

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE FUNDS
ESTABLISHED BY REGULATION (EU) 2021/1060 OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE FUNDS ESTABLISHED BY REGULATION
(EU) 2021/1060 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to Commission Decision setting up the group,

Having regard to the standard rules of procedure of expert groups¹,

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RULES OF PROCEDURE:

Point 1

Operation of the group

The group shall act at the request of the Commission, in compliance with the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups² ('the horizontal rules').

Point 2

Convening a meeting

1. Meetings of the group are convened by the Chair, with the agreement of the Commission either on its own initiative, or at the request of a simple majority of members after the Commission has given its agreement.
2. Joint meetings of the group with other groups may be convened to discuss matters falling within their respective areas of responsibility.
3. In principle, meetings of the group shall be held on Commission premises or virtually, depending on the circumstances.

Point 3

Agenda

1. The secretariat shall draw up the agenda under the responsibility of the Chair and send it to the members of the group.
2. The agenda shall be adopted by the group at the start of the meeting.

Point 4

Documentation to be sent to group members

1. The secretariat shall send the invitation to the meeting and the draft agenda to the group members no later than thirty calendar days before the date of the meeting.

¹ C(2016) 3301, Annex 3.

² C(2016) 3301.

2. The secretariat shall send documents on which the group is consulted to the group members no later than fourteen calendar days before the date of the meeting.
3. In urgent or exceptional cases, the time limits for sending the documentation mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 may be reduced to five calendar days before the date of the meeting.

Point 5

Opinions of the group

As far as possible, the group shall adopt its opinions, recommendations or reports by consensus.

Point 6

Sub-groups

1. The Commission may set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by the Commission. Sub-groups shall operate in compliance with the the horizontal rules and shall report to the group. They shall be dissolved as soon as their mandate is fulfilled.
2. The members of sub-groups that are not members of the group shall be selected via a public call for applications, in compliance with the horizontal rules³.

Point 7

Invited experts

The Commission may invite experts with specific expertise with respect to a subject matter on the agenda to take part in the work of the group or sub-groups on an *ad hoc* basis.

Point 8

Observers

1. Organisations may be granted observer status, pursuant to Article 16(3) of the Horizontal Rules, following the call for applications.
2. Organisations appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives in the relevant expert group or sub-group.
3. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the group and sub-groups and provide expertise.

³ C(2016) 3301, Articles 10 and 14.2.

Point 9

Written procedure

1. If necessary, the group's opinion or recommendation on a specific question may be delivered via a written procedure. To this end, the secretariat shall send the group members the document(s) on which the group is being consulted.
2. However, if a simple majority of group members asks for the question to be examined at a meeting of the group, the written procedure shall be terminated without result and the Chair shall convene a meeting of the group as soon as possible.

Point 10

Secretariat

The Commission shall provide secretarial support for the group and any sub-groups.

Point 11

Minutes of the meetings

Minutes on the discussion on each point on the agenda and on the opinions delivered by the group shall be meaningful and complete. Minutes shall be drafted by the secretariat under the responsibility of the Chair within 3 months following the meeting.

Point 12

Attendance list

At each meeting, the secretariat shall draw up, under the responsibility of the Chair, an attendance list also specifying, where appropriate, the organisations, to which the participants belong⁴.

Point 13

Correspondence

1. Correspondence for group members shall be sent to the e-mail address which they provide for that purpose.
2. Correspondence relating to the group shall be addressed to the Commission, for the attention of the Chair and shall be sent to the group's functional mailbox (REGIO-DIALOGUE-CPR-PARTNERS@ec.europa.eu).

⁴ The names of the representatives of organisations may be included only subject to their prior freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous consent, in compliance with Article 3(15) and Article 7 of Regulation 2018/1725.

Point 14

Transparency

1. The group and its sub-groups shall be registered on the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('the Register of expert groups').
2. As concerns the group composition, the following data shall be published on the Register of expert groups:
 - (a) the name of member organisations and the interest that they represent;
 - (b) the name of other public entities;
 - (c) the name of observer organisations.
3. The Commission shall make available all relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants' submissions, either on the Register of expert groups or a link from the Register to a dedicated website, where this information can be found. Access to dedicated websites shall not be submitted to user registration or any other restriction. In particular, the Commission shall publish the agenda and other relevant background documents in due time ahead of the meeting, followed by timely publication of minutes. Exceptions to publication shall only be possible where it is deemed that disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001⁵.

Point 15

Access to documents

Applications for access to documents held by the group shall be handled in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001⁶.

Point 16

Deliberations

In agreement with the Commission, the group may, by simple majority of its members, decide that deliberations shall be public.

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

⁶ 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).