

As from 1 November 2014, the **European Union** is seeking a new



## **High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

to lead the EU's respective policies under the Treaty on European Union, Articles 18 and 21-46 in particular, for the term of office of the next European Commission. The position includes the appointment as Vice-President of the European Commission with all associated rights and duties.

### **Tasks**

The High Representative:

- ensures with the Council the unity, consistency and effectiveness of action by the Union;
- conducts the Union's common foreign and security policy and defence policy;
- contributes by his/her proposals to the development of that policy, which he/she shall carry out as mandated by the Council;
- presides over the Foreign Affairs Council;
- represents the Union for matters relating to the common foreign and security policy; conducts political dialogue with third parties on the Union's behalf and expresses the Union's position in international organisations and at international conferences.
- ensures the consistency of the Union's external action as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commission;
- assumes responsibility within the Commission for responsibilities incumbent on it in external relations and for coordinating other aspects of the Union's external action.

### **Requirements & Personal Skills**

Applicants must be citizens of a member state of the European Union and be eligible for a position in public service. Citizenship of a large member state may be an advantage, or a disadvantage.

Proficiency in English and French is required, knowledge of other working languages of the EU will be an advantage.

A solid record in political and public office, e.g. as head of government or foreign minister of a member state, is not mandatory but highly desirable.

Successful candidates should possess:

- A thorough understanding of world affairs. Extensive personal networks with foreign policy actors across the globe, experience in crisis management, and a strong personal reputation will be a significant advantage.
- Strong leadership skills in executive management and strong adaptive skills in negotiations with member states representatives and third parties.
- Ability to work effectively with ambiguous assignments and responsibilities; readiness to share representative tasks with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission, and to lead the Commission's external tasks despite vaguely defined coordination powers.
- Unshakeable resilience in the face of unreasonable or contradictory demands, obstruction, or neglect from representatives of member states or other EU-institutions.

### **Appointment**

The successful candidate will be appointed by the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, with the agreement of the President of the Commission. The European Council may end his/her term of office by the same procedure.

As a member of the European Commission, the successful candidate will be subject to a vote of consent on the entire body of the European Commission by the European Parliament. By a motion of censure, the European Parliament can force the European Commission to resign as a body. In this case, the High Representative shall resign from the duties that he/she carries out in the Commission.

### **Applications**

Formal applications are neither required nor desired. Suitable candidates will be recruited through the member state political processes under criteria that may substantially deviate from requirements listed in the above.