



External Publication

Vacancy Notice 2025/181 – HQ (AD) Chair of the Council Working Group on Africa (COAFR)

Type of post “Head of Unit or equivalent”

Job no. 166977

Eligibility grade for EU officials: AD 9 – AD 14. Grade of recruitment for candidates from the Member States and current temporary agents under Article 2(e) of the CEOS: AD 11

WE ARE

The European External Action Service (hereafter, the “EEAS”) supports the High Representative in the exercise of her mandate to conduct and implement an effective and coherent EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (hereafter, the “CFSP”), to represent the EU and to chair the Foreign Affairs Council.

It also supports the High Representative in her capacity as Vice-President of the Commission with regard to her responsibilities within the Commission in the external relations field, including the coordination of other aspects of the EU’s external action. The EEAS works in close cooperation with the EU Member States as well as the General Secretariat of the Council, the services of the Commission and the Secretariat General of the European Parliament.

The Managing Directorate for Africa (hereafter, the “MD Africa”) is in charge of managing political relations of the EU with the countries and regional organisations of Sub-Saharan Africa as well as with the African Union. MD Africa’s role is to shape and deepen political relations with Africa towards shared strategic and global objectives to strengthen sustainable prosperity, resilience, security, inclusive governance and the rule of law. MD AFRICA supports the HRVP to ensure consistency and coherence of the EU’s external action in Africa. MD AFRICA covers EU’s external policy towards sub-Saharan Africa, encompassing 49 countries (46 EU Delegations) as well as the relations with the African Union (AU), the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and sub-regional organisations: i.a. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The **Council Working Group on Africa (COAFR)** is a preparatory body of the EU Council covering EU’s external policy towards Sub-Saharan Africa, encompassing 49 countries and the relations with the African Union and sub-regional organizations. COAFR handles preparations for the work and discussions on EU relations with Africa in the Political and Security Committee (PSC), COREPER and in the Council. It mainly deals with: developing EU strategies and policies towards the region, ensuring consistency in EU actions, preparing Ministerial and other key meetings with the African partners, negotiating political documents between the EU and the region, negotiating EU positions and statements, assessing proposals for EU assistance measures, as well as preparing and reviewing EU restrictive measures. In addition, it assesses recommendations shared by the EU Heads of Mission in Africa in order to provide political guidance to their action.

WE PROPOSE

The post of **Chair of the Council Working Group on Africa (COAFR)**.

The COAFR Chair will be responsible for leading and coordinating the work of the Africa Working Party of the EU Council, which covers EU relations with the countries and regional organisations of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The COAFR Chair will have the responsibility for the good management of the Working Party's work and contribute to the policy definition and implementation of relations with Africa. This will include preparations of discussions and decisions of PSC, COREPER and the Council. The Chair will be an integral part of MD Africa, under the authority of the Managing Director. The Chair also works under the guidance of the Chair of PSC regarding planning, processing and substance of files going through PSC, COREPER and Foreign Affairs Council.

The successful candidate will work in close cooperation with all colleagues in the EEAS Africa Department, as well as with other relevant EEAS Departments, EU institutions and services as well as EU Delegations, as required. The position involves maintaining close and effective relations with EU Member States' representatives and regular contacts with representatives from international organizations, civil society and other stakeholders.

The COAFR Chair does not have a full-time dedicated team, but works with the support of an alternate and an assistant identified within MD Africa. In addition, the Chair works in close coordination with the COAFR Secretariat in GSC and with the Commission focal point for COAFR.

PLACE and DATE OF EMPLOYMENT

EEAS Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium

Post available: Immediately

LEGAL BASIS FOR RECRUITMENT TO THIS POSITION

The successful candidate for this position will be:

- appointed in accordance with Article 29(1)(a) of the Staff Regulations (hereafter, the "SR") if they are an EU official;
- recruited in accordance with Article 29(1)(a) and Article 98(1), first subparagraph, of the SR and Article 2(e) of the CEOS if the candidate comes from the national diplomatic service of a Member State or reassigned if they are a temporary agent to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies;
- appointed in accordance with Article 29(1)(b) of the SR if they are an EU official from another institution;
- recruited in accordance with Article 29(1)(c) of the SR (competition laureates) if it was not possible to fill the vacant post through any of the previous possibilities mentioned.

WE LOOK FOR

We are looking for a dynamic candidate with experience in EU institutions and African affairs, with a strong political background and solid organizational skills.

This position is classified as a "Head of Unit or equivalent" type of post¹ in the grade bracket AD 9 – AD 14.

¹ According to Annex I to the Staff Regulations and the relevant EEAS internal rules.

