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COMMISSION DECISION

of 19.10.2015

Setting up the High Level Group on the Competitiveness and Sustainable Growth of the Automotive Industry in the European Union (GEAR 2030)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 173 of the Treaty assigned the Union and the Member States the task of ensuring that the conditions necessary for the competitiveness of the Union's industry exist.
- (2) With a view to ensuring a co-ordinated approach at Union level in order to address the challenges which the European automotive industry faces due to technological changes, globalisation and an overall new approach to mobility, the Commission needs to call upon the expertise of specialists in an advisory body.
- (3) It is therefore necessary to set up a High Level Group on the Competitiveness and Sustainable Growth of the Automotive Industry in the European Union and to define its tasks and its structure.
- (4) The group should help to develop recommendations to reinforce the competitiveness of the European automotive value chain and come up with work plan for the smooth roll out of the autonomous vehicles.
- (5) The group should be composed of representatives of the Member States and relevant stakeholders of industry, academia and civil society, in particular representatives of consumers, trade unions and non-governmental organisations.
- (6) Rules on disclosure of information by members of the group should be provided for, without prejudice to the Commission's rules on security as set out in the Annex to Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom¹.
- (7) Personal data should be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council².
- (8) It is appropriate to establish a period for the application of this Decision. The Commission will in due time consider the advisability of an extension.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

¹ Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom of 29 November 2001 amending its internal Rules of Procedure (OJ L 317, 3.12.2001, p. 1).

² Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L8, 12.1.2001, p.1).

Article 1

Subject matter

The High Level Group on the Competitiveness and Sustainable Growth of the Automotive Industry in the European Union, hereinafter referred to as “the group”, is hereby set up under the name GEAR 2030.

Article 2

Tasks

The group’s tasks shall be the following:

1. to hold a regular dialogue on all matters relating to the competitiveness and sustainable growth of the automotive industry, including the economic situation, the impact on the environment including enforcements of standards, trends and factors driving the structural and societal changes, value chain adaptation and international aspects of the automotive industry's activity as well as the need to improve consumer's confidence and information;
2. to assist and advise the Commission on the policy in the fields referred to in point (1) and to formulate a set of sector-specific policy recommendations;
3. to assist the Commission in identifying key areas which need to be addressed and setting up an action plan at the European level in order to facilitate the roll out of autonomous and automated vehicles, taking into account the ongoing work in the context of the Cooperative ITS platform³ and other consultations the Commission regularly holds with the automotive and telecom sector;
4. to bring about an exchange of experience and best practices applied in the areas of education and training in the sector, which can serve as a reference for an effective skill development scheme.

Article 3

Consultation

In addition to the topics referred to in the Article 2, the Commission may consult the group on any matter considered relevant from the perspective of the competitiveness of the European automotive industry.

Article 4

Membership — Appointment

1. The group shall be composed of up to 25 members.
2. Members shall be Member States' authorities responsible for the automotive sector at ministerial level, as well as EU umbrella associations and federations from the automotive industrial value chain, ICT associations, network operators and digital services associations active in area of connected vehicles and/or autonomous

³ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/its/news/c-its-deployment-platform_en.htm

vehicles, trade unions, academia and civil society organisations (non-governmental organisations and consumers associations). Each member shall nominate a representative to the group as well as a representative to a permanent preparatory sub-group referred to in article 5(2), hereafter referred to as "the sherpa group".

3. Members other than Member States' authorities shall be appointed by the Director-General of the Commission Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (hereinafter 'DG GROW') from high level stakeholders with competence and responsibility in areas which are related to the competitiveness and sustainable growth of the Union automotive industry as referred to in Article 2 and 3 and who have responded to the call for applications.

Member States' authorities responsible for the automotive sector at ministerial level shall be appointed by the Director-General of DG GROW ensuring a balanced representation of relevant areas of interest and according to the specific tasks to be carried out by the group and Member States' experience in this field. The appointed Member States shall represent the different levels of the automotive value chain in a balanced way.

When defining the composition of the group, DG GROW shall aim at ensuring a balanced representation of relevant areas of expertise and areas of interest, while taking into account the specific tasks to be carried out by the group, the type of expertise required and the outcome of the selection procedure. Members shall be appointed for two years. They shall remain in office until they are replaced or their term of office ends. Their term of office may be renewed.

4. Members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the group's deliberations, who resign or who do not comply with the conditions set out in Article 339 of the Treaty may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office.
5. The names of members other than Member States' authorities shall be published on the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ("the Register"). The names of Member States' authorities may also be published on the Register.

Article 5

Operation

1. The group shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission.
2. The sherpa group shall prepare the discussions, roadmaps, position papers and advice for actions and policy measures to be recommended by the group. To that end, it shall work in close contact with the competent Commission services.
3. The group may, in agreement with the services of the Commission, set up other thematic sub-groups, in addition to the sherpa group, to examine specific questions related to the tasks of the group on the basis of terms of reference defined by the group. Such sub-groups shall be disbanded as soon as their mandate is fulfilled.
4. The Commission's representative may invite experts from outside the group with specific competence in a subject on the agenda to participate in the work of the group or sub-group on an *ad hoc* basis.

In addition, the Commission's representative may grant observer status to individuals, or organisations as defined in Rule 8(3) of the horizontal rules on expert groups and candidate countries⁴.

5. Members of expert groups and their representatives, as well as invited experts and observers, shall comply with the obligations of professional secrecy laid down by the Treaties and their implementing rules, as well as with the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of EU classified information, laid down in the Annex to Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443⁵ and 2015/444⁶.

Should they fail to respect those obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

6. The group's deliberations shall be confidential. In agreement with the Commission's services, the group may, by a simple majority of its members, decide to open its deliberations to the public.

7. The meetings of the group, sherpa group and other thematic sub-groups shall be held on the Commission premises. The Commission shall provide secretarial services.

Other Commission officials with an interest in the proceedings may attend meetings of the group, the sherpa group and thematic working groups.

8. The group shall adopt its rules of procedure on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for expert groups.⁷

9. The Commission shall publish all relevant documents on the activities carried out by the group (such as agendas, minutes and participants' submissions) either by including it in the Register or via a link from the Register to a dedicated website where the information can be found.

Exceptions to publication apply 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 of the European Parliament and of the Council^{8,9}.

10. The final report of the group shall be published as soon as possible after the final meeting of the group.

Article 6

Meeting expenses

1. Participants in the activities of the group shall not be remunerated for the services they render.

⁴ Framework for Commission Expert Groups: Horizontal rules and public registers; C(2010) 7649 final of 10 November 2010, Annex pg.10

⁵ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41).

⁶ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

⁷ C(2010) 7649 final

⁸ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

⁹ 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, court proceedings and legal advice, inspections/investigations/audits and the institution's decision-making process.

2. 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 within the Commission.
3. Those expenses shall be reimbursed within the limits of the available appropriations allocated under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

Article 7

Applicability

This Decision shall apply until the 19th october 2017.

Done at Brussels, 19.10.2015

For the Commission
Elżbieta BIENKOWSKA
Member of the Commission