# Frequently Asked Questions - Explanatory note to guide potential applicants

# Call for applications: Global Gateway Business Advisory Group (GG BAG)

This note gathers questions related to the call for applications for the Global Gateway Business Advisory Group expert group. These were raised during the online Q&A session organised on Wednesday 14 October 2026.

Answers are provided to the best of our knowledge but cannot be considered as binding or creating any obligations.

This document is publicly available on this webpage: Call for applications: Global Gateway Business Advisory Group (europa.eu).

Reminder - The deadline to apply to the Global Gateway Business Advisory Group expert group is Friday 13 November 2026 at 14.00 (Brussels time) at the latest.

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## Which companies are eligible to apply for the GG BAG? Are companies smaller than an SME eligible to apply to the GG BAG?

Organisations eligible for this call for applications are EU companies/social enterprises, EU trade and business associations and established EU business networks which are:

- headquartered in the EU and under EU control with a specific contribution and adherence to EU interests and values; and
- Furthermore, regarding EU companies and groups of companies, these have to be a small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or larger than SMEs. In other words, eligible companies should have 10 employees or more and an annual turnover and/or an annual balance sheet total of more than EUR 2 million (as defined in the Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 (C(2003)1422).

Third countries' private sector stakeholders are not eligible for this call.

Companies smaller than SMEs are not eligible for this call.

## Are business organisations representing the private sector of one country eligible to apply for the GG BAG?

EU trade associations, business associations and established EU business networks organisations should represent the private sector from at least three EU Member States. Those that do not comply with this requirement are not eligible. National trade and business associations and business networks, representing

the interests of companies (from one or various EU Member States) only at the level of their country, are not eligible.

**How many times will the GG BAG meet per year and under which format?**

Two sets of meetings are planned:

- i) **annual high-level meetings**. These meetings will take place once a year and will include 10 members and 2 observers of the GG BAG. The President of the Commission or another member of the College will participate in these annual meetings.

- ii) **plenary meetings**. These will take place about twice a year and will include all members and all observers of the GG BAG. These meetings will prepare the annual high-level meetings.

**Sub-group meetings** will also take place ahead of each plenary meeting. It is expected that there will be two sub-group meetings before each plenary meeting. Each BAG member will take part in one sub-group. It is expected to have one sub-group per Global Gateway sector: (i) climate and energy, (ii) digital, (iii) transport, (iv) health, (v) education and research, and critical raw materials (CRM).

**What will be done during plenary meetings? Who will chair them?**

Plenary meetings will prepare the annual high-level meetings. Plenary meetings will be the forum to discuss and gather feedback on the strategic orientations of Global Gateway. They will gather input from private sector representatives on their priorities, activities, challenges and opportunities in sectors and regions covered by Global Gateway, as well as discuss the implementation of Global Gateway. Discussions will be based on preparatory discussions held at sub-group level. The discussions held during the plenary meetings will inform the content of the annual high-level meetings.

Plenary meetings are chaired by the Commission at Director-General level.

For plenary and sub-group meetings, members may be represented by a representative other than the CEO or senior executive.

**Who will select the 10 members taking part in the annual high-level meeting? How do you ensure representativity?**

The group members will propose members and observers to the European Commission to take part in the annual high-level meeting. The European Commission will then decide on the composition of the annual high-level meeting. Attendance at the annual high-level meeting will be on a rotating basis. The European Commission will seek to ensure, as far as possible, gender, sectoral, geographical and company-size balance among the 10 member representatives.

**How do you ensure that discussions held during the high-level meeting are representative of the BAG since only 10 members take part in these meetings?**

The content of high-level meetings is prepared with all BAG members during the plenary meetings. Key conclusions discussed at plenary level are shared and discussed during the annual high-level meeting.

**Who should represent my organisation as part of the annual high-level meeting and plenary meetings? Should the CEO/Senior Executive take part in all meetings of the GG BAG? What involvement will be required from the CEO/Senior Executive of my organisation?**

Member organisations should be represented by the highest level/chief executive officer (CEO) for the annual high-level meetings.

For plenary and sub-group meetings, members may be represented by a representative other than the CEO or senior executive. The Commission will be represented at Director-General level. Member organisations are expected to match that level. It is expected that the same person attends both the plenary and sub-group meetings.

If a member is selected to take part in the annual high-level meeting, its CEO is expected to prepare for and take part in the annual high-level meeting.

**When will the first meeting of the GG BAG take place? For how long will the mandate last?**

The first meeting of the GG BAG is intended to take place in early 2027. This meeting will be a plenary meeting. The mandate of BAG members will last for three years.

**Which criteria will be used to assess and select the applications received? How will these criteria be balanced? Is there a quota per industry or company/business organisations represented?**

During the selection procedure, the Commission will seek to ensure, as far as possible, a high level of expertise, as well as sectoral, geographical and company size balance, while taking into account the specific tasks of the group, the type of expertise required, as well as the relevance of the applications received.

There is no quota per type of member of the GG BAG. The sector and geographical areas will relate to the Global Gateway areas of action.

