

THIS CALL REPLACES THE ONE PUBLISHED ON 20 DECEMBER 2018

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION EXPERT GROUP ON ELECTRONIC TOLLS (EETS)

1. Background

On 20 November 2018, the European legislators reached political agreement on the Directive on the interoperability of electronic road toll systems and facilitating cross-border exchange of information on the failure to pay road fees in the Union (“the recast Directive”¹, expected to be adopted and published in the first quarter of 2019), which provides for the adoption by the Commission of a certain number of delegated acts:

- to lay down the details for the classification of vehicles for the purposes of establishing the applicable tariff schemes;
- to further define the obligations of the EETS users;
- to lay down the requirements for interoperability constituents regarding safety and health, reliability and availability, environment protection, technical compatibility, security and privacy and operation and management;
- to lay down the general infrastructure requirements regarding:
 - accuracy of toll declaration data with a view to guaranteeing equality of treatment between EETS Users in respect of tolls and charges;
 - identification through the on-board equipment (OBE) of the responsible EETS provider;
 - use of open standards for the interoperability constituents of the EETS equipment;
 - integration of the OBE in the vehicle;
 - signalisation to the driver of the requirement to pay a road fee;
- to lay down the minimum criteria of eligibility for notified bodies;
- to update Annex II to take into account any relevant amendments to be made to Council Decisions 2008/615/JHA and 2008/616/JHA or where this is required by any other relevant Union acts;

In order to assist the Commission in the preparation of delegated acts, the Commission’s Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (‘DG MOVE’) has set up an informal group of experts on electronic tolls (“the group”).

The group’s tasks shall be to:

¹ 2017/0128(COD)

- assist the Commission in the preparation of delegated acts, when necessary and appropriate; and
- advise the Commission on the implementation of the recast Directive on the interoperability of electronic road toll systems and facilitating cross-border exchange of information on the failure to pay road fees in the Union.

The Commission is calling for applications with a view to selecting members of the group other than Member States' authorities and other public entities.

2. Features of the Group

2.1. COMPOSITION

Members of the group shall be:

- individuals appointed to represent a common interest shared by stakeholders with a stake in electronic tolling and/or toll enforcement;
- organisations operating in the area of electronic tolling and/or toll enforcement;
- competent Member States' authorities;
- competent authorities from EEA countries, Switzerland and candidate countries ("other public entities").

Members appointed to represent a common interest shall not represent an individual stakeholder, but a policy orientation common to different stakeholder organisations.

Member States' authorities, other public entities and organisations shall nominate one representative each and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise. DG MOVE 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 MOVE from applicants complying with the requirements referred to in chapter 4 of this call.

Members shall be appointed for 1 year. They shall remain in office until replaced or until the end of their term of office. Their term of office may be renewed.

Registration in the Transparency Register is required in order for individuals representing a common interest and organisations to be appointed.

In relation to members appointed to represent a common interest, DG MOVE shall appoint alternate members, in accordance with the same conditions as members, who shall automatically replace any members who are absent or indisposed.

In order to ensure continuity and the smooth functioning of the group, DG MOVE shall establish a reserve list of suitable candidates that may be used to appoint replacements.

DG MOVE 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 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 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 MOVE.

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

In principle, the group shall meet 3-4 times in the first half of 2019, mainly in order to discuss delegated acts to be adopted by the Commission and provided for in the recast Directive. It may then meet at the request of the Commission, in principle 1-2 times per year, to support the Commission in the general implementation and follow-up of the recast Directive. The group shall meet on Commission premises. DG MOVE shall provide secretarial services.

Members and 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.

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 DG MOVE, the group may, by simple majority of its members, decide that deliberations shall be public.

Participants in the activities of the group 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 not be reimbursed by the Commission .

The members of the group 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)

² C(2016) 3301.

2015/443³ and 2015/444⁴. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

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

DG MOVE may invite experts with specific expertise with respect to a subject matter on the agenda to take part in the work of the group on an ad hoc basis.

Individuals, organisations and public entities other than Member States' authorities may be granted an observer status, in compliance with the horizontal rules, by direct invitation. Organisations and public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the group 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 MOVE may set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by DG MOVE. 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 shall be registered in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('the Register of expert groups').

As concerns the group composition, the Commission shall publish the following data on the Register of expert groups:

- the name of Member States' authorities;
- the name of other public entities.
- the name of individuals appointed to represent a common interest; the interest represented shall be disclosed;
- the name of member organisations; the interest represented shall be disclosed;
- the name of observers;

DG MOVE shall make available all relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants' submissions on the Register of expert groups. Access to dedicated websites shall not be submitted to user registration or any other restriction. In particular, DG MOVE 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

³ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41).

⁴ 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).

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.

Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (UE) 2018/1725.

3. Application procedure

Interested individuals and organisations are invited to submit their application to the European Commission, DG MOVE.

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 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 applying to be appointed as members of the group to represent a common interest, as well as 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 (<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae/templates-instructions>).

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

Deadline for application

The duly signed applications must be sent by 24 February 2019 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: MOVE-C1-SECRETARIAT@ec.europa.eu, the date of the e-mail will be the date of sending.
- Where applications are sent by post to the following address: European Commission, DG MOVE, Unit C.1 secretariat – Rue Jean-André de Mot 28, B-1049 Brussels, the postmark will be considered the date of sending.

- Where applications are hand-delivered to the following address: European Commission, DG MOVE, Unit C.1 secretariat – Rue Jean-André de Mot 28, B-1049 Brussels, the date on the receipt given upon delivery will be considered the date of sending.

4. Selection criteria

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

- proven and relevant competence and experience, in one or more of the areas covered by the delegated acts to be adopted by the Commission (see the "background" section above), as well as more generally in electronic tolling and/or enforcement of tolls;
- proven capacity to represent effectively the position shared by stakeholders;
- competence, experience and hierarchical level of the proposed representatives (organisations only);
- good knowledge of the English language allowing active participation in the discussions.

5. Selection procedure

The selection procedure shall consist of an assessment of the applications performed by DG MOVE 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 MOVE shall aim at ensuring, as far as possible, a high level of expertise, as well as a balanced representation of relevant know how 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.

Where individual experts are appointed to represent a common interest, DG MOVE shall seek a geographical and gender balance.

For any further information please contact Mr Peter Szatmari, Telephone: (32-2) 2980682, e-mail: MOVE-C1-EETS-@ec.europa.eu.

ANNEXES:

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