

LETTER OF INTENT

This Letter Of Intent ("LOI") takes effect on and is entered into by and between World Economic Forum ("WEF"), a not-for-profit foundation headquartered in 91-93 Route de la Capite, CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva, Switzerland, and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy in The Netherlands, located at Bezuidenhoutseweg 73, 2594 AC 's-Gravenhage, the Netherlands hereon "the Participants" to lay down the intention of the Participants to create a Global Co-ordinating Secretariat ("GCS") for the global network of Food Innovation Hubs in the Netherlands.

This LOI details the intended initial scope and basis of the GCS. This LOI is non-binding and represents the intent of the Participants only. The Participants agree and accept to replace this LOI with a separate legally binding collaboration arrangements that will define and formalize the operations and activities of the GCS for the global network of Food Innovation Hubs.

1. THE OVERALL GOAL is to forge a unique collaboration between both Participants firstly, focusing on the successful establishment of the GCS in the Netherlands to catalyse the global success of the partnership-based innovation structure. This partnership-based innovation structure consisting of a GCS and a network of regional innovation hubs, is aiming to provide support to strengthen local innovation ecosystems and by doing so is envisioned to strengthen food systems to deliver better, faster, more nutritious food, inclusive growth, environmental sustainability and climate resilience, through public-private partnerships and international trade and innovation, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
2. THE GCS: aims to (i) catalyse new regional and country Food Innovation Hubs and support the scaling of existing Food Innovation Hubs; (ii) coordinates and shares learning among Food Innovation Hubs (process and initiative development); (iii) facilitates bringing in new partners and financing; (iv) links global process and initiatives (e.g. UN Food Systems Summit 2021, Food Action Alliance); (v) leadership & communication for the global network of Food Innovation Hubs; (vi) provides a physical workspace/meeting facilities for representatives of the partner based innovation structure.
The activities of the GCS will be guided by a multi-stakeholder governance body of either the Partners Group or Steering Committee including its donors.
3. BOTH PARTICIPANTS UNDERTAKE TO (i) setup a taskforce with a core team of representatives assigned or recommended by the Participants to support the transition; (ii) work towards setting up a multi-stakeholder governance framework for an independent neutral GCS with agreement on the scope and the activities of the GCS, and collaboration with the regional Food Innovation Hubs; (iii) agree on a roadmap towards attracting international partners and financial or in kind support for the Food Innovation Hubs; (iv) set up an arrangement on the financial construction and support for the GCS; (v) agree on the Netherlands as location for the GCS; (vi) roadmap and timelines for 2nd phase of development of the GCS with the intention to kick off in January 2021.

4. World Economic Forum: an independent international organization playing a crucial role in worldwide public-private cooperation. Its transformation agenda with aspirational goals for food systems to be sustainable, inclusive, efficient, nutritious and healthy. The WEF's launch of the **"Innovation with a Purpose Initiative"** in 2018 has resulted in a network of regional Food Innovation Hubs connecting multiple ecosystem players – business, governments, civil society, research institutes, farmer organizations and innovators – to foster partnerships specifically to scale food systems innovation. Overall ambition is that this will result in bigger, faster scaling of critical innovations for food and agriculture sector, thanks to greater collaboration, investment, capacity building and institutional support. Addressing institutional bottlenecks globally now requires the need for further coordination in the form of a GCS.

5. THE NETHERLANDS OFFERS AN INCLUSIVE GLOBAL NETWORK, KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORTING POLICIES: The Dutch innovation- and agricultural policy are very much in line with the topics that are considered crucial by WEF for Food System Transformation. The Netherlands have put in place a so-called mission driven innovation policy. In the area of Agri&Food, missions have been defined in line with the SDG's addressing topics like of sustainability, circular agriculture, safe, healthy and affordable food for all, climate neutrality as well as consumer behaviour. There is special attention for development and implementation of key enabling technologies eg. Digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence, Internet-of-Things, biotechnology and micro- and nanotechnology in the Agri&Food sector. In order to connect the Dutch innovation ecosystems with other ecosystems worldwide and innovate together the Netherlands has put in place an extensive global network of innovation attachés and agricultural counsellors.

6. HOSTING THE GLOBAL COORDINATING SECRETARIAT: As the goals of the Dutch policy and activities are very much in line with those of the Forum's food systems initiative, The Netherlands offers to host the GCS as a neutral independent entity and the WEF accepts to work towards an agile, flexible structure, focussing on key needs and partners capabilities. The Participants envision the establishment of a multi-stakeholder governance mechanism such as the Partners Group or Steering Committee that will guide the governance and activities of the GCS and leverage additional financial or in-kind support in support of the Hubs network. This governance mechanism will not only enable the GCS to coordinate and support the regions, but also support the development and strengthening of the network of regional and country Food Innovation Hubs.

