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E-000723/2025

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.5.2025)

As set out in the Treaty on the European Union, the Commission promotes the general interest of the Union and is fully independent in carrying out its tasks. This applies to energy as well as all other areas within its competences. The Commission maintains an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society, including broad consultations with all parties concerned. In its recent decision to close the inquiry into the Commission's decision on the composition of the EU Energy Platform Industry Advisory Group (IAG), the European Ombudsman (EO) found no maladministration¹.

The EO found that the Commission provided a reasonable explanation for the composition of the group's membership at the time of its creation, as it appears reasonable to assume that only companies, as the end users of AggregateEU, could have provided meaningful user feedback on the design and development of the tool.

The EO made two suggestions for improvement: i) the Commission should reassess whether the mandate and composition of the IAG, or of any similar future expert group set up under the Gas and Hydrogen Regulation is appropriate; ii) where possible and justified, allow other stakeholders observer status in expert groups composed solely of corporate members.

The Commission underlines that the mandate of the IAG members expired at the end of October 2024. At this stage, there is no need to reassess the expert group's mandate or composition.

As already replied to the EO², The Commission fully agrees on the need for aligning the mandate and composition of possible future new expert groups with the tasks that these groups would actually perform, as per its usual practice for expert groups in general.

¹ <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/decision/en/192725>

² <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/doc/correspondence/en/200799>