

Vacancy notice 2023- 184 HQ (AD) – Head of Division SG.2

EEAS Vacancy Notice – Head of Division SG.2 -Parliamentary Affairs

Type of post "Head of Unit or equivalent"

EU Officials – AD 9 – AD 14 – Candidates from the Member States¹ – AD 12

We are:

The European External Action Service (EEAS) supports the High Representative in the exercise of his mandate to conduct and implement an effective and coherent EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), to represent the EU and to chair the Foreign Affairs Council.

It also supports the High Representative in his capacity as Vice-President of the Commission with regard to his responsibilities within the Commission in the external relations field, including the coordination of other aspects of the EU's external action. The EEAS works in close cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Council, the services of the Commission and the Secretariat General of the European Parliament.

The Parliamentary Affairs Division (SG.2) offers support, analysis and advice to the EEAS management and the HRVP Cabinet on all institutional or policy-issues concerning the relations between the HRVP/EEAS and the European Parliament. The Team reaches out towards EP administration and Members, prepares the HRVP participation in plenary sessions and other meetings, attends and reports on EP meetings of relevance to the EEAS -both in Brussels and Strasbourg-, ensures smooth inter-institutional coordination and information flow and manages and coordinates parliamentary questions, as well as EEAS replies to Petitions. Further to EP-related issues, the Division is also responsible for other inter-institutional relations with National Parliaments, the European Ombudsman, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, coordinating the EEAS response to formal and informal queries from these institutions and bodies.

We propose:

The post of Head of Division of the SG.2 Division / Parliamentary Affairs.

Under the authority of the Secretary General of the EEAS, the Head of Division exercises the overall management responsibility for the activities of the Division.

The main responsibilities are as follows:

The Head of Division is responsible for leading and managing the Division, namely:

- Ensure overall coordination of parliamentary affairs related activities in the EEAS, managing part of its interinstitutional relations (with National Parliaments, the European Ombudsman, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions).
- Provide political advice to the EEAS senior management and the HRVP Cabinet on parliamentary activities, including ad hoc analysis, advice on outreach and preparation of activities
- Support and monitor the implementation of the Declaration of political accountability and other commitments to the Parliament
- Represent the EEAS and organise/maintain relations with a network of contacts in the European Parliament (in particular the relevant committees, within political groups, and the Secretariat General of the Parliament), Commission (SG, in particular) as well as Council Secretariat and Member States, notably

¹ Temporary Agents from national diplomatic services of the Member States to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies will also be reclassified to this grade if selected for the post.

Presidency (in particular, in the context of GAG), on issues related to the work of the Division.

- Ensure the Division prepares and keeps up to date guidance and assists the relevant EEAS departments on a number of Parliament-related activities (i.e reporting, information obligations vis-à-vis the EP on international agreements, parliamentary questions, plenary preparation, visits of EEAS Members of the European Parliament to third countries) as well as processes parliamentary related briefing requests within the EEAS.
- Coordinate oral and/or written questions and/or petitions from Members of the European Parliament and/or investigations from the European Ombudsman.
- Organise/maintain working relations with the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.
- Monitor and ensure the timely implementation of goals and tasks assigned to the Division, including under tight schedule;
- Motivate, coach and lead a multinational expert team, ensure efficient staff and personnel administration of the Division

This position is classified as a “Head of unit or equivalent” type of post² in the grade bracket AD 9 – AD 14.

If selected for the post, candidates from the national diplomatic services of Member States will be recruited at grade AD 12.

If selected for the post, the contract of candidates who, at the time of their application are temporary agents to whom Article 2(e) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants (hereafter, the “CEOS”) applies, will be amended and, if applicable, these candidates will be reclassified at grade AD12.

The duration of the assignment to the post shall be, in principle, four years.

Legal Basis for the recruitment to this position

The successful candidate for this position will be:

- appointed in accordance with Article 29(1) of the Staff Regulations (SR) if he or she is an official;
- recruited in accordance with Article 29(1)(a) and Article 98(1), first subparagraph, of the SR, if the candidate is a member of the national diplomatic service of a Member State or reassigned if he/she is a temporary agent to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies. Such candidates shall be recruited or, if applicable, assigned at grade AD 12 or at their current grade if it is higher.

