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**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of 22.5.2017**

**on setting up the multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the  
Sustainable Development Goals in the EU**

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### **on setting up the multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the EU**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Whereas:

- (1) Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union assigns the Union the task to work for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment.
- (2) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related Sustainable Development Goals, as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, represent a comprehensive plan of action that the Union shares with all its partners and fully integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.
- (3) In its Communication on "Next steps for a sustainable European future: European action for sustainability"<sup>1</sup>, the Commission expresses its full commitment to the delivery of the Agenda 2030, including through mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into EU policies and initiatives by using, inter alia, the Better Regulation tools. The Communication highlights that the Sustainable Development Goals are already being pursued through many of the Union's policies and integrated in all the Commission's ten priorities.
- (4) With a view to create a dynamic space bringing together the different stakeholders at Union level, including from the public and private sphere, in accordance with the Commission Communication on "Next Steps for a sustainable European future: European action for sustainability", the Commission should call upon the expertise of specialists.
- (5) Therefore, a group of experts should be set up in the field of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Union, which should be a multi-stakeholder platform (hereafter "the platform"). The platform should help to develop cooperation and coordination between the Commission and stakeholders on matters relating to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals at Union level and should help to bring about an exchange of experience and good practice in the field of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- (6) A management committee should be set up as a sub-group of the platform to take care of its day-to-day activities, to operationalise the guidance set out by the platform and

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2016)739

to help organising specific activities decided by the platform. It should report to the platform.

- (7) The platform and the management committee should be composed of members with proven and relevant competence and experience, including at European level, in areas relevant to one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The members should also have demonstrated commitment to sustainable development. Members should be individuals appointed in a personal capacity, individuals appointed to represent a common interest, organisations and the European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions. For the composition of the platform and the management committee, as far as possible, also an appropriate representation of the relevant know-how and areas of interest should be ensured to adequately cover the key areas of sustainable development. To this end, an inclusive and balanced stakeholder representation should be sought, including civil society, non-governmental organisations and the private and corporate sector, and covering the social, economic and environmental as well as the internal and external policy dimensions of sustainable development.
- (8) Rules on disclosure of information by members of the platform and the management committee 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 Council<sup>2</sup>.
- (10) It is appropriate to fix a period for the application of this Decision. The Commission will in due time consider the advisability of an extension.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

##### ***Subject matter***

The multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the EU (hereafter “the platform”), and the management committee of the platform, a subgroup of the platform (hereafter "the management committee"), are set up.

#### *Article 2*

##### ***Tasks***

1. The platform’s tasks shall be:
  - (a) support and advise the Commission and all stakeholders involved on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at Union level through, inter alia, contributing to the reflection work preparing for the long term implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as mentioned in the Commission Communication of 22 November 2016 on "Next steps for a sustainable European future: European action for sustainability", as well as to the assessment of the progress made and making suggestions for more effective implementation on this basis.

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<sup>2</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).

- (b) support and advise the Commission in relation to Commission events on sustainable development and help to prepare the selection process of an annual sustainability award.
  - (c) provide a forum for exchange of experience and best practice on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals across sectors and at local, regional, national and Union level, where stakeholders can engage in debates about sustainable development and provide information about related successful initiatives, mobilising expertise of key sectors.
2. The management committee shall take care of the day-to-day activities of the platform, shall operationalise the guidance set out by the platform and shall be involved in organising specific activities decided by the platform. It shall report to the platform.

### *Article 3*

#### ***Consultation***

The Commission may consult the platform and the management committee on any matter relating to the Sustainable Development Goals.

### *Article 4*

#### ***Membership***

1. The platform and the management committee shall each be composed of maximum 30 members.
2. Members shall be individuals appointed in a personal capacity, individuals appointed to represent a common interest, organisations, as well as the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.
3. Organisations and the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions shall nominate their representatives and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise.
4. An inclusive and balanced stakeholder representation shall be sought, including civil society, non-governmental organisations and the private and corporate sector, and covering the social, economic and environmental as well as the internal and external policy dimensions of sustainable development. The members shall have proven and relevant competence and experience, including at European level, in areas relevant to one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The members should also have demonstrated commitment to sustainable development.
5. Members appointed in a personal capacity shall act independently and in the public interest. Members appointed to represent a common interest shall not represent an individual stakeholder, but a policy orientation common to different stakeholder organisations.
6. Members who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the expert platform or management committee's deliberations, who, in the opinion of the Commission department concerned, 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 platform or the

management committee and may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office.

