DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF SMART NETWORKS AND SERVICES JOINT UNDERTAKING No 10/2026

on the appointment of members of the Stakeholders Group, the approval of its Rules of Procedure and the continuation of the Call for Expression of Interest

THE GOVERNING BOARD,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe (hereinafter "the Single Basic Act")[1], and in particular Articles 22 and 165 thereof;

Having regard to Governing Board Decision No 15/2025 of 18 December 2025[2] approving the selection criteria and procedure for the renewal of the Stakeholders Group and launching the Call for Expression of Interest;

Having regard to the Call for Expression of Interest for the selection of members of the Stakeholders Group of the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking (SNS JU) published on 22 December 2025[3];

Having regard to the Eligibility Assessment Report established by the Eligibility Panel on 01 June 2026[4];

Having regard to the Evaluation Panel Report and recommendations on 30 June 2026[5];

WHEREAS

(1) Article 165 of the Single Basic Act establishes the Stakeholders Group as one of the bodies of the SNS JU;

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1 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R2085&from=EN
2 https://smart-networks.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/15-2025-gb-decision-sns-stakeholders-g-coi-08.12.2025-annex.pdf
3 https://smart-networks.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/sns_sg_cei-4.pdf
4 Ares(2026)5535735.
5 Ares(2026)6602770.

(2) Pursuant to Article 22 of the Single Basic Act, the Stakeholders Group shall ensure a broad participation of public and private stakeholders active in the field of the Joint Undertaking and shall provide positions and views from across the relevant value chain;

(3) Pursuant to Article 22(3) of the Single Basic Act, the Governing Board is responsible for establishing the specific criteria and selection process for the composition of the Stakeholders Group and shall aim to ensure balanced representation;

(4) By Decision No 15/2025, the Governing Board approved the Call for Expression of Interest establishing the eligibility criteria, selection criteria and appointment procedure applicable to the renewal of the Stakeholders Group;

(5) The Eligibility Panel established by the Executive Director verified compliance of applications with the eligibility criteria set out in the Call for Expression of Interest and transmitted the eligible applications to the Evaluation Panel;

(6) The Evaluation Panel assessed the eligible applications against the applicable selection criteria and submitted its recommendations to the Executive Director;

(7) The Governing Board has examined the outcome of the eligibility and evaluation processes and has taken into account the recommendations of the Evaluation Panel;

(8) In accordance with Section 4.2 of the Call for Expression of Interest, the Governing Board shall aim to ensure an appropriate balance in terms of geographical distribution, sectoral representation, stakeholders' expertise, gender balance and representation across the connectivity value chain;

(9) The Governing Board notes that the appointment of the organisations listed in Annex II enables the Stakeholders Group to become operational and to contribute to the objectives set out in Article 22 of the Single Basic Act. However, additional participation from stakeholder categories currently underrepresented would further contribute to achieving a balanced and representative composition of the Stakeholders Group across the connectivity value chain, in accordance with Article 22 of the Single Basic Act and the objectives set out in the Call for Expression of Interest;

(10) The Governing Board further notes that, despite the quality and relevance of the applications received, additional applications would contribute to further improving the representativeness and diversity objectives set out in the Call for Expression of Interest, including with regard to stakeholder categories currently underrepresented in the candidate pool;

(11) In order to further strengthen the representativeness, diversity and balance of the Stakeholders Group over time, including facilitating compliance with the requirement that organisations affiliated with the 6G-IA should not represent more than two thirds of the Stakeholders Group membership, it is appropriate to keep the Call for Expression of Interest open until further decision of the Governing Board;

(12) In order to ensure the effective functioning of the Stakeholders Group and to provide clarity regarding its organisation and working methods, it is appropriate to approve the Rules of Procedure set out in Annex I;

(13) Additional applications received during the period during which the Call for Expression of Interest remains open should be assessed in accordance with the same eligibility and selection criteria and may result in additional appointments by the Governing Board.

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Article 1
Appointment of Stakeholders Group Members

The organisations listed in Annex II are hereby appointed as members of the Stakeholders Group of the SNS JU for a period of two years in accordance with Section 5.2 of the Call for Expression of Interest.

Article 2
Approval of the Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure of the Stakeholders Group, set out in Annex I, are hereby approved.
The Stakeholders Group shall operate in accordance with those Rules of Procedure.

Article 3
Continuation of the Call for Expression of Interest

The Call for Expression of Interest for the selection of members of the Stakeholders Group shall remain open until further decision of the Governing Board.

The Executive Director shall take the necessary measures to ensure appropriate publication of the continuation of the Call for Expression of Interest.

