**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE HIGH LEVEL EXPERT GROUP ON THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION AND OF THE WELFARE STATE IN THE EU**

1. **Background**

The European Pillar of Social rights Action Plan[[1]](#footnote-1) announced that the Commission will “*launch a High-Level Expert Group to study the future of the welfare state, its financing and interconnections with the changing world of work and to present a report by end 2022*”. The Action Plan, recognised by EU leaders during the Porto Summit as the guidance for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, sets a vision for a new ‘social rulebook’ that ensures solidarity between generations and creates opportunities for all, while ensuring adequate social protection for all. It underlines the need to make “social protection fit for the new world”, referring both to the increased needs revealed by the pandemic and the long-term trends and challenges that will impact on the coverage and adequacy of social protection, as well as its financing. It also recalled that social protection across national borders is a pre-condition of a well-functioning internal market.

The Action Plan states that “*further reflection on the financing of social protection, and notably the financing models to enable continued solidarity between and within generations, is required to ensure equal and sustainable access to social protection in terms of groups and risks covered, while taking into account that social contributions and labour taxes may decrease given the shrinking of the working-age population”.*

The COVID-19 crisis has brought to the fore the importance of effective social protection and social inclusion policies and their role in mitigating the effects of reduced economic activity and challenging transitions in general. For instance, the greater stability of pension incomes had a fundamental role in cushioning the impact of the crisis on poverty in old-age and in sustaining the demand side of the economy. Moreover, the emergency measures deployed both at EU and national levels have helped to reduce its negative impact and to avoid a massive social crisis across Europe. Countries have extended and scaled up existing schemes, and expanded their eligibility conditions on a temporary basis. On the other side, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the long-standing structural weaknesses of social protection systems and it risks to exacerbate through its impact on labour markets, financial markets and financing base. In a recovery phase, sustained efforts are needed to maintain and reinforce social protection for all in a sustainable manner.

Beyond the current economic and social situation, there is a need to reflect on how to make social protection systems fit for the future particularly in light of mega trends such as: the demographic changes resulting in a shrinking workforce and an ageing population, transformations on the labour market accompanying the digital and green transitions, including the increase in non-standard forms of work, globalisation, as well as the emergence of new risks. This will help setting a vision on how to reinforce social protection systems in light of ongoing and new challenges, in a medium to long-term (looking ahead to 2030), to inform debate at EU and national levels and inspire reforms.

To address these issues, the Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion ("DG EMPL") has set up the high-level expert group on the future of social protection and welfare state in the EU ("the HLG").

The HLG’s tasks shall be to **analyse and advise the Commission** **on policy options to be considered to reinforce the role of welfare states in providing social protection for all and ensure its financing, while taking into account the changes in the labour market and economy, the diversity of social protection systems in the Member States and the interaction between social protection and other welfare policies, such as education, social inclusion, disability, healthcare, long-term care, etc.**.

This shall take into account the impact of demographic trends, the steady increase of new forms of work and other changes on the labour market triggered by digitalisation and the green transitions, as well as the context of recovery after the crisis and the need to enhance social and economic resilience. The HLG will also build its analysis on the success factors of recent innovative practices to widen the coverage of social protection (including those taken in the context of COVID-19) and to financing models and reflect on the conditions under which measures aimed at widening access and improving adequacy can be neutral or even positive for the financial sustainability.

More specifically, the HLG shall:

1. **Analyse the expected impacts** of the demographic trends (e.g. ageing, shrinking workforce, changing composition of households), the changing world of work and other megatrends such as globalisation and the twin green and digital transitions on the needs for social protection and the welfare state and their financing;
2. **Analyse implications** of the findings under the first task for the following dimensions of social protection:
   1. **Design and scope of social protection systems**, in particular : the impact of the increase in non-standard forms of work on insurance-based mechanisms and possible policy responses; the interplay between social services and social protection and the capacity to respond to new needs (including through supporting the care economy and other welfare policies); options to adapt rules governing contributions and entitlements to take into consideration the changes in the labour market
   2. **Financing of social protection**, in particular: viable ways to secure a fiscal basis for social protection systems and to promote diversification of financing; given the long-term erosion of the share of labour in GDP, taking into account; and options to be considered to adapt the financing model of social protection, while taking into account the interaction between the financing of social protection and of other welfare policies.
3. **Develop key strategic recommendations** for the future of social protection and the welfare state, in particular:

• How to make social protection and the welfare state fit for the future, providing adequate and effective protection in terms of groups and risks covered along the lifecycle, ensuring more fairness across generations, gender, age and income groups and sustainability of social protection systems, including by reconsidering financing models;

• How to build more trust and clarity in the system and maintain and reinforce public support to social protection and welfare state across different groups.

