



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate D - Sustainable Development; Economic Partnership Agreements - African, Caribbean and Pacific; Agri-food and Fisheries
Trade and Sustainable Development, Generalized System of Preferences

Brussels, **10 OCT. 2012**
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INVITATION TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION EXPERT GROUP ON THE GENERALISED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

We are pleased to announce that the Commission expert Group on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (code E02836) has been published in the public register. This expert group has been established *inter alia* with an aim to implement paragraph 4 of the Common Understanding on delegated acts between the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission providing for appropriate and transparent consultations during Commission's preparatory work, including at expert level. The group will be chaired by Mr. Francisco Pérez-Cañado.

We should be grateful if you could nominate an official from your Member State as member of the group and to communicate the official's details by 22 October 2012.

The first meeting of the Expert Group on Generalised System of Preferences will be held on 6 November 2012, from 3 pm till 6 pm, at Commission premises.

A provisional agenda is attached (see annex 1), including the following points.

The first point is the Commission Delegated Regulation establishing rules related to the procedure for granting the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance under the upcoming new GSP¹.

The second point is the Commission Delegated Regulation modifying the list of beneficiary countries on the basis of art. 5.2(a) of the new regulation. The countries concerned would be Azerbaijan and Iran. Potential related changes in graduation and vulnerability thresholds will also be discussed.

The third point relates to the draft procedural rules of the group. While it is not mandatory to establish such rules, we believe that they would be helpful to enhance transparency and to facilitate the group's work.

We foresee to send you documents regarding these points two weeks in advance of the meeting, as well as the details of the room where the meeting will take place.

¹ The procedural rules regarding withdrawals and safeguards, which are not immediately applicable in any event, will be the subject of a separate delegated act.


You are also welcome to suggest points, if any, under A.O.B. at your earliest convenience.

You will also find attached the instructions for the reimbursement of travel expenses.

Any member wishing to attend the meeting and who does not have a valid access card issued by one of the EU institutions is invited to provide the Commission with his/her last name, first name, date of birth, nationality and passport number or identity-card number with end of validity date, so that a list can be made up in advance for the Security Directorate.

Requests for information may be addressed to:

david.bonte@ec.europa.eu



Monika Hencsey
Head of Unit

Annex 1

Meeting of the Expert Group on the Generalised System of Preferences

6 November 2012

15.00 – 18.00 hrs.

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Preparatory work. Commission Delegated Regulation establishing rules related to the procedure for granting the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance.
3. Preparatory work. Commission Delegated Regulation modifying the beneficiary list in accordance with art. 5.2(a). Potential related changes in graduation and vulnerability thresholds.
4. Procedural rules of the expert group
5. Any other business

Annex 2

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

- Travel expenses for only one representative per Member State can be reimbursed.
- To enable the Commission to proceed with the reimbursement, any new delegate for whom the travel expenses are to be reimbursed should fill out the "Expert's Identification Sheet", and should have it stamped and signed by the bank and signed by the account holder, in advance of the meeting.

The sheet is available from the Commission.

Delegates who have filled out an "Expert's Identification Sheet" previously need not do so again.

- For the reimbursement of travel expenses, the Commission needs:
 - an "Application for Reimbursement"
This form will be distributed at the meeting by the secretary.

The delegate claiming travel expenses should fill out the form at the meeting (or attach the identification sticker, available from DG BUDG), and should hand it to the secretary by the end of the meeting.
 - the ticket
The delegate claiming travel expenses should produce the ticket used for travelling, so that the secretary can take a photocopy of it.

The price of the ticket should be marked clearly on the ticket; if the price is not indicated on the ticket, proof of the amount paid should be provided (an invoice, or, in the case of an e-ticket, the e-mail with the price, etc.).