7. THE TERMS OF THE LOI: A. This LOI shall be effective from the execution day, which is the date that the LOI has been signed by both Participants. The term of this LOI shall expire one year from the effective date of the LOI, upon the signing of an agreed upon separate collaboration agreement, or upon premature termination, whichever occurs first. B. Each Participant is entitled to terminate this LOI at any time by written notice to the other Party, without the terminating Participant being liable for compensation towards the other Participant in respect of such premature termination and/or discontinued negotiations. Such premature termination shall have no effect on contracts already signed before such termination.

8. NON-BINDING NATURE OF LOI: Participants agree that this LOI is not intended to create a legally binding contractual relationship between the Participants but to exclusively work towards the establishment of the GCS in the Netherlands.
9. APPLICABLE LAW AND JURISDICTION: this LOI is exclusively governed by Dutch law and jurisdiction.
10. THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOME for both Participants is the establishment of the WEF GCS in the Netherlands.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Participants hereby execute this Letter of Intent as the date first written above.

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, also on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Netherlands



Signature

Eric Wiebes

18/12

Date

World Economic Forum, Switzerland



January 5, 2021 | 04:33 PST

Date

World Economic Forum, Switzerland



January 5, 2021 | 13:00 CET

Date



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Climate Policy

> P.O. Box 20401 2500 EK The Hague The Netherlands

World Economic Forum
Attention: [REDACTED]
91-93 Route de la Capite,
CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva,
Switzerland

Date
Re WEF Global Coordinating Secretariat

Dear [REDACTED],

On behalf of the Dutch Ministers of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and Agriculture, Nature and Food quality together with the Regional Development Agency Oost NL this letter provides prior to the official signing of the letter of intent further clarification by the Dutch authorities on the offer that has been made to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in order for the Netherlands to be the best suited host for the Global Coordinating Secretariat (GCS). The GCS has the aim to support and coordinate the activities of the network of Food Innovation Hubs worldwide.

This letter is the result of a constructive discussion between representatives of WEF, representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Oost NL, Wageningen University and Research, Foodvalley NL and representatives of Unilever, DSM and Rabobank concerning the establishment of a European Food Innovation Hub in Wageningen as well as the hosting of a Global Coordinating Secretariat.

As a first result of this discussion, FoodvalleyNL will host the European Food Innovation Hub as announced during the Bold Actions for Food as a Force for Good event and confirmed in a separate letter by Mrs. Edith Schippers, chairman of Foodvalley NL.

A second outcome of the discussion is the letter of intent agreed between the WEF and the Dutch government to host the Global Coordinating Secretariat (GCS) in the Netherlands. The letter of intent also details the intended scope and basis of the GCS.

We strongly believe that establishing the GCS in the Netherlands will be mutually beneficial and proof of great benefit to the efficacy and impact of the global network of Food Innovation Hubs. The goals of the food innovation hubs are very much in line with the goals of our innovation- and agricultural policy and an effective GCS in the Netherlands also contributes to the impact of our mission driven innovation policy, executed by our tripartite topsectors on Agrifood, Horticulture and Starting materials.

**Directorate-General for
Enterprise and Innovation**

Visit address

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2594 AC Den Haag
The Netherlands

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P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK Den Haag
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www.rijksoverheid.nl/ezk

Dealt with by

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Our ref.

DGBI / 20309858

Your ref.

Encl.

The offer discussed is as follows:

- The Netherlands will house the GCS, which is understood to be the rental costs for an office for up to three persons up to the amount of 15,000 euro/year for a period of three years.
- Initially the team is expected to comprise of 3 persons:
 - i. Executive director, to be seconded from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy for the period of 3 years. (This person will be selected based on a profile supplied by WEF and in agreement with WEF).
 - ii. A project coordinator, to be seconded from the Regional Development Agency Oost NL for an initial period of 1 year with the option to extend up to 3 years with positive experience. (This person will be selected by Oost NL, based on a profile supplied by WEF).
 - iii. A program budget of 200,000 euro/year for the period of three years from which the Senior Program Manager is hired. It is expected that this individual will work from the WEF headquarters (Switzerland) in close co-operation with the Netherlands hub.

We would like to thank you for this opportunity, and are very much looking forward to our cooperation.

Signatures:

On behalf of the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy,

On behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality,

On behalf of the East Netherlands Development Agency Oost NL



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Climate Policy

> P.O. Box 20401 2500 EK The Hague The Netherlands

World Economic Forum
91 93 Route de la Capite
1223 Colony, Switzerland
[redacted] [redacted]

Date MAY 11th, 2021
Re Grant GSC, Innovation Foodhubs.

Obligation number 1300032011

Dear [redacted],

On March 4, 2021, on behalf of the World Economic Forum, you requested a grant of € 651,000 during the period from 2021 to 2023, for purposes of the establishment and development in the Netherlands of the Global Coordinating Secretariat ("GCS"), in line with the provisions in the attached collaboration agreement (Appendix 1).

