

# **RULES FOR RECRUITMENT, WORKING CONDITIONS AND GEOGRAPHICAL EQUILIBRIUM OF THE SECRETARIAT'S STAFF OF THE ENERGY COMMUNITY**

*Adopted by Ministerial Council Procedural Act 2006/02/MC-EnC of 17 November 2006, amended by Ministerial Council Procedural Acts 2016/01/MC-EnC of 14 October 2016, 2022/02/MC-EnC of 15 December 2022 and 2024/01/MC-EnC of 19 February 2024.*

*Consolidated version*

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## **I. GENERAL**

1. These Rules establish the procedures for recruitment and working conditions of the staff of the Energy Community Secretariat ("the Secretariat") in accordance with the Treaty establishing the Energy Community ("the Treaty").
2. In case of any contradiction between these Rules and the Treaty, the rules of the latter shall be applied.

## **II. RULES FOR RECRUITMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT**

1. The Director of the Secretariat shall be appointed by a Procedural Act of the Ministerial Council<sup>1</sup> on a proposal from the European Commission for a fixed term of five years renewable no more than once.
2. The European Commission shall distribute its draft proposal at least 30 days before the relevant meeting date, at which the Ministerial Council shall have on its agenda the appointment of the Director of the Secretariat.
3. The candidacy shall be nominated in the personal capacity of the relevant person.
4. The European Commission may propose candidates, who have either European citizenship or citizenship of any Party or Signatory to the Treaty.
5. The proposal of the European Commission shall be respectively justified. It shall contain a description of the qualifications and experience of the nominee and shall be based on his/her prior agreement to be nominated.
6. Any Party to the Treaty may express its views on the proposed candidacy. Should this be done in writing prior to the meeting of the Ministerial Council, the Presidency shall announce the relevant statement during the meeting.
7. The Ministerial Council may ask for a hearing of the nominee during its meeting before the decision for appointment is taken. The Presidency, in consultation with the Vice- Presidents, shall propose in advance ad hoc operational rulings of the hearing (time frame, number of

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<sup>1</sup> [Procedural Act 2006/06/MC-EnC on appointment of a director of the Energy Community Secretariat](#)

questions etc.). The Observers may participate in the discussion in accordance with the Internal Rules of Procedure for the Ministerial Council<sup>2</sup>.

8. The Ministerial Council shall decide on the appointment of the Director on a simple majority.
9. <...>
10. Within 7 days after the Ministerial Council meeting, on the ground of its decision, the Ministerial Council represented by the Presidency shall issue an Act of Appointment containing an Employment Agreement, which shall be signed by the Director. The draft Act of Appointment shall be included in the annex to the Ministerial Council decision on the appointment of the Director. The Employment Agreement shall include the elements listed in point 4.4(b) of the Staff Regulations of the Energy Community as well as the Director's job description and a reference to the rules on the probationary period set out in point 4.10b) of the Staff Regulations of the Energy Community. The appointment of the Director shall take effect as of the date the Director signs his or her Employment Agreement.
11. In case of resignation of the Director before the end of the term of his/her appointment, the Presidency, in agreement with the Vice-Presidents, shall appoint an acting Director. The Presidency shall organize a new appointment procedure to be started immediately.

## **II. bis DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

The Director may assign the function of Deputy Director to one of the existing heads of unit in the Secretariat. The Director shall define the tasks of Deputy Director.

## **III. RULES FOR RECRUITMENT OF THE STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT**

### **III. 1 GENERAL**

1. The recruitment of the staff of the Secretariat shall be based cumulatively on the following major principles:
  - Transparency of selection procedures;
  - Non-discrimination;

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<sup>2</sup> [Procedural Act 2006/01/MC-EnC Rules of Procedures of Ministerial Council of Energy Community](#), [Procedural Act 2013/01/MC-EnC amending Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Council](#) and [Procedural Act 2015/02/MC-EnC on amending the Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Council](#)

- Competition and professionalism;
  - Geographical equilibrium.
2. The Ministerial Council shall adopt the Secretariat Organigramme, and any subsequent changes, based on a proposal of the Director of the Secretariat.
  3. Any person, who has either EU Member States citizenship or citizenship of any Party to the Treaty, may apply for any announced position.
  4. The candidates shall apply in their personal capacity.
  5. The Secretariat shall be responsible for the organization of the selection procedures in accordance with these Rules.
  6. The staff shall be selected and appointed by the Director.
  7. Further to the selection procedure, any formal appointment shall be subject to certification by a qualified medical practitioner, designated by the Director that the appointee possesses the degree of physical fitness needed for his or her post.
  8. Any appointment shall be for a fixed term upon a probationary period in accordance with these rules and shall be renewable.
  9. A probationary period for six months upon appointment for any position shall be established.
    - 9.1 Any period of past service with the Secretariat as an established official may be considered, in whole or in part, a period of probation. This shall be applicable when the main obligations under the job description of the previous position and the one of the position, at which the official has been appointed in accordance with these Rules, coincide.
    - 9.2 During the sixth month of any probationary period, the staff member's immediate superior shall draw up a report on his or her competence, efficiency and conduct. The report shall recommend:
      - (a) that the official's appointment be confirmed;
      - (b) that his or her period of probation be extended to maximum of six more months;
      - (c) that his or her appointment be terminated.
    - 9.3 The report shall be transmitted before the end of the sixth month to the Director for decision.
  10. The probationary period shall be considered as a part of the overall term of the appointment.
  11. Upon request from an interested country, the Director, in consultation with the Presidency and the Vice-Presidency, may appoint a secondee from this country for up to one year, subject to administrative and financial capacity. The secondees shall not be considered as

part of the Secretariat's staff. The Director shall develop procedural rules concerning the status of the secondees<sup>3</sup> within three months upon the entry of these Rules into force.