If selected for the post, candidates from the national diplomatic services of the Member States) will be recruited at grade AD 11.

Current EEAS temporary agents to whom Article 2(e) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants (hereafter, the "CEOS") applies and who have a higher grade than the one determined above for candidates from the national diplomatic services of the Member States shall retain their current grade in case of selection for the post. If their grade is below the one set for candidates from the national diplomatic services of the Member States, they will be reclassified at grade AD 11.

Candidates who, at the time of their application, are temporary agents under Article 2(e) of the CEOS currently employed in the EEAS should be in a position to serve during the full duration of the assignment of the post, which is in principle four years, within the limits provided for by Article 50(b)(2) of the CEOS².

Eligibility Criteria³

- General

In addition to the conditions set out in Article 28 of the SR for EU officials or in Article 12 of the CEOS for temporary agents, candidates must:

1. be an EU official, a temporary agent to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies or a member of staff from the national diplomatic service of a Member State.
2. have the capacity to work in the languages of the CFSP and external relations (English and French);
3. have at least 6 years' proven, pertinent experience in external relations.

EPSO and EEAS internal competition laureates who are on a valid reserve list established in accordance with Article 30 of the SR may have their applications considered only in the event that no suitable candidate can be found among candidates covered by Article 29(1)(a) and Article 98(1) of the SR, or by Article 29(1)(b) of the SR;

- Specific eligibility criteria for EU officials and temporary agents to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies

1. EU officials must occupy a post in the grade bracket AD 9 – AD 14. EU officials at AD 8 are eligible to apply if they have at least 2 years seniority in that grade. In the event of a successful application, EU officials at AD 9 – AD 14 will be appointed at the same grade. EU officials at AD 8 will be promoted to grade AD 9.
2. Due to the need to ensure sound financial management of the limited financial resources and given the fact that the assignment of a staff member to a Delegation has important budgetary and business continuity implications, candidates currently serving in a Delegation will be eligible only if the deadline for applications is less than six months from the end of their current posting. Other applications may only be considered in the interest of the service.
3. Due to the need to ensure business continuity, applications from candidates who have less than two years in their current post in Headquarters at the date of their application are not eligible. Their application may only be considered in the interest of the service.
4. Candidates who, at the time of the application, are EU officials, independently of their administrative status under Article 35 of the SR, cannot request to be recruited as temporary agents under Article 2(e) of the CEOS. In the case of applications

² Decision ADMIN(2023) 24 on the maximum duration of engagement by the European External Action Service of non-permanent staff under successive limited duration contracts of different types, and on the minimum lapse of time between successive contracts under Article 2(e) of the CEOS.

³ All the eligibility criteria must be met on the closing date for applications for this post.

from EU officials on leave for personal grounds, successful candidates will be reinstated into active employment within the meaning of Article 35(a) of the SR.

5. Candidates who, at the time of the application, are temporary agents to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies must be in a position to serve the full duration of the assignment before reaching the age of retirement foreseen under Article 52(a) of the SR, applicable to temporary agents by virtue of Article 47(a) of the CEOS.
6. Candidates who, at the time of the application, are temporary agents to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies, must provide a **new certificate** issued by their Ministry of Foreign Affairs⁴ (hereafter, the "MFA") containing the same elements as requested for candidates from the Member States (see specific eligibility criteria for candidates from the Member States).
7. EEAS Officials assigned according to Article 30 of the annex XIII SR to the type of post "*Senior Administrator in transition*" (AD14) or "*Administrator in transition*" (AD13) can apply for posts which correspond to the type of post of Administrator. If selected, they will be transferred within the EEAS. As a consequence, EU officials AD13 and AD14 from other institutions are not eligible.

- Specific eligibility criteria for candidates from the national diplomatic services of the Member States to be recruited in accordance with Article 98(1), first subparagraph, of the SR and Article 2(e) of the CEOS

In line with Article 12 of the CEOS and in accordance with the needs of the service, candidates from the Member States must:

1. Possess a level of education:
 - a. which corresponds to completed university studies attested by a diploma when the normal period of university education is four years or more; OR
 - b. which corresponds to completed university studies attested by a diploma and relevant professional experience of at least one year when the normal period of university education is at least three years⁵.
2. Have gained at least 12 years' full time professional experience. This experience must have been gained after obtaining the four-year diploma or after obtaining the three-year diploma and the one year relevant professional experience.

Candidates must indicate their level of education and professional experience on the application form.

