

STATUTES OF THE EDIC FOR AGRI-FOOD

Preamble

CONSIDERING the importance of data interoperability for the future development of a European sovereign agri-food ecosystem, where seamless data exchange across Member States and various stakeholders is essential for enhancing sustainability, efficiency, and competitiveness, the establishment of common data standards and infrastructures will enable the agri-food sector to leverage cutting-edge digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Thing (IoT), and big data, to support informed decision-making, reduce administrative burdens and foster innovation across the value chain.

CONSIDERING the necessity to strengthen food security and supply chain resilience by improving traceability and transparency in agricultural processes through digital identity frameworks and data-sharing platforms.

CONSIDERING the need to enhance the competitiveness of the European agri-food sector by adopting advanced digital solutions that will empower small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and farmers overall to participate more actively in global markets, thereby supporting economic growth across the Union.

CONSIDERING that cross-border collaboration (an inherent part of European Digital Infrastructure Consortia - EDICs) and the scaling of innovation and systemic actions (such as a Digital Farm ID; a Digital Parcel Passport; the enhanced interoperability between applications; AI-powered risk management) will support the digital transformation of European agriculture and food systems, advancing the achievements of the EU's 2030 Digital Decade objectives laid out in DECISION (EU) 2022/2481 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 20230.

CONSIDERING the proposal of the European Commission for a regulation amending the Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 as regards establishing a framework for a European Digital Identity, including for businesses, (Regulation (EU) 2024/1183) and the work on the European Digital Identity Architecture and Reference Framework (Regulation (EU) 2024/1183).

CONSIDERING Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme and notably its objectives to support the uptake by the public sector and the Union industry, in particular SMEs, and start-ups, of advanced digital and related technologies.

CONSIDERING that one of the objectives of the Digital Europe Programme 2025-27 is to support the digital transformation of industry, to enhance efficiency through digital and data infrastructure, which subsequently will reduce administrative burdens, and improve the sustainability, and competitiveness of the agri-food sector across Europe, particularly through building an efficient and interoperable digital public administration, and through building confidence in digital transformation for the benefit of citizens and businesses across the Union.

REQUESTING the European Commission to set up the EDIC for Agri-Food as a European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) under the Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022.

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of these Statutes, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) 'Member States' means Member States of the European Union and European Economic Area countries.
- (2) 'Member(s)' means the member(s) of the EDIC for Agri-Food, as provided for under Articles 4 and 5 of the Statutes.
- (3) 'Assembly of Members' means the supreme governing body of the EDIC for Agri-Food.
- (4) 'Founding members' means the Member States who submitted the application for the EDIC for Agri-Food.
- (5) 'Agri-food' means all the interconnected activities and actors, which are involved in transforming raw materials from agriculture, livestock or fishing into food products intended primarily for human consumption.
- (6) 'Mandate' in the following document refers to the authority given by a Member State, a Region, or an Alliance of Regions to a third party to carry out a specific role in the EDIC.
- (7) 'Implementing Rules' means a document adopted by decision of the Assembly of members, according to the procedure referred to in Article 10(7)(b) of the Statute that provides legally binding rights and obligations for Members and Observers regarding operations and financing of the EDIC, internal governance and management and policies of the EDIC.
- (8) 'DDPP Decision' means Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030.
- (9) 'Observer(s)' means a non-Member of the EDIC that participates in parts of the EDIC activities in accordance with Articles 4 and 6 of the Statute.
- (10) 'Director' means the chief executive officer and the legal representative of the EDIC, appointed in accordance with Article 13 of the Statute.

Article 2

Name, seat and working language

1. The name of the EDIC referred to in paragraph (1) shall be 'EDIC for Agri-Food', hereafter referred to as EDIC for Agri-Food.
2. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall have its statutory seat in France, Paris.
3. The working language of the EDIC for Agri-Food shall be English.

Article 3

Mission, objectives and activities

1. Endowed with a legal personality recognized by all EU Member States as an International Organization, the "EDIC for Agri-Food" will set-up, run and maintain digital and data infrastructure and provide services for the European agricultural ecosystem. The main task of the EDIC for Agri-Food shall be to implement the Multi-Country Project "Agri-Food Data Infrastructure and Services (AFDIS)".
2. The mission of the EDIC for Agri-Food is to enhance the European Agri-food digital ecosystem through the development and implementation of EU-wide interoperable, use-case based deployment actions, leveraging digital integration to progress the European agricultural and food sector.
3. The objectives of the EDIC for Agri-Food are as follows:
 - (a) identify, design, and implement strategic actions to minimize administrative burdens through digital and data technologies.
 - (b) accelerate the adoption of sustainable technologies and practices that strengthen the competitive advantage of European agriculture on a global scale and preserve resources.
 - (c) foster data sharing across Business-to-Business (B2B), Business-to-Consumer (B2C), and Business-to-Government (B2G) contexts, as well as strategic collaboration, driving innovation and operational efficiency within the agri-food sector.
4. For the purposes of Paragraphs 1 and 2, the EDIC for Agri-Food shall carry out the following activities:
 - (a) set up and run digital and data infrastructure;
 - (b) deploy data-based technologies and interoperable solutions, adopting the latest evolution of digital technologies and granting the highest security standards;
 - (c) generate and provide high quality multi-country datasets;
 - (d) develop, deploy, and provide services, which may include, e.g. the provision of AI- and data-based solutions, the provision of licenses, testing and validation services;
 - (e) review on a regular basis and prioritise use cases/deployment actions the EDIC may implement in accordance with the available capacities to achieve its key ambitions;
 - (f) engage stakeholders;

