

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Deputy Secretary General for CSDP and Crisis Response

Brussels, 7 July 2017
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To all Representatives to the PSC

Dear Colleagues,

Selection of Head of Mission for EUMM Georgia

I am writing to inform you that the position of Head of Mission of EUMM Georgia is expected to become vacant earlier than originally envisaged. Mr Kęstutis Jankauskas, the current Head of Mission, has indicated his intention to resign. His appointment had been foreseen to run until 14 December 2017.

You will recall that Mr Jankauskas has been at the helm of EUMM Georgia since January 2015. During this time, the Mission went through a period of significant restructuring while continuing actively to carry out its monitoring, reporting and confidence-building mandate. This should be seen in the wider regional context and developments in Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

In particular, the Mission repeatedly played an important de-escalating role in the management of localised tensions, most notably along the Administrative Boundary Lines with Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It continued to support and strengthen local confidence-building efforts through the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms, both in Ergneti and in Gali, as well as through the set-up of a Confidence Building Facility to undertake small projects in this area. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for Mr Jankauskas' accomplishments and commitment as Head of Mission.

In this context, I would like to invite Member States to nominate candidates for the position of Head of Mission for EUMM Georgia in line with the qualities and skills outlined below.

EUMM is a key factor in managing stability in Georgia, as the only international monitoring presence on the ground. As such, the position requires a person comfortable working with conflict parties, with the necessary expertise to mediate and negotiate

effectively. The successful applicant will need to be a credible interlocutor for Member States as well as for participants in the Geneva International Discussions and the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms. He/she is expected to have active operational understanding of monitoring and the use of good offices to defuse tensions and build confidence, and the ability to respond quickly under time pressure and handle tense and complex situations. The Mission's operational impartiality is key to its mandate, meaning the successful candidate will have to demonstrate excellent diplomatic skills and knowledge of the political context in which the Mission operates. In addition, a proven leader is sought with management experience commensurate to the size of the Mission.

EUMM's visibility in theatre requires a candidate at ease with public interventions. Understanding of the functioning of the European External Action Service, Common Foreign and Security Policy, and Common Security and Defence Policy would be an important asset. Ideally, knowledge of Russian would be a distinct asset for the confidence-building dimensions of the Mission's work. An understanding of the broader engagement of the EU and its Member States in the region is also necessary.

We expect the post of Head of Mission to become available early autumn, with the exact date yet to be determined. We have decided to launch this vacancy announcement ahead of time, so as to ensure the briefest possible time gap between outgoing and incoming Heads of Mission.

On the basis of the CVs received, a selection board, which I will chair, will shortlist and interview applicants, evaluating their professional merits, experience and management skills. Thereafter the High Representative will propose a candidate to the Political and Security Committee. I would appreciate if the CVs of the proposed candidates could be sent to the Civilian Operations Commander's office (catherine.fearon@eeas.europa.eu) no later than 24 July 2017.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]
Pedro SERRANO