



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Call extended until 11 December 2015

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF EXPERTS APPOINTED IN A PERSONAL CAPACITY AS MEMBERS OF THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETS TASK FORCE

The participation of the European agri-food sector in global markets has created important trading opportunities but also exposed it to greater market instability and increased price volatility. The Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission ('DG AGRI') continues to look into instruments to address these challenges so as improve future conditions for farmers, notably with regard to the functioning of the food chain.

DG AGRI is therefore going to set up a group of experts named Agricultural Markets Task Force ('the group'). The creation and functioning of the group is governed by the horizontal rules included in Commission Communication C(2010)7649 of 10 November 2010.¹

The task of the group is to provide DG AGRI with advice and expertise regarding the functioning of agricultural markets and the farmers' position in the food supply chain, as well as making recommendations and proposing policy initiatives in this field, taking into account global challenges for sustainable agriculture. The group will be expected to present its results in a final report to be adopted in principle by consensus and in the event of a vote, by simple majority of the members present at the vote.

The work of the group will be organised in the form of four to six dedicated full-day sessions, in Brussels, which will suitably group sub-themes and relevant stakeholders. The first meeting will take place early in 2016, the last one not after October 2016.

The group will consist of a small number of members (in any event fewer than 15) appointed in a personal capacity.

DG AGRI is therefore calling for applications with a view to selecting members of this group.

DG AGRI will take the following criteria into account when assessing applications:

¹ Communication from the President to the Commission of 10 November 2010 {C(2010) 7649}, Framework for Commission expert groups: horizontal rules and public register, http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/PDF/SEC_2010_EN.pdf

- Proven competence and experience in one or more sectors of activity or areas of knowledge relevant to:
 - the position of farmers in the food supply chain;
 - access by farmers and their cooperatives to credit and futures markets;
 - self-help tools for farmers including collective bargaining and competition issues;
 - contractual relations between farmers and other actors in the chain including questions of fair distribution of profit along the whole food supply chain;
 - market transparency along the food supply chain.
- The need to strike a balance within the group of experts in terms of representativeness of the relevant expertise, and, as far as possible, gender and geographical origin.
- Members of the group of experts must be nationals of a Member State of the European Union.

Members shall give the Commission an independent opinion free from outside influence and they shall commit to act independently and in the public interest.

The group deliberations shall be confidential. In agreement with DG AGRI, the group may, by a simple majority of its members, decide to open its deliberations to the public.

All applicants must document their professional experience and expertise in full by means of a curriculum vitae.

The following information should also be included in the application:

- a. The authority/organisation for which the applicant works and the length of time he/she has worked there.
- b. Other authorities/organisations, for which he/she has worked in the past.
- c. His/her specific competences.
- d. The specific projects and or tasks he/she has been involved in.
- e. Any experience the applicant has acquired at EU and international level in the areas of expertise sought.
- f. Any works that he/she has published on the areas of expertise sought.

- g. Any interests that he/she has, which may prejudice his or her independence.

Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the group shall be reimbursed by the Commission in accordance with the provisions in force at the Commission within the limits of the available budgetary appropriations. Members will receive no remuneration for their duties.

The signed application must be sent within 20 working days following the date of publication of this call, that is to say by 4 December 2015, to the following email-address: AGRI-MARKETS-TASK-FORCE@ec.europa.eu. Applications must be completed in one of the official languages of the European Union, clearly indicating the applicant's nationality and including the necessary documentation. Applications in English would facilitate the evaluation procedure. If another language is used, it would be desirable to include a summary of the curriculum vitae in English.

The selection procedure will consist of an assessment by DG AGRI of the applications submitted against the above-mentioned selection criteria, followed by the establishment of a list of the most suitable applicants, and concluded by the appointment of the members of the group.

The group will be published in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('the Register of expert groups').

The list of members of the group will be published² in the Register of expert groups³ and on DG AGRI's web-site⁴.

All relevant documents (such as agendas, minutes and participants' submissions) will be made available either on the Register of expert groups or via a link from the Register to a dedicated website, where the relevant information can be found. Access to dedicated websites will not be submitted to user registration or any other restriction. Exceptions to publication will be foreseen where disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001.⁵

² Members who do not wish to have their names disclosed may apply for derogation from this rule. The request not to disclose the name of a member of an expert group shall be considered justified whenever publication could endanger his or her security or integrity or unduly prejudice his or her privacy.

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/>

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/agriculture/index_en.htm

⁵ 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,

Personal data will be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.

For any further information please contact Mr. Oliver SITAR, telephone: +32-2-29 60613, e-mail: AGRI-MARKETS-TASK-FORCE@ec.europa.eu

court proceedings and legal advice, inspections/investigations/audits and the institution's decision-making process.