



DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

Appointing the common Accounting Officer for the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking

N° 6/2022

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SMART NETWORKS AND SERVICES JOINT UNDERTAKING, (hereafter referred as the “SNS JU”)

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014 (hereafter the “Single Basic Act or the “SBA”)¹, and in particular Articles 13(1)(d) and 26(3) thereof;

Having regard to the SNS Financial Rules adopted by the Governing Board on 15 December 2021 (hereafter the “Financial Rules”), and in particular Article 25 (“Accounting officer”);

Whereas:

- (1) Article 25(1) of Financial Rules provides that the Governing Board must appoint an accounting officer who should be totally independent in the performance of his or her duties, and be responsible for the tasks set out in that article,
- (2) Article 25(2) of the Financial Rules states that Joint Undertakings may appoint the same accounting officer,

¹ OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17–119.

- (3) Article 13(1) of the SBA states that to gain synergies and efficiencies Joint undertakings shall, within one year following the date of entry into force of the SBA, operate back office arrangements (hereafter “BOAs”), amongst other areas, in accounting (excluding treasury),
- (4) The European Commission (Directorate-General for Budget) has informed in its note ARES(2021)6560472 of 25 November 2021 about the termination of DG Budget’s accounting services to Joint Undertakings as from 1 December 2022,
- (5) Following a formal request (ARES(2022)5976078) sent by the Europe Rail JU to all the Executive Directors of the Joint Undertakings², the SNS JU expressed an interest in the BOA for Accounting Services proposed by the Europe Rail JU,
- (6) In respect of Article 25 of the Financial rules, it is up to the Governing Board of each Joint Undertaking to adopt the necessary decision to entrust the Accounting Officer function to an Accounting Officer working for a “JU Accounting Provider”,
- (7) The Accounting Officer’s skills and competences will allow fulfilling the duties established in the Financial Rules and the necessary handover with the former Accounting Officer,
- (8) The SNS JU made the necessary arrangements in order to avoid any conflict of interests as regards the nominated Accounting Officers and deputy Accounting Officers.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1
Accounting Officer for the SNS JU

Ms Katty Hancq (SESAR 3 JU) is hereby appointed as the Accounting Officer of the SNS JU and will also perform those tasks for the other Joint Undertakings that expressed the interest to join the BOA for Accounting Services.

² Article 3 SBA: (a) the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking; (b) the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking; (c) the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking; (d) the Europe’s Rail Joint Undertaking; (e) the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking; (f) the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking; (g) the Key Digital Technologies Joint Undertaking; (h) the Single European Sky ATM Research 3 Joint Undertaking; (i) the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking. And in addition, also including the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking.

Article 2
Deputy Accounting Officers for the SNS JU

Mr Andrei Hretu (EU-Rail) and Ms Andrea Toth (CAJU) are hereby appointed as the Deputy Accounting Officers of the SNS JU and will also perform those tasks for the other Joint Undertakings that expressed the interest to join the BOA for Accounting Services.

The deputization will occur in case of the impossibility of the Accounting Officer appointed in Article 1 of this Decision, to perform her/his task in accordance with Article 25(1) of the Financial Rules. This role will only be activated after the Governing Board is informed in writing. The information should clarify the reason for the deputizing activation, the name of the Deputy Accounting Officer and the expected duration of the deputization.

Once the deputization is activated, the Deputy Accounting Officer is considered appointed with the same responsibility and at the same conditions as set out in Article 25(1) of the Financial Rules.

Article 3

The Executive Director of the SNS JU shall make this decision publicly available on the SNS JU's website.

Article 4

This decision shall enter into force on the day that the SNS JU acquires its autonomy.

Done at Brussels, on 14 December 2022

For the Governing Board

Colin Willcock
The Chairperson