

Membership ESAF

Agreed on at the ESAF-4 meeting in Tallinn 2018 – The principles will be evaluated at the ESAF meeting of 2020.

Considerations:

- ESAF aims to facilitate open and inclusive exchange of information, expertise, practices and results, with a primary focus on science-for-policy advice within Europe. Following this goal, deliverables of ESAF (website, advisory reports, workshops) should be as open as possible and members should be encouraged to share information of and with other science based strategic advisors outside and within their countries.
- Historically ESAF developed as forum of EU member-country science advisors with a formal and active position to provide science based strategic advice to their democratic governments. While members do not formally represent the position of their country in ESAF, membership of ESAF is based on country representation.
- European science advisors from non-EU countries and from the regional level have expressed interest to join ESAF. For practical reasons, the number of participants of annual ESAF meetings cannot be unlimited. This requires an additional set of ruling principles regarding membership, decision-making authority and guests of ESAF.

Principles regarding membership of ESAF and guests of the annual ESAF meeting

Members

1. Members of ESAF are nominated by EU-member governments at the request of the European Commission.
2. Members can have an alternate represent their country at ESAF meetings.
3. ESAF membership is open to non-EU countries which are associated countries of the European Research Area.
4. ESAF members decide on admission of a non EU-member country to ESAF membership.
5. Decisions regarding ESAF (on membership as well as other issues) are made by majority of votes.
6. Each country can cast one vote.

Delegations and guests

7. In consultation with the coordinating country, members can bring a national delegation of max four people to the annual ESAF meeting. The delegation of the host country and the coordinating country can be somewhat larger.
8. The decision concerning the composition of a national delegation rests with the formal ESAF representative or its alternate. Should an individual from a country (e.g. a regional representative) express interest in participating to the ESAF secretariat of the coordinating country, then the secretariat will refer the interested party to the ESAF representative of that country.
9. The coordinating country decides on participation of other guests at an ESAF meeting. For other (future) ESAF activities, such as a course or a conference, members have a standing invitation. However the coordinating country and organisers of the event are free to invite other participants as well.