- (g) any other related action necessary to achieve its objectives.
- 1. The EDIC for Agri-Food, in addition to tasks pursued on a non-economic basis, may carry out economic activities, provided that they are necessary to the achievement of its principal tasks and ancillary to the tasks pursued on a non-economic basis. A clear separation of accounts shall be ensured for economic and non-economic activities, which ensure the absence of overcompensation and cross-subsidizations.
- 5. Tasks and activities of the EDIC for Agri-Food are in compliance with EU competition law.

CHAPTER 2

MEMBERSHIP

Article 4

Membership and representing entity

1. The following entities may become Members of EDIC for Agri-Food with voting rights or may become Observers of the EDIC for Agri-Food without voting rights:
 - a) Member States;
 - b) Regions may be Members or Observers subject to the following provisions:
 - i. A Region may become a Member only if its Member State or another Region of its Member State, or an Alliance of Regions, is not a Member of the EDIC for Agri-Food.
 - ii. Only one Region per Member State may join as a Member.
 1. When a Member State submits a written application to become a Member or an Observer, that Region of that Member State becomes a Member or an Observer at the beginning of the following calendar year and contributes to the EDIC for Agri-Food in the conditions described in Annex II. That Member State is encouraged to delegate certain rights and obligations to the Region in accordance with Article 4 (4).
 2. Several Regions from the same Member State can be Observers.
 3. If one Region from a certain Member State is Member, and a second Region from the same Member State expresses interest to join the EDIC, the Member State concerned may become Member and delegate rights and obligations to the Regions in accordance with Article 4 (4).

Alternatively, such regions may form an Alliance of Regions, as further described in point (c).

The resources invested by the Region, which was Member first, are to be acknowledged when rights and obligations are distributed between the two Regions.
 - c) An Alliance of Regions, formed by two or more Regions from the same Member State in the form of an entity with or without legal personality, may be a member of the EDIC for Agri-Food as long as the Member State concerned is not the member of the EDIC.
2. Conditions for becoming a Member or an Observer are set out in Article 5 of these Statutes.
3. The membership of the EDIC for Agri-Food must include at least three Member States.
4. Any Member State which is a Member or Observer may be represented by one or more public entities or regions or private entities with a public sector mission, as regards the exercise of specified rights and the discharge of specified obligations as a member of the EDIC for Agri-Food.

5. Each Member or Observer shall inform the Assembly of Members of the entity representing it, and of any change to the entity representing it in the assembly, of the specific rights and obligations that have been delegated to this entity, or of any other relevant change in its representation no later than ninety calendar days before the respective changes are put into effect. This obligation shall also apply if a Member State being a Member of the EDIC for Agri-Food delegates the exercise of specified rights and the discharge of specified obligations as a Member of the EDIC to entities referred to in Article 13(2) of the DDPP Decision.
6. The Members and Observers of the EDIC for Agri-Food and their representing entities are listed in Annex I.
Annex I will be kept up to date by the EDIC Director.

Article 5

Conditions for becoming a Member or an Observer

1. Entities referred to in Article 4.1(a) of this Statute willing to become Members of the EDIC for Agri-Food shall submit a written application to the Chair of the Assembly of Members. Membership is subject to the commitment to provide financial and non-financial contribution to the EDIC for Agri-Food as described in Annex III and to the acceptance of this Statute. That application shall describe how the entity will contribute to the tasks and activities described in Article 3 of this Statute and how it will fulfil obligations referred to in Articles 7 and in Annex III of this Statute.
2. Following the receipt of the written application referred to in paragraph (1) above, the Chair shall instruct the Director to negotiate a Membership Agreement with the applicant entity. The Director shall then submit the draft Membership Agreement to the Assembly of Members.
3. The admission of the entities as new Members or as Observers shall be subject to the approval by the Assembly of Members.
4. Entities referred to in Article 4(1) of these Statutes who are willing to contribute to the EDIC for Agri-Food, but are not yet in a position to join as Members, may apply for observer status, subject to the procedure described in paragraphs (1) and (2).
5. Member States can join the EDIC for Agri-Food as Members at any time on fair and reasonable terms.
 - a) Membership becomes effective from the first day of the financial year following the financial year during which the application of a Member to join the EDIC has been accepted by the Assembly of Members, unless agreed otherwise.
 - b) The rights and obligations of the Member shall apply from the date when the membership becomes effective.
6. Member States may join as Observers for unlimited duration by notifying the EDIC for Agri-Food.
7. An Observer is not subject to provide financial contribution.