• How the European Union can contribute to reinforcing the role of welfare states in the context of these common challenges in line with its competences.

In carrying out its tasks, the HLG will take into account the diversity of social protection systems across the EU, while also reflecting on the role of the European Union in addressing those growing common challenges. It will also take into account the interplay between social protection policies and other policy areas in particular employment and broader welfare policy (e.g. health care, long-term care), taxation, fiscal sustainability, as well as the impact of demographic change. The implications of intra-EU labour mobility for national social security systems may be part of the reflection while ensuring synergies with existing resources and activities in the area of coordination of social security.

The Commission is calling for applications with a view to selecting members of the group.

1. **Deliverables:**

The HLG shall hold its first meeting in last quarter of 2021.

The main deliverable will be a report in English, underpinned by key analytical data and practical examples. The report should be ready by the end of 2022. It will include strategic recommendations to both national and EU level.

A preliminary version of the report should be ready for discussion and consultation two months before its finalisation.

1. **Features of the HLG**

**3.1. Composition**

The HLG shall be composed of 10-12 members.

The HLG will be chaired by a person appointed by DG EMPL.

All members shall be individuals appointed in a personal capacity due to their high level expertise in welfare state/social protection systems, social security coordination, social services and housing, interactions with labour market and taxation and fiscal policies, demography and the social dimension of the green and digital transitions. Members shall act independently and in the public interest.

Members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the expert group’s deliberations, who, in the opinion of DG EMPL, do not comply with the conditions set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or who resign, shall no longer be invited to participate in any meetings of the group and may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office.

**3.2. Appointment**

Members shall be appointed by the Director General of DG EMPL from applicants complying with the requirements referred to in chapter 5 of this call.

Members shall be appointed for 18 months. They shall remain in office until replaced / until the end of their term of office.

In order to ensure continuity and the smooth functioning of the HLG, DG EMPL shall establish a reserve list of suitable candidates that may be used to appoint replacements. DG EMPL shall ask applicants for their consent before including their names on the reserve list.

**3.3 Rules of engagement and operation of the group**

DG EMPL shall appoint the Chairperson of the HLG.

The HLG shall act at the request of its Chairperson with the agreement of DG EMPL, in compliance with the horizontal rules on expert groups (‘the horizontal rules’)[[2]](#footnote-2).

In principle, the HLG shall meet 5-6 times per year on Commission premises and/or on-line. It is expected that further exchanges and work will be carried out by the members of the group in between the meetings, as further detailed below.

DG EMPL shall provide secretarial services, with the support of other services such as the Joint Research Centre.

Members should be prepared to attend meetings systematically, to contribute actively to discussions in the HLG, to be involved in preparatory work ahead of meetings, to contribute to the drafting, examine and provide comments on documents under discussion, and to act, as appropriate, as 'rapporteurs' on *ad hoc* basis.

As a general rule, working documents will be drafted in English and meetings will be also conducted in English.

The HLG shall adopt its report by consensus. In case this is not possible, a vote can be organised and the outcome of the vote shall be decided by simple majority of the members. Members who have voted against or abstained shall have the right to have a document summarising the reasons for their position annexed to the report.

In agreement with DG EMPL, the HLG may, by simple majority of its members, decide that deliberations shall be public.

Participants in the activities of the HLG shall not be remunerated for the services they offer.

Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the HLG shall be reimbursed by the Commission. Reimbursement shall be made in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commission and within the limits of the available appropriations allocated to the Commission departments under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

The members of the HLG 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 Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, laid down in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443[[3]](#footnote-3) and 2015/444[[4]](#footnote-4). Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

On a proposal by and in agreement with DG EMPL the HLG shall adopt its rules of procedure on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for expert groups.

The Chair and the Commission may invite experts with specific expertise on a subject matter and representatives of social partners and of stakeholders (civil society, social protection institutions) to take part to specific meetings of the group on an *ad hoc* basis.

**3.4. Transparency**The HLG shall be registered in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities (‘the Register of expert groups’)[[5]](#footnote-5).

As concerns the HLG composition, DG EMPL shall publish the name of individuals appointed in a personal capacity .

All relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants’ submissions shall be made available on the Register of expert groups. In particular, DG EMPL shall publish the agenda and other relevant background documents in due time ahead of the meeting, followed by timely publication of minutes. Exceptions to publication shall only be foreseen 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° 1049/2001[[6]](#footnote-6).

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

1. **Application procedure**

Interested individuals are invited to submit their application to the European Commission, DG EMPL.

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.

An application will be deemed admissible only if it is sent by the deadline and includes the documents referred to below. All documents submitted by applicants should be duly filled in, legible, signed and numbered sequentially.

