching its 2030 climate and energy goals and becoming climate-neutral by 2050, as well as moving towards a zero pollution ambition to protect the EU’s natural capital and citizens’ health and well-being².

Addressing climate and environmental challenges in the EU and globally requires investments across sectors and in a variety of applications, both by the public and private sector, as well as mobilising finance, notably from private sources. An estimated EUR 350 billion in additional investment per year over this decade will be required to meet the EU’s 2030 emissions-reduction target in energy systems alone, alongside the EUR 130 billion it will need for other environmental goals³.

To that end, the European Commission adopted the “European Green Deal Investment Plan” on 14 January 2020⁴, in order to mobilise at least EUR 1 trillion of sustainable investments over the next decade. The European Green Deal Investment Plan builds on three pillars: (1) unlocking private finance through public funding; (2) enabling frameworks for private investors and the public sector; (3) technical support to identify and structure sustainable investments. In synergy with the Green Deal Investment Plan and the increased ambition of the EU in tackling climate change, the European Commission adopted a Strategy for financing the transition to a sustainable economy (“the Strategy”) on 6 July 2021. The Strategy focuses on the objectives of financing the transition to sustainability, increasing access to sustainable finance for small and medium-sized companies, promoting international

¹ The use of marketing to portray an organisation’s products, activities or policies as environmentally friendly when they are not.

² European Commission Communication “The European Green Deal” of 11.12.2019, COM(2019) 640 final

³ European Commission Communication “Strategy for Financing the Transition to a Sustainable Economy” of 06.07.2021, COM(2021) 390 final.

⁴ European Commission Communication “European Green Deal Investment Plan” of 14.1.2020, COM(2019) 21 final

consensus on a global sustainable finance agenda, as well as strengthening the financial sector's resilience and contribution to meeting Green Deal targets. The Strategy also laid the ground for continuing the implementation and development of the EU Taxonomy.

The European Commission has so far adopted three delegated acts under the Taxonomy Regulation. The European Commission adopted the Climate Delegated act on 4 June 2021 covering sustainable activities for climate change adaptation and mitigation objectives⁵. On 6 July 2021, the European Commission adopted the Delegated Act supplementing Article 8 of the Taxonomy Regulation specifying the content, methodology and presentation of information to be disclosed by large financial and non-financial companies about the environmental performance of their assets and economic activities⁶. Most recently on 9 March 2022, the European Commission adopted the Complementary Climate Delegated Act, including, under strict conditions, specific nuclear and gas energy activities in the list of economic activities covered by the EU Taxonomy⁷.

The legal provisions of the Taxonomy Regulation also specify the advisory role of a "Platform on Sustainable Finance". Accordingly, the European Commission established in October 2020 a Platform on Sustainable Finance in accordance with Article 20 of the Taxonomy Regulation ("the Platform"). The role of the Platform is to advise the European Commission on several tasks and topics related to the EU Taxonomy, including providing scientific and evidence-based advice for technical screening criteria to be included in the forthcoming delegated acts under the EU Taxonomy Regulation. While the Platform's advisory output is important in relation to the areas identified in Article 20, it is the European Commission, in accordance with the Treaty and on the basis of a specific empowerment under Article 23 of the Taxonomy Regulation that is responsible for adopting delegated acts on the various environmental objectives set out in the Taxonomy Regulation, subject to the scrutiny of the European Parliament and the Council. To that end, in addition to the advice from the Platform, the Commission will also consider feedback received from Members of the European Parliament and from Member States, including by convening meetings of the Member States Expert Group, as well as input and evidence provided by other stakeholders. In adopting delegated acts, the European Commission ensures that delegated acts respect the legal requirements set out in the Taxonomy Regulation, and in particular all requirements of Article 19 in relation to technical screening criteria.

In its advisory role, the Platform should also ensure appropriate coordination with the work of the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) and the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG), notably as regards issues related to disclosures and usability of the

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2139 of 4 June 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing the technical screening criteria for determining the conditions under which an economic activity qualifies as contributing substantially to climate change mitigation or climate change adaptation and for determining whether that economic activity causes no significant harm to any of the other environmental objectives (OJ L 442, 9.12.2021).

⁶ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2178 of 6 July 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying the content and presentation of information to be disclosed by undertakings subject to Articles 19a or 29a of Directive 2013/34/EU concerning environmentally sustainable economic activities, and specifying the methodology to comply with that disclosure obligation (OJ L 443, 10. 12. 2021).

⁷ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2139 as regards economic activities in certain energy sectors and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2178 as regards specific public disclosures for those economic activities, adopted on 9 March 2022 and to be published in the Official Journal.

sustainable finance framework. The ESAs and EFRAG should be consulted and involved in all relevant phases of Platform work, to help facilitate smooth implementation of the framework, in full regard of respective roles and responsibilities.

The Platform is classified as an “other similar entity” in the sense of and is subject to Commission Decision C(2016)3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of expert groups (“the horizontal rules”)⁸. In accordance with Article 10(7) of the horizontal rules and Article 9 of the Terms of Reference specifying the functioning and tasks of the Platform⁹, the current members of the Platform have been appointed for a period of two years ending in Q4 2022.

At the date of publication of this call for applications, the current Platform has delivered six reports:

- (i) Transition finance report published on 19 March 2021;
- (ii) Final Report on Social Taxonomy published on 28 February 2022;
- (iii) Final Report on Taxonomy Extension Options supporting a Sustainable Transition published on 29 March 2022;
- (iv) Report with recommendations on technical screening criteria for, in particular, the four remaining environmental objectives of the EU taxonomy published on 30 March 2022;
- (v) Platform Usability Report - Platform Recommendations on Data and Usability of the EU Taxonomy published on 11 October 2022;
- (vi) Report on Minimum Safeguards of the EU Taxonomy published on 11 October 2022.

By the end of the current term, the Platform is expected to deliver recommendations on technical screening criteria for additional economic activities not covered in the March 2022 report on technical screening criteria for, in particular, the four remaining environmental objectives.

The development of technical screening criteria under the EU Taxonomy has progressed significantly and the markets have started to apply the EU Taxonomy and other sustainable finance regulations and tools. The implementation and usability of the framework have therefore become an increasingly important priority for market participants and the European Commission. The Platform will play an important role towards improving the usability of the EU sustainable finance framework (including the EU Taxonomy), while at the same time ensuring further support to the European Commission in developing the EU Taxonomy and contributing to the implementation of the Strategy.

2. Tasks and organisation of the Platform

The purpose of the present call for applications is to select suitable members for the Platform membership’s second term, to perform primarily the tasks listed below. The term of mandate of the members of the Platform to be selected through this call for applications will be two years (Q1 2023 to Q4 2024).

2.1 Objectives and tasks

⁸ Available at [Register of Commission Documents - C\(2016\)3301 \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/3301/oj).

⁹ Terms of Reference of the Platform on Sustainable Finance (X03731), available at [Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities \(europa.eu\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/3301/oj).

