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COMMISSION DECISION

of 5.7.2024

setting up the high-level group ‘Technology Council for Advanced Materials’

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Whereas:

- (1) With a view to having a coordinated approach among relevant actors in Europe, and in accordance with the Communication from the Commission titled ‘Advanced Materials for Industrial Leadership’ COM/2024/98¹ (hereafter “The Communication”), the Commission considers it appropriate to set up a high-level group in the field of advanced materials and to define its tasks and structure.
- (2) The group should identify common objectives and priority areas guiding research and innovation (R&I) investments at European and at national - or where applicable - regional level in advanced materials. It should also identify accompanying actions fostering the uptake of innovation to achieve Green Deal objectives, strengthen the EU’s resilience, ensure Europe’s green and digital transition, and contributing to its economic security.
- (3) The group will provide strategic steer to the Commission and the Member States on the implementation of all the actions provided in the Communication and monitor progress at European, national and where relevant regional level towards their successful implementation.
- (4) The group should be composed of high-level representatives of Member States, academia, research and technology organisations (RTOs) and industry.
- (5) Rules on disclosure of information by members of the group, observers and invited experts should be laid down.
- (6) Personal data is to be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council².

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Subject matter

The high-level group ‘Technology Council on Advanced Materials’ (‘the group’) is set up.

¹ COM/2024/98 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=COM:2024:98:FIN>)

² 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, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj>).

Article 2

Tasks

The group's tasks shall be to:

- (a) provide a discussion forum and facilitate cooperation for the development, improvement and maintenance of a robust European advanced materials ecosystem.
- (b) identify common objectives and priority areas for R&I investments in advanced materials at European, national and regional level, starting with the preliminary list set out in Communication COM/2024/98³ and its annex to be refined or extended to other areas depending on needs identified by this group;
- (c) identify actions to be implemented in full complementarity at European, national and regional level aimed at facilitating the deployment and uptake of innovation in advanced materials and addressing European competitiveness, digitalisation, circularity, materials efficiency and overall sustainability targets;
- (d) discuss on the modalities of implementation and coordination of other actions announced in the Communication, such as the ones related to the digital infrastructure for advanced materials research and innovation, capital investment and access to finance, standardisation, intellectual property or skills development;
- (e) discuss and build synergies with regional innovation valleys⁴ and with smart specialisation strategies including the respective Community of Practice thematic partnerships⁵;
- (f) report on national and EU level strategies, programmes and investments supporting the Communication's actions;
- (g) discuss how to make best use of international cooperation at European and at national level in the field of advanced materials.

Article 3

Membership

1. The group shall be composed of representatives of Member States, academia, RTOs, industry and the European Commission.
2. Member States' authorities shall nominate a high-level representative and up to two additional experts to support the high-level representative. The representatives to be nominated by Member States shall represent ministries in charge of research and innovation as well as industrial policies.
3. In addition to the Member States, the group shall also have up to 21 further members, seven in each of these three categories: i) academia, ii) industry and iii) associations representing academia, RTOs and/or industry. Each of these members shall nominate one high-level representative.

³ The preliminary list consists of Energy, Mobility, Construction and Electronics.

⁴ Regional Innovation Valleys aim to harness the potential of deep-tech innovation across the different EU and to promote innovation cohesion(SWD(2022) 187 final).

⁵ The Smart Specialisation Community of Practice is the central node on guidance, networking, support and peer-learning on smart specialisation strategies. (https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/s3-community-of-practice_en)

Article 4

Selection process

1. The selection of the group's academic, RTOs and industrial members shall be carried out via a public call for applications. The call for applications shall be published on dedicated websites and shall clearly outline the selection criteria, including the required expertise and the interests to be represented (academia, RTOs and industry) in relation to the work to be performed. The minimum deadline for applications shall be four weeks.
2. Registration in the Transparency Register is required in order for the organisations to be appointed.
3. The members of the group shall be appointed by the Commission Directorate-General of DG RTD, in agreement with Directorate-General GROW, and selected from applicants with competences in the areas referred to in Article 2 and who have responded to the call for applications.
4. Members shall remain in office until replaced. Members nominated on the basis of a call for expression of interest may be replaced every three years.
5. DG RTD shall establish a reserve list of suitable candidates that may be used to appoint members' replacements. DG RTD shall ask applicants for their consent before including their names on the reserve list.

Article 5

Co-Chairs

The group shall be co-chaired by the Director-Generals of the Commission responsible for Research and Innovation and for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs and a high-level representative of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Article 6

Operation

1. DG RTD and DG GROW shall provide secretarial services to the group. For each meeting preparation, the agenda, discussion papers and background documents shall be circulated by the secretariat in consultation with the Co-Chairs.
2. Meetings of the group shall, in principle, be held on Commission premises or virtually.
3. Commission officials from other departments with an interest in the activities may attend meetings of the group following approval of the secretariat.
4. In agreement with DG RTD and DG GROW in their role as secretariat, the group may, by simple majority of its members, decide that deliberations shall be public.
5. Minutes on the discussions on each point on the agenda and on the opinions delivered by the group shall be meaningful and complete. Minutes shall be drafted by the secretariat under the responsibility of the Co-Chairs.

For each meeting, final conclusions shall be formulated.. Final conclusions of each meeting shall be made publicly available.

6. The group shall adopt its opinions, recommendations or reports by consensus.

Article 7

Sub-groups

DG RTD and DG GROW, in their role as secretariat, may set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific questions based on terms of reference defined by DG RTD and DG GROW. They shall be dissolved as soon as their mandate is fulfilled.

A dedicated sub-group consisting only of Member States representatives shall be created to enable deeper discussions on specific topics in a more restricted format. Meetings of this sub-group may be organised on the same day as the group meetings.

Article 8

Invited experts

The Co-Chairs 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 its sub-groups on an ad-hoc basis. These could be representatives of social partners, relevant industrial alliances⁶, financial institutions, the European Industrial Forum⁷, the Strategic Energy Technology Plan⁸ groups, relevant Horizon Europe partnerships as well as third countries which are strategic partners or with which the EU has concluded Science and Technology Agreements or is conducting Enhanced Dialogues.

Article 9

Observers

1. Associated countries to ‘Horizon Europe’ shall be granted an observer status.
2. Entities appointed as observers shall nominate their high level representative.
3. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Co-Chairs to take part for specific points on the agenda and provide expertise. They shall not participate in the formulation of recommendations or opinions

Article 10

Rules of procedure

On a proposal by and in agreement with DG RTD and DG GROW, in their role as secretariat, the group shall adopt its rules of procedure by simple majority of its members. The group and the sub-groups shall operate in compliance with the group’s rules of procedure.

⁶ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/strategy/industrial-alliances_en

⁷ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/strategy/industrial-policy-dialogue-and-expert-advice_en

⁸ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/research-and-technology/strategic-energy-technology-plan_en

Article 11

Professional secrecy and handling of classified information

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) 2015/443⁹ and 2015/444¹⁰. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

Article 12

Transparency

DG RTD and DG GROW shall ensure an equivalent degree of transparency to that applicable to Commission expert groups within the meaning of Commission Decision C(2016) 3301, through dedicated webpages.

Article 13

Meeting expenses

1. Participants in the activities of the group and sub-groups shall not be remunerated for the services they offer.
2. 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.

Done at Brussels, 5.7.2024

For the Commission

Iliana IVANOVA

Member of the Commission

⁹ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. . 41, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2015/443/oj>).

¹⁰ 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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2015/444/oj>).