## *Article 5*

### ***Selection process***

1. With the exception of representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, the selection of the platform and management committee's members shall be carried out via a public call for applications, to be published on the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('the Register of expert groups'). In addition, the call for applications may be published through other means, including on dedicated websites. The call for applications shall clearly outline the selection criteria, including the required expertise and the interests to be represented in relation to the work to be performed. The minimum deadline for applications shall be four weeks.
2. Individuals applying to be appointed as members of the platform or management committee in a personal capacity shall disclose any circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interest. In particular, the Commission shall require those individuals to submit a declaration of interests ('DOI') form on the basis of the standard DOI form for expert groups<sup>3</sup>, together with an updated *curriculum vitae* (CV), as part of their application. Submission of a duly completed DOI form shall be necessary in order to be eligible to be appointed as a member in a personal capacity. The conflict of interest assessment shall be performed in compliance with the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups ('the horizontal rules').
3. Registration in the Transparency Register is required for individuals representing a common interest and organisations to be appointed.
4. With the exception of representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, the Secretary-General of the Commission shall appoint the members of the platform and management committee from applicants who have responded to the call for applications.
5. Members shall be appointed until the end of 2019. They shall remain members until the end of their term of office or until they are replaced or resign.
6. As regards experts appointed in a personal capacity and experts representing a common interest, the Secretary-General of the Commission may appoint alternate members, in accordance with the same conditions as members, who shall automatically replace any members who are absent or indisposed.
7. The Secretary-General of the Commission shall establish a reserve list of suitable candidates that may be used to appoint members' replacements. The Secretariat-General of the Commission shall ask applicants for their consent before including their names on the reserve list.

## *Article 6*

### ***Chair***

The platform shall be chaired by the First Vice-President of the Commission. The management committee shall be chaired by the Secretariat-General of the Commission.

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<sup>3</sup> C(2016) 3301, Article 11 and Annex 4.

## *Article 7*

### ***Operation***

1. The platform and the management committee shall act at the request of the Secretariat-General of the Commission, in compliance with the horizontal rules<sup>4</sup>.
2. Meetings of the platform and the management committee shall, in principle, be held on Commission premises.
3. The Secretariat-General of the Commission shall provide secretarial services. Commission officials from other departments with an interest in the proceedings may attend meetings of the platform, the management committee and other sub-groups.
4. In agreement with the Secretariat-General of the Commission, the platform and the management committee may, by simple majority of its members, decide that deliberations shall be public.
5. Minutes on the discussion on each point on the agenda and on the opinions delivered by the platform and the management committee shall be meaningful and complete. Minutes shall be drafted by the secretariat under the responsibility of the Chair.
6. The platform and the management committee 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. Members who have voted against shall have the right to have a document summarising the reasons for their position annexed to the opinions, recommendations or reports.

## *Article 8*

### ***Sub-groups***

1. Apart from the management committee, the Secretariat-General of the Commission may set up other sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by the Secretariat-General of the Commission. Sub-groups shall operate in compliance with the horizontal rules and shall report to the platform. They shall be dissolved as soon as their mandate is fulfilled.
2. The members of sub-groups that are not members of the platform or the management committee shall be selected via a public call for applications, in compliance with Article 5.

## *Article 9*

### ***Invited experts***

The Secretariat-General of 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 platform, the management committee or other sub-groups on an ad hoc basis.

## *Article 10*

### ***Observers***

1. Individuals, organisations and public entities may be granted an observer status, in compliance with the horizontal rules, by direct invitation.

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<sup>4</sup> C(2016) 3301, Article 13.1.

2. Organisations and public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives.
3. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the platform and the management committee or other 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 platform, the management committee or other sub-groups.

#### *Article 11*

#### ***Rules of procedure***

On a proposal by and in agreement with the Secretariat-General of the Commission the platform and the management committee shall adopt its rules of procedure by simple majority of its members, on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for expert groups.

#### *Article 12*

#### ***Professional secrecy and handling of classified information***

The members of the platform and the management committee and their representatives, as well as invited experts and observers, 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) 2015/443<sup>5</sup> and 2015/444<sup>6</sup>. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

#### *Article 13*

#### ***Transparency***

1. The platform, the management committee and other sub-groups shall be registered in the Register of expert groups.
2. As concerns the platform, the management committee and other sub-groups' composition, the following data shall be published on the Register of expert groups:
  - (a) the name of individuals appointed in a personal capacity;
  - (b) the name of individuals appointed to represent a common interest; the interest represented shall be disclosed;
  - (c) the name of member organisations; the interest represented shall be disclosed;
  - (d) the name of other public entities;
  - (e) the name of observers.
3. Individuals who do not wish to have their names disclosed may submit a request to the Secretariat-General of the Commission for a derogation from this rule. A derogation shall be granted where justified on compelling legitimate grounds in

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

<sup>6</sup> 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).

relation to the specific situation of the individual, in particular where disclosure of the experts' name could endanger their security or integrity.

4. All relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants' submissions, shall be made available either on the Register of expert groups or *via* 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 agenda and other relevant background documents shall be published 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° 1049/2001.

#### *Article 14*

##### ***Meeting expenses***

1. Participants in the activities of the platform, the management committee and other sub-groups shall not be remunerated for the services they offer.
2. Travel and accommodation expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the platform, the management committee and other sub-groups shall be reimbursed by the Commission. Subsistence expenses shall not be reimbursed. 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.

#### *Article 15*

##### ***Applicability***

This Decision shall apply until the end of 2019 and may be renewed afterwards.

Done at Brussels, 22.5.2017

*For the Commission*  
**Jean-Claude JUNCKER**  
*The President*