3. The candidates shall provide a certificate of administrative status, endorsement and reinstatement issued by the national diplomatic service/MFA of their Member State of origin⁶, which contains at least the following elements:
 - the post for which the candidate applies;
 - confirmation that the candidate is a staff member in active service in their national diplomatic service at the time of the application, either as a government official/civil servant or under a permanent employment relationship with the MFA; or that they have the same status/employment relationship at another national administration of their Member State and are on formal secondment to their MFA or an entity placed under the authority of the MFA such as an embassy, a permanent representation or

⁴ Notwithstanding national terminology that may vary from one Member State to another.

⁵ The minimum of one year of professional experience required under (b) counts as an integral part of the above qualification and cannot be included in the professional experience required under point 2.

⁶ See corresponding certificate annexed to the present vacancy notice

- a mission of the Member State accredited to an international organisation;
- endorsement by the MFA of their application for the post;
- a guarantee of immediate reinstatement at the end of their period of service with the EEAS, as required under Article 50b(2) of the CEOS.

Model of the abovementioned certificate is provided in **Annex I** of this vacancy notice.

If candidates are unable to provide this document from the MFA of their Member State of origin, their application will be deemed ineligible.

Candidates must be in a position to serve the full duration of the assignment within the duration of their service with the EEAS or before reaching the age of retirement foreseen under Article 52(a) of the SR, applicable to temporary agents by virtue of Article 47(a) of the CEOS.

Candidates from the national diplomatic services of Member States, who have served continuously 8 or up to the maximum of 10 years as temporary agents under Article 2(e) of the CEOS pursuant to Article 50(b)(2) of the CEOS, are not eligible before a lapse of at least 2 years from the termination of their last contract under Article 2(e) of the CEOS⁷.

Selection Criteria:

Candidates should have:

- an excellent ability to maintain diplomatic relations and to ensure representation, communication and management in a complex, multicultural environment;
- an excellent capacity to lead negotiations and to create constructive working relations with national authorities, international organisations and EU Member States;
- a proven capacity to synthesise, forge compromises and lead colleagues towards operational conclusions;
- excellent knowledge of external relations, internal policies and functioning of the Union;
- experience and knowledge of CFSP and CSDP-related issues;
- knowledge and/or proven experience in the key policy areas of African affairs addressed by COAFR and by the EEAS Africa Department;
- strong drafting, communication and analytical skills combined with sound judgement;
- interpersonal skills and capacity for effective teamwork and close cooperation with immediate hierarchy;
- ability to coordinate and work collaboratively with other divisions in HQ and delegations as well as with other EU institutions, particularly European Commission services;
- capacity for the flexibility and resilience required by the nature of the COAFR and EEAS MD Africa work;
- experience in COAFR or other relevant Council preparatory body and their procedures;
- a good working knowledge of English and French.

Furthermore:

- experience of working in an embassy, a delegation (or equivalent in an international organisation);
- experience of working in a team in multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environment;

⁷ Decision ADMIN(2023) 24 on the maximum duration of engagement by the European External Action Service of non-permanent staff under successive limited duration contracts of different types, and on the minimum lapse of time between successive contracts under Article 2(e) of the CEOS.

- experience of negotiations;
- experience of working on/in Africa

would be considered assets.

TYPE AND DURATION OF CONTRACT FOR NEW TEMPORARY AGENTS

The successful candidate will be offered a contract of temporary agent under Article 2(e) of the CEOS. Such contracts may not exceed 4 years in duration; their expiry will as far as possible be aligned with the usual date of annual Mobility exercise at Headquarters (currently 31 August each year).

All newly engaged temporary staff will be required to complete a probationary period of 9 months, in accordance with Article 14 of the CEOS.

CONDITIONS OF RECRUITMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND SECURITY RISKS

As a matter of policy, applications by individuals who have dual nationality of which one of a non-EU country, will be considered on a case-by-case basis taking account in particular of the functions attributed to the vacant post. The EEAS also examines if there could be a conflict of interest or security risks.

In this context, **all candidates shall fill with their application a declaration of potential conflict of interest (Annex II).**

MEDICAL CLEARANCE

If the successful candidate is not an EU official or a temporary agent currently employed under Article 2(e) of the CEOS, he/she will be required to undergo a medical examination to ensure that he/she is physically fit to perform the duties.

PERSONNEL SECURITY CLEARANCE

The requested level of security clearance for this post is: SECRET UE/EU SECRET. A description of the EU classified information levels is available under Article 2 of Annex A of the [Decision ADMIN\(2023\) 18 on the security rules of the EEAS](#)⁸.

The selected candidate should hold, or be in the position to obtain, a valid Personnel Security Clearance (hereafter, the "PSC")⁹ issued by the competent authority of the Member State concerned.

