



**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 email)

Brussels, 20 April 2026

**Subject: Secondment of a cost-free national expert to the General Secretariat of the Council in the field of global and horizontal affairs**

Ref.: SNE/06/2026 (RELEX.1) - 1 poste (513895)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Directorate-General for External Relations (DG RELEX) of the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) covers the EU's external policies, enlargement, security and defence, EFTA and EEA, development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, the EU's relations with the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania, the MENA region and the Gulf, Eastern Europe, EU summits with third countries and regions and the European Political Community, as well as the EU's Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR). It supports the Council of the European Union and the European Council and their Presidents.

The DG RELEX teams cooperate with a wide range of stakeholders, including Member States, several Commission DGs, the European External Action Service (EEAS), representatives of third countries, international organisations and civil society.

The Directorate General consists of five directorates: RELEX.1 'Global and Horizontal Affairs', RELEX.2 'Africa and MENA', RELEX.3 'Eastern Europe and Asia', RELEX.4 'Enlargement and Europe' and RELEX.5 'Security and Crisis Management'. DG RELEX is looking for a Seconded National Expert (SNE) to join the sanctions team within the Directorate for Global and Horizontal Affairs.

The SNE will provide in-depth policy and procedural advice and support the work of the Working Party of Foreign Relations Counsellors, RELEX and its sub-formation, RELEX/Sanctions, as well as the Working Party on restrictive measures to combat terrorism (COMET). The RELEX Working Party deals with legal, financial and institutional issues relating to the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including restrictive measures, EU crisis management operations and assistance measures under the European Peace Facility (EPF), EU Special Representatives, non-proliferation and other crosscutting issues. The RELEX/Sanctions sub-formation is Presidency-chaired and focuses on issues relating to the implementation of restrictive measures.

The SNE will be joining the very collegial and highly motivated RELEX 1 teams that cover summit coordination, coordination of the Foreign Affairs Council meetings, the Political and Security Committee, the RELEX Working Party, United Nations affairs, human rights, transatlantic relations, Latin America and the Caribbean, and horizontal files such as Global Gateway and external aspects of migration. During the secondment, the SNE will have the opportunity to acquire knowledge of the functioning of the Council while working on policies that relate directly to the EU's geopolitical role.

The job description, which details the qualifications and experience required, is annexed hereto. Flexible working hours, as well as the possibility of working remotely part of the time, are offered in order to accommodate both personal and professional needs.

The conditions of the secondment 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.

The duration of the secondment will be two years, with the possibility of extending it 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.

According to Article 6 of the Decision, the expert's employer must continue to pay the expert's salary and all social rights, in particular those concerning social security, insurance and pension.

Furthermore, according to Article 1 of that Decision, Articles 18, 19 and 20 are not applicable to any experts on cost-free secondment. In practice, cost-free seconded experts are not entitled to any allowances or reimbursement of travel expenses by the General Secretariat of the Council.

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

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 submission. Submissions should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae detailing all posts held by the candidate to date as well as their education, and by a letter of motivation.

Replies to this letter should be sent by email no later than **17:00 CEST on 1 June 2026** to the following address: [seconded.national.experts@consilium.europa.eu](mailto: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 Jurij Aston, Director of RELEX.1, Global and Horizontal Affairs, tel. +32 (0)2 281 7664, email: [jurij.aston@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:jurij.aston@consilium.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

**Rebekka Wiemann**

## **Annexes**

Annex 1 – Job description

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

**DG RELEX  
Directorate 1, Global and Horizontal Affairs**

Ref.: SNE/06/2026 (RELEX.1) - 1 poste (513895)

**Job description**

**A. Main tasks and responsibilities**

We are looking for a seconded national expert to reinforce our RELEX WP team, in particular to assist with sanctions-related work. This position offers a unique opportunity to contribute directly to the development and implementation of the European Union's restrictive measures policy, which lies at the heart of EU decision-making. You will work on politically sensitive files and engage with key institutional and national stakeholders involved in shaping EU foreign policy.

In this role, you will contribute to the development and implementation of EU sanctions policy and liaise with a wide range of stakeholders, both within and outside the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC). You will work closely with the rotating Presidency of the Council, Member States, the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Your responsibilities will include providing political analysis on sanctions-related files and drafting policy reports, briefings and analytical materials relating to the implementation of restrictive measures. You will also contribute to broader policy development, including the preparation and drafting of key documents linked to legislative acts.

You will support the preparation and smooth functioning of the Foreign Affairs Council by providing analysis and guidance on sanctions-related matters and by delivering high-quality policy and procedural advice.

In addition, you will participate in the core work of the Council of the European Union by advising the Presidency, supporting negotiations among Member States and participating in meetings of the Council and its preparatory bodies. This will allow you to gain a valuable insight into EU decision-making processes while actively contributing to policy outcomes.

You will join a collaborative and supportive team that works closely together while encouraging autonomy and initiative. The position requires a proactive and forward-looking approach, strong organisational skills and the ability to identify and prioritise key issues in a complex and fast-moving policy environment.

Excellent coordination and diplomatic skills are essential, as is the ability to work constructively with a wide range of institutional and national stakeholders. A good understanding of the roles and working methods of the European Council and the Council of the EU would be a strong asset.

Depending on operational needs, you may also contribute to other activities within the directorate, particularly in relation to foreign affairs policy and/or the preparation of summits.

## **B. General conditions**

According to the Decision,<sup>1</sup> 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 EU<sup>2</sup> and a satisfactory knowledge of a second language for the performance of their duties.

## **C. Qualifications and experience**

Applicants should have:

- completed a university education, as evidenced by a diploma, or have equivalent professional experience;
- at least three years of direct work experience in fields relevant to the tasks described in point A above. That experience should have been gained in governmental or international organisations
- a clear understanding of the EU institutional set-up;
- a thorough knowledge of English, including drafting and communication skills, is required for the performance of these duties. A good understanding of French would be an asset.

## **D. Required skills**

- an ability to address complex issues and problems with an analytical and critical approach;
- adaptability and autonomy;
- a sense of initiative and organisation;
- discretion;
- an ability to work under time pressure and in difficult circumstances;
- sound drafting and editing skills with the ability to conduct or assist in conducting complex briefings;
- good interpersonal skills and an ability to work with staff at all levels of the organisation;
- an ability to work effectively as a team member in a multinational environment;

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<sup>1</sup> Council Decision of 23 June 2015 concerning the rules applicable to experts on secondment to the General Secretariat of the Council.

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

## E. Security clearance

National security clearance at 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 Mr Jurij Aston, Director of RELEX.1, Global and Horizontal Affairs, (tel. +32 2 281 7664, email: [jurij.aston@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:jurij.aston@consilium.europa.eu)).

