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Do you want to help shape the future of the European Union? Make the planet greener, promote a fairer society, or support businesses and innovation across the EU? Then come and work for the European Commission where you can really make a difference!

Commission staff are a diverse group of people, who are motivated to help make Europe – and the world – a better place. They come from the 27 Member States of the European Union. Different nationalities, languages and cultures make the Commission a vibrant and inclusive working place.

WE OFFER ATTRACTIVE WORKING CONDITIONS AND MUCH MORE:

- Interesting and challenging positions with plenty of opportunities for training and acquiring new skills and competencies over your whole career;
- Opportunities to try several areas of work throughout your career;
- Flexible working conditions and the possibility of teleworking – we care about your work-life balance;
- A competitive financial package, including comprehensive sickness, accident and pension schemes;
- Multilingual schools for your kids;
- We are also proud to be an equal opportunity employer and promote diversity and inclusion.

We recruit from a wide range of backgrounds:

We are not only recruiting political scientists and lawyers but also looking for all kinds of profiles, including natural scientists, linguists and economists, as well as drivers and engineers.

For more information ec.europa.eu/work-with-us.



STAFF RECRUITED ON CONTRACTS

In addition to permanent officials, the European Commission often recruits non-permanent staff. There are two categories of non-permanent staff:

- [temporary agents](#) are recruited to fill vacant positions for a set amount of time or to perform highly specialised tasks.
- [contract agents](#) may provide additional capacity in specialised fields where an insufficient number of officials is available or carry out a number of administrative or manual tasks. They are generally recruited for fixed-term contracts (maximum 6 years in any EU Institution), but in some cases they can be offered contracts for an indefinite duration (in offices, agencies, delegations or representations).

For more information on different [staff categories](#).



Legal Officer

DG TRADE of the European Commission

Selection reference: TRADE/COM/2024/511

Domain: External Relations

Where: Unit F.3 – “Legal aspects of trade and sustainable development and investment”, Brussels

Staff category and Function Group: Temporary agent 2b/2d - Administrator

Grade: AD 5-7

Publication deadline: 10.04.2024 - 12.00 (Brussels time)

WE ARE

DG Trade has the task of conducting EU trade policy, one of the exclusive competences of the EU. Trade policy plays a critical role in foreign policy as the EU tries to meet the challenges of globalisation.

Unit F.3 is one of two legal units in DG Trade, dealing with legal aspects of trade and sustainable development and investment. Its activities, some of which are shared with its sister unit F.2, cover five main areas:

- First, the management of trade and investment disputes with third countries in proceedings before the World Trade Organisation and pursuant to bilateral trade or investment agreements, in close co-operation with the Legal Service of the Commission. The unit more generally plays a key role in DG Trade’s work on enforcement (under the authority of the Chief Trade Enforcement Officer), by contributing to both the formulation of the DG’s enforcement policy and to the shaping of specific new enforcement cases. This work is increasingly important as the EU looks to ensure the effective implementation of its international trade and investment agreements.
- Second, the unit provides legal advice across the DG and beyond on legal aspects of trade policy, e.g. on potential trade and investment barriers in third countries, or compliance of EU and EU Member States measures with international trade and investment rules. This entails following legislative initiatives from across the Commission that intersect with legal aspects of trade and investment policy. The unit also provides legal support to the on-going work on sanctions, investment screening and dual use, both in general in the broader context of DG TRADE’s work on strategic trade and investment controls.
- Third, the unit is responsible for negotiations on dispute settlement rules (both state to state and investor to state dispute settlement) in bilateral trade agreements. Part of the unit’s work relates to providing legal advice during the negotiations of international agreements, e.g. multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations.
- Fourth, the unit is also in charge of administering proceedings under the EU’s Trade Barriers Regulation, manages the operation of the Financial Responsibility Regulation on investor-state dispute settlement and the investor state dispute settlement aspects of the Grandfathering



Regulation related to the Bilateral Investment Treaties of the Member States.

- Finally, the unit is responsible for developing the EU's policy on bilateral dispute settlement (including as regards trade and sustainable development matters) and investor-state dispute settlement and manages the legal aspects of investment policy.

WE PROPOSE

Unit F.3 of DG Trade is seeking to hire one legal officer.

The successful candidate will, as a member of a dynamic team of international trade and investment lawyers:

- Provide legal advice on issues of EU and international trade and investment law;
- Participate in international negotiations as regards dispute settlement, in particular as regards trade and sustainable development, and by providing legal advice on the substantive areas under negotiation and by ensuring that trade and investment agreements are drafted in a clear and precise manner;
- Handle multilateral and bilateral dispute settlement cases for the EU in particular concerning sustainable development, and formal investigations of third country measures under the EU's Trade Barrier Regulation; and
- Manage the legislation the unit is responsible for, follow legislative files managed by the unit or other units in DG Trade or files affecting trade policy as they progress through the legislative procedure.

WE LOOK FOR

We are looking for an enthusiastic lawyer to reinforce our team.