Taking into account the tasks of the Platform described in Article 20(2) of the Taxonomy Regulation and the background set out above, the Platform will focus on the following priorities: (i) support the European Commission in its work on improving the usability of the EU sustainable finance framework (including the EU Taxonomy) for market participants; (ii) support the European Commission with advising on further development of the EU Taxonomy activities and associated technical screening criteria across all six environmental objectives; and (iii) support the European Commission with advice and analysis on the implementation of parts of the Strategy, in particular monitoring of capital flows into sustainable investments.

The Platform will therefore be expected to work in close cooperation with the European Commission on the following tasks:

I. Task 1: Advise on the usability of the EU Taxonomy and wider sustainable finance framework

- a. Advise the European Commission on the usability of the technical screening criteria, taking into account the need to avoid undue administrative burden (Art. 20(2)(g) TR). The focus shall in particular be on facilitating EU Taxonomy usability by market participants (throughout the mandate);
- b. Advise the European Commission on the evaluation and development of sustainable finance policies, including concerning policy coherence issues (Art. 20(2)(i) TR). The focus shall in particular be on supporting the European Commission, where appropriate, on the coherence and usability of the wider EU sustainable finance framework, as well as on the international interoperability and usability of the EU Taxonomy (throughout the mandate);
- c. Advise the European Commission on the possible need to develop further measures to improve data availability and quality (Art. 20(2)(f) TR). The focus shall in particular be on enhancing data reporting and flow across the value chain, and on supporting the review of the Commission Delegated Regulation concerning disclosures under Article 8 of the Taxonomy Regulation in close collaboration with European Supervisory Authorities (throughout the mandate);
- d. Advise the Commission, where appropriate, on the possible role of sustainability accounting and reporting standards in supporting the application of the technical screening criteria (Art. 20(2)(d) TR);
- e. Advise the Commission on the application of Article 18 of the Taxonomy Regulation (minimum safeguards) and the possible need to supplement the requirements thereof (Art. 20(2)(k) TR).

II. Task 2: Advise on the technical screening criteria for the EU Taxonomy

- a. Advise the European Commission on the technical screening criteria referred to in Article 19 of the Taxonomy Regulation (Art. 20(2)(a) TR). The focus shall in particular be on advising the Commission on the technical screening criteria for new economic activities that address all six climate and environmental objectives (throughout the mandate);
- b. Advise the European Commission on the possible need to update the existing technical screening criteria (Art. 20(2)(a) TR) (throughout the mandate);
- c. Analyse the impact of the technical screening criteria in terms of potential costs and benefits of their application (Art. 20(2)(b) TR) (throughout the mandate);
- d. Assist the European Commission in analysing requests from stakeholders to develop or revise technical screening criteria for a given economic activity (Art. 20(2)(c) TR) (throughout the mandate);

III. Task 3: Monitoring capital flows into sustainable investment

- a. Monitor and report regularly to the European Commission on EU and Member State level trends regarding capital flows towards sustainable investment (Art. 20(2)(e) TR).

2.2 Organisation of the Platform

The Platform will operate in Plenary format (full composition of members) and sub-groups. Three sub-groups will be established to carry out the specific tasks detailed above, within the mandate of the Platform: (i) a sub-group on usability and data; (ii) a Technical Working Group on the development of technical screening criteria for the EU Taxonomy, and (iii) a sub-group on monitoring capital flows. Only members of the Platform can be members of the sub-groups.

In accordance with Article 20(3), the Platform shall take into account the views of a wide range of stakeholders.

To ensure that the Platform has the appropriate expertise at the right time, the Commission may invite experts with specific expertise on an *ad hoc* basis in accordance with Article 20(4) of the Taxonomy Regulation and the horizontal rules (see section 3.3 below).

3. Features of the Platform

3.1. Composition

The Platform shall consist of up to 35 members, up to 28 of which to be selected through this call for applications. 7 members are appointed directly as required by Article 20 of the Taxonomy Regulation (see below). In accordance with Article 20 of the Taxonomy Regulation, the Platform shall be composed, in a balanced manner, of the following stakeholders:

1. Individuals appointed in a personal capacity (*Type A members*), with proven knowledge, understanding and experience in the practical development and

application of the Taxonomy Regulation. Individuals appointed in a personal capacity have to act independently and in the public interest.

2. Individuals representing a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area (***Type B members***). Experts nominated by stakeholder organisations shall not represent the interest of an individual stakeholder;
3. Organisations representing relevant private stakeholders, including financial and non-financial market actors and business sectors, representing relevant industries (***Type C members***).
4. Organisations representing civil society, including those with expertise in the field of environmental, social, labour and governance issues (***Type C members***).
5. Organisations representing academia, including universities, research institutes and other scientific organisations, including those with global expertise (***Type C members***).

Organisations (***Type C members***) are expected to appoint a permanent representative to the Platform, who will represent the organisation in the work of the Platform.

An organisation shall nominate its permanent representative and shall be responsible for ensuring that its permanent representative provides a high level of expertise. The European Commission may refuse the nomination of a representative by an organisation if it considers this nomination inappropriate in light of the requirements specified in section 5 of this call. In such case, the organisation concerned shall be asked to appoint another representative.

In addition, the following public entities listed in Article 20(1)(a) of the Taxonomy Regulation will be appointed as members directly (***Type E members***):

- The European Environment Agency (EEA);
- The European Supervisory Authorities: the European Banking Authority (EBA); the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA); the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA);
- The European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF);
- The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

A reserve list of suitable member candidates (***Type A, B and C members***) will be established that may be used to appoint members' replacements. The applicants will be asked for agreement before their names are included on the reserve list.

Organisations and public entities other than Member States' authorities may be granted an observer status, in compliance with the horizontal rules. Organisations and public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Chairperson to take part in the discussions of the group and provide expertise. However, they shall not have voting rights and shall not participate in the formulation of recommendations or advice of the group.

3.2. Appointment

Members shall be appointed by the Director General of DG FISMA from applicants complying with the selection criteria referred to in section 5 of this call, as a result of the selection procedure to be conducted in accordance with this call. Members shall be appointed for a term of two years. They shall remain members until the end of their term.

Registration in the Transparency Register is required for Type B members and Type C members in order to be appointed.

Members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the deliberations of the Platform, and who do not comply with the conditions set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or who resign or suspend their participation, shall no longer be invited to participate in any meetings of the Platform and shall be replaced for the remainder of their term.

3.3 Rules of engagement and operation of the Platform

The Platform shall be chaired by a Chairperson, appointed by DG FISMA, in compliance with the horizontal rules. The Platform shall act at the request of the Chairperson, with the agreement of the relevant Commission departments, in compliance with the horizontal rules.

The Platform shall meet regularly in full composition (plenary) during its term. In addition, sub-group meetings will take place according to needs and as often as necessary. Some meetings of the Platform, both plenary and in sub-groups, may take place virtually. In principle, meetings in person will take place in European Commission premises (principally in Brussels). DG FISMA, in close cooperation with other Commission departments where relevant, shall guide the work of the Platform and provide technical input, as well as provide secretarial services.

Members should be prepared to allocate a significant amount of time to Platform work. This includes attending meetings systematically, both in person and virtually, contributing actively to discussions, being involved in preparatory work ahead of meetings, drafting, examining and providing comments on documents under discussion, and acting, as appropriate, as 'rapporteurs' on an *ad hoc* basis.