**Which sectors and regions will the GG BAG meetings cover?**

Sectors covered by the GG BAG are: (i) climate and energy, (ii) digital, (iii) transport, (iv) health, (v) education and/or research, and critical raw materials (CRM). Geographical zones covered by GG BAG are Central Asia, East, South and South-East Asia, Eastern Neighbourhood, Türkiye, Western Balkans, Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa and the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Pacific.

**Should my organisation be registered in the Transparency Register to take part in the call for applications?**

Although registration in the Transparency Register (TR) is required in order to be appointed as a Type C member of an expert group, it is not mandatory for the application procedure. Thus, interested individuals and organisations that at the time of the application are not featured yet on the TR and, as a consequence, do not have a TR identification number, may still apply. However, should the applicant be selected as a result of the call for applications, it shall register in the TR as a condition to be appointed as a Type C member.

**What will be the tasks of the GG BAG?**

The group is expected to provide a forum to discuss and gather feedback on the strategic orientations of Global Gateway. It will gather input from private sector representatives on their priorities, activities, challenges and opportunities in sectors and regions covered by Global Gateway, as well as discuss the implementation of Global Gateway. The group will build on the work done between 2023 and 2026.

The group's specific tasks shall be:

- to analyse, advise and share business intelligence and opportunities and discuss barriers hindering a conducive business environment in Global Gateway sectors and regions/countries to better design support programmes and policy dialogues;
- to analyse and advise on how to improve ways to cooperate with private companies and on appropriate non-financial and financial tools;
- to provide the Commission with feedback about planning and implementation of priorities in Global Gateway sectors and regions/countries, and in particular on the access and use of the EU instruments (e.g. guarantees, blending, technical assistance, multi-stakeholder partnerships).

**If my organisation takes part in the GG BAG, will it be excluded from applying for EU funded projects (conflict of interest)?**

Taking part in a Commission Expert Group does not exclude a priori an organisation from applying for EU-funded projects. However, conflicts of interest are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**Will my organisation be disqualified if it is already part of another private sector group of the European Commission, such as the D4D Hub private sector advisory group?**

Taking part in other working groups of the European Commission does not exclude a priori your application. However, conflicts of interest are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**Can BAG members take part in more than one sub-group?**

BAG members will only take part in one sub-group. It is expected that BAG sub-groups will relate to the following Global Gateway sectors: i) climate and energy, (ii) digital, (iii) transport, (iv) health, (v) education and research, and critical raw materials (CRM).

**What are the main activities and achievements of the Business Advisory Group between 2023 and 2026?**

The mandate of the first members of the Business Advisory Group (BAG) expert group ran from 2023 until 2026. During this period, the Global Gateway strategy has benefitted from the business perspective for Global Gateway planning and implementation. More specifically, BAG discussed and provided feedback on topics such as: access to information on Global Gateway; efficiency and accessibility of support tools available under Global Gateway; engagement channels available for the private sector to take part in Global Gateway; procurement rules; the inclusion of SMEs as part of Global Gateway; the role of skills and other soft measures as part of Global Gateway projects.

**Will the GG BAG be the place to discuss about GG project pipeline and GG funding?**

No, the GG BAG is not linked to the programming and financing of specific projects.

**Does BAG membership entail any obligations or commitments, financial or otherwise?**

BAG members are expected to actively participate in meetings. Meetings can be held in-person and/or online. High-level meetings will take place in-person, plenary meetings will take place in hybrid mode (with in-person attendance encouraged), sub-group meetings mainly take place online and occasionally might take place in hybrid mode.

Participants in the activities of the group and sub-groups shall not be remunerated for the services they offer. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the group and sub-groups shall not be reimbursed by the Commission.

**What evidence may be taken into account to demonstrate relevant competence and experience? Can organisations with no experience in Global Gateway sectors and regions apply?**

Applicants should have proven and relevant competence and experience, in one or more of the Global Gateway sectors and geographical zones. Applicants should describe how their organisation meets this requirement for competence and experience. The description should be as concrete as possible. To support and illustrate this experience, the provision of concrete examples such as projects is welcome.

It is not required to have experience with Global Gateway projects.

**What do you mean by "Organisations should demonstrate a track record of alignment to EU objectives taking into account environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors and having integrated recognised practices in this area."?**

Applicants are expected to describe how they contribute, by their actions and activities, to the EU sustainability objectives by integrating ESG factors.

**My company is active in various sectors and regions, should I list them all?**

Yes, if your organisation is active in various Global Gateway sectors and/or geographical zones, please refer to all of them. If your organisation is active in multiple sectors, please mention the sectoral discussions your organisation will take part in (i.e. (i) climate and energy, (ii) digital, (iii) transport, (iv) health, (v) education and/or research, and critical raw materials (CRM)).

**Is there a template to be used for the cover letter?**

No, there is no template for the cover letter.

**Who should sign Annex I and II? Can they be signed electronically?**

Annex I and II should be signed by the proposed representative. The representative must be able to legally represent the organisation. The documents can be signed electronically with a qualified/verified signature.

**Should we submit multiple CVs?**

Each applicant should propose one representative (CEO or senior executive). A curriculum vitae (CV) of the representative shall also be provided. All CVs shall be submitted in the European format (Europass). It is not required to submit other CVs.

**When will the results of the BAG call for applications be announced?**

The outcome of the selection process is expected to be shared with applicants at the end of 2026 or early 2027.