



**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 email)

Brussels, 14 April 2026

**Subject: Secondment of a cost-free national expert to the General Secretariat of the Council in the Legal Service (EU Restrictive Measures)**

Ref.: SNE/05/2026 (GSC.JUR.3) - 1 post (513894)

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Council Legal Service intends to reinforce the team of legal advisers in its Directorate 3 'External Relations' by recruiting a cost-free seconded national expert with a good knowledge of EU law and of the functioning and procedures of the EU, as well as practical experience in the areas covered by the job description. The seconded national expert, who will be part of Directorate 3, will be entrusted with the duties of a legal adviser in the Legal Service (for example, providing legal advice and assisting the Council and its preparatory bodies, and representing the Council and the European Council in cases before the General Court and the Court of Justice). Relevant knowledge and experience in matters concerning **EU restrictive measures** is required.

During the secondment, the national expert will have the opportunity to work on policies that have a direct impact on the future of Europe, engage with key international stakeholders, and participate in high-level negotiations in a dynamic and collaborative environment. The job description detailing the qualifications and experience required is annexed hereto.

You may be asked to carry out occasional assignments abroad, generally within the EU. Attendance outside normal working hours will be required depending on the needs of the service. Occasional teleworking is possible, based on the GSC's rules, subject to the needs of the service.

The conditions of the secondment 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.

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

According to Article 6 of the Decision, the expert's employer must continue to pay the expert's salary and all social rights, in particular those concerning social security, insurance and pension.

Furthermore, according to Article 1 of the Decision, Articles 18, 19, and 20 are not applicable to any experts on cost-free secondment. In practice, cost-free seconded experts are not entitled to receive any allowances or reimbursement of travel expenses from the General Secretariat of the Council.

The expert should take up their duties at the General Secretariat of the Council by **1 September 2026**.

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 15 May 2026**, to the following address: [seconded.national.experts@consilium.europa.eu](mailto: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 Jean-Baptiste LAIGNELOT, Director of Directorate 3 of the Council Legal Service, tel. +32 (0)2 281 32 67, email: [jean-baptiste.laignelot@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:jean-baptiste.laignelot@consilium.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]

**Rebekka Wiemann**

## **Annexes**

Annex 1 – Job description

**Cost-free Seconded National Expert (SNE)  
at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union**

**DG JUR,  
Directorate 3 – External Relations**

Ref.: SNE/05/2026 (GSC.JUR.3) - 1 post (513894)

**Job description**

**A. Main tasks and responsibilities**

As a member of Directorate 3 of the Legal Service, the legal adviser will be called upon to:

- give advice and oral or written opinions on legal and institutional questions related to EU restrictive measures to the Council and/or its preparatory bodies and/or the different GSC services;
- advise the Presidency and/or the GSC in identifying legally correct and acceptable solutions for the body concerned;
- follow the proceedings of one or more Council preparatory bodies or of the Council itself (taking part in meetings and, where appropriate, briefings);
- contribute to ensuring the legal certainty of Council acts, the quality of drafting and compliance with the applicable rules and procedures;
- carry out conceptual work, studies and legal analysis;
- as needed, take part in the preparation of work to assist and represent the institution in disputes and, where appropriate, in cases before EU courts.

**B. General conditions**

According to the Decision<sup>1</sup>, 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 EU<sup>2</sup> and a sufficient knowledge of a second language to enable them to perform their duties.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Decision of 23 June 2015 concerning the rules applicable to experts on secondment to the General Secretariat of the Council.

<sup>2</sup> The languages of the EU are: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, Irish, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish.

### C. Qualifications and experience

- University degree in law (Master's degree)
- Good knowledge of EU law
- Good knowledge of the functioning and procedures of the EU
- Five years' experience in legal matters

### D. Skills required

- Relevant knowledge or experience in matters concerning EU restrictive measures is required.
- Practical experience in some or all of the areas covered by the Directorate: international law, foreign policy, defence, trade, development, enlargement;
- Good knowledge of French and English with an ability to communicate and write in both languages.

### E. Security clearance

National security clearance at EU SECRET level. That clearance must be requested by the candidate from his/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 amongst 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, Mr Jean-Baptiste LAIGNELOT, Director of Directorate 3 in the Council Legal Service (tel. +32 (0)2 281 32 67, email:

[jean-baptiste.laignelot@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:jean-baptiste.laignelot@consilium.europa.eu))