12. The Director shall serve a probationary period of 6 months. The procedure set out in Section 4.10.b) of the Staff Regulations of the Energy Community shall apply.

### **III. 2 TRANSPARENCY AND PROCEDURE OF RECRUITMENT**

13. The Secretariat shall launch the recruitment procedure by advertising vacancy notices specifying the criteria concerning general and specific competencies and key qualifications required and the possible duration of employment, the function and the main steps of the selection procedure.
14. Any vacancy notice shall be published at least one month before the start of the relevant selection procedure, in English on the Energy Community's internet website, as well as in the international and specialist press. The information shall be also distributed to all institutions under the Treaty.
15. The Director of the Secretariat may identify issues, subject to confidentiality, which shall be announced only to short listed candidates; these, however, cannot refer to the job description itself.
16. In the selection procedure, the Director shall be supported by a Selection Committee, which shall consist of at least four members, including the Director, one representative of the Presidency and one representative from the European Union. Other members of the Secretariat can be included in the Selection Committee. In specific cases, in particular for selection procedures of experts, one additional member may be designated from extern following a proposal by the European Commission.
17. The Selection Committee shall evaluate applications and agree, for each vacancy, on a short list of applications meeting the eligibility criteria and matching best the selection criteria required as per vacancy notice.
18. The Selection Committee shall invite the short-listed candidates for interviews.
19. Should the Selection Committee find it needed, the Selection Committee may decide to invite the short listed applicants to written tests in accordance with the rules in this item, to take place on the same days of the interviews.

The content of the tests shall be defined in accordance with the level and profile of the position advertised.

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<sup>3</sup> [Procedural Act 2019/05/ECS-EnC on rules for secondees, interns, other assignments and locally recruited persons](#)

The written tests, tailored according to the profile of the post, shall at least consist of the following components: general aptitudes and language abilities to the extent necessary for the performance of the duties and specific competencies with reference to the relevant profiles and assessing the quality of writing style and presentation.

20. On the ground of the short listed candidates, the Director may establish a reserve list of candidates. This list will be valid up to 12 months from the date of its establishment and its validity may be extended by decision of the Director.
21. Any outcome of a selection procedure shall be reflected in writing in a protocol, which shall be signed by the members of the Selection Committee. Candidates shall be informed of the outcome of the selection procedure.
22. Any Party is entitled to get a copy of any of the protocols under item 20 upon written request to the Director.
23. For the ECRB section of the Secretariat, the permanent or seconded staff of this Section is appointed by the Energy Community Secretariat Director according to the procedures above, following a common agreement with the President and the Vice President for each of the positions.

*Interim provisions*

24. <...>
25. <...>
26. <...>.

**III. 3 NON-DISCRIMINATION**

27. Discrimination during the selection procedure based on any ground shall be prohibited.
28. All posts shall be open equally to men and women without reference to race or creed.

**III. 4 COMPETITION AND PROFESSIONALISM**

29. No particular post shall be reserved for particular persons and/or nationals of any specific country, Party or Signatory.

30. In recruiting staff, the Director shall give primary consideration to the necessity of obtaining the services of persons possessing the highest standards of competence and integrity. Any job description in the announcements for vacancies shall state clearly the formal requirements concerning education, experience, language skills etc.
31. The recruitment shall be open to competition among internal candidates and any other applicants, based on equal opportunity standards. Among candidates with equal qualifications and experience, preference shall be given to internal applicants.

### **III. 5 GEOGRAPHICAL EQUILIBRIUM**

32. The Director shall provide, as far as possible, for an equitable distribution of the posts among nationals of the Parties and the Signatories.

## **IV. WORKING CONDITIONS**

1. The Director shall be responsible that, in accordance with the budget of the Secretariat and in compliance with the budgetary rules and with the decisions of the institutions under the Treaty, the officials of the Secretariat be provided with the relevant necessary working conditions, related to equipment, working area, access to available information etc.
2. Any official of the Secretariat has the right to request from the Director that he/she gets improved working conditions. The request shall be properly justified. In case that the request cannot be followed, the Director or any other authorized member of the staff shall provide the official with a relevant answer in writing.
3. The Director shall be entitled to develop internal rulings, related to the working conditions, upon the above mentioned principles.

## **V. FINAL PROVISION**

1. The present Rules shall not apply to staff recruited on a temporary basis to replace staff members on parental leave or staff members on part-time leave in accordance with the Staff Regulations. Appointments shall follow procedural rules to be developed by the Director<sup>4</sup> and depend on the availability of sufficient budget for human resources.

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<sup>4</sup> [Procedural Act 2016/02/ECS-EnC on adopting Procedural Rules for appointment of temporary staff](#)

2. The Rules have been adopted by the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community on the ground of Article 69 of the Treaty Establishing the Energy Community.