



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport

Directorate B – Investment, Innovative & Sustainable Transport

**SUB-GROUP ON RECHARGING AND REFUELLING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR  
ZERO-EMISSION HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES**

**SUB-GROUP TO THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT FUELS**

**(‘THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FORUM’)**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The new Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) sets binding targets for the deployment of recharging infrastructure dedicated to heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs) along the Trans-European Transport (TEN-T) road network, in urban nodes, and in safe and secure parking areas; it also sets binding targets for a minimum supply of hydrogen refuelling infrastructure on the TEN-T core network and all urban nodes, which can serve both light- and heavy-duty vehicles.

Zero-emission HDVs face different barriers and technical limitations – and can benefit from different opportunities – compared to zero-emission light-duty vehicles. Their use cases and corresponding needs in terms of recharging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure are substantially different, and the level of commercial maturity and market deployment of the relevant technologies is lower. AFIR requires the Commission to submit a technology and market-readiness report dedicated to heavy-duty vehicles, taking into account initial market preferences, technological developments, and the current and planned adoption of technical specifications. It is important in this context for operators in this sector – vehicle manufacturers, fleet operators and logistics companies - to have a platform to discuss and support the Commission in the elaboration of such a report.

On 23 April 2015, the European Commission established the group of experts on alternative transport fuels (‘the Sustainable Transport Forum or ‘the STF’) by Decision C(2015)2583 (the ‘STF establishment decision’)<sup>1</sup>. By Commission Decision of 9 December 2020<sup>2</sup>, the STF has been renewed until 31 December 2030 (the ‘STF renewal decision’). The STF assists the Commission with a view to facilitating the implementation of Directive 2014/94/EU<sup>3</sup> (now

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision C(2015)2583 final of 23 April 2015 on setting-up an expert group on alternative transport fuels (‘the Sustainable Transport Forum’).

<sup>2</sup> Commission Decision of 9 December 2020 on renewing the group of experts on alternative transport fuels (‘the Sustainable Transport Forum’) – C(2020)8535 final.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 307, 28.10.2014, p. 1, Directive 2014/94/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure.

repealed) and its successor Regulation (EU) 2023/1804<sup>4</sup> on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure by providing technical expertise.

Under Article 5(2) of the STF establishment decision and Article 8 of the STF renewal decision, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport ('DG MOVE') may set up sub-groups to prepare and support the work of the STF.

On this basis, DG MOVE has decided to set up a sub-group on recharging and refuelling infrastructure for zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles ('the sub-group').

The sub-group's main mission shall be to assist the Commission in developing a substantive understanding of and recommendations on the planning, deployment and operation of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles (buses, coaches and trucks) and corresponding recharging and refuelling infrastructure, in particular along the TEN-T network and in urban nodes. The outcomes of this work will contribute to the drafting of the Commission's technology and market-readiness report dedicated to heavy-duty vehicles, and support and facilitate the deployment of this critical infrastructure, allowing to meet the requirements of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR) and help ensure sufficient availability of recharging and refuelling infrastructure that matches the demand of relevant use cases.

The sub-group shall also function as a platform for exchange between stakeholders and the Commission on all matters related to the promotion and development of high quality recharging and refuelling infrastructure for heavy-duty vehicles. This includes, for example, interactions between and the respective role of different recharging approaches (depot charging, destination charging, fast opportunity charging and overnight charging in publicly accessible charging stations), demands from fleet operators as regards recharging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure, including optimal location in and around urban nodes and multimodal hubs, respective role of combined charging and megawatt charging systems (CCS and MCS), future role of compressed and liquified hydrogen, electricity grid connection needs, economic and technological maturity, perspectives of innovative solutions such as electrified road systems as well as standardisation needs.

The sub-group will report to the Sustainable Transport Forum. It will have to align with, receive inputs from and feed into the work foreseen under the new sub-group on hydrogen refuelling infrastructure for road transport vehicles, which will focus on planning for and the rollout of hydrogen refuelling infrastructure for road transport vehicles, including as regards financing needs and approaches to pooling investment. Work programmes of both sub-groups should be aligned under the supervision of the Commission.

For any aspect not explicitly mentioned in these terms of reference, the sub-group shall operate in compliance with the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Sustainable Transport Forum and the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups ('the horizontal rules')<sup>5</sup>.

## **2. SUBJECT MATTER**

The Sustainable Transport Forum sub-group on recharging and refuelling infrastructure for zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles ('the sub-group') is set up.

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<sup>4</sup> OJ L 234, 22.9.2023, p. 1, Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, and repealing Directive 2014/94/EU

<sup>5</sup> C(2016) 3301.

### **3. TASKS**

The sub-group's tasks shall be:

- a) to assist the Commission in the preparation of its technology and market-readiness report dedicated to heavy-duty vehicles;
- b) to inform the Commission and Member States of first-hand problems and bottlenecks experienced in the deployment of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles and corresponding requirements for recharging and refuelling infrastructure, where necessary assisting the Commission in preparing the ground for further legislative or regulatory action;
- c) to discuss and propose other tools, guidelines and solutions to help accelerate the deployment of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles and corresponding recharging and refuelling infrastructure;
- d) to provide inputs to the sub-group on hydrogen refuelling infrastructure, in particular on hydrogen HDVs' use cases, refuelling needs and specific requirements, and to review and integrate feedback from that sub-group into the overall discussion and preparation of deliverables.
- e) to establish cooperation between the Commission and stakeholders on questions relating to the implementation of Union legislation, programmes and policies in the field of deployment and operation of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles.
- f) to bring about an exchange of experience and good practice in the field of deployment and operation of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles.

### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

1. The sub-group shall be composed of up to 60 members.
2. Members shall be organisations in the broad sense of the word, including companies, associations, Non-Governmental Organisations, trade unions, universities, research institutes, law firms and consultancies, active in or working on electromobility and/or active in or working on public procurement, concession award, licence award or government support procedures, and/or active in or working on permitting procedures ('Type C members'), Member States' authorities, at national, regional or local level ('Type D members') and other public entities, such as third countries' authorities, including candidate countries' authorities, Union bodies, offices or agencies and international organisations ('Type E members'). The sub-group shall be composed of no more than 30 Type C members.
3. Organisations, Member States' authorities, and other public entities shall nominate their representatives considering their suitability with regard to the purpose of the sub-group, and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise. DG MOVE may refuse the nomination by an organisation of a representative if it considers this nomination inappropriate in the light of the requirements specified in the call for applications. In such case, the organisation concerned shall be asked to appoint another representative.
4. Member organisations who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the sub-group's deliberations, who, in the opinion of DG MOVE, 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 sub-group and may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office.

## **5. SELECTION PROCESS**

1. The selection of member organisations 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. Registration in the Transparency Register<sup>6</sup> is required in order for organisations to be appointed.
3. Member organisations shall be appointed by the the Director-General of DG MOVE from applicants with competence in the areas referred to in point 3 and who have responded to the call for applications.
4. Member organisations shall be appointed for a duration of 4 years. They shall remain in office until replaced or until the end of their term of office. Their term of office may be renewed.
5. In order to ensure continuity and the smooth functioning of the sub-group, DG MOVE may establish a reserve list of suitable candidates that may be used to appoint members' replacements. DG MOVE shall ask applicants for their consent before including their names on the reserve list.
6. Type D and E members shall be appointed for a duration of 4 years by the Director General of DG MOVE by direct invitation.

Done in Brussels/ Luxembourg, on 17 anuary 2024.

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<sup>6</sup> [Transparency Register - Homepage \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency-register/)