



Brussels, 23.4.2015
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 23.4.2015

on setting-up an expert group on alternative transport fuels

('the Sustainable Transport Forum')

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Whereas:

- (1) In its Communication on a "Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy"¹ the Commission set out the objective to increase development and deployment of alternative fuels with a view to transform the transport system and make it to contribute to climate change efforts.
- (2) The Commission's White Paper "Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a Competitive and Resource Efficient Transport System"² called for reducing the oil dependence of transport. This needs to be achieved through an array of policy initiatives, including through the development of a sustainable alternative fuels strategy as well as the appropriate infrastructure. The Commission's White Paper aims at reducing by 60% greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transport by 2050, measured against the 1990 levels.
- (3) In its Communication "Clean Power for Transport: A European alternative fuels strategy"³ the Commission concludes that a broad basis should be maintained for the future technology neutral development of alternative transport fuels with participation from industry, civil society, and the Member States.
- (4) Moreover, in the application and implementation of Directive 2014/94/EU⁴ of the European Parliament and of the Council the Commission should carry out appropriate consultations at expert level, thereby taking into account the work done by other relevant expert groups.
- (5) It is therefore suitable to set up a group of experts, the Sustainable Transport Forum (hereinafter referred to as "the STF"), and to define its tasks and structure.
- (6) The STF should help the Commission to advance the application of the Clean Power for Transport strategy and facilitate the implementation of Directive 2014/94/EU.
- (7) The STF should be composed of representatives of Union Member States' authorities, as well as representatives of public and private organisations and individual experts with relevant expertise in the field of alternative transport fuels

¹ COM(2015) 80 final.

² COM(2011) 144 final.

³ COM(2013) 17 final.

⁴ Directive 2014/94/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure (OJ L 307, 28.10.2014, p. 1).

and with a genuine interest in collaborating towards achieving a competitive and sustainable Union transport system.

- (8) Rules on disclosure of information by members of the group should be laid down.
- (9) Personal data should be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵.
- (10) The Decision should apply until 31 December 2020. The Commission will in due time consider the advisability of an extension of its duration.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Subject matter

A group of experts on alternative transport fuels, 'the Sustainable Transport Forum' (hereinafter referred to as "the STF"), is hereby set up.

Article 2

Tasks

1. The STF shall assist the Commission in implementing the Union's activities and programmes aimed at fostering the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure to contribute to the European Union energy and climate goals. The STF shall provide a platform for structural dialogue, exchange of technical knowledge, cooperation and coordination between Union Member States and relevant public and private stakeholders.
2. To achieve the aims referred to in paragraph 1, the STF shall in particular:
 - provide advice and technical expertise to the Commission on the development and implementation of legislation, policies, projects and programmes in the field of alternative transport fuels and contribute towards an energy-efficient, decarbonised transport sector.
 - facilitate exchanges of information on initiatives, projects and partnerships dealing with alternative transport fuels;
 - deliver opinions, submit reports, or develop and propose innovative solutions to the Commission, either at the latter's request or on its own initiative, on any matter of relevance to the promotion of alternative transport fuels in the Union.

Article 3

Consultation

The Commission may consult the STF on matters relating to alternative transport fuels contributing towards an energy-efficient, decarbonised transport sector.

⁵ 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 4

Membership – Appointment

1. The STF shall be composed of a maximum of 60 members.
2. The members of the STF shall be:
 - 2.1. Union Member States' authorities responsible for the development of alternative fuels;
 - 2.2. Public and/or private organisations active in the following transport and energy related areas (up to 32 organisations):
 - (a) mineral oil products;
 - (b) biofuels;
 - (c) natural gas;
 - (d) electricity;
 - (e) hydrogen;
 - (f) manufacturers;
 - (g) suppliers;
 - (h) research and innovation;
 - (i) investment and financing;
 - (j) operators and users;
 - (k) technical standardisation;
 - (l) regional and local, including urban, authorities;
 - (m) social partners;
 - (n) civil society.
3. Union Member States' authorities shall nominate their representatives.
4. Members referred to in point 2 of paragraph 2 shall be appointed by the Director General of the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport following an open call for applications.

They shall each propose a representative and his or her alternate. The Director-General for Mobility and Transport may refuse a representative or an alternate proposed, if he or she does not meet the requirements specified in the call for application. In such cases, the organisation concerned shall be asked to designate another representative or alternate.

The representatives and their alternates shall be appointed for a period of 5 years.
5. Organisations referred to in paragraph 2, point 2 or their representatives may be replaced or excluded for the remainder of their term of office in any of the following cases:

- (a) where the organisation or its representative is no longer capable of contributing effectively to the group's deliberations;
 - (b) where the organisation or its representative does not comply with the condition set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
 - (c) where the organisation or its representative resigns;
 - (d) where the conditions set out in the call for applications to which the concerned member has responded are no longer respected.
6. The names of organisations and the names of Member States' authorities shall be published in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ("the Register"). In addition, the names of all members shall be published on the internet site of the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport.
 7. Personal data shall be collected, processed, and published in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.
 8. Union Member States' authorities and organisations should ensure that their representatives provide a high level of relevant expertise.

Article 5

Operation

1. The STF shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission.
2. In agreement with the Commission services, the STF may set up sub-groups to examine specific questions. Members of such sub-groups shall be appointed by the Commission. When necessary, the Commission may invite representatives of specific national administrations of the Union Member States. Such sub-groups shall be disbanded as soon as their mandate is fulfilled.
3. The Commission's representative may invite outside experts with specific competence in a subject on the agenda to participate in the work of the STF or subgroup on an ad-hoc basis. Invited experts shall only take part in the work on the particular subject for which their attendance is requested.
4. The Commission's representative may give observer status to international organisations and other bodies engaged in, or with a direct interest in alternative transport fuels, as well as to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and candidate countries.
5. Members of the STF 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 Union classified information, laid down in the Annex to Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom.⁶ Should they fail to respect those obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

⁶ Commission Decision of 29 November 2001 amending its internal Rules of Procedure (OJ L 317, 3.12.2001, p. 1).

6. The meetings of the STF and its sub-groups shall be held on Commission premises. The plenary of STF and its sub-groups shall meet at least once per year. The Commission shall provide secretarial services. The Commission may be assisted in its tasks by a contractor. Commission officials with an interest in the proceedings may attend meetings of the group and its sub-groups.
7. The STF and the sub- groups shall adopt its rules of procedure on the basis of the standard rules of procedures for expert groups.
8. The Commission shall publish all relevant documents related to the activities carried out by the STF 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. Documents shall not be made available where their disclosure would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.

Article 6

Meeting expenses

1. Participants in the activities of the STF shall not be remunerated for the services they render.
2. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the STF shall be reimbursed by the Commission in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commission.⁷
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 31 December 2020.

Done at Brussels, 23.4.2015

For the Commission
Violeta Bulc
Member of the Commission

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Commission Decision of 5 December 2007 Rules on the reimbursement of expenses incurred by people from outside the Commission invited to attend meetings in an expert capacity