

Vacancy notice 2023/211 – HQ (AD)

EEAS Vacancy Notice – Administrator

Desk Syria in the MENA 5 division of the EEAS

(Eligibility grade for EU officials and current temporary agents under Article 2(e) of the CEOS: AD 5 – AD 12 / Grade of recruitment for candidates from the Member States¹: AD 07)

Job n. 165471

We are

The European External Action Service (hereafter, the “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 (hereafter, the “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 EU Member States as well as the General Secretariat of the Council, the services of the Commission and the Secretariat General of the European Parliament.

MENA.5, one of the five Divisions within the Middle East and North Africa Directorate, is responsible for the bilateral relations with Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. It is a fast-paced Division owing to the global importance and complex, swift dynamics of its portfolio. We monitor political developments in the region, carry out policy analysis and formulate new policy initiatives, in close coordination with EU Delegations in the region. In the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), we ensure the cohesion of EU external relations with the four countries, working closely with other EEAS divisions, relevant Commission services and other EU institutions. In liaison with the Commission, we contribute to multiannual programming of development cooperation with the countries concerned. We represent the EEAS in regular exchanges with EU Member States (notably via the Mashreq / Maghreb Working Party of the EU Council) and the European Parliament.

We propose:

The position of **Desk Syria** in the MENA.5 division.

The EU maintains a policy of non-normalisation with the Syrian regime, no lifting of sanctions, no reconstruction until significant progress is achieved under UNSCR 2254. The EU however keeps Syria high on its political agenda and continues to engage with Syrian political actors, civil society and the international community on finding a political solution and improve the lives of the Syrian people, including Syrian refugees outside the country. This is particularly exemplified by the annual Brussels Conference that the EU organises and chairs, gathering international and Syrian actors, including civil society, to mobilise political and financial support for a better future for Syrians.

The main responsibilities of the post are as follows:

¹ Candidates from the Member States are candidates from the national diplomatic services, in line with Article 98(1), first subparagraph, of the Staff Regulations.

- Monitoring and analysis of political, security and economic developments in Syria as well as related developments in relations with other countries in the MENA region and with major international actors;
- Contributing to policy formulation in all relevant areas, including political process, humanitarian assistance, sanctions, counter-terrorism, migration aspects;
- Coordinating mainly with other EEAS departments and the Commission, the Council, and the European Parliament;
- Preparing briefings for senior management and the political level, speeches, statements, lines to take, correspondence, replies to parliamentary questions;
- Preparing, attending, and reporting from high/senior level meetings and visits and parliamentary contacts;
- Representing the Syria Desk in inter-institutional for a, including the EEAS-chaired Country Team Meetings, and in the Mashreq/Maghreb Council Working Party;
- Engaging with a broad network of international organisations, diplomatic missions, non-governmental organisations and economic actors;
- Organising events such as the annual Brussels Conference for Syria and the region.

This position is classified as an "Administrator" type of post² in the grade bracket AD 5 – AD 12.

If selected for the post, candidates from the Member States (i.e. from the national diplomatic services) will be recruited at grade AD 07.

In case of recruitment of a temporary agent, the duration of the assignment to the post shall, in principle, be four years.

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 (CEOS) applies, will be amended and, if their grade is below the one set for candidates from the Member States, they will be reclassified at grade AD 07.

Current EEAS temporary agents to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies and who have a higher grade than the one determined above for candidates from the Member States shall retain their current grade in case of selection for the post.

Legal basis for recruitment to this position:

The vacancy is to be filled in accordance with the following articles of the Staff Regulations (hereafter, the "SR"): Article 29(1)(a) and Article 98(1); Article 29(1)(b); Article 29(1)(c).

The successful candidate for this position will be:

- appointed in accordance with Article 29(1)(a) of the SR if he/she is currently assigned to the EEAS as an EU official or as a temporary agent to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies;
- recruited in accordance with Article 29(1)(a) and Article 98(1), first subparagraph, of the SR and Article 2(e) of the CEOS if the candidate comes from the national diplomatic service of a Member State;
- appointed in accordance with Article 29(1)(b) of the SR if he/she is an EU official from another institution;
- recruited in accordance with Article 29(1)(c) of the SR if it was not possible to fill the vacant post through any of the previous possibilities mentioned.

WE LOOK FOR:

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA³

- General

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

1. Be an EU official, a temporary agent to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies or a member of staff from the national diplomatic service of a Member State. EPSO competition laureates who are on a valid reserve list established in accordance with Article 30 of the SR may have their applications considered only in the event that no suitable candidate can be found among candidates covered by Article 29(1)(a) and Article 98(1) of the SR, or by Article 29(1)(b) of the SR.
2. Have the capacity to work in the languages (English and French) of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and external relations, necessary for the performance of their duties. Knowledge of other EU languages would be an asset;
3. Have at least two 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 and temporary agents to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies

1. EU officials or temporary staff to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies must occupy a post in the grade bracket AD 5 – AD 12, or have occupied such a post before their change in administrative status in accordance with Article 35 of the SR, or occupy an AST post and be on the list drawn up according to Article 45a(c) of the SR (certification list).
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 are not eligible unless they are included in the rotation or mobility exercises and if the day for submitting the applications for the vacancy notice is less than six months from the end of their ongoing posting. Other applications may only be considered in the interest of the service or in duly justified situations.
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 Article 35(a) of the SR.
4. Candidates who, at the time of the application, are temporary agents to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies, must provide a new certificate issued by their Ministry of Foreign Affairs⁴ (hereafter, the "MFA") containing the same elements as requested for candidates from the Member States (see specific eligibility criteria for candidates from the Member States, point 2(a)).