The candidate should ideally have:

- A strong legal background. A background or experience in the areas of general public international law, international dispute settlement, international trade law and international investment law is necessary; experience or education in relation to trade and sustainable development matters, and in particular as regards trade and labour matters, would be a major advantage.
- Experience or background in negotiating and operating the dispute settlement provisions of EU trade and investment agreements, in particular as regards sustainable development.
- Experience in legal revision of EU trade and investment agreements.
- Experience in providing legal advice on WTO, FTA and investment matters.
- Experience in providing legal advice on EU law, including notably on EU legislation relating to trade and EU institutional matters.
- Proven communication skills, and strong drafting skills.
- Ability to autonomously deal with numerous tasks, some of them under statutory deadlines.
- Ability to co-ordinate and co-operate within the unit and with colleagues outside the unit.
- A very good knowledge of English is essential. Ability to work in another EU language would be an advantage.



HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST?

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

1. your CV; and
2. your motivation letter.

Please send these documents by the publication deadline to TRADE-F3-SECRETARIAT-1@ec.europa.eu indicating the selection reference TRADE/COM/2024/511 in the subject.

No applications will be accepted after the publication deadline.



ANNEX

1. Selection

➤ Am I eligible to apply?

You must meet the following eligibility criteria when you validate your application:

Our rules provide that you can only be recruited as a temporary agent at the European Commission if you:

General criteria:

- Are a citizen of a Member State of the EU and enjoy full rights as a citizen;
- Have fulfilled any obligations imposed by applicable laws concerning military service;
- Are physically fit to perform the duties linked to the post;
- Produce the appropriate character references as to suitability for the performance of the duties.

Qualifications:

In order to be recruited in this position, you must have at least a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least 3 years attested by a diploma.

Only qualifications issued or recognised as equivalent by EU Member State authorities (e.g. by the Ministry of Education) will be accepted. Furthermore, before recruitment, you will be required to provide the documents that corroborate the eligibility criteria (diplomas, certificates and other supporting documents).

Languages:

- have a thorough knowledge (minimum level C1) of one of the 24 official languages of the EU¹
- AND a satisfactory knowledge (minimum level B2) of a second official language of the EU, to the extent necessary for the performance of the duties.

¹ The official languages of the European Union are: BG (Bulgarian), CS (Czech), DA (Danish), DE (German), EL (Greek), EN (English), ES (Spanish), ET (Estonian), FI (Finnish), FR (French), GA (Irish), HR (Croatian), HU (Hungarian), IT (Italian), LT (Lithuanian), LV (Latvian), MT (Maltese), NL (Dutch), PL (Polish), PT (Portuguese), RO (Romanian), SK (Slovak), SL (Slovenian), SV (Swedish).



➤ **What about the selection steps?**

The post was published internally within the Commission, inter-institutionally, and brought to the attention of competition laureates.

In accordance with Article 29 of the Staff Regulations, applications from Commission officials, officials from other Institutions, and laureates of competitions have priority. Only in the case that no suitable candidate can be found from the afore-mentioned categories this vacancy notice is published and is open to other applicants².

The selection panel will choose a limited number of candidates for interview, based on the CV and motivation letter that they submitted. Due to the large volume of applications, we may receive, **only candidates selected for the next step of the selection phase will be notified.**

For operational reasons and in order to complete the selection procedure as quickly as possible in the interest of the candidates and of the institution, the selection procedure will be carried out in English and possibly in a second official language.

2. Recruitment

The candidate selected for recruitment will be requested to supply documentary evidence in support of the statements made in their application.

The successful candidate will be required to undergo a mandatory pre-recruitment medical check-up, carried out by the Commission.

➤ **Type of contract and working conditions**

The place of employment will be in **Brussels**.

In case the successful candidate is an external candidate, s/he will be engaged as a **temporary agent under Article 2(b)/2(d) of the [Conditions of Employment of Other Servants](#), in function group AD.**

The recruitment grade, as well as the step in that grade, will be defined on the basis of the duration of the candidates' previous appropriate professional experience, in accordance with [Commission Decision C\(2013\)8970](#) laying down the criteria applicable to classification in step on engagement.

² Officials from the Commission or other Institutions are invited to use the standard channels (Sysper or inter-institutional vacancy portal).



The duration of the **1st contract will be of 1 to 3 years**. The contract might then be extended only once for a maximum of 2 years and in the interest of service. The duration of the extension will be defined according to the General Implementation Rules in force at that moment, in accordance with [Commission Decision C\(2013\)9049](#) on policies for the engagement and use of temporary agents.

All new staff have to successfully complete a 9-month probationary period.

The pay of staff members consists of a basic salary supplemented with specific allowances, including, where applicable, expatriation and family allowances. The provisions guiding the calculation of these allowances can be consulted in the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants. As a member of staff of the European institutions, your pay is subject to a tax raised by those institutions.

The European Commission applies a policy of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in accordance with Article 1d of the Staff Regulations.

Should you need further information on working conditions, please refer to [Working conditions and benefits of EU Careers](#).

For information related to Data Protection, please see the [Specific Privacy Statement](#) under “7. Information to data subjects on their rights”, to find your rights and how to exercise them in addition to the privacy statement, which summarises the processing of your data.