As a general rule, the Platform will operate in English (including the drafting of documents and the conduct of the meetings).

The Platform shall adopt its opinions, recommendations or reports by consensus. In the event of a vote, the outcome of the vote shall be decided by simple majority of the members. The members that voted against or abstained shall have the right to have a document summarising the reasons for their position annexed to the opinions, recommendations or reports.

In agreement with the European Commission, the Platform may, by simple majority of its members, decide that deliberations shall be public.

Members and other participants in the activities of the Platform shall not be remunerated for the services they offer. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by Platform members in connection with their participation in the Platform plenary shall be reimbursed by the European Commission. Reimbursement shall be made in accordance with the provisions in force within the European Commission and within the limits of the available appropriations allocated to the European Commission departments under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

On a proposal by and in agreement with the European Commission, the Platform shall adopt amended rules of procedure on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for European Commission expert groups. The Chairperson may, in agreement with the relevant Commission departments, decide to develop a code of conduct that participants in Platform work will be expected to abide by.

In order to support Platform members in their work on the tasks specified above with the appropriate expertise at the right time, DG FISMA, in close cooperation with other Commission departments where relevant, may invite experts with specific expertise in a particular area on an *ad hoc* basis in accordance with Article 20(4) of the Taxonomy

Regulation and the horizontal rules. The Platform should not aim to represent all industries through permanent membership in the Platform; instead, a clearly defined process will allow for the temporary recruitment of external experts from specific industries or fields of expertise on an *ad hoc* basis to carry out work in different sub-groups. Ad hoc experts may be invited from outside the Platform membership. Ad hoc experts would join the relevant sub-groups and may actively contribute to their work as appropriate. For the time of their recruitment as ad hoc experts, they would carry out the same tasks as permanent members of the Platform.

The members of the Platform, the observers as well as invited experts are subject to the obligation of professional secrecy, which by virtue of the Treaties and the rules implementing them applies to all members of the institutions and their staff, as well as to the European Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, laid down in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443¹⁰ and 2015/444¹¹. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the European Commission may take all appropriate measures.

3.4. Transparency

The Platform is registered in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities (“the Register of expert groups”).

As concerns the composition of the Platform, the European Commission shall publish the following data on the Register of expert groups:

- The name of individuals appointed in a personal capacity;
- The name of individuals appointed to represent a common interest; the interest represented shall be disclosed;
- The name of member organisations; the interest represented shall be disclosed;
- The name of public entities appointed as members by direct invitation;
- The name of observers.

The responsible Commission departments shall make available all relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants’ submissions, either on the Register of expert groups or *via* a link from the Register to a dedicated website, where this information can be found. Access to dedicated websites shall not be subject to user registration or any other restriction. In particular, the responsible Commission departments shall ensure publication of the agenda and other relevant background documents in due time ahead of the plenary meeting, followed by timely publication of minutes. Exceptions to publication shall only be allowed where it is deemed that disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001¹².

¹⁰ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41).

¹¹ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

¹² These exceptions are intended to protect public security, military affairs, international relations, financial, monetary or economic policy, privacy and integrity of the individual, commercial interests, court proceedings and legal advice, inspections/investigations/audits and the institution's decision-making process.

Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725.

4. Application procedure

Interested individuals and organisations are invited to submit their application to become members of the Platform to the European Commission, specifying their areas of expertise and the sub-group of the Platform in which they wish to participate. Only one application per organisation and per individual will be considered.

Applications must be completed in one of the official languages of the European Union. However, applications in English would facilitate the evaluation procedure. If another language is used, it would be helpful to include a summary of the application in English.

Applications should be submitted through EU Survey via the application form accessible via the following link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/platform-sustainable-finance-members-selection-2022>.

An application will be deemed admissible only if it is sent by the deadline and includes the information and documents referred to below.

Organisations shall indicate the name of their permanent representative.

4.1 Supporting documents

Each application shall include the following documents:

- a cover letter in .pdf format explaining the applicant's motivation for answering this call and stating what contribution the applicant could make to the Platform, in particular the relevant sub-group;
- a classification form duly completed in EU Survey specifying the member category for which the application is made (Annex I).
- a selection criteria form duly completed in EU Survey documenting how the applicant fulfils the selection criteria listed in section 5 of this call (Annex II). In particular, as regards organisations, the scope of their activities in the field of the Platform's mandate should be indicated.
- for individuals applying to be appointed as members of the Platform in a personal capacity or to represent a common interest, as well as for individuals indicated by organisations as their representatives, a *curriculum vitae* (CV) shall also be provided, preferably not exceeding three pages. All CVs shall be submitted in the Europass format (<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae/templates-instructions>) and in .pdf format.
- individuals applying to be appointed as members of the Platform in a personal capacity must disclose any circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest by submitting a declaration of interests ('DOI') form in .pdf format on the basis of the standard DOI form for expert groups attached to this call (Annex III). Submission of a duly completed and signed DOI form is necessary in order to be eligible to be appointed in a personal capacity. Individuals who answer in the affirmative questions included in the DOI form are required to supply further **details** by filling in the

section ‘Description’. The responsible Commission departments shall perform the conflict of interest assessment in compliance with the horizontal rules¹³.

Additional supporting documents (e.g. publications) may be requested at a later stage.

4.2 Deadline for application

The duly signed applications must be submitted, including all requested documentation, via an application form on EU Survey by **noon** (Central European Summer Time) **on 9 November 2022** at the latest. The date of submission will be the submission timestamp recorded by EU Survey.

5. Selection criteria

The European Commission expects selected candidates to show a high level of technical knowledge, expertise and professional experience in order to successfully carry out the tasks listed in section 2.1 above. In particular, successful candidates will be expected to advise the European Commission on the usability of the EU sustainable finance framework (including the EU Taxonomy), technical screening criteria across all six environmental objectives and/or monitoring of capital flows into sustainable investments. Furthermore, Platform members will be expected to show a high degree of commitment and participate actively and on a regular basis in Platform work, which will generally require allocating a significant amount of time to such work (see section 3.3 above).

The European Commission will evaluate applications against the selection criteria specified below. While the cumulative general criteria apply to all applicants equally, additional criteria apply to different types of members. These are specified in sections 5.1 for Type A members, section 5.2 for Type B members, and section 5.3 for Type C members. In addition, candidates should meet additional criteria depending on the sub-group for which they apply. These additional criteria per sub-group are specified in sections 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6.

Cumulative general criteria:

- Demonstrable thorough technical knowledge, expertise and proven professional experience relating to at least one of the following:
 - the field of sustainable finance and the EU Taxonomy; or
 - the climate and environmental performance of projects, economic activities and/or organisations; or
 - the monitoring of capital flows towards sustainable investment.
- Demonstrable capacity to fulfil the condition of Article 20 (3), enabling the platform to take into account the views of a wide range of stakeholders.
- All candidates are expected to have a high degree of willingness and capacity to commit to the Platform’s work over the entire duration of their appointment.
- All candidates are expected to have a sufficiently good command of English.