Supporting documents

Each application shall include the following documents:

* a cover letter explaining the applicant's motivation for answering this call and stating what contribution the applicant could make to the HLG;
* a classification form duly filled in specifying the member category for which the application is made (Annex I);
* a selection criteria form duly filled in documenting how the applicant fulfills the selection criteria listed in chapter 4 of this call (Annex II);
* a curriculum vitae (CV), preferably not exceeding three pages. All CVs shall be submitted in the [European format](https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae/templates-instructions).

Individuals applying to be appointed as members of the HLG must disclose any circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest by submitting a declaration of interests (’DOI’) form on the basis of the standard DOI form for expert groups attached to this call (Annex III). Submission of a duly completed 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’. DG EMPL shall perform the conflict of interest assessment in compliance with the horizontal rules[[7]](#footnote-7).

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

Deadline for application

The duly signed applications must be sent by **17 September 2021** at the latest. The date of sending will be established as follows:

* Where applications are sent by e-mail to the following e-mail address: EMPL-HLG-SOCIAL-PROTECTION@ec.europa.eu, the date of the e-mail will be the date of sending.
* Where applications are sent by post to the following address: European Commission, DG EMPL, Unit D2 – Social Protection, J27, B-1049 Brussels, the postmark will be considered the date of sending.

1. **Eligibility and selection criteria**[[8]](#footnote-8)

A. Eligibility criteria

Each application will be screened against the following eligibility criteria:

– a university degree in an area of study relevant to the HLG work;

– at least five (5) years of professional experience in a field relevant to HLG's work, gained after obtaining the degree mentioned in previous point;

– citizenship of an EU Member State, or an EEA/EFTA country;

– ability to work in English: successful applicants must be able to read and report in English, in writing and orally (level B2 or above).

B. Selection criteria

DG EMPL will take the following criteria into account when assessing applications:

* proven and relevant competence and experience, including at European and / or international level, in areas relevant to welfare state and social protection systems, social security coordination, social services and housing, interactions with labour market and taxation and fiscal policies, demography and the social dimension of the green and digital transitions.
* absence of circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest;
* good knowledge of the English language allowing active participation in the works of the HLG and contributions to the drafting of the report.

1. **Selection procedure**

The selection procedure shall consist of an assessment of the applications performed by the DG EMPL against the selection criteria listed in chapter 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 group.

DG EMPL will seek to achieve the best possible balance of expertise in the following areas: social and economic policy, labour economics, demography, social and labour law, fiscal policy, or other disciplines relevant to the HLG.

When defining the composition of the HLG, DG EMPL shall aim at ensuring a high level of expertise, and, as far as possible, a geographical and a gender balance, taking into account the specific tasks of the HLG, the type of expertise required and the relevance of the applications received.

For any further information please contact DG EMPL by e-mail:

[EMPL-HLG-SOCIAL-PROTECTION@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EMPL-HLG-SOCIAL-PROTECTION@ec.europa.eu)

ANNEXES:

* Annex I: Classification form
* Annex II: Selection criteria form
* Annex III: Standard declaration of interests[[9]](#footnote-9)
* Annex IV: Guidance for filling in the declaration of interests[[10]](#footnote-10)
* Annex V: Privacy statement

**Annex I - Classification form**

To be filled in, signed and returned with the application by all applicants

This application is made as:

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

Please select one **or more policy areas** in which you operate:

* Agriculture
* Archaeology
* Architecture
* Audiovisual and media
* Audit
* Banking
* Biodiversity
* Civil protection
* Civil service
* Climate
* Competition
* Conservation
* Consumer affairs
* Culture
* Cultural heritage
* Cultural landscape
* Customs
* 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

Title: ………………….

Surname: ………………….

First name: ………………….

Nationality: ………………

Professional title: ……………

Date: ………………….

Signature …………………..

**Annex II: Selection criteria form**

This form must be filled in, signed and returned with the application.

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

|  |
| --- |
| Proven and relevant competence and experience, including at European and / or international level, in areas relevant to welfare state and social protection systems, social security coordination, social services and housing, interactions with labour market and taxation and fiscal policies, demography and the social dimension of the green and digital transitions. |
| Please describe your competence and experience and how this relates to the relevant areas. Please specify the number of years over which you have developed such experience and competence.  Please indicate how your specific professional expertise would bring value to the work of the HLG. |
| Absence of circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest |
| Please complete the annexed Declaration of Interests form |
| Good knowledge of the English language |
| Please confirm your competence in the cover letter |

For individuals applying to be appointed as Type A members

Title: ………………….

Surname: ………………….

First name: ………………….

Nationality: ………………

Professional title: ……………

Date: ………………….

Signature …………………..

