

NEW CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXPERT GROUP OF PROVIDERS OF POLITICAL ADVERTISING SERVICES

On 5 November 2025, the Commission's Directorate-General Justice and Consumers ('DG JUST') published a call for applications to select members of the expert group of providers of political advertising services, with deadline on 10 December.

In order to ensure a larger representation reflecting the variety of providers, DG JUST launches a new call, with deadline 5 January 2026.

The applications submitted during the period of validity of the first call remain valid.

1. Background

The preparation, placement, promotion, publication, delivery and dissemination of political advertisements can involve a complex chain of providers of political advertising services. A large, diversified and increasing number of services are associated with political advertising, such as political consultancies, advertising agencies, 'ad-tech' platforms, public relations firms, influencers and various data analytics and brokerage operators. Political advertising can take many forms, including paid content, sponsored search results, paid targeted messages, promotion in rankings, promotion of something or someone integrated into content, such as product placement, influencers and other endorsements.

Political advertising can be disseminated or published through various means and media across borders both online and offline. It is rapidly increasing and can be disseminated or published via traditional offline media, such as newspapers, television and radio, but also increasingly via online platforms, websites, mobile applications, computer games and other digital interfaces.

Regulation (EU) 2024/900 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising¹, which entered into full application as of 10 October 2025, provides, *inter alia*, EU common standards in the internal market for political advertising services.

Where a political advertising service is provided, several different obligations may apply to different providers throughout the value chain, including:

- establishing, based on a declaration from the sponsor, whether the advertising service is political;
- ensuring compliant contractual arrangements;
- record-keeping and transmitting relevant information to political advertising publishers;
- labelling of political ads and providing transparency notices;
- making online political advertisements available in the European repository;
- including periodic reporting on political advertising in annual financial statements;
- providing mechanisms to enable individuals to flag potentially non-compliant advertisements;
- transmitting information to national competent authorities or to interested entities (i.e.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/900 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2024 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising, OJ L, 2024/900, 20.3.2024.

vett ed academic researchers, members of civil society organisations, political actors, electoral observers or journalists).

The Commission committed to closely monitoring and supporting the application of Regulation (EU) 2024/900². This includes collaborating with the industry to encourage the drawing up of voluntary codes of conduct and promote best practices and industry standards (particularly for the automated transmission of information to the publishers of political advertisements or for the labelling and transparency requirements for political advertisements).

In light of the above, the Commission's Directorate-General Justice and Consumers ('DG JUST') has taken the initiative to establish the 'EU platform of providers of political advertising services' as an informal Commission expert group. This group shall support the Commission in monitoring and supporting the Regulation's application. It is expected to operate for a 4-year period, which could be renewed if needed.

The group's tasks shall be

- (a) To provide to the Commission advice and expertise and other input including based on their interactions with others stakeholders such as sponsors, in relation to the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2024/900;
- (b) To contribute to the sharing of experience and good practice in the field of transparency and targeting of political advertising.

Exchanges will also build among others on the input from the Network of contact points for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2024/900 and the European Cooperation Network on Elections.

The Commission is calling for applications with a view to selecting members of the group.

2. Features of the Group

2.1. COMPOSITION

The group shall consist of around 30 members.

Members shall be organisations with knowledge and experience on political advertising, in particular economic operators which are providers of political advertising services, including publishers, and associations representing them.

Organisations shall nominate their representatives and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise. DG JUST may refuse the nomination of a representative by an organisation if it considers this nomination inappropriate in light of the requirements specified in chapter 4 of this call. In such case, the organisation concerned shall be asked to appoint another representative.

2.2. APPOINTMENT

Members shall be appointed by the Director-General of DG JUST from applicants complying with the requirements referred to in chapter 4 of this call.

² Regulation (EU) 2024/900 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 March 2024 on the transparency and targeting of political advertising, OJ L, 2024/900, 20.3.2024.

Members shall be appointed for 4 years. They shall remain in office until the end of their term of office or until replaced. Their term of office may be renewed.