5.1 Criteria relating to individuals to be appointed in a personal capacity (Type A members):

¹³ Article 11 of the horizontal rules.

- Absence of circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest;
- Demonstrable high level of expertise of the individual (i.e. need to fulfil the cumulative general criteria and the additional criteria depending on the sub-group of choice as set out in sections 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6).

5.2 Criteria relating to individuals to be appointed in order to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area (Type B members):

- Representativeness and significance of the stakeholders whose common interest is represented by the individual in relation to one or more tasks of the Platform;
- Demonstrable high level of expertise of the individual (i.e. need to fulfil the cumulative general criteria and the additional criteria depending on the sub-group of choice as set out in sections 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6);
- Proven capacity to represent effectively the position shared by stakeholders and to provide informed, unbiased and researched input to the Platform discussion on one or more tasks.

5.3 Criteria relating to organisations (Type C members):

- Representativeness and significance of the organisation in relation to one or more tasks of the Platform;
- Demonstrable high level of expertise and proven professional record of the expert who has been nominated by the applicant as its permanent representative (i.e. need to fulfil the cumulative general criteria and the additional criteria depending on the sub-group of choice as set out in sections 5.4, 5.5 and 5.6);

5.4 Additional criteria relating to applicants applying to participate in the sub-group on usability and data (at least one criterion should be met by applicants for this sub-group):

- Demonstrable experience and thorough technical knowledge in the implementation of the EU sustainable finance rules and their interlinkages;
- Demonstrable experience in applying classification systems in investment and finance decision-making, including the collection and use of relevant data in that context;
- Knowledge of international sustainable finance frameworks and international interoperability of the EU framework.

5.5 Additional criteria relating to applicants applying to participate in the Technical Working Group:

Cumulative specific criteria (all should be met by applicants for this sub-group):

- Demonstrable experience, proven scientific record and thorough knowledge relevant for advising on technical screening criteria for the EU Taxonomy, notably in one or more of the following environmental objectives: climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources,

transition to a circular economy, pollution prevention and control, protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems;

- Thorough knowledge of climate and environmental laws and standards (EU and in other jurisdictions) of relevance to, at the very least, one of the six environmental objectives and a clear understanding of the EU Taxonomy and its purpose and ambition;

Additional specific criteria (at least one criterion should be met by applicants in addition to the cumulative criteria for this sub-group):

- Demonstrable experience, proven scientific record and thorough technical knowledge in development and implementation of climate and environmental measures across different economic sectors;
- Thorough expertise in life cycle assessments, environmental indicators and other environmental assessment frameworks of relevance;
- Demonstrable experience, proven scientific record and thorough technical knowledge of the environmental performance of economic activities and sectorial expertise in economic sectors they represent.

5.6 Additional criteria relating to applicants applying to participate in the sub-group on the monitoring of capital flows (at least one criterion should be met by applicants for this sub-group):

- Demonstrable experience and thorough technical knowledge in ESG data analytics;
- Demonstrable experience in applying classification systems in investment and finance decision-making, including the collection and use of relevant data in that context.

6. Selection procedure

The selection procedure shall consist of an assessment of the applications performed by DG FISMA, in close cooperation with other Commission departments where relevant, against the selection criteria listed in section 5 of this call, followed by the establishment of a list of the most suitable applicants, and concluded by the appointment of the members of the Platform.

In accordance with the Taxonomy Regulation and the horizontal rules, when defining the composition of the Platform, the European Commission shall aim at ensuring, as far as possible, a high level of expertise as well as a balanced representation of relevant know how and areas of expertise, while taking into account the specific tasks of the Platform and the type of expertise required as set out above.

Where individual experts are appointed, either in their personal capacity or to represent a common interest, the European Commission shall seek a geographical and a gender balance.¹⁴

For any further information please contact: FISMA-PLATFORM-SF@ec.europa.eu.

¹⁴ Articles 10(5) and 10(6) of the horizontal rules.

ANNEXES:

- Annex I: Classification form
- Annex II: Selection criteria form
- Annex III: Standard Declaration of Interests (DOI) form
- Annex IV: Guidance for filling in the Declaration of Interests (DOI) form
- Annex V: Privacy statement

Annex I - Classification form

To be filled in by all applicants

This application is made as: (*please select only one option*)

- An individual applying to be appointed in a personal capacity (Type A member);** if appointed I shall act independently and in the public interest.

or

- An individual applying to be appointed to represent a common interest** shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area (**Type B member**); if appointed I shall not represent an individual stakeholder.

Transparency Register identification number: [...] ¹⁵

or

- An organisation (Type C member).**

Transparency Register identification number: [...]

Nota Bene concerning Type B and C members: although registration in the Transparency Register (TR) is required in order to be appointed as a Type B or C member of an expert group, it is not mandatory for the application procedure. Thus, interested individuals and organisations that at the time of the application are not featured yet on TR and, as a consequence, do not have a TR identification number, may still apply. However, should the applicant be selected as a result of the call for applications, it shall register in the Transparency Register as a condition to be appointed as a Type B or C member.

To be filled in by organisations applying to be appointed as Type C members

This application is made as the following **type of organisation**: (*please select only one option, taking into account the definitions indicated below*).

- a) Academia, research Institutes and Think Tanks
- b) Banks/Financial institutions
- c) Companies/groups
- d) Law firms

¹⁵ If the individuals in question act as self-employed consultants, they should provide their own identification number. If the individuals in question do not act as self-employed consultants, they should provide the identification number of the organisation(s) of which they are employees, see Article 24 of the horizontal rules

- e) NGOs
- f) Professionals' associations
- g) Professional consultancies
- h) Trade and business associations
- i) Trade unions
- j) Other (please specify):

Definitions for organisation types

Academia, Research Institutes and Think Tanks

Universities, schools, research centres, think tanks and other similar bodies performing academic and/or educational activities.

Banks/Financial institutions

Banks and other similar bodies providing financial services, including financial intermediation. All sorts of banks should be classified within this category, including national central banks.

Companies/groups

Individual companies or groups of companies operating in the business sector, whether they are national companies or multinational ones.

Law firms

Business entities formed by one or more lawyers to engage in the practice of law. The primary service rendered by a law firm is to advise clients (individuals or corporations) about their legal rights and responsibilities, and to represent clients in civil or criminal cases, business transactions, and other matters in which legal advice and other assistance are sought.

NGOs

Non-profit organisations which are independent from public authorities and commercial organisations. Some NGOs are organised around specific issues, such as environment, consumer affairs, health and human rights.

Professionals' associations

Non-profit organisations seeking to further the interests of individuals engaged in a particular profession, such as physicians, nurses, architects, engineers and lawyers. Professionals' associations are different from business associations, as they promote and defend the interests of individuals carrying on a specific profession, not the interests of companies operating in the business sector.

Professional consultancies

Firms carrying on, on behalf of clients, activities involving advocacy, lobbying, promotion, public affairs and relations with public authorities.

Trade and business associations

Private bodies representing the interests of its members operating in the business sector.

Trade unions

Organisations of workers. The most common activities performed by trade unions include the negotiation of wages, work rules, rules governing hiring, firing and promotion of workers.

Other organisations

Organisations which are not possible to classify in any other category.

