

Appointment of the Accounting Officer

50th Meeting of the Management Board 20-21 June 2018

Proposal

The vacancy notice of an Accounting Officer was re-published on 16 March 2018, with a deadline of 9 April 2018 for applications. A member of the Management Board was nominated as an observer in the selection.

Following the selection procedure, the Management Board is invited to appoint, as laid down in ECHA's Financial Regulation, the Accounting Officer.

The Executive Director will send an offer of employment to the most suitable candidate, which will be conditional on the appointment decision by the Management Board. The name, CV and declaration of interest will be provided to the Management Board as soon as the candidate confirmed that he/she would accept the post.

Background

On 16 March 2018, the vacancy notice for the selection procedure of the Accounting Officer was re-published¹. The Management Board was represented in the selection procedure by Hanna Korhonen (FI), as an observer. The final formal meeting of the Selection Panel took place on 22 May 2018 and the reserve list was signed by the Executive Director on 29 May 2018.

On 19 June 2018, the Working Group on Audit will discuss the appointment and, on 20 June 2018, the Management Board will be invited to appoint the successful candidate as the Accounting Officer, as laid down in REACH Regulation and ECHA's Financial Regulation².

Rationale

The Accounting Officer is appointed by the Management Board. The eligibility criteria adopted by the Management Board in the context of the policy on managing potential conflicts of interest apply to the appointment. During the selection process, the candidates confirmed that they comply with the criteria³, as laid down in Annex 1.

In the view of the Executive Director, the selected candidate is considered the most suitable to occupy the position of Accounting Officer.

¹ <http://echa.europa.eu/about-us/jobs/past-positions/> / Ref. ECHA/TA/2018/001, ECHA/IAJM/2018/001. A first selection procedure in 2017 was unsuccessful, see minutes of the Management Board meeting of December 2017 MB/M/04/2017

² See [Article 78 of REACH Regulation](#) and [Article 50 of ECHA Financial Regulation](#)

³ See [MB/45/2013 final](#)

It is proposed that the Management Board appoints the Accounting Officer, after which the Executive Director, as the contract concluding authority, will initiate the signing of the employment contract with him/her.

It is to be noted that the European Court of Auditors has commented to a number of Agencies, including ECHA, on the hierarchical reporting line of the post of Accounting Officer in Agencies. ECHA will consider this comment, together with the Network of Agencies, and will keep the Management Board informed of any developments in this respect.

Attachments:

- Annex 1: Link to [MB/45/2013 final on the eligibility criteria](#)
- Annex 2: Curriculum vitae and declaration of interests
- Annex 3: Article 50 of ECHA Financial Regulation

For questions: shay.omalley@echa.europa.eu with copy to mb-secretariat@echa.europa.eu

ANNEX 2

Curriculum Vitae and Declaration of Interests

(see separate PDF documents)

ANNEX 3**Article 50 of ECHA Financial Regulation (MB/WP/03/2014)**

Powers and duties of the Accounting Officer

1. The Management Board shall appoint an Accounting Officer, covered by the Staff Regulations, who shall be totally independent in the performance of his or her duties. The Accounting Officer shall be responsible in the Agency for:
 - (a) properly implementing payments, collecting revenue and recovering amounts established as being receivable;
 - (b) preparing and presenting the accounts in accordance with Title IX;
 - (c) keeping the accounts in accordance with Title IX;
 - (d) implementing, in accordance with Title IX, the accounting rules and the chart of accounts in accordance with the provisions adopted by the Commission's Accounting Officer;
 - (e) laying down and validating the accounting systems and, where appropriate, validating systems laid down by the Authorising Officer to supply or justify accounting information; in this respect, the Accounting Officer shall be empowered to verify at any time compliance with validation criteria;
 - (f) treasury management.

2. Two or more Union bodies may appoint the same Accounting Officer. Union bodies may also agree with the Commission that the Accounting Officer of the Commission shall also act as Accounting Officer of the Union body. Union bodies may also entrust the Accounting Officer of the Commission with part of the tasks of an Accounting Officer of the Union body, taking into account the cost-benefit analysis referred to in Article 29. In the cases referred to in this paragraph, they shall make necessary arrangements in order to avoid any conflict of interests.

3. The Accounting Officer shall obtain from the Authorising Officer all the information necessary for the production of accounts, which give a true and fair view of the Agency's financial situation and of budgetary implementation. The Authorising Officer shall guarantee the reliability of that information.

4. Before the adoption of the accounts by the Executive Director, the Accounting Officer shall sign them off, thereby certifying that the Accounting Officer has reasonable assurance that the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial situation of the Agency. For the purposes of the first subparagraph, the Accounting Officer shall verify that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting rules, referred to in Article 143 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, and that all revenue and expenditure is entered in the accounts. The Authorising Officer shall forward any information that the Accounting Officer needs in order to fulfil his or her duties. The Authorising Officers shall remain fully responsible for the proper use of the funds they manage, the legality and regularity of the expenditure under their control and the completeness and accuracy of the information forwarded to the Accounting Officer.

5. The Accounting Officer shall be empowered to check the information received as well as to carry out any further checks he or she deems necessary in order to sign off the accounts. The Accounting Officer shall make reservations, if necessary, explaining exactly the nature and scope of such reservations.

6. Subject to paragraph 7 of this Article and Article 51, only the Accounting Officer shall be empowered to manage cash and cash equivalents. The Accounting Officer shall be responsible for their safekeeping.

7. The Accounting Officer may, in the performance of his or her duties, delegate certain tasks to subordinate staff subject to the Staff Regulations, where this is indispensable for the performance of his or her duties.

8. The instrument of delegation shall lay down the tasks entrusted to the delegates and their rights and obligations.