



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

ECOFIN

Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs



*“ At ECOFIN, we help to set a framework
for everything that has to do with money!”*

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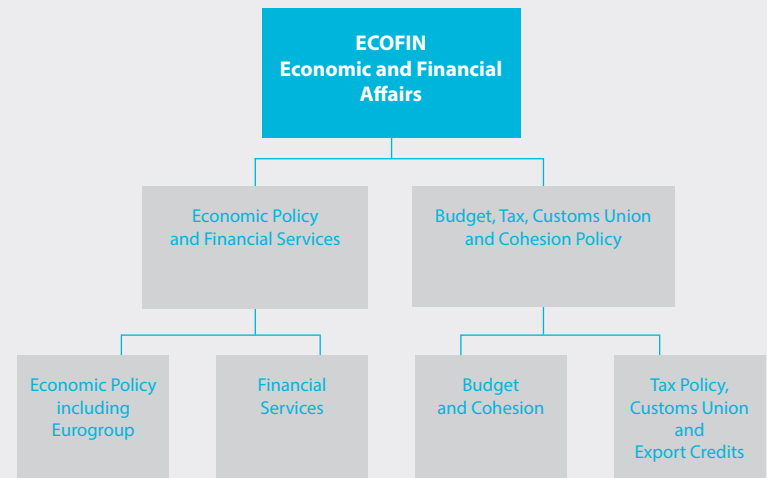
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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs – ‘ECOFIN’, in short – is to ensure that the work of the Council in its ECOFIN, ECOFIN - Budget and General Affairs Council (GAC) - Cohesion configurations, as well as that of the Eurogroup, is conducted in an efficient and coherent way and with a longer-term perspective. We also provide support for European Council meetings that deal with our policy areas.

Our activities are organised into two Directorates (each consisting of two Units): one dealing with the policy blocks of economic policy and financial services, and the other with budget, tax, customs union and cohesion policy.

HOW WE ARE ORGANISED?



WHAT WE DO?

We coordinate and prepare the usually monthly meetings of the ECOFIN Council and Eurogroup and support the rotating presidencies with the preparatory work in the Council working groups. The coordination of national fiscal policies, international cooperation, especially in the G20, and at the moment also the monitoring of the impact of the war in Ukraine on the EU economic situation are important aspects of this work.

The full integration of the financial services market in the EU is an important element of the economic strength of the EU and its capacity to finance the current economic challenges. We support political discussions and complex legislative work on the banking union and the capital markets union.

The ECOFIN Council also deals with taxation. This area has gained a lot of traction in recent years with the fight against tax evasion, minimum company taxation in a digitalised world economy and climate protection.

The annual EU budget procedure, a very specific process that takes place during the second half of the year, is overseen by ECOFIN-Budget. Other issues of relevance to the EU budget (like the Own Resources Decision, the yearly discharge procedure, the fight against fraud, and financial legislation) are addressed in the traditional ECOFIN setting.

Cohesion policy is dealt with by the GAC - Cohesion. Responsibility for cohesion policy, corresponding to one third

of the EU budget, requires intense legislative negotiations every five years.

We also assist in the work of the Council on complex files involving the customs union, export credits and the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM).

In short, we deal with a wide range of issues such as:

- the further development of the economic and monetary union, in particular the reinforcement of economic governance, economic policy coordination, the completion of the banking union and financial services
- the rules and procedures governing the establishment, implementation and control of the EU budget
- fair and effective taxation
- the provision of support to exporters
- the functioning of the customs union
- a strong cohesion and regional policy

necessary to analyse political dossiers with a view to facilitating decision-making, and to advise and assist the presidency and the Council in their relations with other EU institutions and bodies and with national parliaments.

- **The ability to draft concise and clear texts, mainly in English but occasionally also in French.** In ECOFIN, you will be drafting documents relating to the activities of the European Council and/or the Council and their preparatory bodies. You will also be asked to follow up and report on relevant meetings of the European Parliament and other EU institutions and bodies.

ASTs/SCs:

We actively look for colleagues who have experience in policy DGs or who are willing to acquire such experience.

The main skills and tasks usually required in our job vacancies include the following:

- In general, **a good knowledge of relevant IT tools and a familiarity with the digital working environment.**
- **A strong sense of responsibility** and an **ability to adapt** to different situations while performing effectively. These skills will help you to provide active assistance in the coordination and running of legislative and other procedures and provide general administrative support to the DG. They will also come in useful when contributing to the logistical side of meetings, in particular working groups and trilogues.
- **The ability to work in an organised and precise manner, and accuracy in carrying out tasks.** These skills are crucial for a number of tasks:

- handling, processing and producing information and keeping to deadlines for briefs/notes for the PEC, the Council and Coreper
 - preparation and formatting of standard correspondence and official documents
 - arranging for document production and distribution, including to Member States
 - carrying out documentary research and performing paper and electronic filing and archiving
- **The ability to interpret and respond to the needs of interlocutors.** In ECOFIN, you will be expected to maintain contacts with external and internal parties on administrative and logistical matters related to the coordination and running of legislative and other procedures.
 - **The ability to work in a team and a sense of initiative.** These skills will help you in the following tasks:
 - providing active assistance in the organisation of the duties of the DG's staff and providing general administrative support to the DG
 - circulating information within the DG and contributing to the organisation of events
 - helping train new colleagues, if necessary

WHAT WE OFFER

We are a dynamic DG working on topics that are often at the centre of public attention. We are a diverse team of around 55 professionals, consisting of a mix of young and experienced colleagues, both specialists and generalists. The size of DG

ECOFIN makes it easy to get to know your colleagues, even if they are working on different files. Our staff appreciate the level of autonomy they have, find their managers accessible, and consider that colleagues are committed to doing quality work.

Our DG is strong in terms of:

- **Cooperation** - we promote a culture of working together across subjects. Many of our staff are involved in networks, task forces and committees in the General Secretariat of the Council, and within teams, colleagues back each other up.
- **Knowledge sharing** - we organise events and seminars that allow us to share our knowledge and to learn from others, and we issue a monthly background note on ECOFIN topics of general interest.
- **Communication** - we are constantly looking into how we can improve our communication, internally and with other parties, and we hold regular team meetings at unit, directorate and DG level, to ensure awareness of cross-cutting issues and strategic developments.

WHAT DO OUR STAFF SAY ABOUT US

‘Working in ECOFIN allows you to help build the Europe of the future. Its work is always in the news. Plus, ECOFIN’s team is motivated, hard-working and friendly.’

‘Being at the centre of negotiations is a very enriching and valuable experience. Supporting and advising the rotating presidencies is sometimes challenging, but always rewarding.’

‘What I particularly appreciate is the supportive working environment, which makes even the more challenging moments manageable as I can always count on my colleagues and my management.’





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