To be filled in by individuals applying to be appointed as Type B members and organisations applying to be appointed as Type C members

The applicant shall represent the following **interest**: (*please select one or more options, taking into account the definitions indicated below*):

- a) Academia/Research
- b) Civil society
- c) Employees/Workers
- d) Finance
- e) Industry
- f) Professionals
- g) SMEs
- h) Other (please specify):

Definitions for interests represented

Academia/Research

Universities, schools, research centres, think tanks and other similar bodies performing academic and/or educational activities.

Civil society

Civil society can be defined as the aggregate of non-governmental organisations and institutions that manifest interests and will of citizens or as individuals and organisations in a society which are independent of the government.

Employees/workers

Individuals working part-time or full-time under a contract of employment whether oral or written, express or implied, and having recognized rights and duties.

Finance

The management of revenues or the conduct or transaction of money matters, as in the fields of banking, insurance and investment.


Industry

Companies and groups of companies whose number of employees and turnover or balance sheet total are higher than the ones of SMEs (see below).

Professionals

Individuals operating in a particular profession, such as physicians, nurses, architects, engineers and lawyers.

SMEs

"SME" stands for small and medium-sized enterprises – as defined in EU law: [EU recommendation 2003/361](#) .

The main factors determining whether a company is an SME are:

- 1. **number of employees** and
- 2. either **turnover or balance sheet total**.

Company category Employees Turnover or Balance sheet total

Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m	≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m	≤ € 10 m
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m	≤ € 2 m

These ceilings apply to the figures for individual firms only. A firm which is part of larger grouping may need to include employee/turnover/balance sheet data from that grouping too.

Other interest

Interest which is not possible to classify in any other category.

To be filled in by individuals applying to be appointed as Type B members and organisations applying to be appointed as Type C members

Please select one **or more policy areas** in which you/your organisation operate(s):

- Aerospace
- Agriculture
- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Audiovisual and media
- Audit
- Banking
- Biodiversity
- Civil protection
- Civil service
- Climate
- Competition
- Conservation
- Consumer affairs
- Culture
- Cultural Heritage
- Cultural Landscape
- Customs
- Defence
- Development
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Economy
- Education
- Employment and social affairs
- Energy
- Engineering (chemical)
- Engineering (civil)
- Engineering (infrastructure)
- Engineering (IT)
- Engineering (maritime)
- Engineering (space policy)
- Engineering (space research)
- Enlargement
- Environment
- Equal opportunities
- External relations
- External trade
- Finance
- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Food safety
- Forestry
- Fundamental rights
- Humanitarian aid
- Industry
- Information society
- Innovation

- Insurance
- Labour
- Land management
- Law (civil)
- Law (corporate)
- Law (criminal)
- Law (taxation)
- Linguistics and Terminology
- Livestock
- Medical profession
- Migration
- Natural resources
- Plant production
- Public affairs
- Public health
- Public relations
- Raw materials
- Research
- Science
- Science diplomacy
- Security
- Smart specialisation
- Social service
- Space and Satellites (policy)
- Space and Satellites (research)
- Sport
- Statistics
- Sustainable Development
- Systemic eco-innovation
- Tax
- Trade
- Training
- Transport
- Urban development
- Water
- Youth
- Other

For individuals applying to be appointed as Type A members

Title:

Surname:

First name:

Date:

Signature

For individuals applying to be appointed as Type B members

Title:

Surname¹⁶:

First name¹⁷:

Date:

Signature

For organisations applying to be appointed as Type C members

Name of the organisation¹⁸:

Surname of the representative proposed:

First name of the representative proposed:

Surname of the person applying on behalf of the organisation:

First name of the person applying on behalf of the organisation:

Date:

Signature

¹⁶ It is mandatory to use exactly the same name used when registering in the Transparency Register.

¹⁷ Idem.

¹⁸ Idem.

Annex II: Selection criteria form

Applicants are requested to describe how they fulfil the selection criteria listed in this call.

The applicant chooses to participate in (*please select only one option*):

The sub-group on usability and data;

or

The Technical Working Group (i.e. the sub-group working on the development of technical screening criteria for the EU Taxonomy);

or

The sub-group on monitoring of capital flows.

1. Cumulative general criteria (relating to all applicants)	
Demonstrable thorough technical knowledge, expertise and proven professional experience relating to at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the field of sustainable finance and the EU Taxonomy; or • the climate and environmental performance of projects, economic activities and/or organisations; or • the monitoring of capital flows towards sustainable investment. 	
High degree of willingness and capacity to commit to the Platform’s work over the entire duration of their appointment.	
Demonstrable capacity to fulfil the condition of Article 20 (3), enabling the platform to take into account the views of a wide range of	

stakeholders.	
Sufficiently good command of English.	
2. Specific criteria relating to different types of applicants (<i>Type A, B or C members</i>)	
Individuals applying to be appointed in a personal capacity only (<i>Type A members</i>):	
Absence of circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest.	
Demonstrable high level of expertise of the individual (i.e. need to fulfil the cumulative general criteria and the additional criteria depending on the sub-group of choice as set out in Points 3, 4 and 5 of this Annex).	
Individuals applying to be appointed to represent a common interest in a particular policy area (<i>Type B members</i>):	
Representativeness and significance of the stakeholders whose common interest is represented by the individual in relation to one or more tasks of the Platform.	
Demonstrable high level of expertise of the individual (i.e. need to fulfil the cumulative general criteria and the additional criteria depending on the sub-group of choice as set out in Points 3, 4, 5 of this Annex).	
Proven capacity to represent effectively the position shared by stakeholders and to provide informed, unbiased and researched input to the Platform discussion on one or more tasks.	
Organisations representing private stakeholders, civil society or	

academia (Type C members):	
Representativeness and significance of the organisation in relation to one or more tasks of the Platform.	
Demonstrable high level of expertise and proven professional record of the expert who has been nominated by the applicant as its permanent representative (i.e. need to fulfil the cumulative general criteria and the additional criteria depending on the sub-group of choice as set out in Points 3, 4 and 5 of this Annex).	
3. Additional criteria relating to applicants applying to participate in the sub-group on usability and data (at least one criterion should be met by applicants for this sub-group)	
Demonstrable experience and thorough technical knowledge in the implementation of the EU sustainable finance rules and their interlinkages.	
Demonstrable experience in applying classification systems in investment and finance decision-making, including the collection and use of relevant data in that context.	
Knowledge of international sustainable finance frameworks and international interoperability of the EU framework.	
4. Additional criteria relating to applicants applying to participate in the Technical Working Group	
Cumulative specific criteria (all should be met by applicants for this sub-	

<u>group):</u>	
Demonstrable experience, proven scientific record and thorough knowledge relevant for advising on technical screening criteria for the EU Taxonomy, notably in one or more of the following environmental objectives: climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, transition to a circular economy, pollution prevention and control, protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.	
Thorough knowledge of climate and environmental laws and standards (EU and in other jurisdictions) of relevance to, at the very least, one of the six environmental objectives and a clear understanding of the EU Taxonomy and its purpose and ambition.	
<u>Additional specific criteria (at least one criterion should be met by applicants in addition to the cumulative criteria for this sub-group):</u>	
Demonstrable experience, proven scientific record and thorough technical knowledge in development and implementation of climate and environmental measures across different economic sectors.	
Thorough expertise in life cycle assessments, environmental indicators and other environmental assessment frameworks of relevance.	
Demonstrable experience, proven scientific record and thorough technical knowledge of the environmental performance of economic activities and sectorial expertise in economic sectors they represent.	
5. Additional criteria relating to applicants applying to participate in the sub-group on monitoring capital flows (at least one	

critereon should be met by applicants for this sub-group)	
Demonstrable experience and thorough technical knowledge in ESG data analytics.	
Demonstrable experience in applying classification systems in investment and finance decision-making, including the collection and use of relevant data in that context.	

