

Vacancy notice 2020–270 DEL (AD) CHARGE D’AFFAIRES SYRIA

EEAS Vacancy Notice – CHARGE D’AFFAIRES SYRIA

Type of post "Head of Unit or equivalent"

EU Staff Members – AD 9-14 – Candidates from the Member States – AD 12

We are:

The European External Action Service (EEAS) supports the High Representative in the exercise of his mandate to conduct and implement an effective and coherent EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), of representing the EU and of chairing the Foreign Affairs Council.

It also supports the High Representative in his capacity as Vice-President of the Commission with regard to his 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 General Secretariat of the Council, the services of the Commission and the Secretariat General of the European Parliament.

The European External Action Service (EEAS) is looking for an individual to fill the post of Chargé d’Affaires of the European Union - Syria.

The Delegation is placed under the authority of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who is also Vice President of the European Commission. Since end of 2012, the Delegation is operating mainly from Beirut with EEAS and Commission staff based in Beirut, Brussels, Damascus (local agents) and in Gaziantep.

The Chargé d'affaires will assume the normal functions of a Head of Delegation. The Chargé d'affaires is responsible for management of all staff (EEAS and Commission) and financial resources (EEAS administrative budget and financial cooperation activities under various instruments such as the European Neighbourhood Instrument, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, the European Instrument for Human Rights and Democracy and other thematic instruments).

The key areas of activity will obviously depend on the ongoing peace process and will cover a wide range of topics from political dialogue, to conflict management and resolution, state building, electoral support, human rights, Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) as well as development cooperation, governance and rule of law, security sector and socio-economic development.

The chargé d'affaires will be based in Beirut until conditions allow to be based in Damascus. S/he will be expected to go on a regular basis to Damascus where Delegation premises were kept, and to attend international meetings on the Syrian peace process, wherever in the region (or elsewhere) these may be held.

We propose:

The Chargé d'affaires is responsible for management of all staff (EEAS and Commission: around 33 staff – 6 of whom are officials) and financial resources (2020 administrative budget of approximately €1.6m).

The key areas of activity of the Delegation are political, economic and co-operation matters, management of development assistance and wide-ranging representation of the European Union.

The Chargé d'affaires of the European Union - Syria will assist the High Representative/Vice President of the Commission and other Commissioners in fulfilling their mandates in the field of external relations, and, in particular, will have the following tasks:

- To represent the EU in Syria and to ensure a high degree of consistency and coherence between the different areas of the EU's external actions and between these and its other policies;
- To ensure bilateral or multilateral relations, notably in the political, economic, commercial, security and cooperation fields and to carry out and promote regular political dialogue or negotiate on behalf of the European Union; in this context, to ensure and maintain contacts with key actors in these areas, including civil society, the private sector, social partners and citizens, and to report accordingly.
- To pursue the EU's policies and ensure their local coherence in all areas, to promote and protect the EU's interests and values, and to promote the visibility of the EU by carrying out press, information and communication activities;
- To maintain contacts, exchange information and coordinate with Member States in the implementation of EU policies and to report regularly to the Headquarters of the EEAS and the Commission, as appropriate, on all matters covered by his/her mandate and maintain relations with other EU institutions as well as any regional and international organisations;
- To ensure sound management of the Delegation and to motivate and supervise its staff, including in financial management and correct application of the existing rules concerning the security of individuals (including the families of expatriated staff), goods and property as well as information; where necessary, to manage crises and ensure continuity of Delegation operations, including in the framework of business continuity.

This position is a Head of Delegation Post (AD9-14). Candidates from the diplomatic services of Member States would be recruited at AD 12 level.

The place of employment is Beirut. The post in principle will be for a two year duration and involves extensive travel.

Legal Basis

The vacancy is to be filled in in accordance with the following articles of the Staff regulations¹ (SR): Article 29(1)(a) SR and Article 98 SR; and Article 29(1)(b) SR.

