



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Trade

Directorate R - Resources, Inter-Institutional Relations, Communications and Civil Society

The Director

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Call for Expression of Interest for the renewal of 10 Domestic Advisory Groups (DAGs)

The European Commission's Trade and Economic Security department (DG Trade and Economic Security) is hereby launching a call for expression of interest to invite civil society organisations to become members of 10 DAGs.

What is a DAG?

EU trade agreements provide for the involvement of civil society in advising on the implementation of a trade agreement as a whole or its Trade and Sustainable Development chapter, depending on the terms of the agreement. DAGs in the EU and in the partner countries bring together expertise from business, labour, environment and other relevant organisations.

EU trade agreements provide a platform for policy dialogue and cooperation on trade related issues with partner countries. Civil society has an essential role in identifying and acting on trade related issues, specifically through cooperation and exchanges between the EU DAG member organisations and their partner organisations abroad.

What is the role of DAGs?

The role of the DAG is to:

- advise the EU on trade related issues included in the agreements. To this end, EU DAG members assess and discuss progress made in implementing the trade agreement, including with the other Party's DAG. In doing so, DAG members should use their personal expertise and qualifications, and input received via their organisation and its network or via business organisations, trade unions or NGOs in partner countries;
- prepare the joint meeting that takes place once a year with DAGs and civil society representatives of the EU and of the other Party to the agreement. At this meeting, EU DAG members will present the outcome of their work, advising the Parties on the state of play and progress of the implementation of the Parties' commitments, providing recommendations as appropriate. This joint meeting, which can be in person or virtual, takes place alternatively in Brussels and in the partner country.

EU DAGs meet usually one to three times a year in Brussels. Funding is available to allow a limited number of members of the EU DAGs to attend meetings in person in Brussels as well as in the partner countries.

In addition to members selected by the Commission via this call, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) appoints members for the EU DAGs, ensuring balanced participation across its three groups (employers, workers, NGOs/others). This mirrors the role of the EESC's members under the EU treaties as the organised voice of civil society in the EU.

The EESC supports the EU DAGs through its External Relations' secretariat. It coordinates the EU DAG meetings, supports EU DAG members and maintains contacts with civil society partners worldwide.

Which are the DAGs being renewed?

The following DAGs will be renewed and should start their 2,5 years mandate in October 2025¹:

- Andean Countries
- Canada
- Cariforum
- Central America
- Georgia/Moldova/Ukraine
- Japan
- Singapore
- South Korea
- UK
- Vietnam

For the Georgia/Moldova/Ukraine DAG, the same members will be appointed for EU DAG meetings. Joint meetings with the partner countries remain separate.

What is the selection process to become an EU DAG member?

The review and selection of candidates is carried out by DG Trade and Economic Security. Organisations may apply to more than one DAG.

Organisations can participate in a DAG as a member or an observer. There will be maximum 12 full seats in each DAG (maximum four members per subgroup², including one from the EESC). Each subgroup will decide who will have the seat. Other participants can share a seat with a DAG member from the same subgroup or take the role of an observer.

The UK DAG is an exception, with 24 DAG members with full seats, among them six EESC members.

¹ The Kenyan and New Zealand DAGs have been set up in 2025 and will be renewed in April 2028.

² There are three subgroups: employers, workers, NGOs/others

Candidates need to fulfil the following criteria:

- The organisation must:
 - Be a civil society organisation³;
 - Be a not-for-profit organisation;
 - Represent or defend EU interests;
 - Be registered in the EU Transparency Register and in DG Trade's civil society database.
- The candidate designated by the organisation must:
 - Be an EU citizen;
 - Have specific professional expertise or competence of at least five years or equivalent degree of competence in the policy areas covered by the agreement(s) they are proposed to cover (including trade, labour and environmental policy, services, etc.);
 - Set out in a motivation letter the three key priorities they want to promote forward as a DAG member for the agreement they are applying for.

In selecting EU DAG members, the Commission will seek to achieve a balanced and diverse membership, representing different civil society segments.

If your organisation is interested in being part of one or several DAGs, please send a statement of interest with your the name and contact details of your organisation; a duly motivated presentation of your organisation's interest and personal motivation in being part of a DAG; the trade agreement(s) you selected; CVs of proposed participants; and relevant experience of the candidate organisation and of the member connected to trade related issues. The Commission assumes that an outgoing DAG member applying to renew his/her mandate has taken an active role in the work of the DAG during the past mandate.

You can send your statement of interest to Mr Didier Bloch: Didier.Bloch@ec.europa.eu at the latest on Friday 26 September close of business. You can also address any questions on the call to Mr Bloch.

Once the DAGs are established, the EESC secretariat will contact future members for a first meeting.

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³ EU DAG members include various types of organisations: stakeholder's representatives at European and national level as well as smaller organisations dedicated to a specific topic.

Useful links

EU transparency register:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do>

Civil society database:

- https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/analysis-and-assessment/eu-trade-meetings-civil-society_en

DG Trade's website:

- https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/index_en

Definition civil society:

- https://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/civil_society_organisation.html