

Call for applications for the selection of members of the Commission Expert Group “European Innovation Council (EIC) Pilot Advisory Board”

BACKGROUND

The goal of the European Innovation Council (EIC) initiative is to put Europe at the forefront of the next wave of breakthrough and disruptive innovation that creates new markets in particular through combinations of the physical and the digital, of products and services, of technologies and business models. This will require identifying and supporting high-risk innovators and innovations, where private investors are unable or unwilling to go alone, with the aim of crowding-in private investments and making Europe an internationally attractive location to develop, invest and scale up highly innovative technologies and companies.

On 7 June 2018 the Commission adopted its proposal for Horizon Europe – the next EU framework programme for research and innovation (2021 - 2027) – which includes the legal establishment of the EIC with a budget of €10 billion and the constitution of an EIC Advisory Board, bringing together leading innovators in order to maximise the visibility and impact of the EIC.

European heads of state have explicitly endorsed the creation of a EIC in the next EU budget, and invited the Commission to launch a new pilot initiative on breakthrough innovation within the remaining period of the current programme, Horizon 2020. In response, the Commission is preparing to launch the new pilot initiative worth over €2 billion in 2019-20, building on a first set of pilot activities which were introduced in 2018 ([see here](#)) and the recommendations of the High Level Group of innovators ([see here](#)).

The new EIC pilot initiative will feature reformed and simplified funding instruments, designed to support disruptive and breakthrough innovations at early-stage (advanced research on future and emerging technologies) and to accelerate the development and scale-up of Europe’s most innovative start-ups and SMEs (including novel financing to blend grant and equity investments). This pilot will test out pro-active approaches to managing the financial support, and for this purpose the Commission intends to recruit a number of “programme managers” with expertise in the field of technology/ innovation. For the purpose of the pilot on blended finance, the Commission intends to establish a special purpose vehicle to manage the equity component and structured in such a way that it can attract other public or private investors in order to increase the leverage effect of the Union contribution.

In order to support the various pilot activities and to prepare the future EIC, the Commission intends to establish an ‘EIC Pilot Advisory Board’. This Board will act as a transition structure until 2021 when the formal EIC Board is expected to be appointed under the Horizon Europe legislation.

1. COMPOSITION AND TASKS OF THE EIC PILOT ADVISORY BOARD

The Board is expected to consist of 15 to 20 high level experts, from various domains of Europe's innovation ecosystem, who will be appointed in a personal capacity, acting independently and in the public interest.

Members shall be appointed by the European Commission Directorate General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) for a period of two years. One of the selected members will be appointed as the Chair of the EIC Pilot Advisory Board.

The tasks of the EIC Pilot Advisory Board will be to advise the Commission on:

- the development and follow up of the current and planned EIC pilot actions in 2019 and 2020, in particular the substantive new initiatives to be launched in 2019;
- the overall strategy for the future EIC and the design of the funding and support, in line with the Horizon Europe legislation;
- any matter which may enhance and foster innovation eco-systems across Europe, the achievements and impact of the objectives of the EIC component and the capacity of innovative firms to roll out their solutions;

In addition, the European Commission may request the EIC Pilot Advisory Board to help identify possible regulatory barriers faced by innovators, in particular those awarded support under the EIC funding activities.

The members of the EIC Pilot Advisory Board will also be expected to increase the visibility of the EIC and promote the attractiveness of Europe for breakthrough and disruptive innovation.

2. OPERATION OF THE EIC PILOT ADVISORY BOARD

In principle, the Board is expected to meet four times per year typically at Commission premises in Brussels. Ad-hoc meetings are possible either on the initiative of the Chair, with the agreement of DG RTD or at the request of a simple majority of members, after DG RTD has given its agreement. Each Board meetings will typically last for 1.5 day. DG RTD shall provide secretarial services.

Members should be prepared to attend meetings systematically, to contribute actively to discussions in the group, to be involved in preparatory work ahead of meetings, to examine and provide comments on documents under discussion, and to act, as appropriate, as “rapporteurs” on specific topics.

