CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE
TIC COUNCIL DRAFTING GROUP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TEMPORARY ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK FOR DATA CENTRE ACTIVITIES

# Background

The **EU Taxonomy Climate Delegated Act** addresses “*Data processing, hosting and related activities*”, by requiring an audited compliance with the JRC’s European Code of Conduct for Energy Efficiency in Data Centres (referred to later on as CoC). The Taxonomy is among the key tools to achieve the Digital Strategy’s objective of making European data centres climate neutral, highly energy efficient and sustainable by 2030.

The CoC is a collection of best practices lacking an external control framework. Because of this, market players in the European market largely agree that third-party technical verification appears not to be feasible under current conditions.

In 2022, non-financial institutions under the Non-Financial Reporting Directive[[1]](#footnote-1) are required to disclose the proportion of their total turnover, capital and operating expenditures that is associated with Taxonomy-eligible activities. In 2023, these companies will start disclosing information on the degree to which these activities comply with the technical screening criteria of the Climate Delegated Act, i.e. are “Taxonomy-aligned”. For this, companies need to complete their audit by the end of 2022, and verification of economic activities of data centres by an independent third party has to be performed beforehand.

During the informal roundtables organised by the Commission, stakeholders suggested that an assessment framework (hereinafter: the framework) for the CoC could be developed under the auspices of TIC Council, the international association representing independent testing, inspection and certification companies.

While a more permanent solution shall be envisaged in the medium-term to rectify this inconsistency, a temporary framework would solve the problem for the time being: namely, it would allow market players to complete their disclosure of compliance with the EU Taxonomy as part of their non-financial statement within the prescribed timeframe for 2022.

The TIC Council Drafting Group (hereinafter: the Drafting Group) is established in order to act as an expert group to assist the European Commission in developing a temporary assessment framework for independent third parties to conduct technical verification of the energy efficiency of data centres.

# Features of the Drafting Group

**2.1. Composition**

Members shall be:

* TIC Industry representatives with expertise in auditing schemes, standardisation, energy efficiency, and data centre operations, or
* data centre representatives.

Members shall be individuals appointed in a personal capacity who shall act independently and in the public interest.

**2.2. Appointment**

Members shall be appointed by the Director General of TIC Council from applicants complying with the requirements referred to in chapter 4 of this call.

#  Observers

Representatives from the auditing industry and from non-governmental organisations should be welcome to join the meetings of the drafting group as observers.

To do so, they may contact directly: data.centres@tic-council.org

**2.4 Rules of engagement and operation of the group**

The group shall be chaired by one of the members, elected by the group. The group may also elect a vice-chair.

The Chair shall preside at all Drafting Group meetings. Where the Chair is unavailable the Vice-Chair will assume their duties. The Chair and Vice-Chair have the right to vote.

The group shall act at the request of its Chair. Participation may be in person or via tele conference. All meetings will be held under strict compliance with antitrust and competition law as follows:

* + Every meeting should be led by the Chair; should they be absent, the Vice Chair leads the meeting;
	+ All meeting participants shall be required to confirm that they understand and will comply with the TIC Council Competition Compliance Policy;
	+ A representative from the TIC Council Secretariat should be present at each meeting;
	+ The Chair shall remind the participants to act within competition law requirements at the beginning of the meeting;
	+ All meetings shall follow a written agenda, which shall be prepared and provided prior to the respective meeting;
	+ Only items on the agenda shall be discussed during the meeting;
	+ Meeting outcomes shall be recorded in written Minutes.

Members should be prepared to attend meetings systematically, to contribute actively to discussions in the group, to be involved in preparatory work ahead of meetings, to examine and provide comments on documents under discussion, and to act, as appropriate, as 'rapporteurs' on *ad hoc* basis.

As a general rule, working documents will be drafted in English and meetings will be also conducted in English.

In principle, the group shall adopt its opinions, recommendations or reports by consensus. In the event of a vote, the outcome of the vote shall be decided by simple majority of the members.

Participants in the activities of the group and its sub-groups shall not be remunerated for the services they offer.

**2.5 Transparency**

TIC Council shall publish the following data concerning the composition of the group on its website:

* + the name of individuals appointed in a personal capacity; and
	+ the name of observers.

The drafting group will not be required to publish minutes of its meetings. Every two weeks, the Chair will report to the Commission on the progress of the group.

The final draft and possible attached documentation will be available on the webpage of the initiative for two weeks to allow the public to provide feedback.

# Application procedure

Interested individuals are invited to submit their application to TIC Council.

Applications must be completed in English.

An application will be deemed admissible only if it is received by the deadline for application.

Supporting documents

Each application shall include the following documents:

* a curriculum vitae (CV) preferably in the European format (<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/curriculum-vitae/templates-instructions>)
* an application form duly filled (Annex).

Deadline for application

The duly signed applications must be received by 2 August 2022 at the latest.

The application should be sent by e-mail to the following e-mail address: data.centres@tic-council.org.

# Selection Criteria

TIC Council will take the following criteria into account when assessing applications:

* + proven and relevant competence and experience in areas relevant to in auditing schemes, standardisation, energy efficiency, and data centre operations, acquired by service in industry, research organisations or public authorities
	+ good knowledge of the English language allowing active participation in the discussions
	+ availability and readiness to focus on the task within a short time period, with the work of the group expected to be carried out through the month of August and ending by end September.

# Selection Procedure

TIC Council shall assess the applications against the selection criteria listed in chapter 4 of this call, establish a list of the most suitable applicants, and appoint the members of the group.

When defining the composition of the group, TIC Council shall aim at ensuring, as far as possible, a high level of expertise, as well as a balanced representation of relevant know-how, areas of interest, gender, and geography while taking into account the specific tasks of the group, the type of expertise required, as well as the relevance of the applications received.

For any further information please contact Mr Martin Michelot, e-mail: mmichelot@tic-council.org.

**Annex - Application form**[[2]](#footnote-2)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

First name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Professional title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* **An individual applying to be appointed in a personal capacity;** if appointed I shall act independently and in the public interest.

Applicants are requested to describe how they fulfil the selection criteria listed in this call.

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| --- | --- |
| Proven and relevant competence and experience in areas relevant to auditing schemes, standardisation, energy efficiency, and data centre operations, acquired by service in industry, research organisations or public authorities |  |
| Availability and readiness to focus on the task within a short time period. |  |
| Good knowledge of the English language allowing active participation in the discussions. |  |

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Directive 2014/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 amending Directive 2013/34/EU as regards disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large undertakings and groups (OJ L 330, 15.11.2014) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This form must be filled in, signed and returned. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)