



FRAMEWORK FOR CIVIL DIALOGUE IN MATTERS COVERED **BY THE "EUROPE FOR CITIZENS" PROGRAMME 2014-2020**

1. SETTING UP OF A CIVIL DIALOGUE GROUP

In accordance with Article 11(2) of the Treaty on the European Union providing that the institutions are to maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society, and pursuing to Article 10 of Council Regulation establishing the ‘Europe for Citizens’ programme for the period 2014-2020¹ providing that the Commission shall have a regular dialogue with the beneficiaries of the Programme and relevant partners and experts, the former “structured dialogue group” is re-designated as “civil dialogue group”, with the mandate as follows.

The following rules aim at facilitating the development of the work and tasks of this civil dialogue group, hereinafter referred to as “the group”.

2. MANDATE

The group’s tasks are:

- To hold a regular dialogue on all matters relating to the Europe for Citizens programme, including “Remembrance” and “Democratic and civic engagement”, and to its implementation.
- To bring about exchanges of experiences and good practices in those fields.
- To contribute to the dissemination of the programme’s results.
- To contribute to the preparation and implementation of any events or activities organised under the Europe for Citizens programme.
- To monitor and discuss policy developments in related fields.

As a general rule there will be two meetings per year, depending notably on the Europe for Citizens programme agenda, and on the European political agenda, including the annual priorities of the European Union.

¹ COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) No 390/2014 of 14 April 2014 establishing the ‘Europe for Citizens’ programme for the period 2014-2020, O.J. L115 17.04.2014

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2014.115.01.0003.01.ENG>

3. MEMBERSHIP

The group is composed of the following organisations:

- Organisations which have been selected to receive an operating grant under the "Europe for Citizens" Programme 2014-20, under strand 1 "Remembrance" and under strand 2 "Democratic engagement and civic participation".
- Organisations which have received an operating grant under the former "Europe for Citizens" Programme 2007-13 and have expressed their continued interest to take part to the dialogue.
- Some organisations/ think tanks which have expressed an interest in the Europe for Citizens programme and/or work in this policy area – but not necessarily supported by the programme.

Member organisations are expected to be represented at a high level and to take part regularly to the work of the group. To that end, they will designate a representative to the group, and, as the case may be, a deputy representative, and will keep the Commission posted in case of change.

In conformity with the revised Interinstitutional Agreement on the Transparency Register signed by the Parliament and the Commission on 15 April 2014, Member organisations which have not yet registered are invited to do so².

Membership may be ended where a member organisation:

- is no longer able to contribute effectively to the group's work;
- withdraws from the group.

4. OPERATION

Meetings are chaired by the Director or the Head of Unit in charge of the "Europe for Citizens" programme (hereinafter referred to as "the chairperson").

Items to be included on the agenda will be proposed by the chairperson, in consultation with the organisations represented in the group. The chairperson shall send out the agenda as a general rule 3 weeks before the meeting, preferably by electronic means.

Other Commission services as well as the EACEA may also attend meetings according to the agenda. The group will regularly invite some of its members to make presentations on specific subjects.

The chairperson may invite experts from outside the group or members of other institutions with specific competence relating to the subject on the agenda.

² <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister>

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/info/consult-register/whatsNew.do?locale=en>

The chairperson will compile a report containing a summary record of each meeting and send it to participants for approval within a month following the meeting.

In agreement with the Commission, the group may set up working groups to examine specific questions on the basis of terms of reference to be adopted by the group. Such working groups shall be dissolved as soon as their mandate is fulfilled.

The meetings of the group and working groups shall in general be held on the Commission premises. The Commission will provide secretarial services.

The Commission shall publish all relevant documents such as agendas, minutes or working documents, as well as the list of the member organisations, on its website.

5. MEETING EXPENSES

Travel and substance expenses incurred by persons from outside the Commission who are invited to attend meetings in an expert capacity, whether as representatives of the member organisations (maximum one per organisation) or as guest speakers, in the context of the activities of the group and working groups, shall be reimbursed by the Commission in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commissionⁱ.

Meeting expenses shall be reimbursed within the limits of the available appropriations allocated under the annual procedure for allocation of resources.

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https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/hr_admin/en/meeting/experts/documents/reglementation_experts_2008_en.pdf