Article 6

Withdrawal of a Member or an Observer and termination of membership or observer status

1. No Member may withdraw within the first 4 years of the establishment of EDIC for Agri-Food.
2. After the first 4 years of the establishment of EDIC for Agri-Food, a Member may withdraw at the end of a financial year, following a request submitted 12 months prior to the withdrawal.
3. Observers may withdraw at any time, by notifying in writing the Chair of the Assembly of Members.
4. Members shall fulfil their financial obligations before their withdrawal becomes effective.
5. Members and Observers shall fulfil the non-financial obligations agreed upon in Articles 7 and 8 of this statute, during their participation in the EDIC for Agri-Food before their withdrawal, without prejudice to confidentiality obligations, which shall continue to apply following the withdrawal.
6. The Assembly of Members may terminate membership or observer status if the following conditions are met:
 - (a) the Member or Observer is in serious breach of one or more of its obligations under these statute;
 - (b) the Chair of the Assembly of Members has sent the Member or Observer a notice of the breach in writing;
 - (c) the Member or Observer has failed to rectify the breach within 6 months after it has received notice referred to in point (b).
7. The Member or Observer referred to in paragraph 5 shall have the right to explain its position to the Assembly of Members before the Assembly of Members makes any decision on the issue.
8. In the circumstances set out under Article 6(6), the Assembly of Members may also decide not to terminate a Member's membership but to suspend a Member's voting rights for a certain period. The Assembly of members may reinstate, by a vote, a Member's voting rights at any time if such Member has remedied to the satisfaction of the Assembly of Members any breach set out under Article 6(6). The representative of the aforementioned Member will be excluded from the said vote.
9. A Member's voting rights shall be suspended by the Assembly of Members as long as financial obligations resulting out of Annex III of these Statutes have not been fulfilled in due time and after a notice sent by the Director.
10. Members or Observers that withdraw or have their membership and observer status terminated, shall neither have the right to restitution or reimbursement of any contribution made, nor the right to lay any claim to the assets of the EDIC for Agri-Food.

CHAPTER 3

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

Article 7

Members

1. Rights of Members shall include:
 - (a) the right to participate in and vote at the Assembly of Members, according to the principle one country one vote;
 - (b) the right to appoint one or more representing entities in accordance with Article 4 of the Statutes;
 - (c) the right to benefit and exploits the results obtained by EDIC for Agri-Food, including intellectual property rights to the extent described in Articles 18 and 24 of the Statutes;
 - (d) the right to participate in EDIC for Agri-Food events, such as workshops, conferences, training courses;
 - (e) the right to support the EDIC for Agri-Food in developing relevant systems, processes and services;
 - (f) the right to represent the EDIC in external events, in accordance with the policy guideline of the EDIC.
 - (g) The right to receive support from the EDIC for Agri-Food to set up or deploy digital infrastructures related to the Multi-Country Project (MCP) implemented by the EDIC.
2. Each Member shall:
 - (a) provide the annual financial or non-financial contribution in accordance with Article (9);
 - (b) appoint a representing entity or entities and representative person or persons in accordance with Article (4) of the Statute;
 - (c) support and promote the work of the EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (d) protect confidential information of EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (e) promote the adoption of relevant standards;
 - (f) appoint representatives or experts to take part in the working group of the EDIC when necessary;
 - (g) promote the uptake of services, infrastructures and other resources of the EDIC for Agri-Food within its national agri-food ecosystem, among all relevant user and gather user feedback;
 - (h) facilitate the integration of services provided by the EDIC for Agri-Food as well as of infrastructure and other resources of the EDIC into its national ecosystem;
 - (i) act in good faith, protect other legitimate interests of the EDIC for Agri-Food, beyond the points listed above;
 - (j) contribute to animating and nurturing the relevant national ecosystems, promoting cooperation, and fostering the growth of sustainable practices;
 - (k) not take any actions that could undermine the interests of the EDIC.

Article 8

Right and Obligations of Observers

1. Rights of Observers shall include:
 - (a) the right to attend the Assembly of Members and to speak without a vote. The EDIC for Agri-Food may decide to restrict participation in some of the meetings of the Assembly of Members or parts of them to Members only. Observers will be informed in advance;
 - (b) the right to cooperation with the EDIC for Agri-Food in the fields of sharing knowledge and information on use cases and exchange of experience and regulatory solutions for the regulatory framework, to the extent determined by the EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (c) the right to participation in the EDIC for Agri-Food's events, such as workshops, conferences, training courses, and in any other activities identified by the EDIC for Agri-Food, to the extent determined by the EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (d) the right to access the EDIC for Agri-Food joint repository of the EDIC for Agri-Food limited to the extent necessary for their participation in the Assembly of Members' deliberations. Access to technical sections can be granted in exceptional circumstances and on a duly justified case-by-case basis, subject to approval by the EDIC for Agri-Food.
2. Each Observer shall:
 - (a) appoint a representing entity in accordance with Article 4;
 - (b) support and promote the work of the EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (c) protect confidential information of the EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (d) promote the uptake of the services provided by the EDIC for Agri-Food, its infrastructure and other resources among relevant users and gather users' feedback;
 - (e) act in good faith, protect other legitimate interests of an EDIC, beyond the points listed above;
 - (f) contribute to animating and nurturing the relevant national ecosystems, promoting cooperation, and fostering the growth of sustainable practices.
3. Where necessary, without prejudice to the provisions set out in Article 9(1) and (2), an Observer may enter into an agreement with the EDIC for Agri-Food in order to establish the general conditions under which the obligations are to be fulfilled and the Observer's rights can be exercised.
4. Obligations of an Observer regarding funding applications include:
 1. Observers of the EDIC for Agri-Food shall not take any actions that could undermine the interests of the EDIC.
 2. In the event of a breach of the provision laid out in Point 1, the EDIC reserves the right to review the observer's status and take appropriate actions, including restricting participation in future EDIC initiatives or meetings.
 3. Observers shall be informed of the EDIC's funding application plans in advance to ensure alignment and compliance with this obligation.