- Specific eligibility criteria for candidates from the Member States to be recruited in accordance with Article 98(1) of the SR

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

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

⁴ Notwithstanding national terminology that may vary from one Member State to another.

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 years⁵.
2. Have gained at least 6 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.

The candidates shall provide a certificate issued by the MFA of their Member State of origin, which contains the following elements:

- a. for candidates to be recruited under Article 98(1), first subparagraph, of the SR and Article 2(e) of the CEOS:
 - the post for which the candidate applies;
 - confirmation that the candidate is a staff member in active service in their national diplomatic service at the time of the application, either as a government official/civil servant or under a permanent employment relationship with the MFA; or that they have the same status/employment relationship at another national administration of their Member State and are on formal secondment to their MFA or an entity placed under the authority of the MFA such as an embassy, a permanent representation or a mission of the Member State accredited to an international organisation;
 - endorsement by the MFA of their application for the post;
 - a guarantee of immediate reinstatement at the end of their period of service with the EEAS, as required under Article 50b(2) of the CEOS.

Model of the abovementioned certificate is provided in Annex 1 of this vacancy notice.

If candidates are unable to provide this document from the MFA of their Member State of origin, their application will be deemed ineligible.

Furthermore, candidates who would be recruited as temporary agents under Article 2(e) of the CEOS must be in a position to serve during the full duration of their assignment within the maximum duration of engagement in the EEAS.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Candidates should:

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

⁵ 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 2.

- have high motivation, resilience, flexibility and good interpersonal skills and willingness to work in good team spirit while remaining able to work independently;
- have excellent ability to establish and maintain a network of contacts both within and outside the EEAS;
- have the ability to communicate clearly on complex issues and the capacity to perform with accuracy and in a flexible manner a diversity of tasks in a complex institutional environment;
- have good organisation capacity, strong sense of initiative and ability to work under strict deadlines;
- be fluent in English and have good knowledge of French (both orally and in writing);
- be a flexible team player.

Furthermore:

- 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;
- experience of negotiations;
- Proven experience of the region;
- Knowledge of Arabic;

would be considered an asset.

TYPE AND DURATION OF CONTRACT FOR NEW TEMPORARY AGENTS

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

As regards candidates who applied under Article 98(1), first subparagraph, of the SR (i.e. candidates from the national diplomatic services), the successful candidate will be offered a contract of temporary agent 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 each year). The contract of successful candidates who are temporary agents under Article 2(e) of the CEOS currently employed in the EEAS will be amended and renewed for a 4 year period, within the limits provided for by Article 50b(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.

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 Annex A of the [Decision ADMIN\(2023\) 18 on the security rules of the EEAS](#)⁶.

⁶ OJ C 263, 26 July 2023, p.16.

A valid Personnel Security Clearance (PSC)⁷ allowing access to classified information, issued by the competent national authority in accordance with national laws and regulations, is mandatory at the moment of application in order to enter the selection process.

The selected candidate may still be required to obtain a new PSC for the present post in accordance with national laws and regulations of his or her Member State 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\(2023\) 18 on the security rules of the EEAS](#). Until the new PSC is issued, the selected candidate may 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 Member States will be required to sign a conflict of interest form as part of the recruitment process.

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 (EEAS-HQ-APPLICATIONS-AD@eeas.europa.eu) in order to accommodate any special needs and provide assistance to ensure the possibility to pass the selection procedure with equal opportunities as 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 SR.

PROCEDURE⁸

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 applicable to their situation in order to avoid automatic exclusion from the selection procedure.

Candidates must apply through the online system:

⁷ The 'Personnel Security Clearance' is defined under point 2 of Annex A I of the Decision ADMIN(2023) 18 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'."

⁸ 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.html

<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 afore-mentioned 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://europa.eu/europass/en/create-europass-cv>) for their applications.

Candidates from the Member States to be recruited in accordance with Article 98(1) of the SR will, in addition, have to upload a copy of their passport/ID and the certificate issued (within the past 6 months) by the MFA of their Member State of origin.

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 **28 November 2023 at 12:00h** (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: EEAS-HQ-APPLICATIONS-AD@eeas.europa.eu

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. The panel 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/Authority Authorised to Conclude Contracts of Employment that will make the final selection.

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

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POST AVAILABLE AS OF: As soon as possible



ANNEX I

CERTIFICATE OF ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS, ENDORSEMENT AND REINSTATEMENT¹

Staff from national diplomatic services of the Member States (Article 98(1), first subparagraph, of the Staff Regulations)

It is certified herewith that for the purposes of the application for the post(s) of *Click or tap here to enter text.*, Mr./Ms *Click or tap here to enter text.* is employed on a permanent basis by the national diplomatic service² of *insert Member State*.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs³ of *insert Member State* endorses the application of Mr./Ms *Click or tap here to enter text.* for the above post(s).

In accordance with Article 6(11) of the Decision 2010/427/EU of the Council and Article 50b(2) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union, Mr./Ms *Click or tap here to enter text.* has a guarantee of immediate reinstatement in active service at the end of his/her period of service to the EEAS.

¹ To be completed and certified by the competent authority of the national diplomatic service.

² Candidates having a permanent employment relationship with a government ministry of their Member State, other than the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or equivalent, and who, at the time of their application, are on formal secondment to their Member State's MFA or an entity placed under the authority of the MFA (such as a Permanent representation or a mission of the Member State accredited to an international organisation) may also be considered as member of the national diplomatic service of that Member state.

³ Notwithstanding national terminology that may vary from one Member State to another.

