Ref. Ares(2024)4496008 - 21/06/2024

European Institute of Innovation & Technology

DECISION 20/2024
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF
THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (EIT)

ON THE SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR NEW MEMBERS OF THE EIT GOVERNING BOARD

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) ('EIT Regulation'), and, in particular, Section 1 of the Statutes annexed thereto ('Statutes')[1];

Having regard to Decision 18/2021 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 11 May 2021 on the Rules of Procedure of the EIT Governing Board and Executive Committee, and, in particular, Article 16[2];

Having regard to Commission Decision of 3.5.2021 on appointing four new members to the Governing Board of European Institute of Institute of Innovation and Technology[3];

Having regard to Decision 25/2023 of the Governing Board of the EIT of 13 July 2023 on the Code of Conduct of the EIT Governing Board[4].

WHEREAS

(1) The EIT Governing Board shall consist of 15 members, appointed by the European Commission ('the Commission') for a four-year term of office, which may be extended once by a two-year period.[5]

(2) The Commission may appoint four members to the GB as the term of four the appointed members expires on 03 May 2025.

(3) Members of the Board act in the interest of the EIT, safeguarding its mission and objectives, identity, autonomy and coherence, in an independent and transparent manner.[6] They are bound by the Code of Conduct of the EIT Governing Board[7].

[1] *OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61–90*
[2] *Ref. Ares(2021)3139636*
[3] *Brussels, 3.5.2021, C(2021) 2999 final*
[4] *ARES (2023)4915633*
[5] *EIT Regulation, Section 1 (1), first indent.*
[6] *EIT Regulation, Section 1 (2).*
[7] *ARES (2023)4915633*

(4) Where necessary, the Governing Board shall submit to the Commission a shortlist of candidates for the purposes of the appointment of a member or members. The shortlisted candidates shall be selected on the basis of the outcome of a transparent and open procedure initiated by the EIT.[8]

(5) In appointing the members of the Governing Board, the Commission shall make best efforts to ensure a balanced representation of those with experience in the fields of higher education (including vocational education and training), research, innovation and business, as well as gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the Union.[9]

(6) The Commission may establish a reserve list of substitute Governing Board members, to be appointed in the event that a Governing Board member appointed under this procedure is unable to complete his or her term of office.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Selection procedure

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

Article 2

Advisory Group

The mandate and role of the Advisory Group for the selection procedure for new members of the Governing Board is hereby adopted as set out in Annex II to this Decision.

Article 3

Timeline of the selection procedure

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

Article 4

Entry into force

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

Done in Eindhoven on 18 June 2024

(e-signed)
Nektarios Tavernarakis
Chairperson of the EIT Governing Board

[8] *EIT Regulation, Section 1 (1), third indent.*
[9] *EIT Regulation, Section 1 (1), second indent.*

ANNEX I

Selection procedure

for the appointment of new members of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

1. The selection procedure shall follow the requirements laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast), and, in particular, the Statutes annexed thereto ('Statutes'), Section 1.

2. The Governing Board of the EIT ('the Board') intends to submit to the European Commission ('the Commission') a shortlist of proposed candidates for the appointment of new members of the Board. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Board will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order.

3. The new members will serve for a four-year term of office, which may be extended by the Commission once by a two-year period on the proposal of the Governing Board.

4. If the number of candidates proposed by the Board is inferior to the available positions, the Board will take the necessary steps to launch a new selection procedure for the remaining open positions.

5. The selection procedure is expected to take around 10 months following the setting up of the Steering Committee.[10]

6. The Board will approve the establishment of an Advisory Group and will decide on its composition, role and mandate[11].

I. Call for expression of interest and selection criteria

7. This selection procedure shall be initiated by a Call for expression of interest ('Call') adopted by a separate decision of the EIT Governing Board.

8. The start of the period of the term of office of the new members of the Governing Board should be counted from the day of their appointment by the Commission, unless otherwise specified in the Commission Decision appointing the new members.

9. The above-mentioned Call shall be published on the EIT's website and shall remain open for at least ten weeks. The Call will also be disseminated by the EIT via the EIT's stakeholder network by social media, as well as e-mail,

[10] *See Annex II.*
[11] *See Annex II.*

including to EU institutions, EU Member States and multiplier organisations from the knowledge triangle, to attract the right calibre of applicants. The call shall also be published in at least one major international business journal, as well as on the Commission's social media.

