



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Net Futures

Software and Services, Cloud

Terms of Reference of the Steering Board of the European Cloud Partnership

1. BACKGROUND, RATIONALE AND GOAL

On 27 September 2012 the Commission adopted the European Cloud Strategy in the form of a Communication entitled "Unleashing the Potential of Cloud Computing in Europe" [COM (2012) 529], in which it announced the intention to set up a European Cloud Partnership (ECP).

The ECP will work towards building a digital single market for cloud computing in particular by boosting public sector take up, which by extension will spill over to the private sector, the public sector being as a whole the largest buyer of IT services across Europe. By combining its fragmented procurement efforts, it can form a force for better, more cost-efficient, trustworthy and reliable cloud services. Cloud services include the various layers from infrastructure to applications, all delivered as a service. Pooling procurement requirements will open up the market for suppliers and create a level playing field for all contenders, small as well as large.

Under the guidance of a Steering Board, the ECP brings together public authorities and industry consortia to implement pre-commercial procurement activities to identify common cloud computing requirements, to develop specifications for IT procurement, and to procure reference implementations. The ECP does not aim at creating a physical cloud computing infrastructure.

2. SCOPE OF THE STEERING BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN CLOUD PARTNERSHIP

The Steering Board of the ECP will give strategic advice through its chairperson both to the ECP itself and to the Commissioner responsible for the Digital Agenda. The group is composed of high level stakeholders and decision makers from governmental IT policy making and the IT and telecom industry.

The board shall provide authoritative expert guidance on any aspect of market evolution and uptake, regulation and policy, best practice, procurement, innovation, and technology and research related to cloud computing in Europe and globally.

The specific mission of the Steering Board of the European Cloud Partnership includes:

- to provide strategic advice to the ECP, and provide orientations for possible new ECP initiatives. In particular this could comprise reviewing and advising on implementation issues and provide recommendations for future implementation, uptake and research actions.
- to provide recommendations and advice on priorities and orientations for cloud computing in Europe as an engine for sustainable economic growth, global competitiveness, innovation and cost-efficient public services;
- to recommend possible orientations for secure and interoperable cloud computing that will significantly contribute to continued policy initiatives for the European Digital Single Market.

The Steering Board will particularly focus on stimulating public sector adoption of cloud computing services, in a way that shapes the market to the benefit of all potential cloud users and unleashes the full market potential to the benefit of customers and suppliers alike.

Advice on novel market, innovation, regulatory and technology issues arising both in the EU and internationally and in the public as well as the private sector will serve as an early warning indicator for harvesting market opportunities, and avoiding pitfalls for cloud computing in EU.

3. OPERATIONAL MODALITIES

1. The Steering Board of the European Cloud Partnership is set up with effect from the day of its first meeting.
2. The chair and members of the Steering Board of the European Cloud Partnership shall be appointed by the Commissioner responsible for the Digital Agenda. The composition of the Steering Board is provided in a separate Annex.
3. Regular participation in the Steering Board meetings comprises: the chair, members plus one Sherpa each, the Commissioner's office and Commission officials from DG Connect. The chair will be assisted by Commission staff. Sherpa participation to assist the SB chair and members is optional.
4. The initial duration of the Steering Board of the ECP shall be 2.5 years. It may be renewed by the responsible Commissioner. If a member or the chair leaves his/her current organisation or changes position, (s)he has to inform the Commissioner.
5. The members and chair of the Steering Board are appointed on the basis of their professional expertise and shall act independently. Their role is to provide advice on strategic options for cloud computing in Europe.
6. The Steering Board meetings are non-public and can upon simple request from any participant be held under the Chatham House Rule, to simultaneously enable open discussion and allow transparent dissemination of material from the meetings. Information related to the meetings for external use will be approved beforehand by all members, the chair and the Commission.
7. The Steering Board shall strive to adopt its opinions by consensus, but individual views will be duly considered and reflected in the meeting reports. Advice and recommendations from the Steering Board will be provided in writing and will be made publicly available.
8. The secretariat of the Steering Board is provided by the services of the European Commission.
9. The Steering Board of the ECP will meet two or three times per year, as convened by its chairperson in agreement with the Commission.
10. The Steering Board members can nominate sherpas to prepare participation in the meetings on their behalf. The Commission will organise preparatory meetings with the sherpas some weeks prior to the Board meeting, in order to determine the Steering Board meeting agenda and prepare the discussions.
11. The chair, taking account of requests from Steering Board members, may ask the Commission to invite other participants to the Steering Board meeting.
12. A draft agenda for comments will be circulated to the Steering Board members and their sherpas no later than two weeks prior to scheduling a Board meeting. Requests

by the Board members for items to be placed on the agenda shall be submitted to the chair and the secretariat.

13. After each meeting the secretariat will prepare a brief meeting report, which shall be approved by the chair.
14. In case of non-availability of the chairperson for a Steering Board meeting, the Commission can ask another member to chair the meeting.

Other matters

15. The chair can propose recommendations, after discussion in the Board, on matters not covered by the present Terms of Reference. Where necessary, the chair shall submit these recommendations to the office of the Commissioner.