Registration in the Transparency Register³ is required in order for organisations to be appointed.

In order to ensure continuity and the smooth functioning of the group, DG JUST shall establish a reserve list of suitable candidates that may be used to appoint replacements. DG JUST shall ask applicants for their consent before including their names on the reserve list.

Members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the group's deliberations, who in the opinion of DG JUST do not comply with the conditions set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or who resign, shall no longer be invited to participate in any meetings of the group and may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office.

2.3. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE GROUP

The group shall be chaired by a representative of DG JUST.

The group shall act at the request of DG JUST in compliance with the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups ('the horizontal rules')⁴.

In principle, the group shall meet 3 times per year on Commission premises in order to discuss about the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2024/900, including best practices and industry standards. DG JUST shall provide secretarial services.

Members' representatives should be prepared to attend meetings systematically, to contribute actively to discussions in the group, to be involved in preparatory work ahead of meetings, to examine and provide comments on documents under discussion, and to act, as appropriate, as 'rapporteurs' on *ad hoc* basis.

As a general rule, working documents will be drafted in English and meetings will be also conducted in English.

In principle, the group shall adopt its opinions, recommendations or reports by consensus. In the event of a vote, the outcome of the vote shall be decided by simple majority of the members. The members that voted against or abstained shall have the right to have a document summarising the reasons for their position annexed to the opinions, recommendations or reports.

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

Participants in the activities of the group and sub-groups shall not be remunerated for the services they offer. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the group and sub-groups shall be reimbursed by the Commission. Reimbursement shall be made in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commission and within the limits of the available appropriations allocated to the Commission departments under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

The members of the group and their representatives, as well as invited experts and observers,

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do?locale=en#en>

⁴ C(2016) 3301.

are subject to the obligation of professional secrecy, which by virtue of the Treaties and the rules implementing them applies to all members of the institutions and their staff, as well as to the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, laid down in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443⁵ and 2015/444⁶. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

On a proposal by and in agreement with DG JUST the group shall adopt its rules of procedure on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for expert groups.

DG JUST 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.

Individuals and organisations may be granted an observer status, in compliance with the horizontal rules, by direct invitation. Organisations appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives. Observers and observers' representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the group and sub-groups and provide expertise. However, they shall not have voting rights and shall not participate in the formulation of recommendations or advice of the group.

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

2.4. TRANSPARENCY

The group and sub-groups shall be registered in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('the Register of expert groups')⁷.

As concerns the group and sub-groups composition, DG JUST shall publish the following data on the Register of expert groups:

- the name of member organisations; the interest represented shall be disclosed;
- the name of observers.

DG JUST shall make available all relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants' submissions, on the Register of expert groups. In particular, DG JUST shall ensure publication of 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 foreseen 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° 1049/2001⁸.

Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation

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 <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm>

⁸ 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 decisionmaking process.

(EU) No 2018/1725.

3. Application procedure

Interested organisations are invited to submit their application to DG JUST.

Applications must be completed in one of the official languages of the European Union. However, applications in English would facilitate the evaluation procedure. If another language is used, it would be helpful to include a summary of the application in English.

Organisations shall indicate the name of their representative(s) in the group.

An application will be deemed admissible only if it is sent by the deadline and includes the documents referred to below. All documents submitted by applicants should be duly filled in, legible, signed and numbered sequentially.

Supporting documents

Each application shall include the following documents:

- a cover letter explaining the applicant's motivation for answering this call and stating what contribution the applicant could make to the group;
- a classification form duly filled in specifying the member category for which the application is made (Annex I);
- a selection criteria form duly filled in documenting how the applicant fulfills the selection criteria listed in chapter 4 of this call (Annex II).

For individuals indicated by organisations as their representatives, a *curriculum vitae* (CV) shall also be provided, preferably not exceeding three pages. All CVs shall be submitted in the European format ([Home](#) | [Europass](#)).

Additional supporting documents (e.g. publications) may be requested at a later stage.