Article 4
Assessment of Additional Applications

Applications received during the extended application period shall be assessed in accordance with the eligibility and selection criteria established by Governing Board Decision No 15/2025 and the Call for Expression of Interest, unless otherwise provided by a subsequent Governing Board Decision.

The Eligibility Panel and the Evaluation Panel shall assess such applications and submit their recommendations to the Governing Board.

Article 5
Additional Appointments

Following completion of the assessment process referred to in Article 4, the Governing Board may appoint additional members of the Stakeholders Group in order to further strengthen its balance, diversity and representativeness.

Any additional members appointed pursuant to this Article shall serve for the remainder of the mandate of the Stakeholders Group.

Article 6
Entry into Force

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, on 15 July 2026

For the Governing Board,

Colin Wilcock
Chair

Annexes:
- Annex I- Rules of procedure of the SNS JU Stakeholders Group
- Annex II- Report of the Evaluation Panel and List of appointed members of the Stakeholders Group

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Article 1
Scope

1. These Rules of Procedure regulate the organisation and functioning of the Stakeholders Group (hereinafter "SG") of the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking (SNS JU).
2. These Rules of Procedure shall apply to the extent that specific provisions are not already laid down in Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe (hereinafter "Single Basic Act"), the relevant Governing Board decisions and the applicable Call for Expression of Interest.
3. These Rules of Procedure shall be interpreted in accordance with the Single Basic Act and shall not derogate from it.

Article 2
Role of the Stakeholders Group

1. The SG shall support the SNS JU by providing expertise and comments from across the smart networks and services ecosystem.
2. The SG shall contribute to ensuring broad stakeholder participation and shall provide strategic advice and comments on activities and initiatives relevant to the objectives of the SNS JU focusing on innovation of advanced connectivity technologies, including:
    a) to advise on the strategic and the technological priorities to be addressed by the SNS JU as laid down in the Annual Work Programme;
    b) to facilitate dialogue and alignment across technology sectors adjacent to the technology focus of SNS JU, i.e. advanced connectivity, with Member States, and with other European initiatives;
    c) to provide feedback on the preparation of the SNS JU's multi-annual Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) taking due account of the progress and needs in technology sectors adjacent to advanced connectivity technology, such as microelectronics, AI, cloud, etc); and
    d) to provide advice on any topics falling within the remit of SNS JU missions.
3. The SNS JU Executive Director may advise the Governing Board to consult the SG on specific questions. Where such consultation takes place, a report shall be submitted to the

GB and to the SRG after the relevant discussion in the SG. Such reports should concern relevant aspects of the JU's activities, including:

a) alignment of research and innovation activities with relevant policy and regulation, particularly in areas like standards, and spectrum;

b) synergies between JU-funded activities and members' own research, deployment and investment strategies to foster collaboration and avoid duplication; and

c) scale-up of European innovations, especially through private investment and industry adoption.

Article 3
Membership

1. The SG consists of organisations appointed by the Governing Board in accordance with the Single Basic Act, the applicable Governing Board Decision and the Call for Expression of Interest.
2. Each member organisation shall designate one representative and one alternate representative.
3. Any change of representative shall be notified in writing to the SNS JU Programme Office.
4. The names of the member organisations and their representatives will be published on the SNS JU website.
5. Members shall contribute to the work of the SG through their designated representatives. Representatives shall provide views, expertise and advice within their fields of competence, acting in the interest of the objectives of the SNS JU. Representatives of organisations that are members of the 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association (6G-IA) shall participate on behalf of their respective organisations and shall not be deemed to represent the position of the 6G-IA.

Article 4
Chair and Vice-Chair

1. The SG shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among its representatives.
2. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected for a period of two years and may be re-elected.
3. The Chair shall:
   (a) organise and coordinate the work of the SG;
   (b) chair meetings;
   (c) approve draft agendas;
   (d) facilitate the preparation of SG comments;
   (e) represent the SG vis-à-vis the Governing Board and the Executive Director.
4. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair and replace the Chair whenever necessary.

Article 5
Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

1. The first election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair shall take place during the first meeting of a newly appointed SG.
2. Candidates may nominate themselves or be proposed by another member.

3. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall preferably be elected by consensus.
4. Where consensus cannot be reached, the election shall take place by simple majority of the members present or represented.
5. In the event of a vacancy, a replacement shall be elected for the remainder of the mandate according to the same voting rules.