Article 9

Contributions

1. Contributions to the EDIC for Agri-Food shall be provided in accordance with Annex III.
2. Any changes affecting the contributions of Members or Observers shall be adopted by the Assembly of Members in accordance with Article 10 of the Statutes.

CHAPTER 4

GOVERNANCE

Article 10

Assembly of Members

1. The Assembly of Members shall be the governing body of the EDIC for Agri-Food and shall be composed of representatives of the Members and Observers of the EDIC for Agri-Food.
 - a) Each Member shall nominate two official representatives, but shall carry one single vote.
 - b) Additionally, each Member may bring experts to the meeting.
2. The Assembly of Members will meet at least twice a year; at least one meeting should take place in person.
3. The Assembly of Members may decide, including in a written procedure, to have additional meetings, as appropriate.
4. In case a Member has appointed more than one organisation to represent it in the EDIC for Agri-Food, one of them, and only one of them, must be appointed to represent the Member in the Assembly of Members.
5. The Assembly of Members shall be responsible for the overall direction and supervision of the EDIC for Agri-Food.

The Assembly of Members shall:

- (a) appoint, suspend and dismiss the Director;
- (b) adopt and update the Implementing Rules;
- (c) adopt and update strategic guidelines for the EDIC for Agri-Food;
- (d) adopt the annual budget and Work Program,
- (e) adopt the multi-annual financial plan;
- (f) approve the admission of new Members/ Observers, subject to provisions in Article 5;
- (g) approve the annual financial statement;
- (h) adopt decisions on contributions;
- (i) create a supervisory board and appoint its members;
- (j) elect the Members of the strategic orientation board, under the consideration laid out in Article 11;

- (k) adopt an Implementation strategy in accordance with Article 14;
 - (l) create advisory bodies or other groups if deemed necessary;
 - (m) decide on any other matters that are necessary to pursue the goals of the EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (n) decide on the termination of the EDIC on Agri-Food;
 - (o) decide on termination of Membership or observer status;
 - (p) amend the Statutes;
 - (q) decide on any other matters that are necessary to fulfil the tasks of the EDIC for Agri-Food.
6. The meetings of the Assembly of Members shall be convened by the Chair. A meeting of the Assembly of Members may be requested by at least 66% of members or by the Director.
 7. The Assembly of Members shall elect a Chair and Vice-chair.
The Chair and Vice-chair shall be elected for a 2-years term, renewable twice.
The Vice-chair shall substitute the Chair in his/her absence or in case of conflict of interest.
 8. A quorum of two thirds of Members shall be required for a valid Assembly of Members meeting. If the quorum is not met, a second meeting shall be convened within 30 calendar days following a new invitation, with the same agenda.
In the second meeting, the quorum shall be considered met if 50% of Members are present.
 9. The Assembly of Members shall be convened by the Chair with at least four weeks' notice, and the agenda including meeting documents shall be circulated at least two weeks before the meeting. An invitation and circulation of the agenda is provided usually by electronic means. Details are laid down in the Implementing Rules adopted by the Assembly of Members.
 10. The decisions shall require simple majority of votes cast, except of decisions referred to in Point [11] below.
 11. The following decisions shall require two thirds of the votes cast of the Members present:
 - (a) amending the statutes of the EDIC for Agri-Food; as further specified in Article 30;
 - (b) termination of the EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (c) termination of membership or observer status;
 - (d) suspension or dismissal of the Director;
 - (e) decisions related to the amount or calculation of contributions.
 12. The Commission may attend the meetings of the Assembly of Members at its discretion. The Commission shall have a veto right on the decisions of the Assembly related to actions financed under centrally-managed Union programmes.
 13. The Director shall publish decisions of the Assembly of Members on the website of the EDIC for Agri-Food within 15 days of their adoption.

Article 11

Strategic Orientation Board

1. The Strategic Orientation Board shall support the Assembly of Members and Director in the implementation of their tasks.

