

DECISION 18/2017
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

ON THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR FIVE NEW EIT GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology¹, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 1292/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013² ('EIT Regulation'), in particular to the Statutes annexed thereto ('Statutes'), Section 1(2) and (4);

Having regard to the Guiding principles adopted by the Governing Board in April 2010 on the replacement of appointed EIT Governing Board members;³

Having regard to the Decision of the Governing Board of 10 July 2014 on the terms of office of the appointed Governing Board members⁴;

Having regard to Decision 13/2015 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 3 June 2015 on the Code of Good Conduct on conflicts of interest for members of the EIT Governing Board;

WHEREAS

- (1) The mandate of four appointed Governing Board Members expires on 30 June 2018.
- (2) María Garaña tendered her resignation to the EIT in her capacity as EIT Governing Board Members on 30 May 2017. She would have ended her mandate as EIT Governing Board member on 30 June 2020.
- (3) In the event that an appointed member is unable to complete his/her term of office, a substitute member shall be appointed by the same procedure as the incapacitated member in order to complete the latter's term of office. A substitute member who has served for a period of less than two years may be re-appointed by the Commission for an additional period of four years at the request of the Governing Board.
- (4) The EIT Governing Board shall consist of 12 appointed members, appointed by the Commission, providing a balance between those with experience in business, higher education and research. They shall have a four-year non-renewable term of office.

¹ OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 1.

² OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 174.

³ EIT GB (10) 13 2.2a REPLACEMENT GB MEMBERS.

⁴ 01729.EIT.2014.I.

- (5) The candidates should be chosen on the basis of the outcome of a transparent and open procedure.
- (6) The Governing Board members are appointed by the Commission based on a proposal for appointment of new members.
- (7) The members of the Governing Board shall participate in their personal capacity and act having in mind only the best interests of the EIT and its mission, independently from any academic, institutional or political conflicts of interest.
- (8) A sectorial, geographic and gender balance among Board members must be ensured.
- (9) Members of the Governing Board are bound by the Code of Good Conduct on conflicts of interest for members of the EIT Governing Board.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Selection process

The proposal for the appointment of five new members of the EIT Governing Board shall be subject to the procedure set out in Annex I.

Article 2
Steering Committee

The composition, mandate and role of the Steering Committee for the selection process for five new members of the EIT Governing Board is hereby adopted as set out in Annex II.

Article 3
Timeline of the selection procedure

The indicative timeline for the selection procedure for the appointment of five new members of the Governing Board is hereby adopted as set out in Annex III.

Article 4
Final provision

Decision 5/2017 of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology is hereby repealed.

Article 5
Entry into force

This decision shall enter into force on the day of its signature

Done in Budapest on 2 August 2017⁵

Signed

Peter Olesen

Chairman of the EIT Governing Board

⁵ Approved by the EIT Governing Board via written procedure on 2 August 2017

ANNEX I

Selection process for the appointment of five new members of the EIT Governing Board

1. The selection procedure shall follow the requirements laid down in the Statutes of the EIT Regulation (Annex, Section 1(2)).
2. The EIT intends to submit to the Commission a proposal for the appointment of five new members of the Governing Board.
3. Considering that the mandate of four EIT Governing Board ends on 30 June 2018, the EIT intends to submit to the Commission a proposal for the appointment of four new members for a period of four years. The new members' mandate will not be renewed as per the Statutes of the EIT Regulation.
4. Considering that one new member should be appointed to substitute María Garaña, who tendered her resignation on 30 May 2017 to the EIT as an EIT Governing Board Member and whose mandate would have ended on 30 June 2020, the EIT intends to submit the Commission a proposal for the appointment of a new member of the Governing Board till 30 June 2020.
5. The selection process is expected to take around 5-6 months following the setting up of the Steering Committee⁶.
6. The Governing Board shall approve the establishment of a Steering Committee and shall decide on its composition, role and mandate⁷.