Candidates who do not already have a valid PSC will be required to go through the security clearance vetting procedure of their Member State to obtain this clearance in accordance with national laws and regulations and with the procedure laid down in the [Decision ADMIN\(2019\)7 on Security Clearance Requirements and Procedures for the EEAS of 08 March 2019](#) and in Annex A I of the [Decision ADMIN\(2023\) 18 on the security rules of the EEAS](#). Until the PSC is issued by the competent authority of the Member State concerned, the selected candidate will not be authorised to access EUCI at the level of CONFIDENTIEL

⁸ OJ C 263, 26 July 2023, p.16.

⁹ The 'Personnel Security Clearance' is defined under point 2 of Annex A I of the Decision ADMIN(2023) 18 on the security rules of the EEAS as "a statement by a competent authority of a Member State which is made following completion of a security investigation conducted by the competent authorities of a Member State and which certifies that an individual may, provided his 'need-to-know' has been determined, be granted access to EUCI up to a specified level (CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above) until a specified date; the individual thus described is said to be 'security cleared'."

UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above, or to participate in any meetings or workflow where EUCI is processed.

Please note that the necessary procedure for obtaining a PSC can be initiated on request of the employer only, and not by the individual candidate.

In case of failure to obtain or renew the required PSC, the AACC may take the appropriate measures in accordance with Article 3(3) of the [Decision ADMIN\(2019\) 7 on Security Clearance Requirements and Procedures for the EEAS of 08 March 2019](#).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The EEAS is committed to an equal opportunities policy for all its employees and applicants for employment. As an employer, the EEAS is committed to promoting gender equality and to preventing discrimination on any grounds. It actively welcomes applications from all qualified candidates from diverse backgrounds and from the broadest possible geographical basis amongst the EU Member States. We aim at a service which is truly representative of society, where each staff member feels respected, is able to give their best and can develop their full potential.

Candidates with disabilities are invited to contact the functional mailbox (EEAS-HQ-APPLICATIONS-AD@eeas.europa.eu) in order to accommodate any special needs and provide assistance to ensure the possibility to pass the selection procedure with equal opportunities as other candidates. If a candidate with a disability is selected for a vacant post, the EEAS is committed to providing reasonable accommodation in accordance with Art 1(d)(4) of the SR.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE¹⁰

The selection procedure will take place in three different and successive steps:

1. Application

Before submitting their application, candidates should carefully check whether they meet all the eligibility criteria applicable to their situation in order to avoid automatic exclusion from the selection procedure.

Candidates must apply through the online system:

<https://eapplication.eeas.europa.eu>

To log on to the system, an ECAS (European Commission Authentication Service) password is required; candidates without a password can register to get one through the aforementioned link. EU staff members with a professional ECAS account should use that account for their application. A helpdesk facility is available via the "Contact Support" function within the online system.

In case of connection problems, you can also refer to the complete EU Login user guide: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/manuals/EU_Login_Tutorial.pdf

During the online application procedure, candidates will have to upload their CV and motivation letter (in English or French) and the declaration of potential conflict of interest (**Annex II**). Candidates are invited to use the "Europass" CV format (<https://europa.eu/europass/en/create-europass-cv>) for their applications.

¹⁰ Your personal data will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) 2018/1725. The privacy statement is available on EEAS webpage: http://eeas.europa.eu/data_protection/rights/index_en.html

Candidates from the Member States will, in addition, have to upload a copy of their passport/ID and the certificate issued (within the past 6 months) by the MFA of their Member State of origin.

Candidates will have the opportunity to follow the progress of their application through the online system.

The closing date for the submission of applications is **16 October 2025 at 12:00** (CET - Brussels' time). Please note that the only way to submit an application is using the online system.

As the system may experience peak activity around the deadline, candidates are strongly advised to submit their application as early as possible.

Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

For correspondence concerning the selection procedures, please use the following email address: EEAS-HQ-APPLICATIONS-AD@eeas.europa.eu

2. Pre-selection

The pre-selection will be done by a panel on the basis of the qualifications and the professional experience described in the CV and motivation letter. The panel will produce a shortlist of a limited number of eligible candidates who best meet the selection criteria for the post.

3. Selection

The candidates who have been shortlisted will be invited for an interview so that the selection panel can evaluate them objectively and impartially on the basis of their qualifications, professional experience and linguistic skills, as listed in the present vacancy notice. The selection panel will recommend a shortlist of candidates to the Appointing Authority/Authority Authorised to Conclude Contracts of Employment that will make the final selection.