With this letter I send you my decision (Appendix 2) on your aforementioned letter. (Appendix 2a: informal translation decision).

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
on his behalf:
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

**Directorate-General for
Enterprise and Innovation**

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Dealt with by
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Our ref.

DGBI / 21120291

Your ref. letter March 4, 2021

End. 3

verplichtingnummer: **1300032011**

Besluit, behorende bij brief kenmerk DG B&I / 21120291

Ik verstrek World Economic Forum hierbij, in het kader van mijn beleid gericht op innovatie, op grond van artikel 2, onderdeel b, van de Kaderwet EZ-subsidies en onder de voorwaarden uit de voornoemde overeenkomst, subsidie voor de uitvoering van het project, waarvoor u mij om een bijdrage heeft verzocht. Op basis van de gegevens, opgenomen in de voornoemde overeenkomst, stel ik de subsidie vast op € 651.000. Dit bedrag is inclusief alle eventuele belastingen.

Onder de opschortende voorwaarde dat u mij voor 31 mei 2021 een authentieke getekende kopie van de *collaboration agreement* doet toekomen, zal een eerste tranche van dit bedrag van € 217.000 worden betaald binnen 6 weken na de dag van verzending van deze beschikking, op uw volgende bankrekeningnummer:

Account Name:	World Economic Forum
Bank Name:	UBS Switzerland AG
Swift/BIC:	UBSWCHZH80A
Account No.:	CH91 0027 9279 3552 94.02 M
IBAN:	CH91 0027 9279 3552 9402 M

Na ontvangst een schriftelijk verzoek daartoe van World Economic Forum in lijn met de *collaboration agreement* zal ik in 2022 een tweede tranche van € 217.000 betalen op het voornoemde rekeningnummer, gevolgd door een derde en laatste tranche van € 217.000 voor 31 december 2023, wederom na ontvangst een schriftelijk verzoek daartoe van World Economic Forum in lijn met de *collaboration agreement* (documentcode DG B&I / 21120358).

Alle correspondentie met betrekking tot deze subsidie dient u, met vermelding van bovenstaand verplichtingnummer 1300032011, te zenden naar:

Ministerie van Economische Zaken en Klimaat
t.a.v. 
Postbus 20401
2500 EK Den Haag
E-mail: 

De Minister van Economische Zaken en Klimaat,
namens deze:



Tegen dit besluit kan degene wiens belang rechtstreeks bij dit besluit is betrokken binnen zes weken na de dag van verzending van dit besluit een gemotiveerd bezwaarschrift indienen bij de Minister van Economische Zaken en Klimaat, directie Wetgeving en Juridische Zaken, Postbus 20401, 2500 EK Den Haag. Dit besluit is verzonden op de in de aanhef van deze brief vermelde datum.

Obligation number:1300032011

Dear [REDACTED]

On 12 March 2021, you requested on behalf of the World Economic Forum a subsidy of €651,000, for the period 2021 up to 2023, in connection with the establishment and development in the Netherlands of the Global Coordinating Secretariat ("GCS"), in accordance with the provisions of the attached collaboration agreement (Annex 1).

I hereby grant to the World Economic Forum, as part of my policy on innovation, a subsidy for the implementation of the project for which you have requested me to contribute, pursuant to Article 2(b) of the Ministry of Economic Affairs Subsidy Framework Act and under the conditions set out in the aforementioned agreement. Following the information contained in the aforementioned agreement, I hereby determine the amount of the subsidy at € 651,000. This amount includes all taxes, if any.

Under the suspensive condition that you provide me with an authentic signed copy of the collaboration agreement before May, 31, 2021, a first instalment of this amount of € 217,000 will be paid within 6 weeks of the date of this decision, to your following bank account number:

Account Name:	World Economic Forum
Bank Name:	UBS Switzerland AG
Swift/BIC:	ff
Account No.:	CH91 0027 9279 3552 94.02 M
IBAN:	CH91 0027 9279 3552 9402 M

Upon receipt of a written request from World Economic Forum in accordance with the collaboration Agreement, I will transfer a second instalment of €217,000 in 2022 to the aforementioned account number, followed by a third and final instalment of €217,000 before 31 December 2023, again upon receipt of a written request from World Economic Forum in accordance with the collaboration agreement (document DG B&I / 21120358).

All correspondence relating to this subsidy should be sent, with reference to the above obligation number, to:

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy

[REDACTED]
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague
E-mail: [REDACTED]

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy,
on his behalf,

[REDACTED]

Within six weeks of the date of dispatch of this decision, any party whose interests are directly affected by this decision may submit a reasoned objection to the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Change, Legislation and Legal Affairs Department, PO Box 20401, 2500 EK The Hague. This decision was sent on the date stated in the letter head of this letter.

[REDACTED]