



Call for expression of interest for the selection of stakeholders as members of the Coordination Group of the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform

1. Background

The European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform (ECESP) was launched jointly by the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in 2017. It is a "network of networks" going beyond sectoral activities and highlighting cross-sector opportunities and challenges.

The ECESP is a hub gathering knowledge, a place for dialogue and a bridge between existing initiatives. It contributes to disseminating the concept of the circular economy at national, regional and local level by making the information more easily accessible and by providing a frame for exchange and discussion.

The Commission is calling for applications with a view to selecting members of the Coordination group of the ECESP.

The role of the Coordination Group is to act as ambassadors of the ECESP and to contribute to the implementation of its objectives, building on the work done in previous mandates. The role of the Coordination Group is to bring together all relevant circular economy and bioeconomy-related stakeholders and actively promote their interaction with the aim of advancing the circular economy and bioeconomy agenda.

In particular, the tasks of the Coordination Group shall be:

- to act as the Ambassadors of the Platform and the circular economy and bioeconomy transition by representing the Platform, disseminating the knowledge gathered and actively inviting the circular economy community to engage in the Platform;
- to actively promote interaction in the Platform between actors by identifying specific needs for cross-sectoral and thematic dialogue and by organising effective interaction including via the Platform's website, webinars (EU Circular Talks), web Q&A sessions and expert discussions. To ensure better outreach, the results of such interactions shall be shared on the Platform's website;
- to promote and facilitate the exchange and mapping of good practices for national, regional and local circular economy and bioeconomy strategies as well as examples from businesses, trade unions and civil society organisations; whenever possible, the Coordination Group shall encourage the submission of such good practices from

stakeholders other than the Coordination Group members themselves, on the Platform's website;

- to foster European debate among all relevant stakeholders on issues related to the circular economy and bioeconomy and identify approaches that can help remove obstacles that are inhibiting the transition towards a circular economy, by liaising with existing EU Platforms. This implies inviting stakeholders other than the Coordination group members themselves (as indicated, all relevant circular economy-related stakeholders) to participate in the identification of such approaches. As a result of this dialogue, the Coordination Group may prepare synthesis documents and take positions.

In line with the role of a Special Group of the European Commission, these documents should be shared with the broader circular economy community. The Coordination should help strengthen the cooperation among sectoral platforms and stakeholders and prevent overlapping activities that often rely on individual, non-structured initiatives.

The work of the Coordination Group will be supported by the Secretariat of the Platform, provided by the EESC. The Secretariat, together with the European Commission, will develop the Rules of Procedure of the Coordination Group. The draft Rules of Procedure will be presented for discussion and adoption during the first meeting of the Coordination Group. These Rules of Procedure will apply to elements such as the organisation and follow-up of meetings and the preparation of the agenda, background documents, memos, reports and minutes.

The Coordination Group may also express positions on matters promoting the Circular Economy and produce joint declarations to foster debate.

2. Features of the Group

2.1. Composition

The Coordination Group shall be composed of a balanced number of up to 24 member organisations based in the EU from the following categories:

- up to 8 representatives from businesses: this category refers to groupings/organisations of businesses and extends to trade unions and civil society organisations;
- up to 8 representatives from public authorities and EU networks of public authorities;
- up to 8 representatives from the knowledge community: this category can comprise organisations such as civil society organisations, think tanks, youth organisations and research centres.

EU institutions and bodies, and existing EU Platforms relating to the circular economy will be invited to participate in the activities of the Coordination Group.

2.2. Appointment

The Coordination Group members shall be appointed by the European Commission, in agreement with the EESC, on an individual basis on behalf of their organisation for a mandate of 2.5 years. This mandate can be renewed once upon agreement by the appointing authorities.

In order to ensure continuity and the smooth functioning of the group, the Commission, in agreement with the EESC, shall establish a reserve list of suitable candidates that may be used to appoint replacements. The Commission shall ask applicants for their consent before including their names on the reserve list.

Coordination Group members who are no longer capable of effectively fulfilling their mandate may be replaced by the European Commission, in agreement with the EESC, from said reverse list of suitable candidates resulting from the Call for Expression of Interest, following the Rules of Procedure to be adopted during the first meeting of the Coordination Group.

2.3. Rules of engagement and operation in the group

The Coordination Group shall elect two co-Chairpersons from amongst its members by simple majority of its members. The work of the Coordination Group shall be supported by the Secretariat, provided by the European Economic and Social Committee.

Each time the Coordination Group is appointed or renewed, it shall issue a rolling work plan within six months from its first meeting in cooperation with the ECESP Secretariat, following consultation with the European Commission and the EESC. The Coordination Group or its Chairs shall report on an annual basis on the implementation of the work plan to the Commission and the EESC. As a general rule, working documents will be drafted in English and meetings will be also conducted in English.

The Coordination Group may, in consultation with the European Commission and the EESC, set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific issues within a determined duration. Such sub-groups shall comprise at least one member of the Coordination Group and shall report to the Coordination Group. The Commission and EESC 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 sub-groups on an ad hoc basis.

The Coordination Group shall meet in plenary session twice a year. Additional meetings could be scheduled on an *ad-hoc* basis.

The Coordination Group members shall receive no remuneration for their duties. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants for meetings of the Coordination Group shall be reimbursed by the European Commission and the EESC in accordance with the provisions in force within the limits of the available appropriations allocated under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

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) 2015/44329 and 2015/44430. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

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 European Commission shall publish the following data on the Register of expert groups:

- the name of member organisations; the interest represented shall be disclosed;
- the name of other public entities;
- the name of observers.

Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.

3. Application procedure

Interested organisations are invited to submit their application to the European Commission. 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 CV 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 a curriculum vitae (CV) of the representative proposed by the organisation. The candidate can also submit any supporting documents in the EU survey.

Additional documents (e.g. publications) may be requested at a later stage. The Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee reserve the right to replace any member who has provided inaccurate or false declarations.

Deadline for application

The duly signed applications must be sent by **30 June 2025, 17:00 CEST** at the latest. The date of sending will be established by the submission of the application to the following online form: **<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ECESP-Call-for-expression-CG>**

The selection of the Coordination Group members will be conducted following an open and transparent procedure:

- it will be based on a list of candidates which will be compiled through an open call for applications;
- the European Commission, in agreement with the EESC, will select the members against the criteria identified in the following section;

- the European Commission will appoint the members, according to the results of this selection.

The call for applications does not apply to members representing EU institutions and bodies. Information on the results of the call for applications will be published on the ECESP web site, as well as on the websites of the relevant Directorate-General at the Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee.

4. Selection Criteria

The members of the Coordination Group will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Individual criteria constituting a requirement for the organisation/network (the member):
 - the member should have a cross-sectoral expertise and proven track record giving a broad vision for the circular economy and/or bioeconomy;
 - the member should have documented experience in identifying and exchanging good practices and be willing to share case studies and good practices which will be made publicly available free-of charge through the Platform;
 - the member should be willing and committed to participating proactively in the Coordination Group's activities and have sufficient time and resources to dedicate to the activities of the Coordination Group.
- Individual criteria constituting an asset for the representative:
 - the representative should have documented experience in representing his/her organisation or his/her sector in other relevant bodies/initiatives at EU level or at national level.
- General criteria for the Coordination Group:
 - the Coordination Group should ensure an adequate representation of the main circular economy sectors and value chains (e.g. production, consumption, waste management, secondary raw materials, environment, bioeconomy, research and innovation).
 - the Coordination Group should as much as possible be geographically balanced and gender balanced.

For any further information please send your query to: ENV-B01-ARES@ec.europa.eu