It is recalled that, if the interest of the service so requires, the selection procedure can be terminated at any stage and the post be filled by a transfer in accordance with Article 7 of the SR.

If the successful candidate accepts the position, they will be expected to take up duties on the post. Consequently, their applications to other vacant posts within the EEAS will only be considered after two years on the post. Derogations may be granted in the interest of the service.

CONTACT:

Ms Yamina GUERFI, Interim COAFR Chair ☎ +32 460 842 291 Email: Yamina.Guerfi@eeas.europa.eu

ANNEX I

CERTIFICATE OF ADMINISTRATIVE STATUS, ENDORSEMENT AND REINSTATEMENT¹

Staff from national diplomatic services of the Member States (Article 98(1), first subparagraph, of the Staff Regulations)

It is certified herewith that for the purposes of the application for the post(s) of *Click or tap here to enter text.*, Mr/Ms *Click or tap here to enter text.* is employed on a permanent basis by the national diplomatic service² of *insert Member State* and is in active service on the date of signature of the present certificate.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs³ of *insert Member State* endorses the application of Mr/Ms *Click or tap here to enter text.* for the above post(s).

In accordance with Article 6(11) of the Decision 2010/427/EU of the Council and Article 50b(2) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union, Mr/Ms *Click or tap here to enter text.* has a guarantee of immediate *reinstatement in active service* at the end of his/her period of service to the EEAS.

¹ To be completed and certified by the competent authority of the national diplomatic service.

² Candidates having a permanent employment relationship with a government ministry of their Member State, other than the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or equivalent, and who, at the time of their application, are on formal secondment to their Member State's MFA or an entity placed under the authority of the MFA (such as a Permanent representation or a mission of the Member State accredited to an international organisation) may also be considered as member of the national diplomatic service of that Member state.

³ Notwithstanding national terminology that may vary from one Member State to another.

ANNEX II

DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST TO BE FILLED BY CANDIDATES

Article 11(3) of the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union (SR):

"Before recruiting an official, the Appointing Authority shall examine whether the candidate has any personal interest such as to impair his independence or any other conflict of interest. To that end, the candidate, using a specific form, shall inform the appointing authority of any actual or potential conflict of interest. In such cases, the Appointing Authority shall take this into account in a duly reasoned opinion. If necessary, the Appointing Authority shall take measures referred to in Article 11a(2)".

Article 11a(2) of the SR:

"Any official to whom it falls, in the performance of his duties, to deal with a matter referred to above shall immediately inform the Appointing Authority. The Appointing Authority shall take any appropriate measure, and may in particular relieve the official from responsibility in this matter".

These provisions apply to temporary agents in accordance with Article 11 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union (CEOS).

It is the candidates' duty to inform through this form the EEAS of any actual or potential conflict of interest regarding their future tasks. They shall be broad in their identification of actual or potential conflict of interests. It is reminded that it will be up to the administration, and not to the candidates themselves, to assess on this basis whether they are sources of conflict of interests and, if applicable, whether they constitute an issue for the recruitment and, if not, whether they should call for adequate mitigating measures to protect both the interests of the institution and of the selected candidate.

Title/First Name/ Last Name:

.....

Candidate status:	
☐ Official of the Institutions of the EU	☐ Candidate from a Member State
☐ Current EEAS/EC Temporary Agent	☐ EPSO laureate
☐ Current EEAS/EC Contract Agent	☐ External
Current and former EU nationality/nationalities:	
Current and former non-EU nationality/nationalities:	
Current employer:	
Spouse/partner's EU nationality/nationalities:	
Spouse/partner's non-EU nationality/nationalities:	
Spouse/partner's professional activities:	
Dependents' nationality/nationalities:	

Position applied for:

Job number:

Directorate/Division:

In your opinion, do you have any personal interest, in particular a family or financial interest, or do you represent any other interests of third parties which could actually or potentially impair your independence in the course of your duties in the specific vacancy

at the EEAS and which may thus lead to any actual or potential conflict of interest relevant to that position?

YES ☐ **NO** ☐

If yes, please detail:

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I hereby certify that the information provided in this form is correct and complete and that my *curriculum vitae* is correct and duly updated.

I understand that any infringement of the above requirements under the SR and the CEOS may lead, *inter alia*, to the withdrawal of an offer of employment or/and, if I am a staff member of an EU institution, to the opening of an administrative investigation based on Article 86 of the SR and to a potential disciplinary procedure under Annex IX to the SR.

Date and signature:

**PLEASE FILL IN, PRINT, SIGN AND SCAN
TO BE UPLOADED IN E-APPLICATION ("ATTACHED DOCUMENTS" TAB, Conflicts
of Interest)**