I. Call for expression of interest and selection criteria

7. This selection process shall consist of a call for expression of interest.
8. The said call is for the selection of five new EIT GB members out of which one candidate should be appointed as replacement of Ms María Garaña⁸.
9. Mandate of the four new EIT GB Members, replacing the four outgoing EIT GB members as of 30 June 2018, should be four years non-renewable.
10. Mandate of the new EIT GB member, substituting Ms María Garaña shall initially run till 30 June 2020. A substitute member who has served for a period of less than two years may be re-appointed by the Commission for an additional period of four years at the request of the Governing Board.
11. Start of the period of the term of office of the new EIT GB Members should be counted from the day of the official appointment by the European Commission.
12. The Steering Committee, appointed to identify potential candidates as new EIT GB members shall decide during the application process (including potential interviews) which candidate shall be proposed to replace Ms María Garaña, based on profile and background.
13. The above-mentioned call shall be published on the EIT website and shall remain open for at least six weeks. Similarly, the call will be disseminated via the EIT's stakeholder network by e-mail, including the EU institutions, Member States, and multiplier organisations from the Knowledge Triangle, in order to attract the right calibre of applicants.

⁶ See Annex II.

⁷ See Annex II.

⁸ The mandate of Ms Garana would have ended on 30 June 2020.

14. The following criteria shall be specified in the call for expression of interest: eligibility criteria and specific criteria.

a) Eligibility criteria:⁹

The EIT shall assess the eligibility of individual candidates against the following mandatory criteria:

- *Professional Experience* — Have at least 5 years' experience
- *Languages* — Have an excellent knowledge of the English language.

In addition to the above requirements, the following exclusion criteria will be considered:

- The candidate is in a situation of conflict of interest within the meaning of the Code of Good Conduct on conflicts of interest for members of the EIT Governing Board.
- The candidate has been convicted of an offence concerning his/her professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata.
- The candidate has been found guilty of grave professional misconduct.
The candidate has been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's financial interests.

b) Specific criteria:

The new members of the EIT Governing Board must demonstrate:

- a strong track record and widespread reputation in at least one, of the following fields: innovator, academic, scientist, entrepreneur, business leader, or investor,
- outstanding networking at European or global level;
- a track record of knowledge triangle integration, i.e. cooperation between business, research and education to foster innovation;
- a strong track record of experience and ability to mobilise private, public or philanthropic resources;

15. The call for expression of interest shall also indicate the main reasons for considering an application as incomplete or incorrectly submitted.

II. Applications

16. Applications shall be submitted via e-mail to a functional mailbox (EIT-APPLICATIONS-GB@eit.europa.eu) before expiry of the deadline specified in the call for expression of interest.
17. The candidates will be assessed on the basis of the merit related criteria.
Applications shall be submitted in English and shall contain the following:
- Cover letter from the candidate

⁹ Final wording is subject to the approval of the Steering Committee nominated to the selection of the GB Members

- Application form on eligibility, exclusion and specific criteria, including a declaration stating that the candidate is willing to serve for a four-year period, as well as to engage strongly in the work of the EIT
- Curriculum Vitae of the proposed candidate
- Letter of recommendation (*optional*)

III. Internal Selection Procedure — Governance

18. Following the closing of the call for expression of interest and after receipt of the applications, the EIT Staff shall compile a list of the applications received. The EIT Staff shall check whether the applications are complete and have been correctly submitted. In the interest of the EIT, where a deficiency has been corrected in an application, such application may be included in the list of proposed candidates.
19. The EIT Staff shall then perform a further quality review of the above-mentioned list of applications. In this preliminary assessment/quality review, the EIT Staff should take into account the eligibility criteria set out above.
20. EIT Staff who are involved in the assessment of applications are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest in relation to any of the applications received.
21. After establishing the preliminary list of candidates, the EIT Staff shall forward this list to the Steering Committee.
22. The Steering Committee shall analyse this list of candidates and evaluate the applications received against a set of criteria.
23. A decision on a proposed list of candidates shall be taken by the Steering Committee in consultation with the European Commission Observer. The Steering Committee will propose a shortlist of a maximum ten candidates to the European Commission, out of which 2 will be shortlisted to substitute Ms María Garaña. Eight candidates will be shortlisted to replace the four outgoing EIT GB members as of 30 June 2018.
24. The Steering Committee shall decide during the selection process which candidate shall be proposed to replace Ms María Garaña, based on profile and background.
25. Before the proposed list is submitted to the Governing Board for its adoption, the Steering Committee may decide to interview the highest scored candidates¹⁰. The final list of proposed candidates shall be submitted by the Steering Committee to the EIT Governing Board for its approval.
26. The EIT Governing Board will forward the proposed list of candidates to the European Commission for the appointment of the five new EIT Governing Board members. Those candidates not appointed by the European Commission will be invited to constitute a reserve list to be used in the event of the need to replace appointed members who are unable to complete their mandate¹¹.