Deadline for application

The duly signed applications must be sent by **5 January 2026** at the latest. The date of sending will be established as follows:

- Where applications are sent by e-mail to the following e-mail address: JUST-POLITICAL-ADVERTISING@ec.europa.eu, the date of the e-mail will be the date of sending.

4. Selection criteria

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

- proven and relevant competence and experience, as well as technical expertise, including at European and/or international level:
 - in areas relevant to the provision of political advertising services and in the political advertising ecosystem, taking into account different roles;
 - in aspects related to the preparation, placement, promotion, publication, delivery or dissemination of political advertising;

- degree of representativeness of EU federations, national federations and individual companies;
- degree of representativeness of the whole value chain of service providers, including SMEs;
- degree of representativeness of offline (including TV and radio) and online (including platforms) actors;
- competence, experience and hierarchical level of the proposed representatives;
- good knowledge of the English language of the proposed representatives allowing active participation in the discussions.

5. Selection procedure

The selection procedure shall consist of an assessment of the applications performed by DG JUST against the selection criteria listed in chapter 4 of this call, followed by the establishment of a list of the most suitable applicants, and concluded by the appointment of the members of the group.

When defining the composition of the group, DG JUST shall aim at ensuring, as far as possible, a high level of expertise, as well as a balanced representation of relevant knowhow and areas of interest, while taking into account the specific tasks of the group, the type of expertise required, as well as the relevance of the applications received.

For any further information please contact e-mail:
ADVERTISING@ec.europa.eu.

[JUST-POLITICAL-](#)

ANNEXES:

- Annex I: Classification form
- Annex II: Selection criteria form
- Annex III: Privacy statement

Annex I - Classification form⁹

To be filled in by all applicants

This application is made as:

- An organisation (Type C member).**

Transparency Register identification number: [...]

Nota Bene concerning Type C members: although registration in the Transparency Register (TR) is required in order to be appointed as a Type C member of an expert group, it is not mandatory for the application procedure. Thus, interested organisations that at the time of the application are not featured yet on TR and, as a consequence, do not have a TR identification number, may still apply. However, should the applicant be selected as a result of the call for applications, it shall register in the TR as a condition to be appointed as a Type C member.

This application is made as the following **type of organisation:** (*please select only one option, taking into account the definitions indicated below*).

- a) Academia, Research Institutes and Think Tanks
- b) Banks/Financial institutions
- c) Companies/groups
- d) Law firms
- e) NGOs
- f) Professionals' associations
- g) Professional consultancies
- h) Trade and business associations
- i) Trade unions
- j) Other (please specify):

Definitions for organisation types

Academia, Research Institutes and Think Tanks

Universities, schools, research centers, think tanks and other similar bodies performing academic and/or educational activities.

⁹ This form must be filled in, signed and returned with the application.

Banks/Financial institutions

Banks and other similar bodies providing financial services, including financial intermediation. All sorts of banks should be classified within this category, including national central banks.

Companies/groups

Individual companies or groups of companies operating in the business sector, whether they are national companies or multinational ones.

Law firms

Business entities formed by one or more lawyers to engage in the practice of law. The primary service rendered by a law firm is to advise clients (individuals or corporations) about their legal rights and responsibilities, and to represent clients in civil or criminal cases, business transactions, and other matters in which legal advice and other assistance are sought.

NGOs

Non-profit organisations which are independent from public authorities and commercial organisations. Some NGOs are organised around specific issues, such as environment, consumer affairs, health and human rights.

Professionals' associations

Non-profit organisations seeking to further the interests of individuals engaged in a particular profession, such as physicians, nurses, architects, engineers and lawyers. Professionals' associations are different from business associations, as they promote and defend the interests of individuals carrying on a specific profession, not the interests of companies operating in the business sector.

Professional consultancies

Firms carrying on, on behalf of clients, activities involving advocacy, lobbying, promotion, public affairs and relations with public authorities.

Trade and business associations

Private bodies representing the interests of its members operating in the business sector.

