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COMMISSION DECISION

of 9.4.2015

setting- up an expert group on Digital Transport and Logistics ('the Digital Transport and Logistics Forum')

(Text with EEA relevance)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Whereas:

- (1) Articles 90 and 100 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union establish that the objectives of the Treaties concerning rail, road, inland waterway, sea and air transport shall be pursued within the framework of a common transport policy.
- (2) The Commission President's Political Guidelines for 2014-2019 – "A new start for Europe: Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic change"¹, highlight that by fostering a digital single market, up to €250 billion of additional growth and hundreds of thousands of new jobs can be generated; the Guidelines therefore set the creation of a connected digital single market as one of the ten Commission priorities for the 2014-2019 period and; state that enhancing the use of digital technologies and online services should become a horizontal policy, covering all sectors of the economy and of the public sector.
- (3) The White Paper Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – "Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system"² highlights significant remaining barriers to the completion of the internal market for transport; it points out that larger volumes of freight and greater numbers of travellers should be carried jointly to their destination by the most efficient (combination of) modes; it further recognises under action 7 - e-Freight - that more efficient electronic information exchange is key to optimise freight transport efficiency by simplifying administrative procedures, providing for cargo tracking and tracing, and optimising schedules and traffic flows.
- (4) The Maritime Transport Strategy 2018³ recommends that a reference framework should be established to enable the deployment of e-Maritime services at European Union and global levels.
- (5) The Urban Mobility Package⁴ mentions that in the framework of the e-Freight initiative, attention will be given to the optimisation of information exchange for urban freight transport as part of longer (international) logistics chains.
- (6) The Commission considers there is a need to bring stakeholders from different transport and logistics communities together with the aim to build a common vision

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/docs/pg_en.pdf#page=6

² COM (2011) 144 final.

³ COM (2009) 8

⁴ COM (2013) 913 and SWD (2013) 524

for the future and to coordinate its implementation and the preparation of standards and potential legislative measures.

- (7) It is therefore suitable to set up a group of experts on improved electronic information exchange in the transport and logistics sector : the Digital Transport and Logistics Forum (hereinafter referred to as "the DTLF") and to define its tasks and structure.
- (8) The DTLF should help the Commission to advance the implementation of the measures announced in the above-mentioned White Paper.
- (9) The DTLF's output will not duplicate e.g. ongoing standardisation processes and will build on existing initiatives. In particular, the DTLF will coordinate where relevant with initiatives such as the expert group dealing with the implementation of rail telematics application for freight services ("TAF-TSI"), C-ITS, RIS, maritime national single windows, SafeSeaNet, the European Union Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS), the EU Strategy and Action Plan for customs risk management, the Big Data Value cPPP, as well as with standardisation processes at European and international levels.
- (10) The DTLF should be composed of Member States' transport authorities, as well as of public and private organisations with relevant expertise in the transport and logistics domain and with a genuine interest in collaborating towards achieving more efficient access and use of information in transport. European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries' relevant authorities should be invited to the DTLF's meetings.
- (11) Rules on disclosure of information by members of the DTLF should be laid down.
- (12) Personal data should be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵
- (13) The Decision should apply until 30 June 2018. The Commission will in due time consider the advisability of an extension of its duration.
- (14) After consulting the European Data Protection Supervisor

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Subject matter

A group of experts on electronic information exchange to support transport and logistics processes, the 'Digital Transport and Logistics Forum' (hereinafter referred to as "the DTLF") is hereby set up.

Article 2

Tasks of the Forum

1. The DTLF shall assist the Commission in implementing the Union's activities and programmes aimed at fostering more efficient electronic exchange of information in transport and logistics, with the objective of removing technical, operational and administrative barriers between and within transport modes. The DTLF's field of

⁵ Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1).

application will be focused on freight transport and logistics, taking into account interactions with traffic management systems.

2. The DTLF shall provide a platform for structural dialogue, exchange of technical knowledge, cooperation, and coordination between Member States, and relevant transport and logistics stakeholders.
3. To achieve the aims referred to in paragraph 1, the DTLF shall in particular:
 - provide advice and technical expertise to the Commission on the development and implementation of standards, legislation, policies, projects and programmes in the field of Digital Transport and Logistics;
 - facilitate exchanges of information on initiatives, projects and partnerships dealing with digital transport and logistics; and
 - deliver opinions, submit reports, or develop and propose innovative solutions to the Commission, either at the latter's request or on its own initiative, on any matter of relevance to the development of more efficient electronic information exchange in transport and logistics in the Union.

Article 3

Consultation

The Commission may consult the DTLF on matters relating to digital transport and logistics.