10. The following criteria will be specified in the call for expressions of interest: eligibility criteria and selection criteria.

a) **Eligibility criteria:**

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

- *Professional Experience — Candidates must have at least 5 years of relevant experience in at least one of the following areas: research, business or education; and*
- *Languages — Candidates must have an excellent knowledge of English.*

In addition to the above requirements, the following *exclusion criteria* shall be implemented where:

- the candidate is in a situation of conflict of interest pursuant to the Code of Conduct of the EIT Governing Board[12].
- the candidate has been guilty of grave professional misconduct, has been convicted of an offence concerning his or her professional conduct or has been the subject of a judgment that has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the EU's financial interests.

b) **Selection criteria:**

The new members of the Board shall demonstrate:

- evidenced strong track record, achievements and widespread reputation in at least one of the following lines of work: innovator, academic, scientist, entrepreneur, business leader, or investor;
- evidenced strong track record of knowledge triangle integration (i.e. cooperation between business, research and education) to foster innovation at the European or global level;
- evidenced strong track record of building governance frameworks in large organisations or in impact investment or leading effective communication campaigns.

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

II. Applications

12. Applications shall be submitted via the online application form before expiry of the deadline specified in the Call.

13. The candidates shall be assessed on the basis of the criteria specified in the Call.

14. Applications shall be submitted in English and shall contain the following:

a) a Curriculum Vitae (CV) of maximum 3 pages; and

[12] *ARES (2023)4915633*

b) the application form on identification, criteria (including eligibility, exclusion, and selection criteria) and motivation, duly signed and completed by the candidate.

III. Internal Selection Procedure

15. Following the closing of the Call and after receipt of the applications, the EIT will compile a list of the applications received. The EIT will check whether the applications are complete and have been correctly and timely submitted. In the interest of the EIT, where a clerical mistake has been corrected in an application, such applications may be included in the list of proposed candidates.

16. The EIT will then perform a preliminary assessment of the above-mentioned list of applications. The EIT will assess the submitted applications according to the eligibility criteria set out above.

17. EIT staff who are involved in the assessment of applications are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest based on the list of applications received after the clothe closure of Call.

18. After establishing the preliminary list of candidates, the EIT will forward this list to the Advisory Group.

19. After receiving the preliminary list of candidates from the EIT and in consultation with the Commission's Observer, the Advisory Group will assess the received applications in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Call and conduct interviews with the candidates who scored highest based on the evaluation of their applications. Following the interviews, the Advisory Group, in consultation with the Commission's Observer, will issue a report on this selection procedure which will include a shortlist of proposed candidates to be submitted to the Board for its approval. The Advisory Group will ensure that the balance on the Governing Board composition required by the EIT Regulation[13] is reflected in the shortlist proposed, in order to allow the Commission to take a decision in compliance with the above-mentioned requirements. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Advisory Group will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order.

20. The Governing Board will discuss, approve and forward the shortlist of proposed candidates to the Commission for the appointment of new Board. The shortlist will include at least ten candidates in view of the possible substitutes to be appointed. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Governing Board will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order.

IV. Appointment of new members of the Board

21. The new members of the Governing Board will be appointed by the Commission on the basis of a proposal submitted by the Governing Board and after having a regard to the balance between higher education (including vocational education and training), research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the Union.

[13] *The Commission shall make best efforts to ensure a balanced representation of those with experience in the fields of higher education (including vocational education and training), research, innovation and business, as well as gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the Union.*

22. If, the Commission appoints fewer Board members than the open positions, the Board will launch a new procedure for the remaining open positions

23. The Commission may establish a reserve list for substitute members from candidates proposed by the Board but not appointed under this selection procedure, which can be used if there is a need to replace members appointed under the current procedure who are unable to complete their term of office. The reserve list established will remain valid for the whole duration of the mandate of the appointed members of the Board under this decision.

24. The Commission will notify to the EIT the Decision of appointment of new EIT Governing Board members along with the reserve list for substitute members, if is constituted.

25. The EIT will inform the shortlisted candidates and other applicants about the outcome of the appointment procedure.

26. The Commission will inform the European Parliament and the Council of the EU ('the Council') of the selection procedure and of the final appointment of the new members.

ANNEX II

Mandate of the Advisory Group

for the selection procedure for the new members of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

I. Composition

27. The Advisory Group is appointed by the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) ('the Board'). The Advisory Group will be composed of three members of the Board, appointed by the Board, and of one Observer representing the European Commission ('the Commission').

II. Mandate

28. Following the closing of the call for expressions of interest ('the Call') and after receipt of applications, the EIT will produce a list of the applications received. If an insufficient number of applications has been received, the Advisory Group may decide to extend the duration of the Call before the deadline for applications has passed.