IV. Appointment of new members of the Governing Board

27. On the basis of a proposal submitted by the EIT Governing Board, the Commission will send a report summarising the selection process and its results to the Council and the European Parliament, who have a period of one month to take cognisance of the outcome of the selection process. The new members of the Governing Board will then be appointed by means of a Commission Decision.
28. Mandate of the four new EIT GB Members, replacing the four outgoing EIT GB members as of 30 June 2018, should be four years non-renewable.

¹⁰ Based on the threshold agreed by the Steering Committee.

¹¹ The reserve list shall remain valid for three years from the date of the appointment of the new member(s) of the Governing Board by the European Commission.

29. Mandate of the new EIT GB member, substituting Ms María Garaña shall initially run till 30 June 2020. A substitute member who has served for a period of less than two years may be re-appointed by the Commission for an additional period of four years at the request of the Governing Board.
30. Start of the period of the term of office of the new EIT GB Members should be counted from the day of the official appointment by the European Commission.

Annex II

Mandate of the Steering Committee for the selection process for the new members of the EIT Governing Board

I. Composition

31. The **Steering Committee** (hereinafter 'SC') is appointed by the EIT Governing Board and shall be responsible for drawing up and submitting to the EIT Governing Board a list of potential candidates for the selection of five new members of the Governing Board. The Steering Committee is composed of three members of the EIT Governing Board, to be appointed by the EIT Governing Board, and of one observer from the European Commission.

II. Mandate

32. The Steering Committee is fully mandated to approve the text for the call for expression of interest (hereinafter 'the call text') in view of the appointment of the new members of the EIT Governing Board proposed by the EIT in consultation with the European Commission.
33. Following the closing of the call and after receipt of the applications, the EIT Staff shall produce a list of the applications received. The Steering Committee may decide to extend the duration of the call for expression of interest if an insufficient number of applications has been received.
34. The Steering Committee shall analyse the proposed list of candidates submitted by the EIT Staff. The Steering Committee shall evaluate the applications received against a set of criteria. The Steering Committee may decide to invite shortlisted candidates for an interview before the proposed list of candidates is finalised and submitted to the Governing Board for its approval.

III. Role of the Steering Committee

35. The Steering Committee shall identify and approve a proposed list of candidates in consultation with the European Commission Observer. The Steering Committee will propose a shortlist of a maximum ten candidates to the European Commission, out of which two will be shortlisted to substitute Ms María Garaña. Eight candidates will be shortlisted to replace the four outgoing EIT GB members as of 30 June 2018.
36. Before the proposed list is submitted to the Governing Board for its adoption, the Steering Committee may decide to invite at least five and maximum twelve candidates for an interview. The final list of proposed candidates shall be submitted by the Steering Committee to the EIT Governing Board for its approval.

