1 EU Referendum – process for designation of Lead Campaigners

1.1 Commissioners were asked to consider adjustments to the previously agreed process for designating EU Referendum Lead Campaigners, to clarify the handling of multiple applications, and make clear our approach. The case was set out in paper EC 25/16.

1.2 The Chair and Lord Horam had recused themselves from participating in any decisions relating to the designation of Lead Campaigners and therefore were not part of this decision. DH also did not respond.

Agreed:

That the following additions to the process for designating lead campaigners at the EU Referendum be agreed:

a. Where there is more than one application for either outcome which meets the statutory test of adequately representing those campaigning for that outcome at the referendum, but the Board is satisfied that one applicant clearly represents to the greatest extent those campaigning for the outcome it supports, the Board should designate that applicant at its first meeting. The Board would not be required to obtain further evidence from the other applicant(s) for that outcome (where such evidence would be required to support assertions made in the application) even if they do or could meet the statutory test (see paragraphs 4.1 – 4.6.1 of the Board paper).

b. Where there are competing and fully evidenced applications which meet the statutory test, and if the Board is satisfied that there is no further evidence that could be provided to support assertions included in the
applications as submitted in order to assist the Board in assessing which applicant represents to the greatest extent those campaigning for the outcome they support, the Board should designate at the first meeting whichever of the applicants appears to it to represent to the greatest extent those campaigning for that outcome (see paragraphs 4.1 – 4.6.2).

c. If, at its first meeting, the Board decide that it is necessary to obtain further evidence to support assertions made in an application, any further evidence can be requested to be provided in writing or by face-to-face meeting (for example by interview or presentation) depending on the type and most appropriate means of obtaining the additional evidence being sought (see paragraphs 4.7 – 4.13).

______________________________Chair