We look for:

Eligibility Criteria³

General

Further to the conditions set out in Article 28 of the SR for EU officials and Article 12 of the CEOS for temporary agents, candidates must:

1. be an EU official, or a temporary agent to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies, or a member of staff from national diplomatic services of the Member States;
2. have the capacity to work in the languages of the CFSP and external relations (English and French), necessary for the performance of their duties. Knowledge of other EU languages would also be an asset;

² According to the Annex I of the Staff Regulations and the relevant EEAS internal rules.

³ All the eligibility criteria must be met on the closing date for applications for this post.

3. have three years' management experience commensurate with the responsibilities of the post;⁴
4. have at least six years' proven, pertinent external relations experience - for staff from national diplomatic services, this experience must have been gained from working in a national administration of one of the Member States.

- SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR EU OFFICIALS

1. EU officials applying for this post must be AD 9 – AD 14.

EU officials at AD 8 are eligible to apply if they have at least 2 years seniority in that grade.

In the event of a successful application, EU officials at AD 9 – AD 14 will be appointed at the same grade. EU officials at AD 8 will be promoted to grade AD 9.

2. Due to the need to ensure sound financial management of the limited financial resources and given the fact that the assignment of a staff member to a Delegation has important budgetary and business continuity implications, applications from staff members currently serving in a Delegation and who are not in the annual rotation/ mobility exercise are in principle not eligible and may only be considered in the interest of the service or in case of an application for a higher type of post (further on, "career progression").⁵ In addition, if they wish to apply for a post on the basis of career progression, they should have spent at least 2 years on their current post when they take up duty.
3. Candidates who, at the time of the application, are EU officials, independently of their administrative status under Article 35 of the SR, cannot request to be recruited as temporary agents under Article 2(e) of the CEOS.

In the case of applications from EU officials on leave for personal grounds, successful candidates will be reinstated into active employment within the meaning of Articles 35(a) of the SR.

- SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATES FROM THE NATIONAL DIPLOMATIC SERVICES OF THE MEMBER STATES TO BE RECRUITED IN ACCORDANCE ARTICLE 98(1), FIRST SUBPARAGRAPH, OF THE SR.

In line with Article 12 of the CEOS and in accordance with the needs of the service, candidates from the diplomatic services of Member States of the Union must:

1. possess a level of education
 - a. which corresponds to completed university studies attested by a diploma when the normal period of university education is four years or more,OR
 - b. which corresponds to completed university studies attested by a diploma and relevant professional experience of at least one year when the normal period of university education is at least three years.⁶
2. have gained at least 12 years' full time professional experience. This experience must have been gained after obtaining the four-year diploma or after obtaining the three-year diploma and the one year relevant professional experience;

Candidates must indicate their level of education and professional experience on the application form.

⁴ In their CVs, applicants should indicate management experience in terms of: (1) title and role of management positions held, (2) numbers of staff overseen in these positions, (3) the size of budgets managed, and (4) numbers of hierarchical layers above and below and number of peers.

⁵ 'Career progression' refers to applications for a higher type of post according to Annex I of the SR. It is designed to allow staff to develop within the organisation. In this case, it refers to "Administrators" in grade AD 8 with 2 years seniority in this grade, who are applying to a "Head of Unit or equivalent" type of post for the first time.

⁶ The minimum of one year of professional experience required under (b) counts as an integral part of the above qualification and cannot be included in the professional experience required under point 3.

3. Candidates from national diplomatic services and current temporary agents engaged under Article 2(e) CEOS must be able to return to active service with their Member State after the end of their period of service to EEAS.

The candidates shall provide a statement issued by their national diplomatic service, which contains at least the following elements:

- the post to which the candidate applies;
- that the candidate is a staff member in active service in the national diplomatic service of their respective member state at the time of application, either as an official or under a permanent employment relation.
- that the national diplomatic service endorses his/her application to the post
- A guarantee of immediate reinstatement in the national diplomatic service after the end of their contract with the EEAS/ the end of their secondment.

If candidates are unable to provide this document from their national diplomatic service, their application will be deemed ineligible.

Furthermore, candidates must be in a position to serve during the full duration of their assignment within the maximum duration of engagement in the EEAS.

Candidates from the Member States should be in active employment in their public service of origin at the moment of the application.