Article 6
Meetings

1. The SG shall meet at least once per calendar year and, where appropriate, additional meetings may be organised.
2. Meetings may be held physically, virtually or in hybrid format, with the support of the SNS JU Programme Office.
3. The Executive Director shall convene the meetings, in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Single Basic Act and participate therein.
4. The Executive Director may convene additional meetings where necessary, including for consultation on specific questions relevant to the activities of the SNS JU.
5. Members shall receive written notice, including the provisional agenda, no later than ten calendar days before the meeting.

Article 7
Observers and Participants

1. The status of permanent observer is assigned to:

   - The European Commission represented by DG CNECT E1 officials;

   - The 6G-IA;

   - The SRG Chairs and Vice-chair;

   - The SNS JU Executive director.

2. The Chair may grant a status of observers to any other third party upon agreement of a majority of members present or represented.
3. Representatives of the Programme Office and External experts may be invited by the Chair for specific agenda items.
4. Observers and invited participants can participate to the meetings and shall not have voting rights.

Article 8
Agenda and Documentation

1. The draft agenda shall be prepared by the Programme Office in consultation with the Chair.
2. The invitation, draft agenda and supporting documents shall normally be circulated at least fourteen calendar days before the meeting.
3. In urgent cases, this deadline may be reduced.
4. The agenda shall be adopted at the beginning of each meeting.

Article 9
Quorum

1. A quorum shall exist when at least one half of the appointed members are present or represented.
2. A member organisation unable to attend a meeting may authorise another member organisation to represent it for the purposes of establishing a quorum and voting. Such authorisation shall be notified in writing to the Programme Office before the meeting.
3. No member organisation may represent more than one other member organisation.

Article 10
Comments and Reports

1. The SG shall strive to reach consensus in the adoption of its comments and reports.
2. Where consensus cannot be reached, comments and reports may be adopted by simple majority of the members present or represented.
3. Diverging views may be recorded in the minutes upon request.
4. Comments and reports of the SG shall be drafted based on the inputs provided by the members and on the basis of the discussions held in the SG, with support from the Programme Office where appropriate.
5. Reports on specific questions submitted by the Governing Board upon proposal of the Executive Director shall be drafted by the Chair and Vice-Chair on the basis of the discussions of the SG, with support from the Programme Office where appropriate. Such reports shall be adopted by the SG before transmission to the Governing Board and the States' Representatives Group. They shall be made publicly available on the SNS JU website in accordance with Article 22(6) of the Single Basic Act.
6. Any other documents or comments adopted by the SG may be made publicly available on the website of the SNS JU, subject to any applicable confidentiality requirements, upon agreement of a majority of members present or represented.

Article 11
Written Procedure

1. In alternative to the procedure of adoption during meetings, comments and reports may also be adopted by the members by written procedure.
2. The Executive Director, following consultation with the Chair, shall circulate the proposal and supporting documents to all members.
3. The deadline for replies shall normally be fifteen working days.
4. In duly justified urgent cases, a shorter deadline of not less than five working days may be set.
5. The tacit agreement principle shall apply. Members not replying within the deadline shall be deemed to agree.
6. A proposal shall be considered adopted if it receives the agreement of a simple majority of the members.

7. Proposals submitted under written procedure shall be approved or rejected in their entirety.
8. The result of the written procedure shall be communicated to all members within ten working days following the expiry of the deadline.

Article 12
Minutes

1. Draft minutes shall be prepared by the SNS JU Programme Office.
2. Draft minutes shall be circulated within twenty calendar days after the meeting.
3. Members shall have ten calendar days to provide comments.
4. The minutes shall be approved at the following meeting or by written procedure.
5. Subject to applicable confidentiality requirements, summaries of meetings will be published on the SNS JU website.

Article 13
Transparency

The work of the SG shall be subject to the transparency provisions applicable to the SNS JU and to the Single Basic Act.

Article 14
Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

1. Members and observers shall respect the confidentiality requirements applicable to SNS JU bodies (available online).
2. Members and observers shall submit declarations of interests upon appointment and whenever a relevant change occurs.
3. Members shall immediately inform the Chair of any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest in relation to a matter under discussion.
4. Following consultation with the Executive Director, the Chair may decide that the concerned member shall not participate in the discussion of the relevant item.
5. Members and observers shall comply with the conflict-of-interest rules adopted by the Governing Board.

Article 15
Secretariat

The SNS JU Programme Office shall provide secretariat and administrative support to the SG.

Article 16
Amendment of the Rules of Procedure

1. The SG may propose amendments to these Rules of Procedure.
2. Any proposed amendment shall require the support of at least two thirds of the SG members.
3. Amendments shall enter into force only after approval by the Governing Board.

Article 17
Entry into Force

These Rules of Procedure shall enter into force on the date of their approval by the Governing Board.