



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, 4 December 2025

Subject: Secondment of a cost-free national expert to the General Secretariat of the Council in the field of legal-linguistic revision of draft legal acts in German.

Ref.: SNE/06/2025 (JUR.7.B.DE-NL) - 1 post (505486)

Dear Madam/Sir,

The mission of the Directorate for Quality of Legislation (DQL), as part of the Council's Legal Service, is to check the drafting quality of legal acts of the European Council and of the Council, and to ensure that they are legally and linguistically consistent in all the official languages of the Union. The General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) is looking for a cost-free expert to reinforce DQL's German-language team of lawyer-linguists.

During the secondment, the national expert will have the chance to work on legal acts that directly impact the future of Europe, engage with key international stakeholders, and participate in high-level negotiations in a dynamic and collaborative environment. Moreover, the importance of work-life balance is recognised at the GSC, and flexible working hours, as well as the possibility of working remotely part of the time, are offered to accommodate both personal and professional needs.

The job description, which details the qualifications and experience required, is annexed hereto.

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.

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

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.

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 this 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 any allowances and travel expenses reimbursements by the General Secretariat of the Council.

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 **12:00 CET on 30 January 2026**, to the following address: seconded.national.experts@consilium.europa.eu.

The relevant department, together with the Human Resources Directorate, will examine the applications received, and decide which candidates to shortlist. These will have to sit a written test, and would then be invited to 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 Sven Sipos, Head of Unit, tel. +32 (0)2 281 6145, email: sven.sipos@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**

**Council Legal Service
Directorate for Quality of Legislation**

Ref.: SNE/06/2025 (JUR.7.B.DE-NL) - 1 post (505486)

Job description

A. Main tasks and responsibilities

As a German-speaking lawyer-linguist in the Directorate for Quality of Legislation, the expert will be called upon to:

- revise the German versions of draft legal acts;
- check consistency between all the language versions of draft legal acts to be adopted by the Council;
- provide opinions and propose improvements to the drafting quality and linguistic consistency of draft legal acts and international agreements;
- maintain regular contacts with legal counsellors, administrators from other directorates-general within the GSC and from the European Commission, with the lawyer-linguists of the European Parliament, and with Member States' experts
- take part in finalisation meetings with experts from the Member States;
- contribute to other tasks of the Legal Service.

B. General conditions

In accordance with the Decision,¹ 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 Union and a satisfactory knowledge of a second language for the performance of their duties.

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

C. Qualifications and experience

Applicants should:

- have a law degree awarded by a German or Austrian university or possess equivalent professional experience in the field of law;
- have a perfect knowledge of the German language as well as an excellent knowledge of English; a good knowledge of French would be considered an asset;
- have an extensive knowledge of the functioning and procedures of the EU and a good knowledge of EU law.

D. Required skills

- Good team spirit, a positive attitude, and a learning mindset
- Ability to communicate clearly and to collaborate with internal and external stakeholders
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to combine a strong sense of initiative with an eye for detail, to deliver high quality and meet deadlines

E. Security clearance

National security clearance at EU SECRET level. Such clearance needs to be obtained 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 about the treatment of your personal data.

