

This text is meant purely as a documentation tool and has no legal effect. The Union's institutions do not assume any liability for its contents. The authentic versions of the relevant acts, including their preambles, are those published in the Official Journal of the European Union and available in EUR-Lex. Those official texts are directly accessible through the links embedded in this document

► **B**

**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of 16 December 2013**

**setting up a framework for civil dialogue in matters covered by the common agricultural policy  
and repealing Decision 2004/391/EC**

(2013/767/EU)

(OJ L 338, 17.12.2013, p. 115)

Amended by:

Official Journal

|                                                                       | No    | page | date     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------|----------|
| ► <b><u>M1</u></b> Commission Decision (EU) 2021/1112 of 25 June 2021 | L 239 | 24   | 7.7.2021 |

**▼B****COMMISSION DECISION****of 16 December 2013****setting up a framework for civil dialogue in matters covered by the  
common agricultural policy and repealing Decision 2004/391/EC**

(2013/767/EU)

*Article 1***Subject matter**

This decision constitutes the framework for civil dialogue groups dealing with matters covered by the common agricultural policy, hereinafter referred to as ‘groups’, set up by the Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (‘the Director-General’) under the framework for Commission expert groups <sup>(1)</sup>.

*Article 2***Tasks**

The groups’ tasks shall be:

- (a) to hold a regular dialogue on all matters relating to the common agricultural policy, including rural development, and its implementation, and in particular the measures which the Commission is called on to take in that context, including the international aspects of agriculture;
- (b) to bring about an exchange of experience and good practice in the fields referred to in point (a);
- (c) to assist the Commission and advise on policy in the fields referred to in point (a);
- (d) to deliver an opinion on specific matters either upon request of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (‘the Directorate-General’) and within the time limits set in that request, or on their own initiative;
- (e) to monitor policy developments in the fields referred to in point (a).

*Article 3***Consultation**

1. The Directorate-General may consult the groups on any matter referred to under Article 2(a).

**▼M1**

\_\_\_\_\_

**▼B***Article 4***Membership appointment**

1. The Director-General shall decide on the composition of the groups, on the basis of a call for applications.

<sup>(1)</sup> C(2010) 7649.

**▼B**

2. The groups shall be composed of at least European-level non-governmental organisations, including representative associations, socioeconomic interest groups, civil society organisations and trade unions that are registered in the Transparency Register. Membership of the groups shall be open to those organisations representing any kind of relevant interest

3. Taking into account the interest of the civil society in the common agricultural policy the Director-General shall decide on the number of groups and their size. The list of groups shall be published in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ('the Register') and on a dedicated website. Director-General shall ensure a balanced representation of all expressed interests referred to in paragraph 2. In particular, he/she shall ensure a balance between economic and non-economic interests.

4. Member organisations shall be appointed by the Director-General from among organisations that have responded to the call for applications. The Director-General may also appoint a member organisation when seats remain or fall vacant.

5. ►**M1** The mandate of the member organisations shall expire on 31 December 2022. A member organisation may be replaced within a group where: ◀

- (a) it is no longer able to contribute effectively to a group's deliberations;
- (b) it withdraws from the group;
- (c) it does not regularly designate experts for the meetings of the group;
- (d) it no longer complies with the conditions set out in paragraph 2; or
- (e) it does not comply with the non-disclosure requirement relating to information covered by the obligation of professional secrecy laid down in Article 339 of the Treaty.

6. Member organisations shall designate the experts to attend the meetings of the groups according to the items on the agenda and shall inform the Directorate-General of the identity of experts they have designated at least three working days before the meeting.

7. The Directorate-General shall invite the experts designated by the member organisations to attend the meetings of the groups. Where the member organisation has not informed the Directorate-General of the identity of the experts within the deadline set out in paragraph 6, the Directorate-General may refuse to invite those experts to the respective meeting.

8. The names of member organisations shall be published in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities and on a dedicated website.

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

**▼B***Article 5***Operation****▼M1**

1. A representative of the Commission shall chair the meetings.
- 

**▼B**

4. ►**M1** No vote shall take place at the end of a group's discussion. ◀ If a group reaches consensus on the opinion requested by the Directorate-General or an own-initiative resolution, it shall formulate joint conclusions and attach them to the summary report. The Commission shall communicate the outcome of a group's discussions to other European institutions in cases where the group so recommends.

**▼M1**

5. Minutes on the discussion on each point of 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 chairperson.

**▼B**

6. In agreement with the Directorate-General, the group may set up working groups to examine specific questions on the basis of terms of reference adopted by the group. Commission representatives shall chair the meetings of the working groups. Such working groups shall be dissolved as soon as their mandate is fulfilled.

**▼M1**

7. The Directorate-General may invite experts from outside the group with specific competences relating to a subject on the agenda to participate in the work of the group or working group on an ad-hoc basis. In addition, the Commission's representative may grant observer status to individuals or organisations as defined in Article 4(2), in so far as their participation does not threaten the balance of the groups or working groups. They shall have the right to speak, when invited to do so by the chairperson.

**▼B**

8. Members of groups and their representatives, as well as invited experts and individuals or organisations enjoying observer status, as provided for in paragraph 7, shall comply with the obligations of professional secrecy laid down in the Treaties and the rules implementing them, as well as with the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, laid down in the Annex to Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom<sup>(1)</sup>. Should they fail to comply with those obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

9. The meetings of the groups and working groups shall in general be held on Commission premises. The Commission shall provide secretariat services. Meetings of the groups and working groups shall be convened by the Directorate-General. Other Commission officials with an interest in the proceedings may attend meetings of the groups and its working groups.

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom of 29 November 2001 amending its internal Rules of Procedure (OJ L 317, 3.12.2001, p. 1).

**▼ M1**

10. All relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants' submissions, shall be made available either on the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities or through 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 the timely publication of the minutes. Exceptions to publication shall only be provided for where it is deemed that the disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(1)</sup>.

**▼ B***Article 6***Meeting expenses**

1. Participants in the activities of the groups and working groups shall not be remunerated for the services they render.
2. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by experts in the context of the activities of the groups and working groups shall be reimbursed by the Commission in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commission.
3. The expenses referred to in paragraph 2 shall be reimbursed within the limits of the available appropriations allocated under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

*Article 7***Repeal**

Decision 2004/391/EC is repealed with effect from 1 July 2014.

*Article 8***Entry into force**

This Decision shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 July 2014.

<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).