



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Directorate-General for Organisational Development and Services
Directorate for Human Resources
The Director

His/Her Excellency the Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Member States to the
European Union

(by e-mail)

Brussels, 22 October 2025

Subject: **Secondment to the General Secretariat of the Council of a national expert in the field of trade policy**

Ref.: SNE/05/2025 (COMPET.3) - 1 post (500481)

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Council of the EU plays a central role in shaping the European Union's trade policy – mandating negotiations, adopting trade agreements and co-legislating with the European Parliament. Within the General Secretariat of the Council, a dedicated team of 12 colleagues supports this work by assisting five Trade Policy Committees (TPC), coordinating discussions on international trade, preparing policy and legislative activities for the Foreign Affairs Council in its Trade Ministers' format and liaising with the INTA Committee to ensure smooth legislative cooperation.

The General Secretariat of the Council is looking for a national expert to reinforce its Directorate for Trade. The national expert will provide in-depth policy and procedural advice on trade matters, and draft specialised policy reports, speeches and briefing material, including infographics.

During the secondment, the national expert will have the chance to work on policies that have a direct impact on the future of Europe, engage with key international stakeholders and participate in high-level negotiations in a dynamic and collaborative environment. Moreover, the GSC recognises the importance of a work-life balance, and flexible working hours, as well as the possibility of working remotely for some of the time, are offered in order to accommodate both personal and professional needs.

The job description, including details of the qualifications and experience required, is annexed hereto.

The duration of the secondment will be two years, with the possibility of extension to a maximum of four years in total. Please note that, in accordance with Article 5 of Council Decision (EU) 2015/1027, the secondment could be extended for an additional two years in exceptional cases.

The expert should ideally take up their duties at the General Secretariat of the Council by **1 January 2026**.

The conditions of the secondment, including the allowances paid by the Council, are set out in the Council Decision of 23 June 2015 concerning the rules applicable to experts on secondment to the General Secretariat of the Council (Council Decision (EU) 2015/1027, OJ L 163, 30.6.2015, repealing Decision 2007/829/EC). According to Article 2 of that Decision, seconded national experts must be nationals of an EU Member State. Member States are hereby invited to propose qualified candidates for the post.

Proposals should indicate the national contact point(s) responsible for each candidate's application. Applications should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae listing all posts held by the candidate to date, as well as details of their education, and by a letter of motivation.

Replies to this letter should be sent by email, no later than **17:00 CET on 10 November 2025**, to the following address: seconded.national.experts@consilium.europa.eu.

The relevant department, together with the Human Resources Directorate, will examine the applications received, decide which candidates to shortlist and conduct the interviews. The Appointing Authority will decide on the appointment based on the outcome of the selection procedure. The General Secretariat of the Council may also decide to use the list of suitable candidates to fill future vacancies with the same profile.

If necessary, further information can be obtained from the General Secretariat of the Council by contacting Mr Bostjan Krasovec, COMPET 3, Directorate for Trade, tel. +32 (0)2 281 87 79
email: bostjan.krasovec@consilium.europa.eu

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

Rebekka Wiemann

Annexes

Annex 1 – Job description

**Seconded National Expert (SNE)
at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union**

**DG COMPET
Directorate for Trade (COMPET 3)**

Ref.: SNE/05/2025 (COMPET.3) - 1 post (500481)

Job description

Within the Competitiveness and Trade Directorate General (DG COMPET), the main responsibilities of the Directorate for Trade (COMPET 3) are:

- support for the European Council and its President, notably through policy advice in the area of trade;
- support for the Working Party on Trade Questions and Trade Policy Committees (TPCs), including TPC Full Members, TPC Deputies, TPC Experts Services and Investment, TPC Generalised System of Preferences;
- preparation for the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade Format);
- international trade.

A. Main tasks and responsibilities

We are looking for a seconded national expert to provide in-depth policy and procedural advice on trade matters, and to draft specialised policy reports, speeches and briefing material, including infographics.

As part of our Directorate for Trade, you will work alongside colleagues to assist and support the activities of five Council committees, covering both legislative and non-legislative files.

Your daily tasks will include the political analysis of dossiers to facilitate the decision-making of the President of the European Council, Council members, the Presidencies, the Secretary-General of the Council and senior management. You will provide high-quality policy and procedural advice on issues concerning EU and WTO rules and the politics and economics of trade, including the analysis of tariffs, tariff rate quotas, and schedules of commitments in services and in public procurement.

Your work will also contribute to broader policy development, including the drafting of key documents relating to legislative acts. You will support the smooth functioning of the Foreign Affairs Council in its trade formation and provide analysis and guidance on multilateral trade policy – covering EU and WTO rules, tariffs, trade agreements and negotiations with key global partners.

This position offers an opportunity to make a lasting impact on trade policies and on the broader economic landscape.

B. General conditions

According to the Decision ¹, applicants must:

- have worked for their employer on a permanent or contract basis for at least 12 months before their secondment;
- remain in the service of their employer throughout the period of secondment;
- have at least three years' full-time experience of administrative, scientific, technical, advisory or supervisory functions relevant to the performance of the duties assigned to them;
- be nationals of one of the Member States of the European Union;
- have a thorough knowledge of one official language of the EU² and a satisfactory knowledge of a second language for the performance of their duties.

C. Qualifications and experience

- A level of education in a relevant field such as international trade law, economics or political science with a focus on trade policy or EU governance, which corresponds to completed university studies of at least three years as attested to by a diploma, or equivalent vocational training as attested to by a diploma, or a certificate issued by an institute for advanced studies or by an institute or an academy such as a national school of magistracy or police.
- Proven experience in the field of trade, particularly in the EU context.
- Professional experience of working on trade or trade-related issues.
- Strong command of English, and knowledge of French as an asset.

¹ Council Decision of 23 June 2015 concerning the rules applicable to experts on secondment to the General Secretariat of the Council

² The languages of the EU are: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish.

D. Required skills

- Proactivity and an ability to work autonomously with a great sense of responsibility.
- Political sensitivity in understanding complex files.
- Strong analytical skills, as well as judgement.
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- A capacity to establish and maintain constructive relations with a wide variety of stakeholders.
- A capacity to plan and organise and to deliver quality results within specific deadlines.
- Strong interpersonal communication skills.

E. Security clearance

National security clearance to SECRET UE/EU SECRET level. Such clearance needs to be obtained by the candidate from his or her competent authorities before secondment to the General Secretariat of the Council. The validity of the clearance should cover the entire period of the secondment. In the absence thereof, the General Secretariat reserves the right to refuse the candidate's secondment as a national expert

The GSC is committed to diversity and inclusion. We actively seek diversity and promote inclusion among staff. We embrace all differences based on geographical and demographic characteristics and identities and strongly believe that diversity enriches our perspectives, improves our performance and increases our well-being. We therefore encourage applications from qualified candidates from diverse backgrounds and on the broadest possible geographical basis amongst the EU Member States.

Please find here the [link](#) to the privacy statement concerning the treatment of your personal data.

Further information on the nature of the post can be obtained from the General Secretariat of the Council by contacting Mr Bostjan Krasovec, COMPET 3, Directorate for Trade, tel. +32 (0)2 281 87 79
email: bostjan.krasovec@consilium.europa.eu