A maximum of 20 days of working time per year is expected, of which approximately half for Board and ad-hoc meetings and half for remote working days for additional tasks outside the Board meetings. At the request of DG RTD, members should be prepared to attend some meetings and workshops, outside of the EIC Pilot Advisory Board meetings, in order to contribute actively to wider discussions on the EIC.

The Board 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.

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

The Commission, in agreement with the Chair, may invite experts with specific expertise with respect to a subject matter on the agenda to take part in the work of the Board on an *ad hoc* basis.

Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by members of the Board shall be reimbursed by the Commission. Reimbursements 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 EIC Pilot Advisory Board members will provide high-level advice to the Commission of such a nature that without their input the implementation of the Enhanced EIC Pilot and the development of the future definitive iteration of the EIC would not be effective. In light of this, and as highly qualified, specialised, independent experts selected following a public call for applications, on the basis of objective criteria, it is justified that the members of the EIC Pilot Advisory Board shall be remunerated for the services they offer pursuant Article 21 of the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups¹.

Members of the Board shall act in compliance with the horizontal rules and in agreement with DG RTD as the Commission service responsible for the operation of the EIC Pilot Advisory Board. Members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the group's deliberations, who in the opinion of DG RTD 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 the period of their appointment.

Relevant organisations and public entities other than Member States' authorities may be granted an observer status, in compliance with the horizontal rules, by direct invitation. Organisations and public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Chair 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.

The members of the Board, as well as invited experts and observers, 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) 2015/443² and 2015/444³. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

On a proposal by and in agreement with the Commission, the Board shall adopt its rules of procedure on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for expert groups.

¹ C(2016) 3301.

² Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41).

³ 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).

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

3. TRANSPARENCY

The EIC Pilot Advisory Board shall be registered in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('the Register of expert groups').

Regarding the board composition, DG RTD shall publish the name of individuals appointed in a personal capacity and the name of observers.

The Commission 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 submitted to user registration or any other restriction. In particular, DG RTD shall ensure publication of 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° 1049/2001⁴.

Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725⁵.

4. HOW TO APPLY

Interested individuals are invited to submit their application to the European Commission, DG RTD, by way of email with accompanying documents (listed below) to RTD-B3-EIC@ec.europa.eu. Applications must be completed in any of the official languages of the European Union, however, applications in English would facilitate the selection procedure. If another language is used, it would be helpful to include a summary of the application in English.

Each application must include the following documents, submitted only in electronic format (i.e. PDF or Word format):

- ***a cover letter*** (preferably not exceeding one page) explaining your motivation for applying and what contribution you could make to the Board;
- ***a curriculum vitae (CV)***, preferably not exceeding three pages.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002 (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

- *a classification form* confirming that you are applying in a personal capacity (Annex I)
- *a selection criteria form* summarising how you fulfill the selection criteria listed in Section 5 (Annex II)
- A **declaration of interests** ('DOI') form (Annex III)

Members of this Board will be individuals appointed in a personal capacity. Applicants must disclose any circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest by submitting a declaration of interests ('DOI') consisting of a series of standard questions requesting individuals to disclose any interest relevant to the subject of the work to be performed. Applicants who answer questions in the affirmative are required to supply detailed information about it.

Submission of a duly completed DOI form is necessary in order to be eligible to be appointed in a personal capacity. DG RTD shall perform the conflict of interest assessment in compliance with the horizontal rules⁶.

Deadline for application

The duly signed and completed applications and accompanying documents must be sent by midday on 10th May 2019, by e-mail to the following e-mail address: RTD-B3-EIC@ec.europa.eu. The date of the e-mail will be the date of sending.

5. SELECTION OF EIC PILOT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

The Commission seeks a good mixture of high level individuals including:

- a) entrepreneurs who have started up and scaled up innovative enterprises at European/global level;
- b) investors, venture capitalists, individuals experienced in corporate venturing and corporate-startup relationships
- c) individuals with a strong track record in developing the wider innovation ecosystem, in particular in knowledge/technology transfer, in building start-up communities, and in managing innovation agencies/ incubators/ accelerators;
- d) researchers and academics with leading expertise in fields relating to future technologies and to innovation policy;

The Commission 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 disruptive and breakthrough innovation
- An appropriate position of the applicant in his/her organisation
- Recognition of authority and/or achievements, for example in the form of prizes and awards obtained at national, European or international level

⁶ Article 11 of the horizontal rules.