Candidates from the national diplomatic services of Member States, who have served continuously 8 or up to the maximum of 10 years as Temporary Agents under Article 2(e) of the CEOS pursuant to Article 50b(2) of the CEOS, are not eligible before a lapse of at least 2 years from the termination of their last contract under Article 2(e) of the CEOS⁷.

- SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR TEMPORARY AGENTS TO WHOM ARTICLE 2(E) OF THE CEOS APPLIES

Due to the need to ensure sound financial management of the limited financial resources and given the fact that the assignment of staff to a post of the establishment plan in Delegation or in Headquarters has important budgetary and business continuity implications, applications from temporary agents currently employed in the EEAS under Article 2(e) of the CEOS will be considered only during the third year of their first contract.

They must provide a statement issued by their national diplomatic service containing the elements provided for by the specific eligibility criteria for candidates from national diplomatic services of the Member States.

Candidates from national diplomatic services who, at the time of their application, are Temporary Agents to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies, are eligible to apply, irrespective of their current grade, provided that they fulfil the general eligibility criteria.

- Selection Criteria

The ideal candidate should have:

- an excellent ability to maintain diplomatic relations and to ensure representation, communication in a complex, multicultural environment;
- an excellent capacity to create constructive working relations with political stakeholders, national authorities, international organisations and EU Member States;
- strong communication and analytical skills combined with sound political judgement and drafting skills;
- excellent knowledge of external relations, internal policies and functioning of the Union;
- experience and knowledge of CFSP and CSDP-related issues;
- good teamwork and interpersonal skills.

Furthermore:

- experience of working with the European Parliament;

⁷ ADMIN(2023) 24 on the maximum duration of engagement by the European External Action Service of non-permanent staff under successive limited duration contracts of different types, and on the minimum lapse of time between successive contracts under Article 2(e) of the CEOS

- good knowledge of the EU Institutions;
- experience of working in an Embassy, a Delegation (or equivalent in an international organisation);
- experience of working in a team in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environment;

would be strong assets.

TYPE AND DURATION OF CONTRACT FOR TEMPORARY AGENTS

If the successful candidate is not an EU official, or a temporary agent currently employed in the EEAS under Article 2(e) of the CEOS, he or she will be required to undergo a medical examination to ensure that he or she is physically fit to perform the duties.

The successful candidate will be offered a temporary contract under Article 2(e) of the CEOS. Such contracts may not exceed 4 years in duration; their expiry will as far as possible be aligned with the usual date of mobility at Headquarters (currently 31 August of each year). The contract of successful candidates who are temporary agents under Article 2(e) CEOS currently employed in the EEAS will be amended and renewed for a 4 years period, within the limits provided for by Article 50(b)(2) of the CEOS.

All newly engaged temporary staff will be required to complete a probationary period of 9 months in accordance with Article 14 of the CEOS.

If the successful candidate has already successfully completed the required probationary period under Article 14 of the CEOS, an additional probationary period of the same duration may be required to be completed in accordance with Article 44(2) of the SR, applied by analogy to temporary agents in accordance with Article 20 of the CEOS, where the successful candidate is assigned to his/her first management post.

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

Brussels (Belgium)

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The requested level of security clearance for this post is: SECRET UE/EU SECRET. A description of the EU classified information levels is available under Article 2 of the Decision ADMIN(2017) 10 on the security rules of the EEAS⁸.

The selected candidate should hold, or be in the position to obtain, a valid Personnel Security Clearance (PSC)⁹ issued by the competent authority of the Member State concerned.

Candidates who do not already have a valid PSC will be required to go through the security clearance vetting procedure of their Member State to obtain this clearance in accordance with national laws and regulations and with the procedure laid down in the Decision ADMIN(2019)7 on Security Clearance Requirements and Procedures for the EEAS of 08 March 2019 and in Annex A I of the Decision ADMIN(2017) 10 on the security rules of the EEAS¹⁰. Until the PSC is issued by the competent authority of the Member State concerned, the selected candidate will not be authorised to access EUCI at the level of CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above, or to participate in any meetings or workflow where EUCI is processed.

Please note that the necessary procedure for obtaining a PSC can be initiated on request of the employer only, and not by the individual candidate.