Title:

Surname¹⁹:

First name²⁰:

Date:

Signature

¹⁹ It is mandatory to use exactly the same name used when registering in the Transparency Register.

²⁰ Idem

ANNEX III

Standard declaration of interests (DOI) form for individuals applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups in a personal capacity

Legal basis:

Commission Decision C(2016)3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups, Articles 2(4) and 11.

Definitions:

"Conflict of interest" means any situation where an individual has an interest that may compromise or be reasonably perceived to compromise the individual's capacity to act independently and in the public interest when providing advice to the Commission in relation to the subject of the work performed by the expert group or sub-group in question.

"Immediate family member" means the individual's spouse, children and parents. "Spouse" includes a partner with whom the individual has a registered non marital regime. "Children" means the child(ren) the individual and the spouse have in common, the own child(ren) of the individual and the own child(ren) of the spouse.

"Legal entity" means any commercial business, industry association, consultancy, research institution or other enterprise whose funding is significantly derived from commercial sources. It also includes independent own commercial businesses, law offices, consultancies or similar.

"Body" means a governmental, international or non-profit organisation.

"Meeting" includes a series or cycle of meetings.

Please answer each of the questions below. If the answer to any of the questions is "yes", please provide details on relevant interests and circumstances, as appropriate.

If you do not do so, your DOI form will be considered incomplete and, therefore, your application to be appointed as a member of an expert group or sub-group in a personal capacity shall be rejected.

First name:

Family name:

Expert group/sub-group:

1 EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANCY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION

	<i>Within the past 5 years, were you employed or have you had any other professional relationship with a natural or legal entity, or held any non-remunerated post in a legal entity or other body with an interest in the field of activity of the expert group/sub-group in question?</i>	yes	no
--	---	------------	-----------

1a	Employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1b	Consultancy, including services as an advisor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1c	Non-remunerated post	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1d	Legal representation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Activity	Time period (from... until month/year)	Name of entity or body	Description

2 MEMBERSHIP OF MANAGING BODY, SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BODY OR EQUIVALENT STRUCTURE

	<i>Within the past 5 years, have you participated in the internal decision-making of a legal entity or other body with an interest in the field of activity of the expert group/sub-group in question or have you participated in the works of a Scientific Advisory Body with voting rights on the outputs of that entity?</i>	yes	no
--	---	------------	-----------

2a	Participation in a decision-making process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2b	Participation in the work of a Scientific Advisory Body	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Activity	Time period (from... until	Name of legal entity or body	Description

	month/year)		

3 RESEARCH SUPPORT

	<i>Within the past 5 years, have you, or the research entity to which you belong, received any support from a legal entity or other body with an interest in the field of activity of the expert group/sub-group in question?</i>	yes	no
--	---	------------	-----------

3a	Research support, including grants, rents, sponsorships, fellowships, non-monetary support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----------	---	--------------------------	--------------------------

Activity	Time period (from... until month/year)	Name of legal entity or body	Description

4 FINANCIAL INTERESTS

	<i>Do you have current investments in a legal entity with an interest in the field of activity of the expert group/sub-group in question, including holding of stocks and shares, and which amounts to more than 10,000 EUR per legal entity or entitling you to a voting right of 5% or more in such legal entity?</i>	yes	no
--	---	------------	-----------

4a	Shares	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4b	Other stock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Investment	Name of legal entity	Description

--	--	--

5 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

	<i>Do you have any intellectual property rights that might be affected by the outcome of the work carried out by the expert group/sub-group in question?</i>	yes	no
--	--	------------	-----------

5a	Patent, trademarks, or copyrights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5b	Others	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Intellectual property	Description

6 PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS

	<i>Within the past 5 years, have you provided any expert opinion or testimony in the field of activity of the expert group/sub-group in question, for a legal entity or other body as part of a regulatory, legislative or judicial process? Have you held an office or other position, paid or unpaid, where you represented interests or defended an opinion in the field of activity of the expert group/sub-group in question?</i>	Yes	no
--	--	------------	-----------

6a	For a legal entity or other body as part of a regulatory, legislative or judicial process	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6b	Represented interests or defended an opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Activity	Time period (from... until month/year)	Name of legal entity or body	Description

7 INTERESTS OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS yes no

7a	To your knowledge, are there any interests of your immediate family members which could be seen as undermining your independence when providing advice to the Commission in the field of activity of the expert group/sub-group in question?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----------	--	--------------------------	--------------------------

Interests	Time period (from... until month/year)	Name of legal entity or body	Description

7b	If interests of your immediate family members are declared, it is your responsibility to inform them about the collection and publication of information on their interests included in the DOI and to provide them with the privacy statement attached to the guidance for filling in this DOI, and this at the latest when you file the DOI form with the Commission.
-----------	---

8 OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION yes no

8a	Are there any other elements that could be seen as undermining your independence when providing advice to the Commission in the field of activity of the expert group/sub-group in question?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----------	--	--------------------------	--------------------------

Description:

I hereby declare on my honour that I have read the guidance for completing this form. I also declare on my honour that the information disclosed in this form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Should there be any change to the above information, including as regards upcoming activities, I will promptly notify the competent Commission department and complete a new DOI form describing the changes in question.

I am informed that my personal data are stored, processed and published by the Commission in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725²¹ and Commission Decision C(2016) 3301²².

I have been provided with the corresponding privacy statement which provides further information on how the Commission processes my personal data.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Your DOI form shall be made publicly available on the Register of Commission Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities, as long as you are appointed as member of the expert group or sub-group in a personal capacity. Technical measures will be taken to indicate to search engines that your DOI form should not appear in search results.

²¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data.

²² Commission Decision C(2016) 3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups.

ANNEX IV

Guidance for filling in the declaration of interests (DOI) form by individuals applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups in a personal capacity

According to the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups ('the horizontal rules'), Commission expert groups and other similar entities are consultative bodies²³, the role of which is to provide advice and expertise to the Commission and its departments in relation to a number of tasks²⁴. Individuals appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups in a personal capacity are due to act independently and in the public interest²⁵.

In order to ensure the highest integrity of experts, you are requested to duly complete the DOI form. You are required to disclose any circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest, i.e. any situation where your interests may compromise or may reasonably be perceived to compromise your capacity to act independently and in the public interest in providing advice to the Commission, in relation to the subject of the work performed by the expert group or sub-group in question. In particular, you must disclose in this DOI form any relevant professional and financial interests.