2. The Strategic Orientation Board shall consist of Members elected by the Assembly of Members. For the first 4 years, each Founding Member of the EDIC for Agri-Food will have a seat in the Strategic Orientation Board. After the first 4 years, the number of seats will be 5. The duration of the term of the board will be redefined by the Assembly of Members.
3. The Strategic Orientation Board shall elect its Chair from among its members.
4. The European Commission may attend meetings of the Strategic Orientation Board at its discretion.
5. The Strategic Orientation Board will meet at least once per quarter. The Chair of the Strategic Orientation Board may invite experts to the meetings of the Strategic Orientation Board, or otherwise seek expert advice as needed to support the works of the Strategic Orientation Board.
6. The Strategic Orientation Board shall support the Director to prepare the implementation strategy and propose annual update for the implementation of the EDIC for Agri-Food. The Strategic Orientation Board may also adopt resolutions providing strategic or political advice for the implementation of the EDIC for Agri-Food. It shall also be responsible for contributing to and supporting the Director in the development of a draft annual Work Programme and a draft budget (year N), together with a preliminary draft Work Programme and a draft budget for the following two years (year N+1 and year N+2); and supporting the Director in the execution of the Work Programme and for enabling efficient interaction between the EDIC for Agri-Food and the Members and Observers and stakeholders.
7. The Chair of the Strategic Orientation Board shall submit the strategic orientations and resolutions referred to in paragraph 5 to the Assembly of Members. They shall not be binding unless approved by the Assembly of Members acting in accordance with Article 10 of these Statutes.
8. The Strategic Orientation Board shall adopt [annual or multi-annual] strategic orientations for the implementation of the EDIC for Agri-Food. The Strategic Orientation board may also adopt resolutions providing strategic or political advice for the implementation of the EDIC for Agri-Food.
9. Implementing Rules will indicate further details on the composition, the election of the Chair, the mission and the functioning of the Strategic Orientation Board.

Article 12

Board of stakeholders

1. The Board of stakeholders shall provide guidance and suggestions, as requested by the Assembly of Members or the Director.
2. The members of the Board of stakeholders shall be appointed by the Assembly of Members for a term of 3 years, renewable.
3. The Board of stakeholders shall consist of experts in the areas relevant to the EDIC for Agri-Food, including as needed industrial and scientific experts, as well as representatives of the user communities and other relevant groups of stakeholders.
4. The Chair of the Board of stakeholders shall be appointed by the Assembly of Members; the Rules of Procedure of the Board of stakeholders shall be adopted by the Assembly of Members.
5. The board of stakeholders is encouraged to promote the work of the EDIC for Agri-Food.

Article 13

Director

1. The Assembly of Members shall appoint the Director of EDIC for Agri-Food in accordance with a procedure adopted by the Assembly of Members.
2. The following basic principles will apply among others for hiring the Director: extensively experienced data-oriented EU profile, loyalty, commitment to general interest, no conflict of interest, ability to work in the language and legal context of the seat Member State, etc.
3. The term for the Director shall be 3 years, renewable.
4. The Director shall be the legal representative of EDIC for Agri-Food.
5. The Director shall carry out the day-to-day management of EDIC for Agri-Food. The Director shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions by the Assembly of Members. The tasks of the Director will be further specified in the Implementing Rules. This shall include:
 - (a) the development of the Implementation strategy of the EDIC for Agri-Food, drawing on input from direct interaction with the Members, the Strategic Orientation Board and any other advice or input as may be necessary;
 - (b) coordinating on-going activities of the EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (c) appointing all employees of EDIC for Agri-Food, and leading the secretariat according to the procedure described in the Implementing Rules;
 - (d) ensuring that the Strategic Orientation Board or any other governance groups operates according to the terms of reference set out in the Implementing Rules;
 - (e) the organization of the meetings of the Assembly of Members, including proposing items for the agenda for the meetings and preparing and submitting the annual activity report for approval by the Assembly of Members as described in Article 14 of these Statutes;
 - (f) receives the applications of new Members or Observers for the consideration of the Assembly of Members in order to propose admission to EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (g) propose updates to the Implementing Rules for the decision of the Assembly of members, as referred to in Article 10(4)(b) of these Statutes;
 - (h) decide and inform the Assembly of Members on the application for funding from all centrally managed EU programmes, including the Digital Europe Programme, Connecting Europe Facility, Horizon Europe Programme and funds under shared management, as well as funding from sources other than EU programmes;
 - (i) monitor and map relevant policy developments on digital infrastructures (at national and international level) and analyze the impact that they may have on the EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (j) take any other decisions not reserved for the Assembly of Members, necessary for the implementation of the EDIC for Agri-Food.

Article 14

Implementation strategy

1. Within six months from the entry into force of the Commission decision establishing EDIC for Agri-Food, the Director shall submit to the Assembly of Members the draft Implementation strategy.
2. The Implementation strategy shall be consistent with Annex V to the Statutes, which shall serve as the outline of the Implementation strategy, and shall contain:

- (a) detailed description of actions and a timeline for their implementation,
 - (b) tasks, roles and responsibilities of Members and Observers,
 - (c) tasks of the Director,
 - (d) implementation modalities,
 - (e) milestones targets and deliverables,
 - (f) key performance indicators,
 - (g) the assessment of risks related to the implementation of the EDIC,
 - (h) any other elements necessary for appropriate implementation of the activities of the EDIC in Agri-Food.
3. The implementation strategy shall be adopted by the Assembly of Members acting in accordance with the procedure described in Article 10.
 4. Each year the Director will submit a report on the status of the implementation of the strategy to the Assembly of Members accompanied, if necessary, proposed amendments to the Implementation strategy.
 5. The report shall be approved by the Assembly of Members in accordance with the procedure described in Article 10 and submitted to the Commission.