Trade unions

Organisations of workers. The most common activities performed by trade unions include the negotiation of wages, work rules, rules governing hiring, firing and promotion of workers.

Other organisations

Organisations which are not possible to classify in any other category.

The applicant shall represent the following **interest**: (*please select one or more options, taking into account the definitions indicated below*):

- a) Academia/Research
- b) Civil society
- c) Employees/Workers
- d) Finance
- e) Industry
- f) Professionals
- g) SMEs
- h) Other (please specify):

Definitions for interests represented

Academia/Research

Universities, schools, research centers, think tanks and other similar bodies performing academic and/or educational activities.

Civil society

Civil society can be defined as the aggregate of non-governmental organisations and institutions that manifest interests and will of citizens or as individuals and organisations in a society which are independent of the government.

Employees/workers

Individuals working part-time or full-time under a contract of employment whether oral or written, express or implied, and having recognised rights and duties.

Finance

The management of revenues or the conduct or transaction of money matters, as in the fields of banking, insurance and investment.

Industry

Companies and groups of companies whose number of employees and turnover or balance sheet total are higher than the ones of SMEs (see below).

Professionals

Individuals operating in a particular profession, such as physicians, nurses, architects, engineers and lawyers.

SMEs

"SME" stands for small and medium-sized enterprises – as defined in EU law: [EU recommendation 2003/361](#) ■Ē .

The main factors determining whether a company is an SME are:

1. **number of employees** and
2. either **turnover** or **balance sheet total**.

Company category Employees Turnover or Balance sheet total

Medium-sized < 250	$\leq \text{€ } 50 \text{ m}$	$\leq \text{€ } 43 \text{ m}$
Small	< 50	$\leq \text{€ } 10 \text{ m}$ $\leq \text{€ } 10 \text{ m}$
Micro	< 10	$\leq \text{€ } 2 \text{ m}$ $\leq \text{€ } 2 \text{ m}$

These ceilings apply to the figures for individual firms only. A firm which is part of larger grouping may need to include employee/turnover/balance sheet data from that grouping too.

Other interest

Interest which is not possible to classify in any other category.

Please select one **or more policy areas** in which your organisation operates:

- Audiovisual and media
- Consumer affairs
- Fundamental rights
- Information society
- Public affairs
- Public relations
- Research
- Statistics
- Training
- Other

For organisations applying to be appointed as Type C members

Name of the organisation¹⁰:

Surname of the representative proposed:

First name of the representative proposed:

Surname of the person applying on behalf of the organisation:

First name of the person applying on behalf of the organisation:

Date:

Signature

¹⁰ It is mandatory to use exactly the same name used when registering in the Transparency Register.

Annex II: Selection criteria form¹¹

Applicants are requested to describe how they fulfil the selection criteria listed in this call.

<p>Proven and relevant competence and experience, as well as technical expertise, including at European and/or international level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in areas relevant to the provision of political advertising services and in the political advertising ecosystem, taking into account different roles; • in aspects related to the preparation, placement, promotion, publication, delivery or dissemination of political advertising. 	
Degree of representativeness of EU federations, national federations and individual companies.	
Degree of representativeness of the whole value chain of service providers, including SMEs.	
Degree of representativeness of offline (including TV and radio) and online (including platforms) actors.	
Competence, experience and hierarchical level of the proposed representatives.	
Good knowledge of the English language of the proposed representatives allowing active participation in the discussions.	

For organisations applying to be appointed as Type C members Name of the organisation¹²:

Surname of the representative proposed:

First name of the representative proposed:

¹¹ This form must be filled in, signed and returned with the application.

¹² It is mandatory to use exactly the same name used when registering in the Transparency Register.