¹ Staff Regulations of Officials (SR) and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union (CEOS). For reference, see <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1570023902133&uri=CELEX:01962R0031-20190101>

We look for:

Eligibility Criteria²

General

Further to the conditions set out in Art 28 of the Staff Regulations (SR) or Art 12 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants (CEOS), candidates must:

1. be nationals of one of the EU Member States and enjoy full rights as a citizen;
2. be permanent officials of the Union institutions, or temporary agents to whom Article 2(e) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants (CEOS) applies, or staff from diplomatic services of the Member States;
3. have the capacity to work in languages of the CFSP and external relations necessary for the performance of their duties. Knowledge of other EU languages would also be an asset;
4. have three years' management experience, commensurate with the responsibilities of the post;³
5. have at least six years' proven, pertinent external relations experience - for staff from national diplomatic services this experience must have been gained from working in a national administration of one of the Member States.

- SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR EU OFFICIALS AND TEMPORARY AGENTS FROM NATIONAL DIPLOMATIC SERVICES TO WHOM ARTICLE 2(E) OF THE CEOS APPLIES ("EU STAFF")

1. EU staff members (i.e. EU officials, and temporary staff to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies) applying for this post must be AD9–AD14:⁴

EU staff members (i.e. EU officials, and temporary staff to whom Article 2(e) of the CEOS applies) at AD 8 are eligible to apply if they have at least 2 years seniority at that grade.

In the event of a successful application, EU staff members at AD9-14 will be appointed at the same grade. EU staff members at AD8 will be promoted to AD9.

2. Due to the need to ensure sound financial management of the limited financial resources, given the fact that the assignment of a staff member to a Delegation has important budgetary and business continuity implications, applications from staff members currently serving in a Delegation and who are not in rotation, are, in principle, not eligible and may only be considered in the interest of the service or in case of an application for a higher type of post (further on,

² All the eligibility criteria must be met on the closing date for applications to this post.

³ In their CVs applicants should indicate management experience in terms of: (1) title and role of management positions held, (2) numbers of staff overseen in these positions, (3) the size of budgets managed, and (4) numbers of hierarchical layers above and below and number of peers.

⁴ Notwithstanding this criterion, and in order to ensure equality of treatment between candidates from the different statutory sources of EEAS recruitment, the Appointing Authority may, in exceptional and duly justified cases and solely in the interests of the service, decide to accept an application for a post from EU staff members whose grade would otherwise exceed the bracket specified for the post in question. Such decision may only be made within the limits contained in the EEAS establishment plan.

"career progression").⁵ In addition, if they wish to apply for a post on the basis of career progression they should have spent at least 2 years on their current post when they take-up-duty.

3. EU staff members who have completed 2 consecutive postings to Delegations are not eligible, and may apply only in case of career progression. Derogation from this rule may not lead to a consecutive period of service in Delegations of more than 12 years.

4. EU staff members currently in Headquarters who will have completed less than 2 years in Headquarters by the time of taking up duty are not eligible, and their application will only be taken into consideration in case of career progression, or when it concerns EU staff members falling within the category of Managers in Mobility.

5. Candidates who at the moment of the application are EU officials, independently of their administrative status (including officials on leave on personal grounds), cannot request to be recruited as temporary agents under Article 2(e) of the CEOS, i.e. staff seconded from national diplomatic services of the Member States.

In the case of candidatures from EU officials on leave for personal grounds, provided they are eligible for the post, successful candidates will be reinstated into active employment in accordance with Articles 35 (a) and 40 of the Staff Regulations.

- SPECIFIC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATES FROM THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICES OF THE MEMBER STATES

In line with Art 12 of the CEOS and in accordance with the needs of the service, candidates from the diplomatic services of Member States of the Union 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 years.⁶

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.

Candidates from national diplomatic services and current temporary agents according to Article 2(e) CEOS must be able to return to active service in their Member State after the end of their period of service to EEAS. The candidate shall provide a statement issued by her or his Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirming their membership of a diplomatic service, and indicating the post applied for as well as mentioning the guarantee of reinstatement of applicants after a possible

⁵ 'Career progression' refers to applications of for a higher type of post according to Annex I SR. It is designed to allow staff to develop within the organisation. In this case, it refers to "Administrators" AD8 who are applying to a "Head of Unit or equivalent" type of post for the first time.

⁶ 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 3.

contract with the EEAS. If candidates are unable to provide this document from their Ministry, their application will be deemed ineligible.

