We are

The Health and Consumers Directorate-General (DG SANCO), and it is our goal, in the context of overall Commission objectives, to empower consumers, protect and improve human health, ensure food is safe and wholesome, protect the health of animals and plants, as well as promote the humane treatment of animals.

This vacancy notice is to appoint the Director of Directorate F — the ‘Food and Veterinary Office (FVO)’ — that consists of seven units and around 170 staff. It is one of the three Directorates in the food safety policy area. It is located in Grange, Dunsany, Co. Meath, Ireland.

The mission of the FVO is through its audits, inspections and related activities:

— check on compliance with the requirements of EU food safety and quality, animal health and welfare and plant health legislation within the European Union and on compliance with EU import requirements in third countries exporting to the EU,

— contribute to the development of European Community policy in the food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health sectors,

— contribute to the development and implementation of effective control systems in the food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health sectors,

— inform stakeholders of the outcome of its audits and inspections.

(See also on http://ec.europa.eu/food/index_en.htm for more detailed information on the Commission’s food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health activities).
We propose

The position of Direct or, who will provide the necessary leadership to focus work towards achievement of the overall consumer protection, public health and food safety objectives of the Directorate-General and Directorate.

He/she will establish the objectives of the Directorate in accordance with the work programme of the Directorate-General; assure planning and management of the operational measures to achieve the work programme, the milestones to check progress, the outcomes expected and ensure that the resources are used according to the principles of sound and efficient management, including in crisis situations; inspire, motivate and lead Heads of Unit and members of staff in order to achieve satisfactory results in compliance with DG SANCO’s internal quality standards; establish good working relations with the relevant Commission services and key stakeholders.

In particular he will ensure that:

— the annual inspection programme is developed, identifying priority areas and countries for inspection,
— the programme is properly carried out,
— the findings of each inspection carried out under the programme are set out in an inspection report, together with conclusions and recommendations as appropriate,
— the implementation of the action plans agreed with the country’s competent authority is monitored through a number of follow-up activities.

The Director will also need to maintain a high level of cooperation with national competent authorities, international organisations and non-governmental organisations active in issues affecting the Directorate. The Director will report directly to the Deputy Director-General, under the authority of the Director-General.

We look for

Candidates should have:

— proven management and organisation skills, in particular the ability to lead, motivate and develop a team of highly qualified professionals to the best of their potential in achieving the objectives of SANCO and the Commission in general,
— good understanding and excellent knowledge of food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health policies, including management of disease outbreaks potentially leading to EU-wide epidemic crisis situations and the operation of food safety controls systems at EU and international level,
— sound and in depth experience of managing and supervising activities in the fields of controls relating to food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health and their related risk assessments; the capacity to master the technical aspects of these fields and to operate effectively in a scientific area is required,
— good knowledge of the European Union’s international relations in the field of food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health, and in particular with the international standard setting bodies,
— ability to integrate a food safety vision with other policies of the DG, notably public health and consumer issues,
— ability to work under pressure,
— strong powers of communication and persuasion in promoting the Commission’s approach towards food safety, animal health and welfare and plant health, especially in the relevant EU Institutions (Parliament and Council), with third countries and stakeholders,
— strong ability to negotiate at high level with Member States, third countries and international organisations.
Applicants must

— Be a citizen of one of the EU Member States.

— Have:

(i) either a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies attested by a diploma when the normal period of university education is four years or more;

(ii) or a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies attested by a diploma and appropriate professional experience of at least one year when the normal period of university education is at least three years.

— Have at least 15 years’ postgraduate professional experience at a level to which the qualifications referred to above give admission. At least five years of that professional experience must have been gained in a management function at high level (1) and should have some direct experience in a field related to this post.

— Have a thorough knowledge of one of the official languages of the European Union and an adequate knowledge of another of these official languages. (Candidates should note that the selection procedures will be carried out in English, French or German only. As this might give an advantage to native speakers, these will be tested also in one or more other languages).

— Not yet have reached regular retirement age, which for officials of the European Communities, is defined as being the end of the month in which the person reaches the age of 65 years (see Article 52(a) of the Staff Regulations).

Independence and declaration of interests

Candidates are required to confirm their willingness to make a declaration of their commitment to act independently in the public interest and a declaration of any interests which might be considered prejudicial to their independence.

Appointment and conditions of employment

The Director will be selected and appointed by the Commission according to its selection and recruitment procedures. A shortlist of candidates will be drawn up and candidates included will be called for interview by the Commission’s Consultative Committee on Appointments and an assessment centre run by external recruitment consultants.

The remuneration and conditions of employment are those laid down in the Staff Regulations that are applicable to AD 14 officials of the European Communities. The Director is subject to the normal rules of mobility for such posts and the successful applicant will be expected to seek another position within the Commission in a period of five to seven years from appointment.

Applicants should note the requirement under the Staff Regulations for all new staff to complete successfully a nine-month probationary period.

The recruitment will be made in Grange, Ireland.

Equal opportunities

The European Union applies an equal opportunities policy.

Application procedure

This post might be published in parallel with a number of other senior official posts. In this case, candidates who wish to apply for more than one post must submit a separate application for each post.

(1) In their CVs applicants should indicate at least for these 5 years during which high level management experience has been acquired: (1) title and role of management positions held, (2) numbers of staff overseen in these positions, (3) the size of budgets managed, and (4) numbers of hierarchical layers above and below and number of peers.
Before submitting your application, you should carefully check whether you meet all the eligibility criteria, particularly concerning the types of diploma and professional experience required. If you want to apply, you must register via the Internet by going to the following website:
https://ec.europa.eu/dgs/personnel_administration/seniormanagementvacancies/CV_Encadext/index.cfm
and follow the instructions there concerning the various stages of the procedure.

It is your responsibility to complete your online registration in time (1). We strongly advise you not to wait until the last few days before applying, since heavy Internet traffic or a fault with your Internet connection could lead to the online registration being terminated before you complete it, thereby obliging you to repeat the whole process. Once the deadline for the submission of registrations has passed, you will not be able to do so. Late registrations via normal e-mail will not be accepted as a general rule.

On completion of your online registration, you will receive on screen a registration number that you must note — this will be your reference number in all matters concerning your application. When you receive this number, the registration process is finished — it is confirmation that we have registered the data you entered. If you do not receive a number, your application has not been registered!

Please note that you must have an e-mail address. This will be used to identify your registration as well as to inform you about the outcome of the procedure. You will be required to inform the Commission about any change in your e-mail address.

You will be required to attach a CV in WORD or PDF format to your application and to enter, online, a letter of motivation (maximum 8 000 characters). Both the CV and letter must be written in English, French or German.

Please note that it is not possible to monitor the progress of your application online. You will be contacted directly by the recruiting DG regarding the status of your application.

If you have a disability that prevents you from registering online, you may submit your application (CV and letter of motivation) on paper by registered mail (2), postmarked no later than the closing date for registration. All subsequent communication between the Commission and you will be by post. In this case, you must enclose with your application a certificate attesting your disability, issued by a recognised body. You should also set out on a separate sheet of paper any special arrangements you think are needed to make it easier for you to take part in the selection.

Should you require more information and/or encounter technical problems, please send an e-mail to ADMIN-MANAGEMENT-ONLINE@ec.europa.eu.

Closing date

The closing date for registration is 17 July 2009. Online registration will not be possible after 12.00 noon Brussels time.

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(1) No later than 12.00 noon, Brussels time, 17 July 2009.
(2) European Commission, Directorate-General Personnel and Administration, Unit for Organisation Chart and Management Staff, COM/2009/10190, MO34 5/105, B-1049 Brussels, BELGIUM.