Surname of the person applying on behalf of the organisation:

First name of the person applying on behalf of the organisation:

Date:

Signature



Annex III

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

Processing operation: *Selection of members of Commission expert groups and other similar entities¹³ and publication of personal data on the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ("the Register of expert groups").*

Data Controller:

- *Secretariat-General, Unit H3 (for the processing operation "Providing a public register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities", DPR-EC-00656), and*
- *DG JUST, Directorate C for Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights and Democracy, Unit C4 (for the processing operation "Selection of members of Commission expert groups and other similar entities"¹⁴, DPR-EC-01066).*

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¹³ Provisions included in this privacy statement referring to expert groups equally apply to their subgroups.

¹⁴ The Commission department responsible for the management of the expert group and the DPMS record number need to be specified in the privacy statement attached to the call.

1. Introduction

The European Commission (hereafter ‘the Commission’) is committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy. The Commission collects and further processes personal data pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data.

This privacy statement explains the reasons for the processing of your personal data, the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you have in relation to your personal data. It also specifies the contact details of the responsible Data Controller with whom you may exercise your rights, of the Data Protection Officer and of the European Data Protection Supervisor.

This privacy statement concerns the following processing operations:

- (1) “selection of members of Commission expert groups and other similar entities” undertaken by the Commission department which runs the selection process for your expert group and which is the Data Controller for the selection process DG JUST, Unit C4, and
- (2) “publication of personal data on the Register of expert groups and other similar entities” undertaken by the Commission, Secretariat-General, Unit H3 which is the Data Controller together with the Commission department managing your expert group.

As a rule, the selection of expert group members is carried out via public calls for applications, except for Member States’ authorities and other public entities and for certain representative bodies established by Union legislation for advice in specific areas. In exceptional cases, the College of Commissioners may appoint directly members of expert groups.

The Register of expert groups and other similar entities is a public database containing a list of Commission expert groups and other similar entities and their sub-groups. The Register provides information for each expert group, including personal data on the members of the expert groups, their alternate, and of the observers, and information may be provided about members’ and observers’ representatives. The Register also includes documents that are produced and discussed by expert groups and which can contain personal data.

For the purpose of this privacy statement and the corresponding records, the term “expert groups” describes Commission expert groups in the sense of Article 2(1) of Commission Decision C(2016)3301¹⁵ and their sub-groups, as well as other similar entities in the sense of Article 2(2) of Commission Decision C(2016)3301 and their sub-groups.

2. Why and how do we process your personal data?

Purpose of the processing operations:

The Data Controllers collect and use your personal data to manage Commission expert groups, in particular by selecting their members and observers, and to ensure transparency on expert groups’ membership and activities. In that context, in order to select among the applicants who best fulfil the selection criteria mentioned in the call for applications, Commission services collect and assess personal information of candidate members and observers of the expert groups, of representatives of candidate members and observers, and of immediate family members of candidate members to be appointed in personal capacity to act independently and in the public interest.

Furthermore, Commission services collect and assess personal information of observers and

¹⁵ Commission Decision C(2016)3301 of 30 May 2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups.

members' and observers' representatives of the expert groups which are appointed directly and not selected through a public call for applications.

For candidates, personal data are stored by the Commission service managing the expert group. Some types of personal data of individuals appointed as members (either appointed in personal capacity to act independently and in the public interest or to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area) are made publicly available on the Register of expert groups (as described under Headings 4 and 5 of this privacy statement). The names of the representatives of organisations, Member States and other public entities, as well as the name of specific national departments or other public authority which they represent may also be made publicly available on the Register of expert groups.

Your personal data will not be used for an automated decision-making including profiling.

3. On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data

We process your personal data, because processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725), since it allows for the selection of members of expert groups (individuals appointed as members in a personal capacity, individuals appointed to represent a common interest and organisations) and also increases the transparency on expert groups. Processing is also necessary to comply with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject (Article 5(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725). The Union act for such necessary processing under Article 5(1)(a) and (b) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 is Commission Decision C(2016)3301 of 30 May 2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups and in particular Articles 10 and 22 thereof.

