

Subgroup chairing - reflection on existing rules and practices

Current rules

For subgroup chairs - RoP Point 7

(7) Subgroups shall be coordinated by the Chair/Co-chairs. Subgroups are always chaired by a representative of Infrastructure Managers, in addition the Commission may co-chair. If not agreed at the time of creation by the Plenary meeting, then at the first meeting of the Subgroup, the Infrastructure Managers present shall decide on the chair for the Subgroup. At the same meeting, the Commission may announce its representative as a Subgroup Co-chair.

(8) The Industry Chairs of Subgroups shall be appointed by the Infrastructure Managers participating in the respective Subgroups each year. Existing Industry Chair may be reappointed, in particular to ensure continuity of work or dedicate resources.

For cooperation coordinators - RoP Point 8

(2) Occurrence and modus operandi of such [*cooperation*] meetings is subject to the approval by the Plenary meeting. Network may decide to appoint on an ad hoc basis an Infrastructure Manager or an Observer, who shall coordinate, in cooperation with the other Infrastructure Managers and Observers, the preparation of joint meeting(s).

Current practices:

All subgroup chairs were selected or appointed before subgroups met for the first time. They have been carrying on as long as the subgroups have had the topics to work on and they personally have been able to invest their time. In earlier years, we have asked the subgroup chairs to address once per year their reappointment in their respective subgroups, however this has been rather a tick-box exercise than substantial discussion. Any actual change in subgroup chairs have occurred when existing people stepped down on their own initiative. In addition, it seems that one-year mandate in general is too short for group dynamics, continuity and effective delivery.

The current coordinators of the cooperation with RU Dialogue and ENRRB were appointed based on the call of interest and PRIME 14 Plenary decision.

Proposal:

There is a need to revise the RoP to reflect the existing practices, while ensuring that subgroup chairs are motivated and groups work efficiently. To this end the following arrangements are proposed:

- 1) Each new subgroup chair has an initial mandate for 2 years or linked to the expected deliverable of the sub group, whichever comes first.
- 2) At any point of the time after this initial period, the appointment of a new chair can be put on the agenda of the respective subgroup if at least 3 subgroup members ask so or at the request of PRIME Plenary. Subgroups will inform PRIME Plenary about the appointment of a new subgroup chair. If the same chair is re-appointed, he/she will be entitled for a renewed mandate for 2 years.
- 3) In any case, the appointment of a new chair will be put on the agenda of the respective subgroup if the chair has been leading the group already 6 years.
- 4) If no subgroup meeting has taken place during the last 12 months, the PRIME subgroup chairs coordination meeting (organised annually by PRIME co-chairs) will discuss the continuation of this subgroup and, if relevant, adjust the mandate and appoint a new subgroup chair.
- 5) Cooperation coordinators (with RU Dialogue and ENRRB) will also have an initial 2 year mandate. After the end of the initial period, their (re)appointment is discussed at annual subgroup chairs coordination meetings. If a new coordinator is proposed, he/she will be appointed by PRIME Plenary.

- 6) Irrespective of the points above, each subgroup chair or coordinator can step down at any moment of time.

If these principles are acceptable, they will be reflected in the revised RoP, which will be proposed for the approval of the Plenary on 18/11.