



## **MAKE A DIFFERENCE - JOIN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

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, backgrounds, languages and cultures make the Commission a vibrant and inclusive place to work.

### **WE OFFER GREAT JOBS AND GREAT WORKING CONDITIONS:**

- Interesting and challenging positions with plenty of opportunities for training and acquiring new skills and competencies throughout your whole career
- Opportunities to move between different policy areas throughout your career
- A package of flexible working conditions including the possibility of teleworking – we care about your work-life balance
- A competitive financial package, including comprehensive healthcare, accident and pension schemes
- A multilingual, multicultural workplace where personal and career development are strongly promoted
- Multilingual schools for your children

### **We recruit from a wide range of backgrounds and actively promote diversity and inclusion:**

We do not only recruit political scientists and lawyers but are also looking for all kinds of profiles, including scientists, linguists, IT experts, data analysts and economists, as well as drivers and engineers.

We are committed to equal opportunities and to fostering a rich, diverse and inclusive working environment. We aim for our workforce to be representative of European society and strongly welcome applications from all qualified candidates. We actively seek to create a workplace where each staff member feels valued and respected, can give their best and can develop to their full potential.



To promote diversity and establish a geographically balanced pool of candidates, we strongly encourage applicants from Member States which are currently underrepresented in the European Commission workforce to apply. These Member States are currently Austria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Netherlands, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden<sup>1</sup>. Recruitment will however remain strictly based on the merits of all applicants and no positions will be reserved for nationals of any specific Member State.

## STAFF RECRUITED ON CONTRACTS

In addition to permanent officials, the European Commission offers non-permanent positions. 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](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the list of underrepresented Member States may be subject to future amendment based on potential data changes over time.



# Policy Officer in Food Systems

## in DG RTD – European Commission

**Job title:** Policy Officer

**Domain:** Science and Research

**Where:** Unit B.2 – Bioeconomy and Food Systems, Brussels

**Function Group:** FG IV

**Contract Type:** 3b

**Express your interest until:** 10.03.2026 - 12.00 (noon, Brussels time)

### WE ARE

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The Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG R&I). Our mission is to develop and implement European Research and Innovation (R&I) policy. The DG supports R&I through European Framework Programmes, coordinates and supports national and regional R&I programmes, contributes to the creation of the European Research Area, and supports the cooperation of European organisations and researchers in Europe and in an international context.

Our unit RTD B.2, "Bioeconomy and Food systems" supports the transition to a Healthy Planet, which is climate-neutral by 2050 and operating within safe planetary boundaries. The unit will support this objective by accelerating the deployment of a circular and sustainable Bioeconomy across Europe and by developing R&I solutions for the transition towards competitive, sustainable and resilient food systems. We support the entire innovation and investment journey by bringing research and innovation from "lab to fab", supporting startups and scale-ups in food systems and the wider bioeconomy.

The unit builds bridges across the DG, interacting closely with other policy DGs (e.g. SANTE, AGRI, ENV, CLIMA, MARE, GROW, ENER, REGIO, CNECT) and ensures an open and constant dialogue with the Member States, the research community, industrial and societal stakeholders and relevant international partners for maximising synergies and impact of EU R&I and bioeconomy-related policies. The unit employs and advocates an interdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach, in partnership with EU Member States and international partners (e.g. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), G20, International Bioeconomy Forum/IBF).

Key activities: Implementation of the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy (adopted in November 2025) and the EU Life Sciences Strategy (July 2025), and follow-up and contribution to other policy initiatives and development of R&I policy through Horizon Europe, in particular on food systems via Food2030 and its successor. The unit contributes to EU policy development in the field of food, biomanufacturing and biotechnology, life sciences, climate and natural resources and other bioeconomy-relevant policies. The Unit also contributes to the development and implementation of the updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan, to the Life Science Strategy and to the Biotechnology Act.



