

Secretariat-General

Publication of a vacancy for the function of Principal Adviser for Security Issues (Grade AD14)

((Engagement of a Temporary Agent under Article 2(a) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants)

COM/2026/10489

We are

The Secretariat-General is a European Commission service directly reporting to the President. Under her authority, it serves the College and ensures collegiality, consistency, and efficiency of the Commission's action. The Secretariat-General steers and coordinates the Commission's work to ensure that its initiatives and operations are aligned with the political guidelines of the President.

The Security College serves to brief and update the President and the members of the College on recent security developments. It meets regularly to respond to the evolution of the geopolitical situation and other external events.

Within the Secretariat-General, the Security College Secretariat provides the President with intelligence and security support.

The Principal Adviser for Security Issues will advise the Head of the Security College Secretariat and the Secretary-General on a broad range of subjects linked to the activities of the Secretariat.

The post is a temporary assignment for three years, with possibility for renewal for maximum two years.

We propose

Under the supervision of the Head of the Security College Secretariat, the Principal Adviser for Security Issues will:

- Provide high level advice on the coordination of expert support in response to emerging security developments.
- Support the preparation of security assessments and strategic briefings for the President and College.
- Advise on the preparation of Security College and ad hoc crises meetings.
- Monitor security developments and ensure the President and College receives timely strategic situational awareness.

We look for (selection criteria)

Candidates should have:

Personal Qualities

- Accomplished interpersonal and negotiation skills at high level,
- Very good capacity to communicate effectively and efficiently, both orally and in writing, with all stakeholders inside or outside the Commission and to build trusted relationships with them.

Specialist skills and experience

- Excellent ability to define and focus on strategic priorities, evaluate progress and oversee implementation with a particular focus in the different domains of security,
- Very good understanding of the tasks and activities falling under the remit of the Secretariat.

Advisory Skills

- Proven ability to provide strategic advice and recommendations in the domain of security and related areas,
- Sound judgment as well as demonstrated ability to identify key issues and propose workable solutions to complex security-related issues,
- Proven capacity for outreach to Member States at senior level.

Candidates must (eligibility requirements)

Candidates will only be considered for the selection phase on the basis of the following formal requirements to be fulfilled **by the deadline for applications**:

- Nationality: candidates must be a citizen of one of the Member States of the European Union.
- University degree or diploma: candidates must have:
 - either a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies attested by a diploma when the normal period of university education is 4 years or more;
 - or a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies attested by a diploma and appropriate professional experience of at least 1 year when the normal period of university education is at least 3 years (this one year's professional experience cannot be included in the postgraduate professional experience required below).

Only diplomas that have been awarded in EU Member States or that are the subject of equivalence certificates issued by the authorities of one of these Member States may be taken into consideration.

- Professional experience: candidates must have at least 15 years postgraduate professional experience ¹ at a level to which the qualifications referred to above give admission; at least 10 years of experience must have been gained in the domain of security or intelligence.

¹ Professional experience is only taken into consideration if it represents an actual work relationship defined as real, genuine work, on a paid basis and as employee (any type of contract) or provider of a service. Professional activities pursued part-time shall be calculated pro rata, on the basis of the certified percentage of full-time hours worked. Maternity leave / parental leave / leave for adoption is taken into consideration if it is in the framework of a work contract. PhDs are assimilated to professional experience, even when unpaid, but for a duration of three years maximum, provided that the PhD has been successfully completed. A given period may be counted only once.

- Advisory experience: at least 5 years of the post-graduate professional experience in the area must have been gained in a high-level advisory function².
- Languages: candidates must have a thorough knowledge of one of the official languages of the European Union³ and a satisfactory knowledge of another of these official languages. Selection panels will verify during the interview(s) whether candidates comply with the requirement of a satisfactory knowledge of another official EU language. This may include (part of) the interview being conducted in this other language.
- Age limit: candidates must not have reached regular retirement age, which for temporary agents of the European Union, is defined as being the end of the month in which the person reaches the age of 66 years (see Article 47 of the Conditions of Employment of other Servants⁴).

Selection and appointment

The selection and appointment will be conducted according to the European Commission's selection and recruitment procedures (see: Document on Senior Officials Policy⁵).

As part of this selection procedure, the European Commission sets up a pre-selection panel. This panel analyses all applications, proceeds with a first eligibility verification and identifies candidates having the best profile in view of the selection criteria mentioned above, and who may be invited for an interview with the pre-selection panel. Candidates may be requested to provide documents supporting the information provided in their application at any moment of the procedure. Failure to provide those documents within the deadline set in the request may lead to the exclusion from the selection.

Following these interviews, the pre-selection panel draws up its conclusions and proposes a list of candidates for further interviews with the European Commission's Consultative Committee on Appointments (CCA). The CCA, taking into consideration the conclusions of the pre-selection panel, will decide on the candidates to be invited for an interview.