As regards, in particular, the declarations of interests filled in by candidate members to be appointed in a personal capacity in expert groups, the processing of personal data serves the public interest of enabling the Commission to verify in the process of selection the experts' independence in providing advice to the Commission. Furthermore, the public disclosure of declarations of interests of those experts once appointed allows for public scrutiny of the interests declared by these experts, which is necessary in order to ensure public confidence in the independence of these experts. The public disclosure of declarations of interests also ensures a high degree of transparency with respect to the membership of expert groups and aims at contributing to fostering the integrity of the experts in question.

The names of the representatives of organisations, Member States' authorities and other public entities are usually not published in the Register of expert groups, as those persons only express the position of the organisation or entity that they represent, and, therefore, it is the name of the organisation, Member State's authority or other public entity that matters to ensure transparency of the work of the expert group. Any publication of names of the representatives of organisations, Member States' authorities and other public entities in the Register of expert groups is based on consent (Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725), unless specific and exceptional circumstances make it necessary to publish them to achieve the purpose of the processing operation, in accordance with Article 5(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. No other types of personal data of representatives is published.

The submissions of members in the context of the work of expert groups and subgroups are generally made public, with personal data withheld where appropriate.

In the cases when the group is chaired by a person different than the Commission or its services, the name of this person may be published on the basis of consent (Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725).

4. Which personal data do we collect and further process?

In order to carry out these processing operations, the Data Controller may collect the following categories of personal data:

- *Name;*
- *Function;*
- *Contact details (for example, e-mail address, telephone number, mobile telephone number, fax number, postal address, company and department, country of residence, IP address);*
- *Information for the evaluation of selection criteria or eligibility criteria (for example, expertise, technical skills and languages, educational background, professional experience, including details on current and past employment);*
- *Nationality;*
- *Gender;*
- *Interest represented (only for individuals applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups representing a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area and for organisations applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups, as well as for their designated representatives);*
- *Information included in the declarations of interests, including personal data of immediate family members as required in the declaration of interests (only for individuals applying to be appointed as members of expert groups or sub-groups in a personal capacity).*
- *Personal data that may be included in submissions of members of expert groups.*

The provision to the Commission service of the personal data required is mandatory to meet a legal requirement of selecting members of expert groups as set in Commission Decision C(2016)3301. In principle, for individuals appointed as members or observers in personal capacity to act independently and in the public interest and for individuals appointed as members or observers to represent a common interest, the types of personal data listed above (with the exception of contact details and information for the evaluation of selection criteria or eligibility criteria) are made publicly available on the Register of expert groups, in order to comply with the legal requirement to ensure transparency on the composition and functioning of Commission expert groups. If you do not provide the personal data required, possible consequences are that you will not be considered for selection as a member of an expert group or, if already selected, your membership will be suspended.

The submissions of members in the context of the work of expert groups and subgroups are generally made public, with personal data withheld where appropriate.

With the prior freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous consent of the representatives of organisations, Member States' authorities and other public entities, their names may also be published on the Register. They may furthermore be published in specific and exceptional circumstances where such publication is necessary to achieve the purpose of the processing operation.

The name of a person chairing the group, when this person is not from within the Commission (i.e. the group elects a chair from among its members or the Commission or its services appoint an individual as chair), may be published with his/ her prior freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous consent.

5. How long do we keep your personal data?

The Data Controller only keeps your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing. The following modalities apply:

- The competent Commission services keep personal data submitted to them as part of rejected applications for three years after the end of the selection process and do not process them for other purposes; these personal data are not published on the Register of expert groups.
- The expert group and some types of personal data of its members and observers, as described in Heading 4, are published on the Register of expert groups during the duration of existence of the expert group.
- When an individual is no longer member or observer or representative of a member or

observer of an expert group listed in the Register of expert groups, all personal data related to this individual, including a declaration of interests, is removed from the Register and is therefore not public anymore.

