COMP/COM/2026/2315

VACANCY NOTICE FOR TEMPORARY AGENT SELECTION

Job title	**Case Handler Officer**
Reference	**COMP/COM/2026/2315**
Application deadline	07.12.2026 - 12.00 (Brussels time)
Directorate-General (full name)	COMPETITION
Unit	Unit COMP.E.4 Mergers Control
Place of assignment	Brussels
Grade range	AD5/7
Domain	Law
Contract type	Temporary Agent 2b - Administrator

About us ("We are")

We are unit COMP/E4, responsible for merger control in Directorate E (Basic Industries, Manufacturing and Agriculture) in DG Competition (DG COMP). Our core task is to assess mergers in a wide range of sectors, including mining, basic industries (such as steel and non-ferrous metals), manufacturing, aerospace and defence, agriculture and food processing, consumer goods and retail.

COMP/E4 has handled a number of high-profile and complex cases, including Boeing/Spirit (aircraft), Mars/Kellanova (consumer goods), Bunge/Viterra (agricultural products), Holcim/Xella (building materials), Norsk Hydro/Alumetal and KPS Capital Partners/Real Alloy (aluminium recycling), Cargotec/Konecranes (port equipment), Aurubis/Metallo (copper recycling), Essilor/Luxottica (eyewear), Bayer/Monsanto and Dow/DuPont (crop protection), and Safran/Collins Aerospace (flight controls). These cases illustrate the breadth of COMP/E4's portfolio and offer the opportunity to work on significant transactions across a diverse range of sectors.

We are a young and dynamic team composed of 26 case handlers responsible for investigating cases and drafting decisions, 4 case assistants responsible for secretarial and organizational support, usually 2 trainees and 2 case managers coordinating the case work. As one of the largest merger units in DG COMP, we play a key role in enforcing EU merger control rules across a broad spectrum of industries and markets. Our work combines legal and economic analysis, offering the opportunity to work on challenging and high-profile transactions.

About the role ("We propose")

We offer a case handler position in a dynamic and intellectually stimulating environment. The core of a case-handler's work consists in assessing mergers with the goal of preserving effective competition in the EU Single Market.

Case handlers work in teams typically composed of at least two case handlers, a case assistant and a case manager. Case handling work includes regular interaction with the parties to the concentration and their lawyers, developing an understanding of the relevant industries and supply chains, reviewing internal business documents, conducting market investigations through requests for information and interviews with customers, suppliers and competitors, and cooperating with competition authorities in other jurisdictions (e.g. the US or China), as well as with sectoral regulators. Case handlers are also responsible for ensuring that procedures are correctly applied, preparing discussions and negotiations with the parties, and drafting Commission decisions.

In addition to their case work for Unit COMP/E4, case handlers may contribute to cases handled by other merger units, draft speeches and briefings, and participate in cross-unit groups on policy issues and legislation.

The wide range of industries covered by Unit COMP/E4 offers the opportunity to gain insight into the functioning of diverse markets and to work on different theories of harm. While the work is demanding due to strict legal deadlines, it is varied, rewarding and intellectually challenging. Cases often raise novel legal and economic questions, and we encourage open discussion, initiative and creativity.

The Merger Network has a relatively lean management structure, providing case teams with significant responsibility and exposure. Under the guidance of the case managers, case teams interact closely with the responsible Director and the Deputy Director General for mergers, and contribute to the preparation of recommendations on case orientation to the Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition and Commissioner responsible for Competition.

Qualifications, experience and skills ("We look for")

In view of COMP/E4's current needs, we are seeking a lawyer with practical experience in merger control. Hands-on experience in advising on and applying competition law, in particular merger control, is required.

The ideal candidate is a curious and dynamic individual with sound judgment and the ability to thrive in a fast-paced working environment. Strong analytical and proven drafting skills are essential, together with a sense of initiative and the ability to deliver high-quality work under tight deadlines. The candidate should also be open-minded and a genuine team player. An excellent command of English is essential, while knowledge of other languages would be an asset.

How to express your interest?

You should send your documents in a single pdf in the following order:

1. your CV **2**. completed application form.

Please send these documents by the publication deadline to COMP-TA-APPLICATION@ec.europa.eu indicating the selection reference DG COMP/COM/2026/2315 in the subject.



No applications will be accepted after the publication deadline.
Eligibility
For eligibility please consult this page with all the information needed.