Candidates who are called for an interview with the CCA participate in a full-day management assessment centre run by external recruitment consultants. Taking account of the results of the interview and the report of the assessment centre, the CCA establishes a shortlist of candidates it considers suitable for the function.

Candidates on the CCA shortlist will be interviewed by the relevant Member(s) of the Commission.

Following these interviews, the European Commission takes the appointment decision.

² In their curriculum vitae, candidates should clearly indicate for all years during which advisory experience has been acquired: (1) title and role of positions held; (2) the exact subject area as well as at which level in the organisation the position was based (numbers of hierarchical layers above and below); (3) the reporting lines for each position held.

³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:01958R0001-20130701&qid=1408533709461&from=ENhttps://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01958R0001-20130701>

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01962R0031-20140701>

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/documents-senior-management-selection-procedures_en (only exists in English)

The selected candidate must have fulfilled any obligations imposed by law concerning military service, produce appropriate character references as to their suitability for the performance of their duties and be physically fit to perform their duties.

The selected candidate should hold, or be in the position to obtain, a valid security clearance certificate from their national security authority. A personal security clearance is an administrative decision following completion of a security screening conducted by the individual's competent national security authority in accordance with applicable national security laws and regulations and certifying that an individual may be allowed to access classified information up to a specified level. (Note that the necessary procedure for obtaining a security clearance can be initiated on request of the employer only, and not by the individual candidate).

Until the personal security clearance has been granted by the Member State concerned and the clearance procedure completed with the legally required briefing from the European Commission's Security Directorate, the candidate will not be able to access EU Classified Information (EUCI) at the level of CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above, nor attend any meetings at which such EUCI is discussed.

Equal opportunities

In accordance with Article 1d of the Staff Regulations, the European Commission pursues a strategic objective of achieving gender equality at all management levels and applies an equal opportunities policy encouraging applications that could contribute towards more diversity, gender equality and overall geographical balance.

Conditions of employment

The salaries and conditions of employment are laid down in the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants.

The selected candidate will be recruited as a Temporary Agent under Article 2(a) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, occupying a function corresponding to the basic post of a Director at grade AD14 and will be classified depending on the length of their previous professional experience in step 1 or step 2 within that grade.

This is a temporary assignment for 3 years which can be renewed for a maximum period of 2 years.

The selected candidate should note the requirement under the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants for all new staff to complete successfully a nine-month probationary period.

The place of employment is Brussels. The post will be available as of 1 September 2026.

Independence and declaration of interests

Candidates will be required to make a declaration of commitment to act independently in the public interest and to declare any interests which might be considered prejudicial to their independence.

Important information for candidates

Candidates are reminded that the work of the selection panels is confidential. It is forbidden for candidates to make direct or indirect contact with their individual members or for anybody to do so on their behalf. Any query has to be addressed to the secretariat of the respective panel.

Protection of personal data

The Commission will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶. This applies in particular to the confidentiality and security of such data.

Application procedure

Before submitting your application, you should carefully check whether you meet all eligibility requirements ('Candidates must'), particularly concerning the types of diploma, high-level professional experience as well as linguistic capacity required. Failure to meet any of the eligibility requirements means an automatic exclusion from the selection procedure.

If you want to apply, you must register via the Internet on the following website and follow the instructions concerning the various stages of the procedure:

<https://ec.europa.eu/dgs/human-resources/seniormanagementvacancies/>

You must have a valid e-mail address. This will be used to confirm your registration as well as to remain in contact with you during the different stages of the procedure. Therefore, please keep the European Commission informed about any change in your e-mail address.

To complete your application, you need to upload a CV in PDF format, preferably using the Europass CV format⁷, and to fill out, online, a letter of motivation (maximum 8 000 characters). Your CV and your letter of motivation may be submitted in any of the official languages of the European Union.

It is in your interest to ensure that your application is accurate, thorough and truthful.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

⁷ You can find information on how to create your Europass CV online at: <https://europa.eu/europass/en/create-europass-cv>

Once you have finished your online registration, you will receive an email confirming that your application has been registered. **If you do not receive a confirmation email, your application has not been registered!**

Please note that it is not possible to monitor the progress of your application online. You will be contacted directly by the European Commission regarding the status of your application.

Applications sent by e-mail will not be accepted. If you require more information and/or encounter technical problems, please send an e-mail to: HR-MANAGEMENT-ONLINE@ec.europa.eu

It is your responsibility to complete your online registration in time. We strongly advise you not to wait until the last few days before applying, since heavy internet traffic or a fault with your internet connection could lead to the online registration being terminated before you complete it, thereby obliging you to repeat the whole process. Once the deadline for the submission of registrations has passed, you will no longer be able to introduce any data. Late registrations will not be accepted.

Closing date

The closing date for registration is **29/09/2026, 12.00 noon Brussels time**, following which registration is no longer possible.