Furthermore, candidates from national diplomatic services and current temporary agents according to Article 2(e) CEOS must be in a position to serve during the full duration of their assignment within the maximum duration of engagement in the EEAS, as foreseen in Article 50b(2) SR and the Council Decision of 26 July 2010 (2010/427/EU).

3. Candidates from national diplomatic services of the Member States should be in active employment in their diplomatic service at the moment of the application.

Selection Criteria

1. General skills and competencies

- Have proven experience in and knowledge of the key areas of activity of the Delegation;
- Have an excellent ability to maintain diplomatic relations at a senior level, to co-ordinate EU Member States represented locally and work constructively with other partners in the international community, and to ensure representation, communication and management in a complex, multicultural environment;
- Have an excellent capacity to play a lead role in negotiations in the field of external relations with national authorities, international organisations and EU Member States;
- Have strong communication and analytical skills combined with sound judgement; have proven experience in leading and motivating teams, particularly in a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural environment;
- Have good knowledge and/or experience in budgetary, administrative and financial management.

2. Knowledge/experience in functioning of the European Union

- Have excellent knowledge of the external relations, internal policies and functioning of the Union;
- Have proven experience in and in-depth knowledge of CFSP and CSDP-related issues.

3. Regional knowledge

- To show awareness of relevant regional developments and of the activities of African and regional organizations in which Malawi is represented

Furthermore,

- Candidates must be able to work in a different socio-cultural environment and to adapt quickly to evolving situations.
- Experience in working in a Delegation or an Embassy, an international organisation, or significant experience of external relations in the field, including CSDP missions

would be a strong asset.

TYPE AND DURATION OF CONTRACT FOR NEW TEMPORARY AGENTS

If the successful candidate is from a national diplomatic service and subject to successfully undergoing a medical examination to ensure that she or he is physically fit to perform her/his duties, she or he will be offered a temporary contract 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 to the usual date of mobility at Headquarters (currently 31 August each year). The conditions of appointment will be those laid down in the CEOS for temporary agents of AD12.

In accordance with Article 6(11) of Council Decision 427/2010, each Member State shall provide its staff officials who will become temporary agents in the EEAS under Article 2(e) of the CEOS with a guarantee of immediate re-instatement at the end of the period of service to the EEAS.

All newly engaged temporary staff are required to complete successfully a probationary period of 9 months. A management probationary period of the same duration is also required.

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

BEIRUT (Lebanon).

POST AVAILABLE: 01/09/2021

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The successful candidate will be required to undergo security vetting if he/she does not already hold EU SECRET level security clearance, in accordance with the relevant security provisions.

Successful candidates from the Member States will be required to make a declaration of their commitment to act independently in the public interest and a declaration of any interests which might be considered prejudicial to their independence.

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 (CCA-SECRETARIAT@eeas.europa.eu) in order to accommodate any special needs and provide assistance to ensure the possibility to pass the selection procedure in equality of opportunities with 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 1d.4 of the Staff Regulations.

PROCEDURE⁷

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 in order to avoid automatic exclusion from the selection procedure.

Candidates must apply through the on-line system

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eapplication/index.cfm>

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 afore-mentioned 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 on-line system.

During the on-line application procedure candidates will have to upload their CV and motivation letter (in English or French). Candidates are invited to use the "Europass" CV format (<https://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/documents/curriculum-vitae>) for their applications.

Candidates from the Member States will, in addition, have to upload a copy of their passport/ID and a recent statement by their Ministry for Foreign Affairs (issued within the past 6 months) confirming their membership of a diplomatic service.

All candidates will have the opportunity to follow the progress of their application through the on-line system.

The closing date for the submission of applications is **23 November 2020 at 12.00 midday** (Brussels' time). Please note that the only way to submit an application is using the on-line system.

As the system may experience peak activity around the deadline, candidates are strongly advised to submit their application as early as possible. Late applications will not be accepted.

For correspondence concerning the selection procedures, please use the following email address: cca-secretariat@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, and 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 (the Consultative Committee on Appointments) 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 High Representative, who will make the final selection.

⁷ 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.htm

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

CONTACT: Fernando GENTILINI

Tel: +32 (0) 2 584 24 26

Email: fernando.gentilini@eeas.europa.eu