

Job requirements

Hard skills

We are looking for lawyers:

- Trained in at least one legal system of a Member State of the European Union and with a very good knowledge of EU law.
- With previous work experience as a lawyer in EU law (this will be considered an asset).
- For operational reasons, proficient in both written and spoken English and French (this will be considered an asset).

Soft skills

Regarding skills and competencies, potential candidates will possess:

- Excellent drafting and communication skills
- The ability to speak in public
- A diplomatic approach
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Adaptability and excellent team-working skills.



How to apply

Schuman traineeships - twice a year we offer university graduates the opportunity to gain first-hand experience working at the European Parliament.



European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) - which publishes general competitions organised by institutions for the recruitment of officials and contractual agents. Please read the CAST selection procedure section carefully, especially the 'LAW GFIV' and 'LAW GF III' profiles as these are important places to start your career in the Legal Service.



APPLY4EP - a platform where you can find and apply for all current European Parliament-specific career opportunities and you can also make a spontaneous application.



Job opportunities: how to apply - website of the European Parliament.



THE LEGAL SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Union is based on democracy, the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights. In this context, the Legal Service plays a key role both by advising the institution on legal matters and representing it in court.

Who are we?

The Legal Service is one of the 14 Directorates-General of the General Secretariat of the European Parliament and it comprises around **130 staff members headed by the Jurisconsult**, who is the Director-General of the Legal Service. Our **lawyers are** each trained in at least one legal system of an EU Member State, **assisted by administrative and legal assistants** as well as by a unit in charge of human resources and budgetary matters.

Approximately half of the staff of the Legal Service **follows the work of parliamentary committees dealing with legislative matters**. The other half deals, among other things, **with matters concerning staff regulations, real estate and contracts**, and with **the Statute for Members and Parliament's Rules of Procedure**.



Freddy DREXLER, The Jurisconsult

Mission of the Legal Service



The main mission of the Legal Service is divided into **two different but equally important tasks**:

- **To provide high-quality legal advice** in all areas of parliamentary activity **to all of Parliament's political bodies** (such as, for example, the President, the Bureau, the Conference of Presidents, the College of Quaestors, the parliamentary committees etc.), **and to the Secretary-General and the Directorates-General**. In this way, the Legal Service **assists Parliament's negotiating team** in interinstitutional negotiations on legislative files (trilogues). This is necessary **so that any legislation adopted by the European Parliament is compliant with EU law** and meets the necessary legal requirements so as to reduce the risk of subsequent litigation.
- **To represent the European Parliament in proceedings** before the Court of Justice and national courts **in order to defend the institution's interests, rights and prerogatives**.

Why join the Legal Service

You will be able to work **in close cooperation with Parliament's key actors** in the heart of the political and administrative domains. The Legal Service is organised in small groups and has a policy of internal mobility **so the lawyers can switch focus areas and acquire expertise in different fields of law**. You will also have **extensive internal and external learning opportunities** to further develop personally and professionally.

Some of the positive aspects highlighted by our current lawyers are:

- **The working environment: teamwork is fundamental**, fostering a culture of open and constructive discussion regardless of status or seniority.
- **The variety of tasks**: every day is different and: you switch from a file requiring in-depth research and detailed analysis to preparing pleadings in court to defend the European Parliament's interests.