- Vision and creativity towards the work of the Board and the capacity to ensure impact
- Strong communication and advocacy skills and good knowledge of the English language allowing active participation in discussions

The Commission will also seek to strike a balance within the members of the group in terms of skills, experience, gender, age and geographical origin.

The Commission (DG RTD) will select the chair and the members of the EIC Pilot Advisory Board and may also appoint one or more vice-chairs. The Commission shall aim to ensure, as far as possible, a high level of expertise, as well as a balanced representation of relevant know how and areas of interest, while taking into account the specific tasks of the board, the type of expertise required, as well as the relevance of the applications received.

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

For any further information please contact: RTD-B3-EIC@ec.europa.eu

ANNEXES:

Annex I - Classification form

Annex II - Selection criteria form

Annex III - Standard declaration of interests

Annex IV - Guidance for filling in the declaration of interests

Annex V - Privacy statement

(annexes are also available in separate word (docx) documents)

Annex I - Classification form⁷

To be filled in by all applicants

<p>Commission Expert Group “European Innovation Council (EIC) Pilot Advisory Board”</p>
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I hereby declare that I am **an individual applying to be appointed in a personal capacity and** if appointed I shall act independently and in the public interest.

Title:

Surname:

First name:

Date:

Signature

⁷ This form must be filled in, signed and returned with the application.

Annex II: Selection criteria form⁸

Applicants are requested to describe how they fulfil the selection criteria listed in this call⁹.

Commission Expert Group “European Innovation Council (EIC) Pilot Advisory Board”

<i>Proven and relevant competence and experience, including at European and / or international level in areas relevant to disruptive and breakthrough innovation</i>	
<i>An appropriate position of the applicant in his/her organisation</i>	
<i>Recognition of authority and/or achievements, for example in the form of prizes and awards obtained at national, European or international level</i>	
<i>Vision and creativity towards the work of the Board and the capacity to ensure impact</i>	
<i>Strong communication and advocacy skills and good knowledge of the English language allowing active participation in discussions</i>	

Title:

Surname:

First name:

Date:

Signature

⁸ This form must be filled in, signed and returned with the application.

⁹

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 capacity¹⁰

Legal basis:

Commission Decision [C(2016) 3301 final] 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 briefly describe relevant interests and circumstances, as appropriate.

If you do not describe relevant interests, 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: **"European Innovation Council (EIC) Pilot Advisory Board"**

¹⁰ This form must be filled in, signed and returned with the application.

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
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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... month/year) until	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
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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... month/year) until	Name of legal entity or body	Description

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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
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3a	Research support, including grants, rents, sponsorships, fellowships, non-monetary support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Activity	Time period (from... month/year) until	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
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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
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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
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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... month/year) until	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"/>
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Interests	Time period (from... month/year) until	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.
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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"/>
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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 (repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001).

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.

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 bodies¹¹, the role of which is to provide advice and expertise to the Commission and its departments in relation to a number of tasks¹². Individuals appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups in a personal capacity are due to act independently and in the public interest¹³.

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 exists¹⁴.

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:

¹¹ C(2016) 3301, Article 2.1.

¹² Idem, Article 3.

¹³ Idem, Article 7.2. (a).

¹⁴ Idem, Article 11.

- 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 collected, processed and published by the Commission in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 (repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001).

Annex V - Privacy statement

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

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1. Introduction

This privacy statement explains the reason for the processing, the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you may exercise in relation to your data (the right to access, rectify, block etc.).

The European institutions are committed to protecting and respecting your privacy. As this service/application collects and further processes personal data, Regulation (UE) 2018/1725¹⁵ of 23 October 2018, is applicable.

This statement concerns the Register of Commission Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities ('Register of expert groups') undertaken by the European Commission, Secretariat-General, Head of Unit G.4 (Institutional Affairs). The Register is a 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 on the Commission department which is running the group, as well as on the group members, mission and tasks. The Register also includes relevant documents which are produced and discussed by expert groups.

