



DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SMART NETWORKS AND SERVICES JOINT UNDERTAKING No 15/2021

Approving the Joint Undertaking's Policy on the use of languages

THE GOVERNING BOARD,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe (hereinafter "Single Basic Act")¹ and in particular to Article 17 (1) thereof,

WHEREAS

- (1) The Governing Board has the overall responsibility for the strategic orientation and the operations of the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking and, therefore, is competent to adopt the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking language regime in order to ensure its proper functioning.
- (2) Any content and documents created by and in the context of the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking's activities are drafted in English.
- (3) English is also the globally acknowledged working language in the Smart Networks and Services industry and research fora.
- (4) This policy constitutes a reasonable balance between respect of the EU's multilingualism policy and the practical considerations explained in paragraphs (2) and (3) above.

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

¹ OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17.

Article 1

The Governing Board approves the Policy on the use of languages attached as Annex I.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, on 15 December 2021.

For the Governing Board

Pearse O'Donohue

The Interim Chair



POLICY ON THE USE OF LANGUAGES

The purpose of this policy is to provide stakeholders and the general public with relevant information on the use of languages at the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking².

This policy is a reasonable balance between respect for speakers of the EU's many languages pursuant to the applicable legislation, obligations placed on institutions and their bodies, and practical considerations, such as the need of a common language for working purposes, the globally acknowledged language in Smart Networks and Services industry and research fora, and the cost of translations.

Any content and documents created by and in the context of the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking's activities are drafted in English, as this is the globally acknowledged working language in the field of Smart Networks and Services.

In light of this, the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking's documents and other communications including but not limited to documents and content published on the Joint Undertaking's web site, on social media (YouTube, LinkedIn and Twitter), and communications during events are in English.

Moreover, Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking staff should be required to have an excellent command of written and spoken English as this is essential both for the purposes of working and in dealing with stakeholders.

² In compliance with the Treaties of the European Union and its functioning, the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union and the Council Regulation No 1 of 15 April 1958 determining the languages to be used by the European Economic Community, the European Institutions, their Agencies and Bodies shall:

- communicate with the EU citizens in their own languages,
- protect Europe's rich linguistic diversity, and
- promote language learning in Europe.

Considering the multilingualism in the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking Governing Board and as English is the common language of the different Participating Members, meetings, voting procedures, and documents distributed internally within the Governing Board shall be in English.

Notwithstanding the above, any citizens is entitled to write to the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking in their official language of their choice and receive a reply in the same language within a reasonable time frame.

Application for access to a Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking document can be made in any of the official EU languages³ . However, documents requested shall be supplied in an existing version and format⁴.

³ Article 7 of 4 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. 43–48)

⁴ Article 10.3 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001.