- The competent Commission services keep personal data for the period during which the relevant individual is a member or an observer or a representative of a member or of an observer of the group and for five years after the date on which the individual is no longer member or observer or representative of a member or observer of the group. Following this five-year period, the personal data is transferred to the historical archives and a review takes place no later than 25 years after that transfer to the historical archives to evaluate whether to keep the data permanently or to delete some or all data.
- When a group is closed down, it remains published in the Register of expert groups for five years, with the indication 'Closed'. Those types of personal data other than the declarations of interests of members appointed in personal capacity that were published while the group was active remain visible on the Register of expert groups during these five years. On the contrary, the said declarations of interests are removed from the Register after closure of a group and are therefore not public anymore; they are however kept by the competent Commission service for a period of five years after the closure of the group. Following this five-year period after the closure of the group, the personal data is transferred to the historical archives and a review takes place no later than 25 years from that transfer to evaluate whether to keep the data permanently or to delete some or all data.
- An XML file is created daily with all the information regarding active groups. All versions of this file, showing the situation of the Register of expert groups as of the day it was created, are stored in a file server for 5 years and are not public.

6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

Personal data submitted in paper form is stored in the competent Commission service. All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored on the servers of the Commission. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to the [Commission Decision \(EU, Euratom\) 2017/46](#) of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

In order to protect your personal data, the Commission has put in place a number of technical and organisational measures. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organisational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to your personal data collected in the course of the process of selection of members of expert groups is provided to the Commission staff authorised for carrying out this processing operation and to other authorised Commission staff according to the “need to know” principle. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

Certain personal data collected, as explained in Headings 4 and 5, are publicly available on the Register of expert groups.

The XML files referred to in Heading 5 are only accessible to a reduced number of users in the Secretariat-General (System Owner) and IT development team within the Commission (System Supplier).

Please note that pursuant to Article 3(13) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, public authorities (e.g. Court of Auditors, EU Court of Justice, European Ombudsman) which may receive personal data in the framework of a particular inquiry in accordance with Union or Member State law shall not be regarded as recipients. The further processing of those data by those public authorities shall be in compliance with the applicable data protection rules according to the purposes of the processing.

The information we collect will not be given to any third party, except to the extent and for the purpose we may be required to do so by law.

8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

You have specific rights as a ‘data subject’ under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) and Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access your personal data and to rectify them in case your personal data is inaccurate or incomplete. Under certain conditions, you have the right to erase your personal data, to restrict the processing of your personal data, to object to the processing and the right to data portability.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data on grounds relating to your particular situation in accordance with Article 23(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

As indicated in Heading 4, if you are a representative of an organisation, Member State or another public entity, you may consent to have your name published on the Register of expert groups. You can withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the Data Controller. The withdrawal will not affect the lawfulness of the processing carried out before you have withdrawn the consent.

Finally, and only as regards the publication of your name on the Register of expert groups, you may submit a request to the competent Commission service for a derogation where justified on compelling legitimate grounds in relation to your specific situation (such as the case where the publication of your name on the Register of expert groups could endanger your security or integrity).

You can exercise your rights by contacting the Data Controller or, in case of conflict, the Data Protection Officer. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor. Their contact information is given under Heading 9 below.

Where you wish to exercise your rights in the context of one or several specific processing operations, please provide their description (i.e. their Record reference(s) as specified under Heading 10 below) in your request.

Data subject requests shall be handled within one month from receipt of the request by the Commission. That period may be extended pursuant to 14(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. Should more time be required to handle the request for justified reasons, the data subject shall receive a holding reply from the unit responsible for the request.

9. Contact information

- The Data Controller

Regarding the personal data collected in the course of the process of selection of the members of the expert groups, if you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint, please contact JUST-POLITICAL-ADVERTISING@ec.europa.eu.

Likewise, as regards the data published on the Register of expert groups, please contact the corresponding Data Controller Secretariat-General, Unit H3: SG-EXPERT-GROUPS@ec.europa.eu.

- The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission

You may contact the Data Protection Officer (DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

- The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection

Supervisor (edps@edps.europa.eu) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the Data Controller.

10. Where to find more detailed information?

The Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following link: <http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register>.

These specific processing operations will be included in the DPO's public register with the following Record references: DPR-EC-01066 and DPR-EC-00656.