Article 15

Supervisory Board

1. The Supervisory Board shall support the Assembly of Members and the Director in the implementation of their tasks.
2. The Supervisory Board shall consist of representatives of Members, as defined in Article 4 appointed by the Assembly of Members and external representatives and experts; thereby members of the Assembly of Members are a minority.
3. The members of the Supervisory Board shall be appointed by the Assembly of Members for a term of 2 years, renewable.
4. The Chair of the Supervisory Board shall be elected among its members.
5. The Chair of the Supervisory Board may invite experts to the meetings of the Supervisory Board, or otherwise seek expert advice as needed to support the works of the Supervisory Board.
6. The Supervisory Board shall monitor the work done by the Director to ensure it follows the directive given by the Assembly of Members in accordance with Article 10.
7. The Supervisory Board shall have the right to audit and review the financial statement and budget allocations of the EDIC for Agri-Food.
8. Implementing Rules will indicate further details on the composition, the election of the Chair, the mission and the functioning of the Supervisory Board.

Article 16

The European Commission

As foreseen in the DDPP Decision, the Commission may exercise, in particular the following rights:

1. The Commission may attend the meetings of the Assembly of Members at its discretion.
2. The Commission shall have a veto right on the decisions of the assembly related to actions financed under centrally-managed Union programmes.
3. The Commission may provide recommendations and non-binding opinions regarding the matters covered in the annual activity report of the EDIC.
4. The Commission exercise the rights regarding the amendments of the Statutes in accordance with Article 15 paragraphs 2 – 6 of the DDPP Decision, referred to in Annex IV.

The above shall not be construed as creating any obligations on the side of the Commission.

CHAPTER 5

REPORTING TO THE COMMISSION

Article 17

Reporting to the Commission

1. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall produce an annual activity report, containing in particular the technical, operational and financial aspects of its activities, and all elements of the Implementation strategy referred to in Article 13 of the Statutes.

The report shall be approved by the Assembly of Members and transmitted to the Commission within six months from the end of the corresponding financial year. This report shall be made publicly available.

2. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall also contribute to the report on the "State of the Digital Decade". The contribution shall be approved by the Assembly of Members and transmitted to the Commission. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall respect instructions that may be provided by the Commission regarding this contribution, including on its the scope, template and timeline for the submission.
3. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall inform the Commission of any circumstances which threaten to seriously jeopardise the achievement of EDIC for Agri-Food tasks or hinder EDIC for Agri-Food from fulfilling requirements laid down in the DDPP Decision.

CHAPTER 6

FINANCE, LIABILITY

Article 18

Resources

1. The resources of the EDIC for Agri-Food shall consist of the following:

- (a) financial and in-kind contributions of Members;
- (b) funding from Union programmes;
- (c) grants and any other contributions from any third party, including donations from individuals and legal entities, subject to approval by the Assembly of Members;
- (d) income deriving from services or intellectual property rights owned by the EDIC for Agri-Food
- (e) any other form of resources.

Resources provided by Member States shall comply with EU competition rules.

Article 19

Budgetary principles, accounts and audit

1. The financial year of the EDIC for Agri-Food shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December of each year.
2. The accounts of the EDIC for Agri-Food shall be accompanied by a report on budgetary and financial management of the financial year.
3. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall be subject to the requirements of the law of the country where it has its statutory seat as regards preparation, filing, auditing and publication of accounts.

Article 20

Tax and excise duty exemptions

1. VAT exemptions based on Articles 143(1)(g) and 151(1)(b) of Council Directive 2006/112/EC, shall be limited to purchases by the EDIC for Agri-Food and by Members of the EDIC for Agri-Food which are for the official and exclusive use by the EDIC for Agri-Food provided that such purchase is made solely for the non-economic activities of the EDIC for Agri-Food in line with its activities.
2. VAT exemptions shall be limited to purchases exceeding the value of EUR 300.
3. Excise Duty exemptions based on Article 11(1), point (b), of Council Directive (EU) 2020/262, shall be limited to purchases by the EDIC for Agri-Food which are for the official and exclusive use by EDIC for Agri-Food provided that such purchase is made solely for the non-economic activities of EDIC for Agri-Food in line with its activities and that the purchase exceeds the value of EUR 300.

Article 21

Liability and insurance

1. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall be liable for its debts.
2. The financial liability of the Members for the debts of the EDIC shall be limited to their respective contributions provided to the EDIC, as specified in the Annex III.
3. The Union shall not be liable for the EDIC's debts.
4. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall take appropriate insurance to cover the risks specific to its activities.

CHAPTER 7

POLICIES

Article 22

Access Policy for users

1. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall provide effective access to its results, products, services and infrastructures based on transparent and non-discriminatory conditions.
2. Access conditions shall be adopted by the Assembly of Members in compliance with EU law and national law as applicable; in line with EU competition rules; and taking into account ethical guidelines that may be developed as part of the Implementing Rules.
3. The approach to and the responsibility to the development of access conditions may be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Assembly of Members.