37. Once the final list for the appointment of the new Governing Board members has been adopted by the EIT Governing Board, it will be forwarded to the European Commission, which will formally appoint the five new Governing Board members.
38. The Steering Committee shall guarantee that the principles of transparency, neutrality and absence of conflict of interest are respected. In this regard, EIT Staff are required to assess and disclose any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any of the candidates proposed by the Steering Committee in accordance with the Code of Good Conduct on conflicts of interest for members of the EIT Governing Board.¹² The Steering Committee is expected to produce a Selection Report at the end of the process, which will be submitted to the EIT Governing Board and the European Commission.
39. The EIT Director shall provide secretariat support to the Steering Committee. During the selection process, the Commission Observer at the EIT Governing Board will be consulted in relation to the implementation of the selection criteria and of the principles of transparency, neutrality and absence of conflict of interest. The EIT will cover the travel and accommodation expenses of the SC members.
40. Following the appointment of the three members of the Steering Committee, the EIT shall publish a news item informing stakeholders about the upcoming call as well as of the establishment of the Steering Committee and the names of its members.

IV. Role of the Steering Committee Chairperson

41. The members of the Steering Committee (SC) shall appoint a Chairperson who will lead and coordinate the work of the SC. The Chairperson shall ensure the full independence of the Steering Committee.
42. The Chairperson shall communicate progress regarding the selection process to the EIT Governing Board and the European Commission and shall draw up a Selection Process Report at the end of the process.

¹² Decision 13/2015 of the EIT Governing Board of 3 June 2015. Ref.no. 00227 EIT 2015 IU GB35.

Annex III

Timeline of the selection procedure¹³

The procedure for the selection of the five new EIT Governing Board members will last approximately six months, including Interservice Consultation within the European Commission. In order to ensure appropriate on-boarding of the new Governing Board members, who will attend the first EIT Governing Board meeting in September 2018 compliance with the following timeline and actions is recommended:

Steps to be followed	Description	Responsible entity	Timeframe	
			From	To
Approval of the selection procedure, selection criteria and timeline Appointment of the Steering Committee	In July 2017 the Governing Board shall approve: 1) the selection procedure for the proposal for the appointment of the four new members of the EIT Governing Board, the selection criteria and the related timeline in consultation with the European Commission; 2) the appointment and the mandate of the Steering Committee.	GB	July 2017	July 2017
Adoption of the call text	Preliminary drafting of the call text by the EIT in consultation with the Commission. Approval of the call text by the Steering Committee.	EIT/Steering Committee	by written procedure July 2017	July 2017
Launch of the call and collection of applications	The call text will be published on the EIT website. The EIT will circulate the call among the Parliament, Council, Member States, relevant DGs, etc. The EIT will also circulate the call text via its networks, including the KICs. GB members will circulate the call text among their networks. The EIT Director will ensure that applications are processed in accordance with data protection rules.	EIT/Steering Committee/ Commission	Publication July 2017	Deadline: <i>end</i> September 2017
Evaluation and shortlist of candidates Adoption of the list of the	Steering Committee will evaluate the applications submitted within the deadline. The Steering Committee will propose a list of candidates to the Governing Board providing justification of their opinion. List of other candidates and their evaluation will also be available to GB Members and the Commission Observer in a report. Data protection requirements have to be assured.	Steering Committee (involving the Commission Observer at the EIT Governing Board)	September - October 2017	October- November 2017

¹³ The timeline of the selection procedure indicated in the table below is indicative.

proposed candidates by the EIT Governing Board	The EIT Governing Board will adopt the list proposed by the Steering Committee	GB	November 2017	November 2017
Submission of the proposed list of candidates to the European Commission	Following the adoption of the list by the GB, it will be formally sent by the GB Chairperson to the Commission (with the Steering Committee in copy).		November 2017	November 2017
Appointment by the Commission	The Commission will consider the proposed list with regard to the balance between higher education, research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environments across the Union. On this basis, the Commission will appoint the new members of the GB. The Commission should inform the European Parliament and the Council about the selection process and the final appointment of the member of the Governing Board. 'The appointed candidates will be informed by the Commission. Those who have not been appointed will be informed by the EIT, depending on their individual situation.'	Commission	February/ March 2018	February/ March 2018
First attendance at the Governing Board meeting	The newly appointed GB members shall take part in the EIT GB meeting of September 2018. The EIT shall ensure appropriate communication in this regard.	EIT	September 2018	September 2018