You must also declare relevant interests of your immediate family members. If interests of your immediate family members are declared, it is your responsibility to inform them about the collection and publication of information on their interests included in this DOI form and to provide them with the privacy statement attached to this guidance, and this at the latest when you file the DOI form with the Commission.

Please submit the completed DOI form to the competent Commission department, together with your CV, as part of your application to become member of an expert group or sub-group in a personal capacity. If there is any change concerning the information provided in the form, including on upcoming activities, you must promptly inform the competent Commission departments by completing a new DOI form which describes the changes in question.

Please note that having a declared interest does not necessarily mean having a conflict of interest. Answering "Yes" to a question on this DOI form does not automatically disqualify you or limit your participation in an expert group or sub-group. The competent Commission departments will review your answers in accordance with the horizontal rules and determine whether a conflict of interest relevant to the subject at hand exists²⁶.

Where the competent Commission departments conclude that no conflict of interest exists, you are eligible to be appointed in a personal capacity. Where the competent Commission departments conclude that your interests may compromise or be reasonably perceived to compromise your capacity to act independently and in the public interest when providing advice to the Commission in relation to the subject of the work performed by the expert group

²³ C(2016) 3301, Article 2.1.

²⁴ Idem, Article 3.

²⁵ Idem, Article 7.2. (a).

²⁶ Idem, Article 11.

or sub-group in question, they shall take one of the following measures to deal with the conflict of interest detected, depending on the specific circumstances:

- You shall not be appointed in a personal capacity to the expert group or sub-group in question; in such case the competent Commission department shall inform you about the outcome of the conflict of interest assessment performed;
- You shall be appointed as member of the expert group or sub-group in a personal capacity with a number of specific restrictions: you may be excluded from certain meetings and/or activities carried out by the group, such as drafting opinions or recommendations; you may also be required to abstain from discussing certain agenda items and/or from any vote on those items;
- You shall be appointed as member of the expert group or sub-group representing a common interest shared by a number of stakeholders, after consultation of the stakeholders concerned.

Your DOI form shall be made publicly available on the Register of Commission Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities, as long as you are appointed as member of the expert group or sub-group in a personal capacity. Technical measures will be taken to indicate to search engines that your DOI form should not appear in search results.

If you decline to complete a DOI form, you are not eligible to be appointed as a member of the expert group or sub-group in question in a personal capacity.

Personal data shall be stored, processed and published by the Commission in accordance with with Regulation [\(EU\) 2018/1725](#)²⁷ and Commission Decision C(2016) 3301²⁸..

Annex: privacy statement

²⁷ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data.

²⁸ Commission Decision C(2016) 3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups.

Annex V – Privacy Statement

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

Processing operation: *Selection of members of Commission expert groups and other similar entities and publication of personal data on the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ("the Register of expert groups").*

Data Controller: *Secretariat-General, Unit F4 (for the processing operation “Providing a public register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities”, DPR-EC-00656), and DG FISMA (for the processing operation “selection of members of Commission expert groups and other similar entities”, DPR-EC-01066).*

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1. Introduction

The European Commission (hereafter ‘the Commission’) is committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy. The Commission collects and further processes personal data pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data.

This privacy statement explains the reasons for the processing of your personal data, the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you have in relation to your personal data. It also specifies the contact details of the responsible Data Controller with whom you may exercise your rights, of the Data Protection Officer and of the European Data Protection Supervisor.

This privacy statement concerns the following processing operations:

(1) “selection of members of Commission expert groups and other similar entities” undertaken by the Commission department which runs the selection process for your expert group and which is the Data Controller for the selection process [DG FISMA], and

(2) “publication of personal data on the Register of expert groups and other similar entities” undertaken by the Commission, Secretariat-General, Unit F.4 which is the Data Controller together with the Commission department managing your expert group.

As a rule, the selection of expert group members is carried out via public calls for applications, except for Member States’ authorities and other public entities and for certain representative bodies established by Union legislation for advice in specific areas.

The Register of expert groups and other similar entities is a public database containing a list of Commission expert groups and other similar entities and their sub-groups. For each expert group, the Register provides valuable information including personal data on the members of the expert groups, and their alternate, if any, members’ representatives, as well as of the groups’ observers and their representatives. The Register also includes documents that are produced and discussed by expert groups and which can contain personal data.

For the purpose of this privacy statement and the corresponding records, the term “expert groups” describes Commission expert groups in the sense of Article 2(1) of Commission Decision C(2016)3301²⁹ and their sub-groups, as well as other similar entities in the sense of Article 2(2) of Commission Decision C(2016)3301 and their sub-groups.

2. Why and how do we process your personal data?

Purpose of the processing operations:

The Data Controllers collect and use your personal data to manage Commission expert groups, in particular by selecting their members and observers, and to ensure transparency on

²⁹ Commission Decision C(2016)3301 of 30 May 2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups.

expert groups' membership and activities. In that context, in order to select among the applicants who best fulfil the selection criteria mentioned in the call for applications, Commission services collect and assess personal information of candidate members and observers of the expert groups, of representatives of candidate members and observers, and of immediate family members of candidate members and observers to be appointed in personal capacity to act independently and in the public interest.

Furthermore, Commission services collect and assess personal information of observers and members' and observers' representatives of the expert groups which are appointed directly and not selected through a public call for applications.

For candidates, personal data are stored by the Commission service managing the expert group. Some types of personal data of individuals appointed as members (either appointed in personal capacity to act independently and in the public interest or to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area) are made publicly available on the Register of expert groups (as described under Headings 4 and 5 of this privacy statement). The names of the representatives of organisations, Member States and other public entities, as well as the name of specific national departments or other public authority which they represent may also be made publicly available on the Register of expert groups.

Your personal data will not be used for an automated decision-making including profiling.

3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data

We process your personal data, because processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725), since it allows for the selection of members of expert groups (individuals appointed as members in a personal capacity, individuals appointed to represent a common interest and organisations) and also increases the transparency on expert groups. Processing is also necessary to comply with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject (Article 5(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725). The Union act for such necessary processing under Article 5(1)(a) and (b) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 is Commission Decision C(2016)3301 of 30 May 2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups and in particular Articles 10 and 22 thereof.

As regards, in particular, the declarations of interests filled in by candidate members to be appointed in a personal capacity in expert groups, the processing of personal data serves the public interest of enabling the Commission to verify in the process of selection the experts' independence in providing advice to the Commission. Furthermore, the public disclosure of declarations of interests of those experts once appointed allows for public scrutiny of the interests declared by these experts, which is necessary in order to ensure public confidence in the independence of these experts. The public disclosure of declarations of interests also ensures a high degree of transparency with respect to the membership of expert groups and aims at contributing to fostering the integrity of the experts in question.

The names of the representatives of organisations, Member States' authorities and other public entities is usually not published in the Register of expert groups, as those persons only express the position of the organisation or entity that they represent, and, therefore, it is the name of the organisation, Member State's authority or other public entity that matters to ensure transparency of the work of the expert group. Any publication of names of the representatives of organisations, Member States' authorities and other public entities in the

Register of expert groups is based on consent (Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725), unless specific and exceptional circumstances make it necessary to publish them to achieve the purpose of the processing operation, in accordance with Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. No other types of personal data of representatives is published.

