

Sherpa sub-group of the HLG on Competitiveness, Energy and the Environment

Mandate

Context

The Commission has decided to set up a High Level Group (HLG) on Competitiveness, Energy and the Environment from high level persons with competence and responsibility in the areas of industry, energy, and the environment. Each member will nominate a personal representative to a preparatory sub-group the so-called 'sherpa' sub-group.

Objective

The Sherpa sub-group will assist the High Level Group in its debates and advice.

Work plan

The Sherpa sub-group will process, coordinate and integrate the work of ad hoc groups. On the basis of input from the ad hoc groups and relevant contributions or documents, it will prepare the debate of the HLG and will make recommendations to the HLG. It will notably prepare position papers, and advice for actions or policy measures to be taken by the HLG.

The sherpas will discuss and identify before each meeting of the HLG:

- Subjects for discussion by the HLG;
- Input to the conclusions to be taken by the HLG; and
- Sensitive and problematic issues.

Methodology and deliverables

Emphasis should be put on the feasibility of the proposed recommendations to the HLG, taking into account, in a balanced manner, short term and long term economic as well as environmental considerations. Emphasis will also be given to technology.

The meetings will be convened by the Commission. The Sherpa sub-group shall be chaired by a representative of the European Commission. The chair of each subject will depend on the subject area discussed. The minutes of the meetings, the possible reports and presentations of the Sherpa sub-group will be drafted by the secretariat provided by the Commission.

The sherpas will be able to attend the meetings of the ad hoc groups if so they wish. They will attend the HLG meetings but do not substitute HLG members.

Timetable and duration

The sherpa sub-group shall start working as early as possible in February. It will meet as often as required, ahead of the HLG meetings. In between meetings it will use the most appropriate communication means (e.g. e-mail, telephone and fax) to exchange information, documents or to draft joint papers. The sherpa sub-group shall be closed when the HLG will terminate its activities.