Article 23

Dissemination Policy

The EDIC for Agri-Food shall promote its results by providing targeted information to relevant audiences, in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

Article 24

Intellectual Property Rights Policy

1. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall own intellectual property rights.
2. In accordance with Articles 7 and 18, the EDIC for Agri-Food shall use and exploit the intellectual property rights obtained through its activities and the income derived from intellectual property rights are owned by it.
3. Subject to the term of any contract between EDIC for Agri-Food and third parties, intellectual property rights created, obtained or developed by the latter shall remain their property.

Article 25

Employment Policy

1. The EDIC for Agri-Food employment policy shall be governed by Union law and the laws of the country in which staff is employed.
2. The selection procedures for the EDIC for Agri-Food staff positions shall be transparent, non-discriminatory and respect equal opportunities. Recruitment and employment shall not be discriminatory.

Article 26

Procurement policy

1. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall apply the European Union procurement rules.
2. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall treat procurement candidates and tenderers equally and without discrimination, regardless of whether they are based within the European Union, in GPA countries or in countries with which EU has established bilateral agreements on opening public procurement markets. The EDIC for Agri-Food procurement policy shall respect the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and competition.
3. Detailed rules on procurement procedures and criteria shall be set out in the Implementing Rules.
4. Procurement by Members and Observers concerning the EDIC for Agri-Food activities shall be done in such a way that due consideration is given to the EDIC for Agri-Food needs, technical requirements and specifications issued by the relevant bodies.

Article 27

Data Policy

1. Generally open and non-discriminatory access to the results of the projects and their reuse shall be favoured, except where, for duly substantiated reasons, it is not feasible to do so.
2. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall provide guidance (including *via* website) to users to ensure that research undertaken using material made accessible through the EDIC for Agri-Food shall be undertaken within a framework that recognizes the rights of data owners and privacy of individuals.
3. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall ensure that users agree to the terms and conditions governing access and that suitable security arrangement are in place regarding internal storage and handling.
4. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall define arrangements for investigating allegations of security breaches and confidentiality disclosures regarding research data.

CHAPTER 8

PROVISIONS ON DURATION, WINDING UP, DISPUTES AND SETTING-UP

Article 28

Duration

The EDIC for Agri-Food shall exist for an indefinite period of time.

Article 29

Winding up

1. The winding up of the EDIC for Agri-Food shall be decided by the Assembly of Members in accordance with Article 10.
2. Without undue delay and in any event within ten days after adoption of the decision to wind up the EDIC, the EDIC for Agri-Food shall notify the European Commission about the decision.

3. Assets remaining after payment of the EDIC for Agri-Food debts shall be apportioned among the Members in proportion to their accumulated annual contribution to the EDIC for Agri-Food as specified in Article 9 or transferred to another legal entity to the extent that this entity continues EDIC's activities.
4. Without undue delay and in any event within ten days of the closure of the winding up procedure, the EDIC for Agri-Food shall notify the Commission thereof.
5. The EDIC for Agri-Food shall cease to exist on the day on which the European Commission publishes the appropriate notice in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Article 30

Applicable law

1. The setting up and the internal functioning of the EDIC for Agri-Food shall be governed:
 - (a) by Union law, in particular the DDPP Decision and Commission Decision establishing the EDIC for Agri-Food;
 - (b) by the law of the Member State where the EDIC has its statutory seat in the case of matters not, or only partly, regulated by acts referred to in point (a);
 - (c) by these statutes and their Implementing Rules.

Article 31

Disputes

Without prejudice to the cases in which the Court of Justice of the European Union has jurisdiction under the Treaties, the law of the Member State where the EDIC for Agri-Food has its statutory seat shall determine the competent jurisdiction for the resolution of disputes among the Members in relation to the EDIC and between the Members and the EDIC.

Article 32

Amendments to the Statutes

1. Non-essential elements of the Statutes, that is all elements of the Statutes except those referred to in Article 17(1), points (c), (d), (e) and (i) of DDPP Decision shall be amended by decision of the Assembly of Members, subject to Article 11(12)(a) of these Statutes.
2. The Chair of the Assembly of Members shall submit the amendments referred to in paragraph (1) to the Commission within 10 days after their adoption. As provided for in Article 17(4) of the DDPP Decision, the Commission may object to amendments within 60 days of their submission under paragraph 3. Amendments shall not take effect until the expiry of this deadline, a waiver of that deadline by the Commission, or the withdrawal of the Commission's objection.
3. Proposals for amendments of essential elements of the Statutes shall be adopted by decision of the Assembly of Members, subject to Article 11(11)(a) of these Statutes, and submitted to the Commission by the Chair. They shall only enter into force if they are adopted by the Commission by way of an implementing act, in accordance with Article 14 of the DDPP Decision.
4. These Statutes shall be kept up to date and publicly available on the EDIC for Agri-Food website.

Article 33

Set-up provisions

1. A first meeting of the Assembly of Members shall be called by the State where the EDIC for Agri-Food has its statutory seat as soon as possible after the Commission decision setting up the EDIC for Agri-Food takes effect.
2. Before the first meeting is held and no later than forty-five calendar days after the Commission decision setting up the EDIC for Agri-Food takes effect, the relevant State shall notify the Founding Members and Observers of any specific urgent legal action that needs to be taken on behalf of the EDIC for Agri-Food.