## **WE PROPOSE**

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The successful candidate will join our unit and support its work by:

- Accelerating the development and deployment of research and innovation for competitive, sustainable and resilient food systems delivering healthy and nutritious food for all.
- Developing knowledge and analysis of the main drivers, barriers, approaches and technologies supporting the transition to competitive, sustainable and resilient food systems in key areas such as food systems governance, alternative proteins, food waste, the food system microbiome, dietary shift, food and nutrition security, etc.
- Exploring, launching and deploying R&I based solutions for food systems through Horizon Europe, including through innovative approaches and in close cooperation with the private sector (i.e. food industry, retailing and food service sectors), consumer organisations and NGOs, setting up a multi-actor innovation ecosystems with living labs and place-based innovation.
- Supporting the management of the secretariat of the Standing Committee for Agricultural Research in close cooperation with DG AGRI.

## **WE LOOK FOR**

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A highly motivated, dynamic and friendly colleague with a service-oriented approach. The post requires the ability to provide quick input, strategic intelligence and scientific analysis, and to prepare targeted policy briefings for the hierarchy, as well as contribute to swift and sound responses to stakeholder concerns or political issues. Excellent oral and written skills in English, allowing for effective communication with all counterparts and partners, as well as the capacity to establish solid collaborative working relations are essential. The successful candidate should be well organised and capable of working independently, be keen and ready to co-create and work together with other members of the team. A background, or qualifications including a doctoral degree, in a mix of the following fields would be a very strong asset: food technologies and innovation ecosystems, life science, environmental and agricultural sciences, related social science studies. Experience in EU policy processes and the Commission's internal procedures would be beneficial.

## **HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST?**

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With a view to guaranteeing equal access to all, the Commission recruits from an open database of spontaneous applications. The present call for interests aims at helping the recruiters to identify potentially interested candidates within this database.

In practice, to express your interest, please follow the subsequent two steps:

1. If you are not registered yet in the open EPSO database, please do so at the following address: [CAST Permanent](#). Please select under selection procedures for contract agent the CAST permanent profile that best suits your education and experience.
2. 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 [RTD-B2-CA-APPLICATIONS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-B2-CA-APPLICATIONS@ec.europa.eu) indicating the call for interest reference EC/2026/RTD/317290 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 contract 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 position;
- Produce the appropriate character references as to suitability for the performance of the duties.
- Have passed an EPSO CAST in the relevant Function Group for this position. At the stage of the application, it is sufficient to be registered in the [EPSO CAST](#) data base.

##### Qualifications:

- (a) Have a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least three 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.

##### Languages:

- have a thorough knowledge (minimum level C1) of one of the 24 official languages of the EU<sup>2</sup>
- AND have a satisfactory knowledge (minimum level B2)<sup>3</sup> of a second official language of the EU, to the extent necessary for the performance of the duties.

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<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> For details on language levels, please see the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/resources/european-language-levels-cefr>).



### ➤ **What about the selection steps?**

The selecting unit chooses from [the EPSO database](#)<sup>4</sup> candidates with the appropriate profile and invites them to an interview. For the interview a selection panel is set-up to assess the best candidates. Due to the large volume of applications that we may receive only candidates selected for the interview 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 provide documentary evidence in support of the statements made in the database and, where relevant, the call for interest.

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**.

The successful candidate will be engaged as a **contract agent under Article 3(b) of the [Conditions of Employment of Other Servants](#), in function group FG IV**. General information on Contract Agents can be found at this link.

The grade or proposed grade range, as well as the step in that grade, will be defined on the basis of the candidates' previous professional experience, in accordance with [Commission Decision C\(2017\)6760](#) laying down the criteria applicable to classification in step on engagement.

The duration of the **first contract will be 1 year**. Subject to the interest of the service, the contract may be renewed one or more times up to a maximum duration of 6 years.

The duration of the renewal(s) will be defined according to the General Implementing Rules in force at that moment (currently, [Commission Decision C\(2017\)6760](#) on policies for the engagement and use of contract agents).

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<sup>4</sup> Therefore, candidates who did not pass already a CAST on the level Function Group IV, should register their profile at this address: <https://eu-careers.europa.eu/en/Cast-Permanent>



Contract agents recruited in Function Group IV 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.