¹⁵ 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, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002 (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

Personal data submitted to Commission departments as part of rejected applications are not published on the Register of expert groups. The competent Commission departments keep these data for six months and do not process them for other purposes.

2. **Why do we process your data?**

Purpose of the processing operation: The European Commission, Secretariat-General, Head of Unit G.4 (Institutional Affairs) ('the Data Controller') collects and uses your personal information to ensure transparency on expert groups' membership and activities.

The processing and publication on the Register of expert's personal data is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest, since it increases the transparency on Commission expert groups (article 5.1(a) of Regulation (UE) 2018/1725).

As regards, in particular, the declarations of interests filled in by experts appointed in a personal capacity, the processing of personal data of these experts serves the public interest of enabling the Commission to verify the experts' independence in providing advice to the Commission. Furthermore, the public disclosure of declarations of interests allows for public scrutiny of the interests declared by experts appointed in a personal capacity, 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.

Art 39 of Regulation (UE) 2018/1725 is not applicable.

3. **Which data do we collect and process?**

The personal data collected and further processed may be:

- Name;
- Professional title;
- Professional profile;
- Nationality;
- Gender;
- Interest represented (only for individuals applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups representing a common interest and for the designated representatives of organisations applying to be appointed members of expert groups or sub-groups);
- Information included in the declarations of interest (only for individuals applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups in a personal capacity).

4. **How long do we keep your data?**

The Data Controller only keeps the data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing.

When an individual is no longer participating in a group listed in the Register of expert groups, all personal information related to this individual is removed from the Register. The competent Commission departments keep personal information for 5 years after the date where relevant individuals cease to participate in the work of the group.

Declarations of interests of individuals appointed as members or alternate members in a personal capacity of expert groups or sub-groups are published on the Register as long as they are members.

When a group is closed down, it remains published in the Register of expert groups for five years, with the indication 'Closed'. During such time, personal information other than the above-mentioned declarations of interests is visible on the Register.

An XML file is created daily with all the information regarding active groups. All versions of this file, showing the situation of the Register as of the day it was created, are stored in a file server for 5 years.

5. How do we protect your data?

All data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, uploaded batches of data etc.) are stored either on the servers of the European Commission or of its contractors, the operations of which abide by the European Commission's security decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017¹⁶. The Commission's contractors are bound by a specific contractual clause for any processing operations of your data on behalf of the Commission, and by the confidentiality obligations deriving from Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April 2016¹⁷.

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

Information collected is publicly available on the Register of expert groups.

The XML files referred to in point 4 are not available neither via the internal application of the Register or the public version of the Register, and are only accessible to a reduced number of users in the System Owner and System Supplier's teams.

¹⁶ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46 of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission (OJ L 6, 11.1.2017, p. 40).

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

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

According to Regulation (UE) 2018/1725, you are entitled to access your personal data and rectify and/or block it in case the data is inaccurate or incomplete.

If you do not wish to have your name published on the Register of expert groups, you may submit a request to the relevant Commission department for a derogation from publication. A derogation shall be granted where justified on compelling legitimate grounds in relation to your specific situation, in particular where disclosure of the experts' name could endanger your security or integrity.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the secretariat of the competent Commission department or in case of conflict the Data Protection Officer and if necessary the European Data Protection Supervisor using the contact information given at point 8 below.

8. Contact information

If you have comments or questions, any concerns or a complaint regarding the collection and use of your personal data, please feel free to contact the secretariat of the competent Commission department, using the following contact information:

The Data Processor:

- *Directorate General for Research of Innovation, Unit B.3 "Investments & SMEs"*
- +32 229-51339
- RTD-B3-EIC@ec.europa.eu

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission: DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu

The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS): edps@edps.europa.eu.

9. Where to find more detailed information?

The Commission Data Protection Officer publishes the register of all operations processing personal data. You can access the register on the following link : <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register>

This specific processing has been notified to the DPO with the following reference: DPO-2194.8