



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 jobs 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, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Netherlands, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Sweden¹. 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.

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

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](#)

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



Case Handler Officer

Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP) of the European Commission

Selection reference: COMP/COM/2026/1856

Domain : COMPETITION

Where: Unit COMP.E.4 Mergers: Markets and cases IV: Basic industries, Manufacturing and Agriculture
Brussels, Belgium

Staff category and Function Group: Temporary agent 2b– Administrator

Grade range: AD5-7

Publication deadline: 02.10.2026 - 12.00 (Brussels time)

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.



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.

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 COMP/COM/2026/1856 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 for 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 EU²
- 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.

➤ 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 priority³. If these candidates do not best fit the requirements for the position, the Commission can recruit a temporary agent.

² 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).



For temporary agents under Article 2(a) of the [Conditions of Employment of Other Servants](#), the post is published directly on the EPSO website, without mandatory prior internal publication.

A selection panel will choose a limited number of candidates for interview, based on the CV and application form 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.

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 Brussels.

In case the successful candidate is not an official or a competition laureate, they will be recruited as a temporary agent under Article 2(b) of the [Conditions of Employment of Other Servants](#), in function group AD.

³ Officials from the Commission or other Institutions are invited to use the standard channels (Sysper or inter-institutional vacancy portal).



➤ **Grade**

The recruitment grade, as well as the step in that grade, will be determined in accordance with [Commission Decision C\(2025\)4716](#) on policies for the engagement and use of temporary agents and with [Commission Decision C\(2013\)8970](#) laying down the criteria applicable to classification in step on engagement.

The recruitment grade will be calculated based on the qualifications and the number of years of professional experience, according to Art. 13 of the Commission Decision C(2025)4716. Higher grades may be granted exceptionally.

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.