



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 26.6.2014  
C(2014) 4175 final

**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of 26.6.2014**

**setting up the European Structural and Investment Funds structured dialogue group of experts**

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### setting up the European Structural and Investment Funds structured dialogue group of experts

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Whereas:

- (1) Article 11 of the Treaty on European Union assigned the institutions the task of maintaining an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society.
- (2) With a view to consulting the organisations which represent the partners at Union level on the implementation of support from the European Structural and Investment Funds, in accordance with Article 5(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup>, the White Paper from the Commission entitled European Governance<sup>2</sup>, and in line with the Communication from the Commission entitled Framework for Commission expert groups: horizontal rules and public register<sup>3</sup>, the Commission may need to call upon the expertise of specialists in an advisory body, which will be set up following participation of the above-mentioned partners in a call for applications.
- (3) It is therefore necessary to set up a group of experts in the field of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and to define its tasks and its structure.
- (4) The group should assist the Commission in relation to the implementation and development of policies in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4</sup>, Regulation (EU) No 1300/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>5</sup>, Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>6</sup>, Regulation (EU) No

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

<sup>2</sup> COM(2001) 428 final of 25.7.2001.

<sup>3</sup> C(2010) 7649 final of 10.11.2010.

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 259).

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1300/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1084/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 281).

<sup>6</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>7</sup> and Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>8</sup>.

- (5) The group should be composed of organisations that represent the partners at Union level referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (6) Rules on disclosure of information by members of the group should be laid down.
- (7) Personal data should be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>9</sup>.
- (8) It is appropriate to fix a period for the application of this Decision,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

### *Article 1*

#### **Subject matter**

The European Structural and Investment Funds structured dialogue group of experts hereinafter referred to as “the group”, is hereby set up.

### *Article 2*

#### **Task**

The group shall have the following tasks:

- (a) to support the work of the Commission as regards the development of cohesion policy, the policy of rural development, the Common Fisheries Policy and the integrated maritime policy in different areas of expertise, in particular in relation to the thematic objectives set out in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013;
- (b) to assist the Commission on questions relating to the implementation of support from the European Structural and Investment Funds in so far as they are based on Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013, No 1299/2013, No 1300/2013, No 1301/2013, No 1304/2013 and No 508/2014;
- (c) to monitor the evolution of policy in the field of partnership and multilevel governance;
- (d) to bring about an exchange of experience and good practices in the field of partnership and multilevel governance.

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<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

<sup>8</sup> Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2328/2003, (EC) No 861/2006, (EC) No 1198/2006 and (EC) No 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 149, 20.05.2014, p. 1).

<sup>9</sup> 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 L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1).

### *Article 3*

#### **Consultation**

1. The Commission may consult the group on any matter relating to the European Structural and Investment Funds in so far as they are based on Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013, No 1299/2013, No 1300/2013, No 1301/2013, No 1304/2013 and No 508/2014.

### *Article 4*

#### **Membership – Appointment**

1. Members shall be organisations at Union level which represent the partners referred to in Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
2. Members shall be appointed by the Commission among organisations with specialist competence in the areas referred to in Articles 2 and 3 and who have responded to a call for applications.
3. Each member shall nominate its permanent representative and alternate.  

The Commission or its services may refuse a representative/alternate nominated by a member where they do not consider that the nomination is appropriate on the basis of justified grounds specified in the call for applications or in the rules of procedure of the group. In such cases, the member concerned shall be asked to appoint another representative/alternate.
4. Members shall remain in office until 31 December 2020.  

The Commission may cancel member status where an organisation has not responded to the invitation for two consecutive meetings. The concerned member organisation shall be informed in writing. The cancellation shall not exclude the possibility for the organisation to present a renewed request for membership in case of a later call for applications.
5. The Commission may appoint replacements drawn from a reserve list established following the call for applications for members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the group's deliberations, who resign, whose member status is cancelled in accordance with paragraph 4, or who do not comply with the conditions set out in paragraph 3, or with Article 339 of the Treaty on the functioning of the Union.
6. The names of the organisations shall be published in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ("the Register").
7. Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.

### *Article 5*

#### **Operation**

1. The group shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission.

2. 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 on an ad hoc basis. In addition, the Commission's representative may give observer status to individuals, organisations as defined in Rule 8(3) of the Framework for Commission expert groups<sup>10</sup> or experts from candidate countries.
3. Members of the group, 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 Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom<sup>11</sup>. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.
4. The meetings of the group shall be held on Commission premises. The Commission shall provide secretarial services. Other Commission officials with an interest in the proceedings may attend meetings of the group.
5. The group shall adopt its rules of procedure on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for expert groups.
6. All relevant documents on the activities carried out by the group shall be published either by including them in the Register or via a link from the Register to a dedicated website. Exceptions to systematic 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.
7. The work of the group shall be coordinated with that of other expert groups and committees established in the framework of Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013, No 1299/2013, No 1300/2013, No 1301/2013, No 1304/2013, No 1305/2013<sup>12</sup> and No 508/2014.

#### *Article 6*

##### **Meeting expenses**

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

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<sup>10</sup> C(2010) 7649 final of 10.11.2010.

<sup>11</sup> Commission Decision of 29 November 2001 amending its internal Rules of Procedure (OJ L 317, 3.12.2001, p. 1).

<sup>12</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 487).

*Article 7*

**Applicability**

This Decision shall apply from the date of its adoption until 31 December 2020.

Done at Brussels, 26.6.2014

*For the Commission*  
*Johannes HAHN*  
*Member of the Commission*