Article 4

Membership - Appointment

1. The DTLF shall be composed of a maximum of 110 members.
2. The members of the DTLF shall be :
 - (a) Union Member States' transport authorities ;
 - (b) Public and/or private organisations active in the following digital transport and logistics related areas :
 - (a) shippers and consignees (up to 10 organisations);
 - (b) modal transport operators, from all transport modes: road, rail, maritime, aviation, inland waterways (up to 15 organisations);
 - (c) freight forwarders or third/fourth party logistics, including trusted third parties for collaboration purposes (up to 10 organisations);
 - (d) logistics platforms and terminal managers, including ports (up to 15 organisations);
 - (e) transport infrastructure / network managers, from all transport modes, including urban authorities (up to 10 organisations);
 - (f) standardisation organisations (up to 10 organisations);
 - (g) research and innovation organisations (up to 5 organisations);
 - (h) information technologies professionals, including software developers (up to 5 organisations);
 - (i) social partners, especially trade unions (up to 5 organisations);
 - (j) banks and insurances (up to 10 organisations); and

- (k) associations addressing environmental questions in the transport domain (up to 5 organisations).
3. Member States shall nominate their representatives. They shall nominate up to one representative per Member State and one alternate to replace the representative when absent.
 4. Members referred to in paragraph 2(b) will be appointed by the Director General of the Director-General for Mobility and Transport following an open call for applications. They shall nominate one representative each and an alternate to replace the representative when absent.
 5. The Director-General for Mobility and Transport may refuse a representative or an alternate proposed by an organisation, if he or she does not meet the requirements specified in the call for application. In such cases, the organisation concerned shall be asked to nominate another representative or alternate.
 6. Members are appointed for three years. Their term of office may be renewed for the same duration.
 7. Provision may be made for the same number of alternates as members to be appointed. Alternates shall be appointed in accordance with the same conditions as members.
 8. Organisations referred to in paragraph 2(b) or their representatives may be replaced or excluded for the remainder of their term of office in any of the following cases:
 - (a) where the organisation or its representative is no longer capable of contributing effectively to the DTLF's deliberations;
 - (b) where the organisation or its representative does not comply with the condition set out in Article 339 of the Treaty;
 - (c) where the organisation or its representative resigns;
 - (d) where it is desirable in order to maintain a balanced representation of relevant areas of expertise and areas of interest; and
 - (e) where the conditions set out in the call for applications to which the concerned member has responded are no longer respected.
 9. The names of organisations shall be published in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ("the Register"); the names of Member States' authorities shall be published in the Register. The names of all members shall also be published on the internet site of the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport.
 10. Any processing of personal data in the framework of this Decision must be done in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and with Directive 95/46.

Article 5

Operation

1. The DTLF and its subgroups shall be chaired by a representative of the Commission.
2. In agreement with the Commission' services, the DTLF may set up sub-groups to examine specific questions. Members of such sub-groups shall be appointed by the Commission. When necessary, the Commission may invite representatives of specific national administrations of the Member States. Such sub-groups shall be disbanded as soon as their mandate is fulfilled.

3. The Commission may initiate the election of a 'rapporteur' for a subgroup, for one or more meetings. In that case, the subgroup will elect the 'rapporteur' by simple majority from its members.
4. The Commission's representative may invite outside experts with specific competence in a subject on the agenda to participate in the work of the DTLF or subgroup on an ad-hoc basis. Invited experts shall only take part in the work on the particular subject for which their attendance is requested.
5. The Commission's representative may give observer status to international organisations and other bodies engaged in, or with a direct interest in digital transport and logistics, as well as to candidate countries.
6. Members of the DTLF and their representatives, as well as invited experts and observers, shall comply with the obligations of professional secrecy laid down by the Treaties and their implementing rules, as well as with the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information, laid down in the Annex to Commission Decision 2001/844/EC, ECSC, Euratom⁶. Should they fail to respect those obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.
7. The DTLF shall meet at least twice per year. The meetings of the DTLF and its subgroups shall be held on Commission premises and the Commission shall provide secretarial services. Commission officials with an interest in the DTLF may attend meetings of the group and its sub-groups.
8. With prior approval by the Commission, the alternate representative may participate in the meetings of the DTLF together with the main representative.
9. The DTLF shall adopt its rules of procedure on the basis of the standard rules of procedures for expert groups. The sub-groups may also adopt rules of procedure on the same basis.
10. The Commission shall publish all relevant documents related to the activities carried out by the DTLF such as agendas, minutes, and participants' submissions either by including them in the Register or via a link from the Register to a dedicated website. Documents shall not be made available where their disclosure would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷, or would violate Regulation 45/2001 on the protection of personal data.

Article 6

Meeting expenses

1. Participants in the activities of the DTLF shall not be remunerated for the services they render.
2. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by ad hoc experts specified in Article 5(4) in the activities of the DTLF may be reimbursed by the Commission in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commission.

⁶ Commission Decision of 29 November 2001 amending its internal Rules of Procedure (OJ L 317, 3.12.2001, p. 1).

⁷ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

3. Those expenses shall be reimbursed within the limits of the available appropriations allocated under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

Article 7

Applicability

This Decision shall apply until 30 June 2018.

Done at Brussels, 9.4.2015

For the Commission
Violeta BULC
Member of the Commission