**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.

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**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**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *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?* | **yes** | **no** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1a** | **Employment** | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| **1b** | **Consultancy, including services as an advisor** | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| **1c** | **Non-remunerated post** | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| **1d** | **Legal representation** | 🞏 | 🞏 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Time period (from… until month/year)** | **Name of entity or body** | **Description** |
|  |  |  |  |

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *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?* | **yes** | **no** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2a** | **Participation in a decision-making process** | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| **2b** | **Participation in the work of a Scientific Advisory Body** | 🞏 | 🞏 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Time period (from… until month/year)** | **Name of legal entity or body** | **Description** |
|  |  |  |  |

**3 RESEARCH SUPPORT**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *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?* | **yes** | **no** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **3a** | **Research support, including grants, rents, sponsorships, fellowships, non-monetary support** | 🞏 | 🞏 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Time period (from… until month/year)** | **Name of legal entity or body** | **Description** |
|  |  |  |  |

**4 FINANCIAL INTERESTS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *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?* | **yes** | **no** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **4a** | **Shares** | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| **4b** | **Other stock** | 🞏 | 🞏 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Investment** | **Name of legal entity** | **Description** |
|  |  |  |

**5 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *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?* | **yes** | **no** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **5a** | **Patent, trademarks, or copyrights** | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| **5b** | **Others** | 🞏 | 🞏 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Intellectual property** | **Description** |
|  |  |

**6 Public statements and positions**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *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?* | **Yes** | **no** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **6a** | **For a legal entity or other body as part of a regulatory, legislative or judicial process** | 🞏 | 🞏 |
| **6b** | **Represented interests or defended an opinion** | 🞏 | 🞏 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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?** | 🞏 | 🞏 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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?** | 🞏 | 🞏 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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) 2018/1725**](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.295.01.0039.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2018:295:TOC)**[[11]](#footnote-11) and Commission Decision C(2016) 3301[[12]](#footnote-12).**

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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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.

**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 bodies[[13]](#footnote-13), the role of which is to provide advice and expertise to the Commission and its departements in relation to a number of tasks[[14]](#footnote-14). Individuals appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups in a personal capacity are due to act independently and in the public interest[[15]](#footnote-15).

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 bycompleting 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 exists[[16]](#footnote-16).

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 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 bestored, processed and published by the Commission in accordance with Regulation [(EU) 2018/1725](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.295.01.0039.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2018:295:TOC)**[[17]](#footnote-17)** and Commission Decision C(2016) 3301**[[18]](#footnote-18)**.

Annex: privacy statement

**Annex V**

**PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA**

**This privacy statement provides information about   
the processing and the protection of your personal data.**

**Processing operation:** *Selection of members of Commission expert groups and other similar entities[[19]](#footnote-19) 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*
* *EMPL D2 (for the processing operation* “Selection of members of Commission expert groups *and other similar entities*”, DPR-EC-01066*).*

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11. **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](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.295.01.0039.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2018:295:TOC) 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 EMPL, Unit D2), and

(2) “publication of personal data on the Register of expert groups and other similar entities” undertaken by the Commission, Secretariat-General, Unit G.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)3301[[20]](#footnote-20) 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.

1. **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 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 appointed in personal capacity.

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

For candidates, personal data is 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.

1. **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.

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).

1. **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;*
* *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).*

The provision to the Commission service of the personal data required is mandatory to meet alegalrequirement of selecting members of expert groups as set in Commission Decision C(2016)3301. In principle, 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.

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.

1. **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.
* 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.
* 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.

1. **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 on the servers of the Commission*.* All processing operations are carried out pursuant to the [Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1548093747090&uri=CELEX:32017D0046) 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.

1. **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, is 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) 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.

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

You have specific rights as a ‘data subject’ under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) 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 10 below) in your request.

Any request for access to personal data will be handled within one month. Any other request mentioned above will be addressed within 15 working days.

1. **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 [functional mailbox of the Unit D2 in DG EMPL at [EMPL-HLG-SOCIAL-PROTECTION@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EMPL-HLG-SOCIAL-PROTECTION@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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

1. **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.

1. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-action-plan_en> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See Article 13.1 of the horizontal rules. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 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). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Article 11 of the horizontal rules. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. To be adapted in light of the group's membership and of the work to be performed. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. To be inserted as required. To be used only in relation to individuals applying to be appointed in a personal capacity. See updated version of the standard DOI form on <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/sg/expert/Pages/templates.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Idem. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Commission Decision C(2016) 3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. C(2016) 3301, Article 2.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Idem, Article 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Idem, Article 7.2. (a). [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Idem, Article 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Commission Decision C(2016) 3301 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Provisions included in this privacy statement referring to expert groups equally apply to their sub-groups. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Commission Decision C(2016)3301 of 30 May 2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)