The submissions of members in the context of the work of expert groups and subgroups are generally made public, with personal data withheld where appropriate.

In the cases when the group is chaired by a person different than the Commission or its services, the name of this person may be published on the basis of consent (Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725).

4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?

In order to carry out these processing operations, the Data Controller may collect the following categories of personal data:

- *Name;*
- *Function;*
- *Contact details (for example, e-mail address, telephone number, mobile telephone number, fax number, postal address, company and department, country of residence, IP address);*
- *Information for the evaluation of selection criteria or eligibility criteria (for example, expertise, technical skills and languages, educational background, professional experience, including details on current and past employment);*
- *Nationality;*
- *Gender;*
- *Interest represented (only for individuals applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups representing a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area and for organisations applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups, as well as for their designated representatives);*
- *Information included in the declarations of interests, including personal data of immediate family members as required in the declaration of interests (only for individuals applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups in a personal capacity).*
- *Personal data that may be included in submissions of members of expert groups.*

The provision to the Commission service of the personal data required is mandatory to meet a legal requirement of selecting members of expert groups as set in Commission Decision C(2016)3301. In principle, for individuals appointed as members or observers in personal capacity to act independently and in the public interest and for individuals appointed as members or observers to represent a common interest, the types of personal data listed above (with the exception of contact details and information for the evaluation of selection criteria or eligibility criteria) are made publicly available on the Register of expert groups, in order to comply with the legal requirement to ensure transparency on the composition and functioning

of Commission expert groups. If you do not provide the personal data required, possible consequences are that you will not be considered for selection as a member of an expert group or, if already selected, your membership will be suspended.

The submissions of members in the context of the work of expert groups and subgroups are generally made public, with personal data withheld where appropriate.

With the prior freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous consent of the representatives of organisations, Member States' authorities and other public entities, their names may also be published on the Register. They may furthermore be published in specific and exceptional circumstances where such publication is necessary to achieve the purpose of the processing operation.

The name of a person chairing the group, when this person is not from within the Commission (i.e. the group elects a chair from among its members or the Commission or its services appoint an individual as chair), may be published with his/ her prior freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous consent.

5. How long do we keep your personal data?

The Data Controller only keeps your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing. The following modalities apply:

- The competent Commission services keep personal data submitted to them as part of rejected applications for three years after the end of the selection process and do not process them for other purposes; these personal data are not published on the Register of expert groups.
- The expert group and some types of personal data of its members and observers, as described in Heading 4, are published on the Register of expert groups during the duration of existence of the expert group.
- When an individual is no longer member or observer or representative of a member or observer of an expert group listed in the Register of expert groups, all personal data related to this individual, including a declaration of interests, is removed from the Register and is therefore not public anymore.
- The competent Commission services keep personal data for the period during which the relevant individual is a member or an observer or a representative of a member or of an observer of the group and for five years after the date on which the individual is no longer member or observer or representative of a member or observer of the group. Following this five-year period, the personal data is transferred to the historical archives and a review takes place no later than 25 years after that transfer to the historical archives to evaluate whether to keep the data permanently or to delete some or all data.
- When a group is closed down, it remains published in the Register of expert groups for five years, with the indication 'Closed'. Those types of personal data other than the declarations of interests of members appointed in personal capacity that were published while the group was active remain visible on the Register of expert groups during these five years. On the contrary, the said declarations of interests are removed from the Register after closure of a group and are therefore not public anymore; they are however kept by the competent Commission service for a period of five years after the closure of the group. Following this five-year period after the closure of the group, the personal data is transferred to the historical archives and a review takes place no

later than 25 years from that transfer to evaluate whether to keep the data permanently or to delete some or all data.

- An XML file is created daily with all the information regarding active groups. All versions of this file, showing the situation of the Register of expert groups as of the day it was created, are stored in a file server for 5 years and are not public.

6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

Personal data submitted in paper form is stored in the competent Commission service. All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored either on the servers of the Commission or of its contractors. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to the [Commission Decision \(EU, Euratom\) 2017/46](#) of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

In order to protect your personal data, the Commission has put in place a number of technical and organisational measures. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organisational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to your personal data collected in the course of the process of selection of members of expert groups is provided to the Commission staff authorised for carrying out this processing operation and to other authorised Commission staff according to the “need to know” principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

Certain personal data collected, as explained in Headings 4 and 5, are publicly available on the Register of expert groups.

The XML files referred to in Heading 5 are only accessible to a reduced number of users in the Secretariat-General (System Owner) and IT development team within the Commission (System Supplier).

Please note that pursuant to Article 3(13) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, public authorities (e.g. Court of Auditors, EU Court of Justice, European Ombudsman) which may receive personal data in the framework of a particular inquiry in accordance with Union or Member State law shall not be regarded as recipients. The further processing of those data by those public authorities shall be in compliance with the applicable data protection rules according to the purposes of the processing.

The information we collect will not be given to any third party, except to the extent and for the purpose we may be required to do so by law.

8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

You have specific rights as a ‘data subject’ under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) and Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access your personal data and to

rectify them in case your personal data is inaccurate or incomplete. Under certain conditions, you have the right to erase your personal data, to restrict the processing of your personal data, to object to the processing and the right to data portability.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data on grounds relating to your particular situation in accordance with Article 23(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

As indicated in Heading 4, if you are a representative of an organisation, Member State or another public entity, you may consent to have your name published on the Register of expert groups. You can withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the Data Controller. The withdrawal will not affect the lawfulness of the processing carried out before you have withdrawn the consent.

Finally, and only as regards the publication of your name on the Register of expert groups, you may submit a request to the competent Commission service for a derogation where justified on compelling legitimate grounds in relation to your specific situation (such as the case where the publication of your name on the Register of expert groups could endanger your security or integrity).

You can exercise your rights by contacting the Data Controller or, in case of conflict, the Data Protection Officer. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor. Their contact information is given under Heading 9 below.

Where you wish to exercise your rights in the context of one or several specific processing operations, please provide their description (i.e. their Record reference(s) as specified under Heading 9 below) in your request.

Data subject requests shall be handled within one month from receipt of the request by the Commission. That period may be extended pursuant to 14(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. Should more time be required to handle the request for justified reasons, the data subject shall receive a holding reply from the unit responsible for the request.

9. Contact information

- The Data Controller

Regarding the personal data collected in the course of the process of selection of the members of the expert groups, if you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint, please contact: FISMA-PLATFORM-SF@ec.europa.eu.

Likewise, as regards the data published on the Register of expert groups, please contact the corresponding Data Controller, Secretariat-General, Unit F4: SG-EXPERT-GROUPS@ec.europa.eu.

- The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission

You may contact the Data Protection Officer (DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

- The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection Supervisor (edps@edps.europa.eu) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the Data Controller.

10. Where to find more detailed information?

The Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register>.

These specific processing operations will be included in the DPO's public register with the following Record references: DPR-EC-01066 and DPR-EC-00656.