



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 defence and level playing field matters**

Ref.: SNE/04/2025 (COMPET.3) – 1 post (500479)

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 join its Directorate for Trade. The national expert will provide in-depth policy and procedural advice on trade defence and level playing field issues, and draft specialised policy reports, speeches and briefing materials, including infographics.

During the secondment, the national expert will have the chance to work on policies that directly impact the future of Europe, engage with key international stakeholders, and participate in high-level negotiations in a dynamic and collaborative environment. Moreover, the importance of work-life balance is recognised at the GSC, and flexible working hours, as well as the possibility to work remotely part of the time, are offered to

accommodate both personal and professional needs.

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

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

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 Juan Burgos, Directorate for Trade, tel. +32 (0)2 281 2931, email: juan.burgosmorales@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/04/2025 (COMPET.3) – 1 post (500479)

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 Preference;
- preparation for the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade Format);
- international trade.

A. Main tasks and responsibilities

We are looking for a seconded national expert to reinforce our work on trade defence and level playing field matters.

Trade defence and level playing field issues are increasingly central to EU trade policy, driven by global shifts such as deglobalisation, trade diversion and the need for more robust monitoring. Recent Commission initiatives across sectors – automotive, steel and aluminium, pharmaceuticals – consistently incorporate level playing field elements. In particular, the Steel Communication calls for eliminating the lesser duty rule and stricter application of rules of origin in trade defence instruments (TDIs).

To support this evolving agenda, you will monitor and analyse EU and international developments in trade defence – including anti-dumping, anti-subsidy and safeguard measures – and contribute to the review and implementation of trade defence instrument regulations in line with evolving Commission priorities.

You will monitor the Commission action plans and communications, providing input on level playing field aspects. In addition, you will support internal coordination on trade policy, particularly within the framework of the Trade Policy Committees and the Working Party on Trade Questions.

Your responsibilities will include political analysis of dossiers to facilitate the decision-making of the President of the European Council, Council members, Presidencies, the Secretary-General, and senior management. You will draft specialised policy reports and briefing materials on trade defence and level playing field issues, and offer high-quality policy and procedural advice.

Your work will also contribute to broader policy development, including the drafting of key documents related 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 a unique opportunity to shape trade defence policy and promote fair competition within the EU and beyond.

B. General conditions

According to the Decision¹ 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.

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.

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 attested to by a diploma, or equivalent vocational training 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.
- Additional specialisation or coursework in EU trade defence instruments (e.g. anti-dumping, anti-subsidy, safeguards), WTO law and dispute settlement, EU institutional processes, in particular related to the trade field.
- Proven expertise in trade defence instruments and EU trade policy.
- Solid experience in Trade Policy Committee / Working Party on Trade Questions processes and familiarity with the Commission's trade defence and trade barriers committees.
- Strong command of English, and knowledge of French as an asset.

D. Required skills

- Proactivity and ability to work autonomously with a strong sense of responsibility.
- Political sensitivity for understanding complex files.
- Strong analytical skills and judgement.
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Capacity to establish and maintain constructive relations with a wide variety of stakeholders.
- Capacity to plan and organise, and to deliver quality results to deadlines.
- Strong interpersonal communication skills.

E. Security clearance

National security clearance to SECRET UE/EU SECRET level. This 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 among the EU Member States.

Please find here the [link](#) to the privacy statement regarding 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 Juan Burgos, Directorate for Trade, tel. +32 (0)2 281 2931, email: juan.burgosmorales@consilium.europa.eu.

