

Brussels, 20/12/2024

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To the Representatives to the PSC

Dear Ambassadors,

EU Special Representatives (EUSRs) play an important, high-profile role in the conduct of our Common Foreign and Security Policy, including vital outreach, political dialogue and mediation activities. I intend to work closely with all of them during my term to bring forward EU foreign policy objectives across the globe. Four EUSR mandates are due to expire at the beginning of 2025. One will be up for renewal on 31 January 2025 – the one covering the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues - and three on 28 February 2025, namely those covering Central Asia, the Gulf and the Middle East Peace Process. The present letter sets out my initial proposals in this regard.

At the outset, I wish to emphasise my gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing office holders, the EUSRs for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues, Central Asia, and the Middle East Peace Process. Mr Lajčák, Ms Hakala, and Mr Koopmans have all respectively worked tirelessly to advance European values and interests in highly challenging times and environments.

1) EUSR for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues

Advancing EU enlargement also means resolving outstanding issues between the partners in our neighbourhood. As there is no alternative to the normalisation process for Serbia and Kosovo on their EU path, I intend to appoint a EUSR for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue. The mandate of this EUSR should centre on the main task at hand, which is to assist me in the facilitation of the Dialogue and, in particular, in the implementation of the 2023 Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and all previous commitments. With an initial duration of one year, I intend to make it clear to both Parties that time is of the essence and normalisation has to be rapidly concluded. The renewed momentum in enlargement should also translate into an acceleration of the normalisation of Kosovo-Serbia relations.

I therefore propose an extension of this position with an amended mandate until 28 February 2026. At the same time, I call on Member States to submit qualified candidates for this position, in particular senior diplomats with strong expertise on the region, and with special attention to gender balance. Applications should be sent by e-mail to EUSR-Recruitment@eeas.europa.eu before 3 January 2025, 17:00 CEST. The new office holder is expected to take up duty on 1 February 2025.

2) EUSR for Central Asia

The role of the EUSR is instrumental in promoting the EU - Central Asia regional agenda as well as regional cooperation on a series of issues important for the region, such as regional security, human rights, connectivity, as well as water resource management and climate change aspects. Its engagement on topics and issues of cross-border nature or on issues with impact on regional stability, including in the context of developments in Afghanistan, is important for our work with the region. The EUSR ensures a high-level EU presence in the region and close contacts with governments, presidents, parliaments, the judiciary, civil society and mass media.

The current EUSR for Central Asia, Ms Hakala, has handed her resignation letter and will end her contract on 31 December 2024. However, given the centrality and importance of Central Asia for the European Union, I propose an extension of this position from 1 March 2025 until 28 February 2027. The current Head of Office of the EUSR for Central Asia will ensure the business continuity on administrative and financial aspects during January and February 2025. The new office holder is expected to take up duty on 1 March 2025.

At the same time, I call on Member States to submit qualified candidates for this position, in particular with strong expertise on the region, and with special attention to gender balance. Applications should be sent by e-mail to EUSR-Recruitment@eeas.europa.eu before 3 January 2025, 17:00 CEST. The new office holder is expected to take up duty on 1 March 2025.

3) EUSR for the Middle East Peace Process

In the context of the war in Gaza and the recent regional escalation, it is now more important than ever that the EU continues to lead efforts in support of a political horizon towards the two-state solution. I therefore propose an extension of this position until 28 February 2027.

At the same time, I call on Member States to submit qualified candidates for this position, in particular with strong expertise on the region and highly developed diplomatic skills, and with special attention to gender balance. She/he would be required to travel widely in the region, coordinate her/his efforts with partners, including the US, UN, the G7 and Arab states, and maintain good relations with both Israel and the Palestinians. The successful candidate shall work in close cooperation with the EEAS services.

Applications should be sent by e-mail to EUSR-Recruitment@eeas.europa.eu before 3 January 2025, 17:00 CEST. The new office holder is expected to take up duty on 1 March 2025.

4) EUSR for the Gulf region

The outstanding performance of the EUSR for the Gulf, Mr Luigi Di Maio, has greatly contributed to advancing EU-GCC cooperation. He has played a key role in developing both regional and bilateral cooperation with Gulf countries in the field of political consultations, security dialogues, trade and investment, green energy and people-to-people relations. His presence was instrumental for the success of the EU-GCC Summit.

I therefore propose to extend the mandate of the current EUSR for the Gulf, Mr Luigi Di Maio, for another two years, from 1 March 2025 until 28 February 2027.

Finally, in order to better reflect the EU's strategic interests in a fast-changing geopolitical environment, and in the context of ongoing efforts towards a more effective and cost-efficient CFSP, I intend to propose certain updates in my upcoming proposals for Council Decisions regarding some of the above mandates.

Yours faithfully,



Kaja Kallas