Unless a Founding Member objects within five working days after being notified, the legal action shall be carried out by a person duly authorised by the relevant State.

ANNEX I

List of Members and Observers, and their representing entities

MEMBERS

confirmed by commitment letter as of July 31, 2025

- AUSTRIA

represented by Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Klima- und Umweltschutz, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management)

- BELGIUM

Instituut voor Landbouw-, Visserij- en Voedingsonderzoek
(Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, ILVO)

-

- FRANCE

Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la souveraineté alimentaire (Ministry of Agriculture and Food sovereignty)

-

- ITALY

Ministry of Enterprise and Made in Italy, represented by Fondazione Bruno Kessler

OBSERVERS

-

- IRELAND

represented by An Roinn Talmahiochta, Bia agus Mara (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)

ANNEX II

Voting rights

1. In compliance with Article 15(4) of DDPP Decision, each Member of the EDIC for Agri-Food has one vote.
2. The vote of each Member shall be indivisible.

This applies to the Region Alliances referred to in Article 4(1)(c), where the composition of the Alliance's delegation to the Assembly of Members and its indivisible vote shall be ensured by internal agreement of the Regions participating in the Alliance.

ANNEX III

Contributions

1. As a Member of the EDIC for Agri-Food, the Member State or Region or Alliance of Regions has financial obligations and shall make contributions to the EDIC budget. The contributions can be made by the Member State or by the Region or the Alliance of Regions, its representing entity or any entity designated by the Member State or by the Region or by the Alliance of Regions; Article 21 of these Statutes applies.
2. The Member remains responsible for the provision of the annual national contribution to the EDIC. Members shall be responsible for the transfer of the financial contribution to the EDIC for Agri-Food as well as for the delivery of other types of contributions agreed.
3. The Observers and other parties which are not Members of the EDIC for Agri-Food are encouraged to provide voluntary donations to the EDIC for Agri-Food, and such donations shall not be considered as contributions.
4. The minimum financial annual contribution is €30,000 per Member.
5. Notwithstanding from the minimum contribution, the overall contribution per Member will be proportional to its Gross National Income (GNI).

The annual contributions for each Member are specified in Table 1:

Table 1: Total contributions (in-kind and in-cash) per Member State in Euro with seven EDIC members (based on 2021 GNI)

| | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | TOTAL | % according to GNI |
|---------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|--------------------|
| AUSTRIA | 30000 | 30000 | 30000 | 30000 | 120000 | 3,9 |
| BELGIUM | 30000 | 54563 | 54292 | 54292 | 193147 | 9,00 |
| CROATIA | 30000 | 47374 | 47139 | 47139 | 171 652 | 7,82 |
| FRANCE | 109719 | 278199 | 276821 | 276821 | 941560 | 45,91 |
| ITALY | 76998 | 195233 | 194267 | 194267 | 690765 | 32,22 |
| ROMANIA | 30000 | 30000 | 30000 | 30000 | 120000 | 4,14 |
| SLOVENIA | 30000 | 30000 | 30000 | 30000 | 120000 | 0,91 |
| Total own resources | 336717 | 665 369 | 662 519 | 662 519 | 2 357 124 | |

6. The contribution of each Member will be either only financial or financial and in-kind.
 7. As Member, each Member State contributes to the EDIC for Agri-Food budget according to its level of GNI, taking figures from the reference year 2021 from Eurostat.
 8. When a Region or an Alliance of Regions is a Member, its contribution is determined based on the GNI of the Member State to which it belongs to, following the same calculation method applied to Member State.
 9. In-kind contributions must be based on a fair, verifiable calculation basis.
- In-kind contribution shall be compiled and assessed by experts, the Director and Supervisory Board, which shall consult the Assembly of Members in case of difficulties. In-kind contributions have to be confirmed by the Assembly of Members.

In-kind contribution includes the following:

- Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) or part-time Employee of Member State and/or their representative organisations;
- provision of seat and any venues hosting EDIC meeting and/or event;
- any hardware provided for EDIC usage;
- computing resources and services;
- any financial spending (e.g.: travel cost, surveys, etc.) dedicated to the EDIC activities.

In-kind contributions for 2025 and 2026 will be agreed by founding members.

10. In addition to the financial and in-kind resource set out in Table 1, each Member is expected to dedicate at least 0,6 FTE per year to accomplish EDIC activities within its respective administrations and organizations involved in the EDIC.

11. If a new Member joins the EDIC, the contributions of the other Members will be recalculated and might be reduced for the subsequent year(s), whereby the minimum financial contribution of €30,000 remains for all Members.

The recalculation and adjustment of contributions shall take effect at the beginning of the next financial year following the formal accession of the new Members.

The Assembly of Members shall approve the revised financial contribution plan, ensuring transparency and fairness in the adjustment process.

12. The annual contributions per Member after the period 2025 – 2029 will be decided by 30 June 2029 at latest. All Members are generally committed to continue to pay the minimum annual financial contribution and additional in-kind contributions. In this context, the Assembly of Members may decide to take a more recent reference year for the GNI-based assessment.

Annex IV

Multi-Country Project (MCP)

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Annex V

EDIC for Agri-Food Implementation Strategy

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