



Brussels, 06 November 2015

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS BY ORGANISATIONS TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE "ABS CONSULTATION FORUM"

1. BACKGROUND

Article 15 of [Regulation \(EU\) No 511/2014](#) on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union ("ABS Regulation") stipulates that "The Commission shall ensure a balanced participation of representatives of the Member States and other interested parties in issues related to the implementation of this Regulation. They shall meet in a consultation forum. The rules of procedure of that consultation forum shall be established by the Commission."

The Commission will establish the "ABS Consultation Forum" as an informal expert group within the meaning of the *Horizontal rules for Commission expert groups*¹ and is now calling for applications by organisations wishing to become members of the Forum.

2. THE CONSULTATION FORUM

2.1. Task

The main task of the Forum is to provide advice and expertise to the Commission's Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) in relation to the implementation of the ABS Regulation and its [Implementing Regulation](#), and to facilitate coordination and cooperation with Member States and stakeholders in that regard.

2.2. Composition

In accordance with Article 15 of the ABS Regulation, the Forum will consist of representatives of the EU Member States and other interested parties. Member States will by default be represented by their respective competent authorities. "Other interested parties" include associations of stakeholders with an interest in the implementation of the Regulation – in particular industry or trade associations from sectors on which the EU ABS Regulation will have an impact, other professional associations (representing for example botanic gardens, culture collections, the wider research community), or

¹ C(2010) 7649 final of 10.11.2010, Annex, Rule 2

intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations having a legitimate interest in the policy area.

The number of organisations represented in the Forum will not exceed the number of Member States. Each delegation may be composed of up to three individuals, while the Commission reserves the right to limit the size of delegations representing more specific interests to two delegates.

2.3. Rules of procedure

The Forum will meet at least once per year. Working documents will be drafted in English and meetings conducted in English without interpretation. Applicants should be prepared to attend meetings systematically, to examine and provide comments on documents under discussion and to contribute actively to discussions in the group. DG ENV will provide secretariat services to the Forum.

Meetings will be held in Brussels in Commission premises or in another place announced in accordance with the rules of procedure. Due to budgetary constraints, the Commission is not in a position to cover travel and accommodation expenses or daily allowance for participants in meetings of the Forum, nor will members be remunerated for their participation.

DG ENV will make public all relevant information and documents about the Forum, including the list of its members, through the [Register of Commission Expert Groups](#). Exception to systematic publication applies only where disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001. Personal data will be collected, processed and published in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.

Detailed rules of procedure will be established at the first meeting of the Forum.

3. APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

3.1. Applications

Applications must be sent **by COB on Friday 4 December 2015** to ENV-E2-NAGOYA-ABS@ec.europa.eu. They must include:

- short description (not more than one page) of the organisation and its interest in the matter;
- name(s), function(s) and contact details of the person(s) who would represent the organisation in the Forum;
- contact person for correspondence (if different from the above).

The Commission may request additional supporting documents during the evaluation of applications.

3.2. Exclusion criteria

To be eligible for membership in the Forum, organisations must be:

- engaged in activities related to the implementation of the ABS Regulation;
- established at EU or international level;
- registered in the [Transparency Register](#).

3.3. Selection criteria

The Commission will apply the following criteria in selecting members of the Forum from among the applicants:

- the applicant organisation's and its proposed representatives' demonstrated expertise, experience and level of interest shown in contributing to relevant expert discussions;
- geographical and functional variety among members of the organisation (greater variety will be considered an advantage);
- the need to minimise multiple representation of similar interests and to achieve an overall balance of interests represented in the Forum.

3.4. Appointment and notification

The members of the Forum will be selected from among the respondents to this call. They will be notified of their appointment and informed about the date of the first meeting (likely to be held towards the end of January 2016).

4. CONTACT PERSONS

Further information on the ABS Consultation Forum and on this call for applications can be obtained from Alicja.Kozlowska@ec.europa.eu or Matthias-Leonhard.Maier@ec.europa.eu.