



Brussels, 29.6.2021
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 29.6.2021

**setting up the Commission Expert Group on the common European Data Space for
Cultural Heritage and repealing Decision C(2017) 1444**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Whereas:

- (1) By Decision C(2017) 1444 of 7 March 2017 the Commission set up the Expert Group on Digital Cultural Heritage and Europeana, the role of which is to review and discuss policies for digital cultural heritage.
- (2) The Expert Group should be entrusted with new tasks, especially in relation to the development of the common Data Space for Cultural Heritage and its further link with other Data spaces under the Digital Europe Programme.
- (3) The common European Data Space for Cultural Heritage is a flagship initiative of the Digital Europe programme. It will give cultural heritage institutions the possibility to build on the scale of the Single market, in line with the European data strategy¹. The common European Data Space aims at fostering the reuse of content and enhancing creativity in various sectors, with value for the whole economy and society. In particular, it will provide high quality content and efficient, trusted and easy to use access to European digital cultural heritage assets. It will enhance collaborations and partnerships with the network of data partners (e.g. museums, galleries, libraries, archives across Europe), aggregators and experts working in the field of digital cultural heritage.
- (4) The Expert Group should discuss the most appropriate ways for developing the common European Data Space for Cultural Heritage. The Group should review and discuss policies for advancing digitisation and digital preservation of cultural heritage assets and ensuring a wide online access to these, in the light of the most recent developments in the field.
- (5) The Expert Group should also contribute to the monitoring of the implementation of future recommendations issued by the Commission in the field, provide a forum for cooperation between Member States' bodies and the Commission in the relevant areas, and provide advice on specific policy issues where such advice is important for the development of Union policies or legislation.
- (6) The mandate of the current Expert Group comes to an end on 30 June 2021². In order to reflect the new tasks, a Commission Expert Group on the common European Data Space for Cultural Heritage should succeed the current Expert Group.
- (7) Decision C(2017) 1444 should therefore be repealed and replaced by this Decision,

¹ [A European strategy for data, COM\(2020\) 66 final.](#)

² The applicability of Decision C(2017) 1444 was extended to that date by Decision of 17 December 2020 [C(2020) 9180].

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Subject matter

The Commission Expert Group on the common European Data Space for Cultural Heritage ('the Group') is set up.

Article 2

Tasks

The Group's tasks shall be:

- (a) to review and discuss policies for digital cultural heritage, notably by assisting the Commission in monitoring and assessing the progress and the impact of the recommendations that the Commission may issue in the field;
- (b) to provide a forum for cooperation between Member State bodies and the Commission at European level; to exchange information and good practices of Member States' policies and strategies on the advanced digitisation, digital preservation and development of the European common Data Space for Cultural Heritage;
- (c) to contribute to the evolution of the data space and sustainability of Europeana; to support the Commission in defining the general objectives and priorities for actions for the data space under the Digital Europe Programme, in particular by acting as a governance body to support policy related decisions;
- (d) to assist the Commission in monitoring developments regarding the way cultural digital resources can be innovatively re-used to offer economic opportunities to the cultural and creative industries;
- (e) to assist the Commission in the early preparation of implementing acts, before submission to the committee in accordance with Regulation (EU) No182/2011³

Article 3

Membership

1. The members of the Group shall be Member States' competent authorities that shall appoint up to two permanent representatives from specialists who have competence in the areas referred to in Article 2.
2. Member States' competent authorities shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise.
3. Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725⁴ of the European Parliament and of the Council.

³ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 1).

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

Article 4

Chair

The Group shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission's Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology ('DG CNECT').

Article 5

Operation

1. The group shall act at the request of DG CNECT, in compliance with the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups ('the horizontal rules')⁵.
2. The Group shall normally meet twice a year. It may also be convened for additional *ad-hoc* meetings when urgent advice is needed.
3. Meetings of the Group shall, in principle, be held on Commission premises. The Commission shall provide secretarial services.
4. Commission officials from other departments with an interest in the proceedings may attend meetings of the Group and its sub-Groups.
5. In agreement with DG CNECT, the group may, by simple majority of its members, decide that deliberations shall be public.
6. Minutes on the discussion on each point on 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 Chair.
7. The Group shall operate in a collegial way, seeking consensus among its members. The working procedures shall seek to ensure that all members take an active role in the activities of the Group.

Article 6

Sub-groups

1. DG CNECT may set up sub-groups for the purpose of examining specific questions on the basis of terms of reference defined by the Commission. Sub-groups shall operate in compliance with the horizontal rules and shall report to the Group. They shall be dissolved as soon as their mandate is fulfilled.
2. The members of the Group shall nominate representatives for each sub-group. The Commission may also select the members of sub-groups via an open public call for applications in compliance with the horizontal rules.

⁵ C(2016) 3301.

Article 7

Invited experts

The Chairperson of the Group may invite experts with specific expertise with respect to a subject matter on the agenda to take part in the work of the Group or sub-groups on an ad hoc basis.

Article 8

Observers

1. The Chairperson of the Group may give observer status to individuals, organisations or public entities, such as candidate countries or third countries, in compliance with the horizontal rules.
2. Organisations and public entities appointed as observers shall nominate their representatives.
3. Observers and their representatives may be permitted by the Chair to take part in the discussions of the Group and provide expertise. However, they shall not participate in the formulation of recommendations or advice of the Group.

Article 9

Rules of procedure

On a proposal by and in agreement with DG CNECT, the Group shall adopt its rules of procedure by simple majority of its members, on the basis of the standard rules of procedure for expert groups, in compliance with the horizontal rules.

Article 10

Professional secrecy and handling of classified information

The members of the Group and their representatives, as well as invited experts and observers, are subject to the obligation of professional secrecy, which by virtue of the Treaties and the rules implementing them applies to all members of the institutions and their staff, as well as to the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, laid down in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443⁶ and 2015/444⁷. Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

Article 11

Transparency

1. The Group and its sub-groups shall be registered in the Register of Commission Expert Groups. The names of the EU Member States represented, of the other public entities and of the observers shall be published.
2. All relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants' submissions, shall be made available either on the Register of expert groups or via 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

⁶ OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41.

⁷ OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53.

restriction. In particular, the agenda and other relevant background documents shall be published in due time ahead of the meeting, followed by timely publication of minutes. Exceptions to publication shall only be foreseen where it is deemed that disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001⁸.

Article 12

Meeting expenses

1. Participants in the activities of the Group and its sub-groups shall not be remunerated for the services they offer.
2. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the Group and its sub-groups shall be reimbursed by the Commission. Reimbursement shall be made in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commission and within the limits of the available appropriations allocated to the Commission departments under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

Article 13

Repeal

Decision C(2017) 1444 is repealed.

Done at Brussels, 29.6.2021

For the Commission

Thierry BRETON

Member of the Commission

⁸ OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43.