



*Sent by email only*

To: Directors of ECHO FPA Partners  
From: VOICE Secretariat  
Subject: Reconstitution of FPA Watch Group 2015

Brussels, 30 September 2015

Dear Colleague,

The FPA Watch Group has proven to play an essential role in the relations between DG ECHO and its NGO partners during the last three years. The Group oversees the monitoring of the FPA implementation on behalf of NGOs, and through an established dialogue with ECHO works towards a common interpretation and consistent application of the FPA. When it is periodically reconstituted all ECHO FPA partners are invited to express their interest.

Thanks to its expertise and dedicated engagement, the Watch Group engaged positively in negotiating the rules and conditions that frame the current FPA.

In 2013, the group provided essential technical and operational know how to shape the new agreement. It advocated for the FPA to reflect stronger the partnership approach between ECHO and its partners. The group concretised this request by asking for simplification of the procurement and reporting requirements (including fewer annexes) and succeed in ECHO removing the section related to means and costs from the Single Form. It also advocated for more flexibility concerning project amendments and budget adjustments and now ECHO allows NGOs to use their own budget templates and rules for procurement and depreciation.

In 2014, the FPA Watch Group actively reviewed and commented on the annexes of the 2014 FPA. It gave consolidated feedback to the General Guidelines, the Single Form guidelines and the Visibility and Communication Manual. Since then the group monitors the implementation of the FPA, identifies critical issues for NGOs and seeks clarification whenever relevant. The group also reacted to the introduction of the Resilience marker and launched a survey to all NGOs to provide ECHO with concrete recommendations on the use of the marker. Through regular, open and constructive discussions with DG ECHO, the Watch Group maintained its relevance and utility.

A strong FPA Watch Group requires active members who will make a long-term commitment. An explanatory note regarding the group and its reconstitution and a nomination form are attached. We encourage you to read it carefully. The current terms of reference are also enclosed. These will be updated and confirmed by the new Watch Group once it is constituted.

When nominations are completed, all ECHO partners will be invited to endorse the new composition of the Watch Group to support its work on behalf of the ECHO NGO partner community as a whole.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'Kathrin Schick'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathrin Schick  
VOICE Director

Annexes

- Reconstitution of the FPA Watch Group explanatory note
- Terms of reference FPA WG (2012)
- Participation form for FPA WG