In case of failure to obtain or renew the required PSC, the AACC may take the appropriate measures in accordance with Article 3(3) of the Decision ADMIN(2019) 7 on Security Clearance Requirements and Procedures for the EEAS of 08 March 2019. Successful candidates from the national diplomatic services of the Member States will be required to make a declaration of their commitment to act independently in the public interest and a declaration of any interests which might be considered prejudicial to their independence.

⁸ OJ C 126, 10 April 2018, p.1.

⁹ The 'Personnel Security Clearance' is defined under point 2 of Annex A I of the Decision ADMIN(2017) 10 on the security rules of the EEAS as "a statement by a competent authority of a Member State which is made following completion of a security investigation conducted by the competent authorities of a Member State and which certifies that an individual may, provided his 'need-to-know' has been determined, be granted access to EUCI up to a specified level (CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above) until a specified date; the individual thus described is said to be 'security cleared'."

¹⁰ OJ C 126, 10 April 2018, p.1.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The EEAS is committed to an equal opportunities policy for all its employees and applicants for employment. As an employer, the EEAS is committed to promoting gender equality and to preventing discrimination on any grounds. It actively welcomes applications from all qualified candidates from diverse backgrounds and from the broadest possible geographical basis amongst the EU Member States. We aim at a service which is truly representative of society, where each staff member feels respected, is able to give their best and can develop their full potential.

Candidates with disabilities are invited to contact the functional mailbox (CCA-SECRETARIAT@eeas.europa.eu) in order to accommodate any special needs and provide assistance to ensure the possibility to pass the selection procedure in equality of opportunities with other candidates. If a candidate with a disability is selected for a vacant post, the EEAS is committed to providing reasonable accommodation in accordance with Art 1d.4 of the Staff Regulations.

PROCEDURE¹¹

The selection procedure will take place in three different and successive steps:

1. Application

Before submitting their application, candidates should carefully check whether they meet all the eligibility criteria in order to avoid automatic exclusion from the selection procedure.

Candidates must apply through the online system

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eapplication/index.cfm>

To log on to the system, an ECAS (European Commission Authentication Service) password is required; candidates without a password can register to get one through the aforementioned link. EU staff members with a professional ECAS account should use that account for their application. A helpdesk facility is available via the "Contact Support" function within the online system.

In case of connection problems, you can also refer to the complete EU Login user guide:

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/manuals/EU_Login_Tutorial.pdf

During the online application procedure, candidates will have to upload their CV and motivation letter (in English or French). Candidates are invited to use the "Europass" CV format (<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/documents/curriculum-vitae>) for their applications.

Candidates from the national diplomatic services of the Member States will, in addition, have to upload a copy of their passport/ID and a recent statement by their Ministry for Foreign Affairs (issued within the past 6 months) confirming their membership of a diplomatic service..

All candidates will have the opportunity to follow the progress of their application through the online system.

The closing date for the submission of applications is **14 December 12.00 midday** (CET - Brussels' time). Please note that the only way to submit an application is using the online system.

As the system may experience peak activity around the deadline, candidates are strongly advised to submit their application as early as possible. Late applications will not be accepted.

For correspondence concerning the selection procedures, please use the following email address: cca-secretariat@eeas.europa.eu

¹¹ Your personal data will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) 2018/1725. The privacy statement is available on EEAS webpage: http://eeas.europa.eu/data_protection/rights/index_en.htm

2. Pre-selection

The pre-selection will be done by a panel on the basis of the qualifications and the professional experience described in the CV and motivation letter, and will produce a shortlist of a limited number of eligible candidates who best meet the selection criteria for the post.

3. Selection

The candidates who have been shortlisted will be invited for an interview so that the selection panel can evaluate them objectively and impartially on the basis of their qualifications, professional experience and linguistic skills, as listed in the present vacancy notice. The selection panel will recommend a shortlist of candidates to the Appointing Authority/AACC, who will make the final selection.

Shortlisted candidates might be invited to an Assessment Centre.

It is recalled, that if the interest of the service so requires, the selection procedures can be terminated at any stage and the post be filled by a transfer in accordance with Article 7 of the SR.

CONTACT: Mr. Massimo Santoro, Head of SG Office

Email: Massimo.SANTORO@eeas.europa.eu

POST AVAILABLE: 16 November 2023