



**DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SMART NETWORKS AND SERVICES
JOINT UNDERTAKING No 02 /2024**

On the setting-up of the Staff Committee

THE GOVERNING BOARD,

Having regard to the Staff Regulations of Officials (hereinafter “Staff Regulations”) and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union (hereinafter “CEOS”), laid down by Council Regulation (EEC, EURATOM, ECSC) No 259/68, and in particular Articles 9, 10a and 110(2) thereof, Article 1 of Annex II to the Staff Regulations and Article 7 of the CEOS,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe¹, and notably the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking (hereinafter “the SNS JU”), and in particular Articles 37(1) and 17(2)(v) thereof,

Having regard to Communication C(2014) 6543 final of 26 September 2014 from Vice-President Šefčovič to the Commission on the guidelines on the implementation of Article 110(2) of the Staff Regulations with regard to the implementing rules applicable in the agencies, and in particular Point 2.B thereof,

Having regard to the Governing Board Rules of Procedure of the SNS JU, and in particular Article 10,

Having regard to the agreement of the European Commission pursuant to Article 110(2) of the Staff Regulations Commission’s Decision C(2016) 3323 of 27 May 2026,

After informing the Staff,

WHEREAS

- (1) The Joint Undertaking should set up a Staff Committee which should represent the interests of the staff vis-à-vis the Joint Undertaking.
- (2) A Staff Committee should perform the functions assigned to it by the Staff Regulations, in particular by Articles 9(3) and 110(2) thereof.
- (3) The Joint Undertaking should determine the composition and procedure of the Staff Committee in accordance with the provisions of Annex II to the Staff Regulations while, according to Article 9(2) of the Staff Regulations, a derogation regarding membership is possible to take into account the composition of the Joint Undertaking’s staff.

¹ This Regulation is also equally named “Single Basic Act (SBA)” or “Founding Regulation” in SNS JU documents; OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17.

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Article 1 — Scope

1. A Staff Committee (hereinafter 'the Committee') is hereby created.
2. This Decision governs the composition and functioning of the Committee within the SNS JU.
3. The Committee represents staff covered by the CEOS. These staff comprise temporary staff, contract staff and other categories of staff, if any, referred to in Article 1 of the CEOS. Collectively, these staff are hereinafter referred to as 'the staff', unless otherwise specified.

Article 2 — Tasks

1. The Committee shall represent the interests of the staff vis-à-vis the SNS JU and maintain continuous contact between the SNS JU and its staff.
2. The Committee shall contribute to the smooth running of the SNS JU by providing a channel for the expression of opinion by the staff.
3. The Committee shall bring any difficulty that has general implications concerning the interpretation and application of the Staff Regulations and the CEOS to the notice of:
 - the Executive Director; or
 - other persons designated by the Executive Director; or, exceptionally,
 - in specific, duly justified cases, the Governing Board.The Committee may be consulted on any difficulty of this kind.
4. The Committee shall submit to the Executive Director suggestions concerning the organisation and operation of the SNS JU services and proposals for the improvement of staff working conditions or general living conditions.
5. The Committee shall participate in the management and supervision of social welfare bodies set up by the SNS JU in the interests of its staff. It may, with the consent of the Executive Director, set up such welfare bodies.
6. The Committee shall be consulted on implementing rules giving effect to the Staff Regulations and to the CEOS before the Governing Board decides on their application within the SNS JU.
7. The Committee shall exercise any other role provided for in the Staff Regulations, in implementing measures to the Staff Regulations/CEOS and in any act adopted by the SNS JU.

Article 3 — Composition

1. The composition of the Committee, as set out below, shall, as far as possible, reflect the composition of the SNS JU staff, in particular as regards the categories of staff².
2. The Committee shall consist of three full members.
3. If there are enough candidates, there may be up to an equivalent number of alternates. The alternate member shall replace a full member in the latter's absence.

Article 4 — Terms of office

1. The term of office of the Committee shall be two years.
2. In the event of the Committee collectively resigning or a motion of no-confidence in it being passed, new elections shall be organised within one month.
3. If the Committee's term of office expires before a new Committee has been elected, the sitting members shall remain in office until replaced by the newly elected members. This period shall not be longer than six months.

Article 5 — Membership

1. The duties undertaken by members of the Committee shall be deemed to be part of their normal service in the SNS JU. The fact of performing such duties shall in no way be prejudicial to the person concerned.
2. The term of office of a member of the Committee shall cease upon death, resignation from the Committee, or termination of employment with the SNS JU.
3. Membership of the Committee does not constitute special grounds for extending a time-limited employment contract.
4. A member of the Committee who changes function group or category of staff during his or her term of office shall remain in office until the term of the Committee expires.
5. Should the term of a full member of the Committee end prematurely, his or her office shall be attributed to the alternate member with the highest number of votes at the last election

Article 6 — Functioning

1. The Committee shall elect a Chair by a majority of its full members.
2. The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure, which shall be notified to the Executive Director and to the staff. It may also determine the distribution of duties among its members.
3. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year.
4. The Committee and the Executive Director shall meet at least two times a year.

² Temporary staff in function group AD; Temporary staff in function group AST; Temporary staff in function group AST/SC; Contract staff and other types of staff mentioned in Article 1 of the CEOS if any.

5. The Committee shall convene a general meeting of staff at least once during its term of office in order to present a report on its activities and propose its future action plans.
6. Meetings of the Committee shall be competent to transact business only where at least the majority of its full members are present or represented by alternates. If the quorum is not reached, the meeting shall be reconvened by means of a letter or an email sent to all full members and alternates in accordance with the rules of procedure.
7. Decisions shall be taken by a majority of full members present or represented by alternates.

Article 7 — Consultation

1. If consulted, the Committee shall have a minimum period of 15 working days to declare its position on relevant matters.
2. If no opinion is delivered within the period prescribed, the SNS JU shall take its decision.

Article 8 — Facilities at the Committee's disposal

1. Subject to the agreement of the Executive Director, the Committee shall be entitled to make use of the SNS JU facilities in order to perform its duties and inform staff.
2. Missions carried out by members of the Committee, in the exercise of their duties, shall be reimbursed according to the standard rules applied by the SNS JU, including budgetary limitations.

Article 9 — Electoral rules

1. The conditions for electing the Committee shall be laid down as rules of electoral procedure at a general meeting of the staff of the SNS JU. These conditions shall ensure, to the extent possible, that staff of all categories are represented in the Committee.
2. The members of the Committee shall be elected by a secret ballot of:
 - staff members covered by the CEOS whose contracts are for an indefinite period or for one year or more; and
 - staff members covered by the CEOS whose contracts are for less than one year, provided they have been employed by the SNS JU for at least six months.
3. A staff member, covered by the CEOS, with an indefinite contract or whose contract is for one year or more shall be entitled to stand for election to the Committee.
4. Elections shall be valid only if two thirds of those entitled to vote take part in the voting. If this proportion is not attained, the second vote shall be valid if the majority of those entitled to vote take part in the voting. The second vote shall be organised immediately after the first one.
5. The list of the Committee's members shall be brought to the attention of all the SNS JU staff in a suitable form.

Article 10 — Final provisions

1. The Commission's Decision on the composition and functioning of the Staff Committee of 23/12/1997 does not apply by analogy at the SNS JU.
2. This Decision shall take effect the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, on 04 March 2024.

For the Governing Board

Pearse O'Donohue

The Chair