29. The Advisory Group will analyse and evaluate the applications received against the criteria set out in the Call. The Advisory Group will conduct interviews with the candidates who scored highest based on the evaluation of their applications before the shortlist of proposed candidates is finalised and submitted to the Board for discussion and approval. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Advisory Group will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order.

30. The Advisory Group will prepare a shortlist of at least ten proposed candidates.

III. Role of the Advisory Group

31. In consultation with the Commission's Observer, the members of the Advisory Group will propose a shortlist of proposed candidates to the Board for its approval. The Advisory Group ensures that the balance on the EIT Board composition required by the EIT Regulation[14] is reflected in the shortlist proposed, in order to allow the Commission to take a decision in compliance with the above-mentioned requirements.

[14] *The Commission shall make best efforts to ensure a balanced representation of those with experience in the fields of higher education (including vocational education and training), research, innovation and business, as well as gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the Union.*

32. The Advisory Group will guarantee that the principles of transparency, neutrality and absence of conflict of interest are respected. In this regard, EIT staff who are involved in the assessment of applications are required to assess and disclose any conflict of interest they may have in relation to any candidates proposed by the Advisory Group, similarly to members of the Advisory Group who shall act in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the EIT Governing Board[15]. The Advisory Group will produce a report at the end of the procedure, which will be submitted to the Governing Board.

33. The EIT will provide secretariat support to the Advisory Group. During the selection procedure, the Commission's Observer in the Advisory Group will be consulted in relation to the assessment of the selection criteria and implementation of the principles of transparency, neutrality and absence of conflict of interest.

IV. Role of the Chairperson of the Advisory Group

34. The Board will also appoint a Chairperson who will lead and coordinate the work of the Advisory Group. The Chairperson shall ensure the full independence of the Advisory Group.

35. The Chairperson will inform the Board on the progress regarding the selection procedure and will supervise the drawing up of the report.

[15] *ARES (2023)4915633*

ANNEX III

Timeline of the selection procedure[16]

The procedure for the selection of new members of the Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) ('Board') will last approximately 10 months, including an inter-service consultation within the European Commission ('Commission'). The following timeline and actions are recommended to ensure efficient and timely appointment of the new Board members:

Steps	Description	Responsible	Timeline
Approval of the selection procedure, selection criteria and timeline **Appointment** of the Advisory Group **Adoption** of the Call text	The Board shall approve: 1) the selection procedure for the proposal for the appointment of new members of the Board, the selection criteria and the related timeline in consultation with the Commission; 2) the appointment and the mandate of the Advisory Group; 3) the call for the expression of interest for the appointment of new Board members.	**Governing Board**	June 2024
Launch of the call and collection of applications	The call text will be published on the EIT's website. A wide dissemination among relevant stakeholders will be ensured by the EIT Community. The EIT will ensure that the applications are processed in accordance with the European Union's (EU) data protection rules[17].	**EIT** **Advisory Group**	**Publication:** 18 July 2024 **Deadline:** 28 October 2024
Evaluation and shortlist of proposed candidates	The Advisory Group will evaluate the applications submitted, including interviews with candidates, if applicable. The Advisory Group will issue a report which includes a shortlist of proposed candidates to the Board providing justification of their opinion. A list of other interviewed candidates and their evaluation will also be available to the Board members and the Commission's Observer in a report. Compliance with EU data protection requirements will be ensured. For the purposes of	**Advisory Group** (involving the Commission's Observer)	November 2024 – February 2025

[16] *The timeline of the selection procedure indicated in the table below is indicative.*

[17] *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.*

	this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Advisory Group will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order.		
Adoption of the shortlist of proposed candidates by the Board	The Governing Board will adopt the shortlist of proposed candidates. For the purposes of this selection procedure, the shortlist prepared by the Board will not contain a ranking of the candidates and will be presented in alphabetic order.	**Governing Board**	February 2025
Submission of the shortlist of candidates to the Commission	Following the adoption of the shortlist by the Governing Board, it will be formally sent by the Governing Board Chairperson to the Commission.	**Governing Board**	February 2025
Appointment by the Commission	The Commission will consider the shortlist with regard to the balance between higher education (including vocational education and training), research, innovation and business experience as well as to gender and geographical balance and an appreciation of the higher education, research and innovation environment across the EU. On this basis, the Commission will appoint the new members of the Board and may decide on the establishment of a reserve list of substitute members. The Commission will inform the European Parliament and the Council of the EU of the selection procedure and of the final appointment of new Board members. The EIT will inform the shortlisted and other applicants candidates about the outcome of the appointment procedure.	**European Commission**	April 2025

Electronically signed on 21/06/2024 11:45 (UTC+02) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121