

**EEAS Vacancy Notice**  
**Seconded National Expert in the Directorate for Asia and Pacific (ASIAPAC)**  
**Desk Officer, Afghanistan and Pakistan Division (ASIAPAC.2)**  
**COST-FREE**  
**AD level post**  
**Job No 390635**

**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.

**We propose:**

The post is advertised as a cost-free Seconded National Expert (SNE) position as Desk Officer for Afghanistan within the AsiaPac.2 Division of the EEAS.

The post offers a highly substantive policy role at the heart of the EU's engagement on Afghanistan, under the instructions of the Head of Division for Afghanistan and Pakistan and the EU Special Envoy for Afghanistan.

The successful candidate will support a dialogue-oriented political initiative linked to the EU's broader efforts on Afghanistan, ensuring coherence between policy objectives and operational implementation. The role combines political analysis, coordination, and liaison functions within a complex institutional and international environment.

The SNE will cooperate closely with EU Member States, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and international partners. The post offers a dynamic inter-institutional working environment and meaningful exposure to EU external action.

Main responsibilities include:

- Acting as a focal point within the EEAS for a dialogue-related mechanism, coordinating internal inputs and liaising with relevant EU services and senior representatives;
- Supporting the operational implementation of the initiative in line with EU and departmental priorities;
- Maintaining regular contact with implementing partners and participating in relevant meetings and exchanges;
- Monitoring, analysing, and reporting on political, societal, and regional developments relevant to Afghanistan, including civil society dynamics and international engagement;
- Contributing to broader EU policy work on Afghanistan, with particular attention to inclusive and dialogue-based approaches;
- Drafting inputs for briefings, statements, high-level engagements, and other policy-related materials; and

- Supporting additional tasks within the team, including thematic or cross-cutting work as required.

### **We are looking for:**

The position is aimed at highly qualified and motivated candidates with solid policy experience and a strong interest in contributing to the development and coordination of EU external action in a complex and politically sensitive context.

The successful candidate should demonstrate:

- strong **analytical and drafting skills**, including the ability to translate complex political developments into concise policy analysis and recommendations;
- proven ability to work in a **structured, reliable, and solution-oriented manner**, including under time pressure;
- experience in **coordination with multiple stakeholders**, including national administrations, EU institutions, and international partners;
- well-developed **communication and networking skills**, enabling effective cooperation in a multicultural environment;
- a high degree of **initiative, flexibility, and professional judgement**, combined with discretion and respect for institutional frameworks;
- previous **experience in dialogue and mediation initiatives**, as well as engagement with **civil society**, would be an asset.

### **Legal basis:**

- This vacancy is to be filled in accordance with the EEAS Decision of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy HR DEC(2014) 01 of 04/02/2014 establishing the rules applicable to National Experts seconded to the European External Action Service.

### **Eligibility criteria:**

Candidates must:

- a) be drawn from public administrations in Member States, from international organisations or, only in exceptional cases and with prior authorisation from other sources;
- b) have at least three years' full-time experience of administrative, scientific, technical, advisory or supervisory functions equivalent to those of function groups AD or AST as defined in the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of other servants of the Union or, where justified in the interests of the service, professional training of an equivalent level.<sup>1</sup>;
- c) have a thorough knowledge of one Union language and a satisfactory knowledge of a second language for the performance of his/her duties;
- d) have a security clearance of minimum level **EU-SECRET/SECRET-UE** for the functions that he/she will carry out;
- e) remain in the service of the employer throughout the period of secondment and shall be paid by that employer;

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

- f) remain subject to the social security legislation applicable to the public administration, international administration or entity which employs the SNE and which will assume responsibility for expenses incurred abroad. In case of posting to an EU Delegation, the employer certifies that the SNE is covered for medical expenses incurred at the place of secondment, as well as costs of repatriation on health grounds throughout the full period of secondment;
- g) ensure that there is no conflict of interest and that he/she will, at all times, safeguard the independence and coherence of EU foreign policy as well as the integrity and confidentiality of EU documentation, information and procedures.

### **Selection criteria:**

#### **Candidates should:**

##### **A. Professional knowledge**

- at least three years in a similar position and in the areas mentioned in the job content;
- relevant background on international relations, multilateral fora, conflict and post-conflict situations ;
- sound knowledge of EU institutions and institutional relations with EU Member States, decision-making processes, external action and related EU external policies;
- excellent command of English, including the ability to draft and edit reports.

##### **B. Skills**

- ability to work effectively under time pressure in an international, diplomatic, and multilingual environment, with a high degree of intercultural awareness and sensitivity;
- strong teamwork and coordination skills, with the ability to engage constructively with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders;
- well-developed analytical, drafting, and reporting skills, including the ability to rapidly grasp complex political and policy issues and to identify pragmatic, policy-relevant solutions.

##### **C. Languages**

- a thorough command of English, both written and spoken, is required;
- knowledge of French, Dari and/or Pashto is not required but would be considered a distinct asset.

##### **D. Personal Qualities**

- high level of motivation, dynamism, and professional commitment;
- ability to adjust rapidly to new tasks, evolving priorities, and challenging political contexts, including readiness to undertake missions to Afghanistan and the wider region, as required;
- strong sense of responsibility, discretion, and resilience.

### **Equal opportunities**

- The EEAS is committed to an equal opportunities policy for all its staff and applicants. 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 [SNE-HQ@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:SNE-HQ@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.

**Conditions of secondment**

SNEs shall remain in the service of their employer throughout the period of secondment and shall continue to be paid by that employer.

Duration of the secondment: 2 years, renewable up to 4 years in total

**Vacancy available from: 1 September 2026**

**Place of secondment: Brussels, Belgium**

**For further information, please contact:**

[SNE-HQ@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:SNE-HQ@eeas.europa.eu)

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