



HIGH REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE UNION FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
SECURITY POLICY

Brussels, 19.6.2017  
JOIN(2017) 22 final

**Joint Decision of the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union  
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

**of 19.6.2017**

**amending the Joint Decision of the Commission and the High Representative of the  
Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 12.06.2012 establishing a High Level  
Traineeship Programme in the Delegations of the European Union in Partnership with  
the Member States of the European Union (JOIN(2012)17 final)**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY POLICY,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 27(3) thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and  
functioning of the European External Action Service<sup>1</sup> (2010/427/EU) and in particular  
Article 1(3) thereof,

Having regard to the Joint Decision of the European Commission and the High Representative  
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 12 June 2012 (JOIN(2012)17 final) establishing a  
High Level Traineeship Programme in the Delegations of the European Union ('Joint  
Decision') in partnership with the Member States of the European Union,

Whereas:

- (1) Taking into account the appointment of a Director-General of Budget and Administration in the European External Action Service ('EEAS'), replacing the Chief Operating Officer, it is necessary to amend Article 3 of the Joint Decision<sup>2</sup>, accordingly.
- (2) Taking into account the needs to adapt to the living conditions prevailing in the host country and to reduce the turnover of Junior Professionals in Delegations ('JPDs'), it has been considered as necessary, for the mutual benefit of the Delegations and the trainees, to extend the maximum duration of the Traineeship from 18 months (two periods of nine months) to two years (two periods of one year) in order to allow trainees to adapt to the new living conditions and to increase the fruitful results of the traineeship.
- (3) The grant and contributions allowed should therefore be adapted and regularly reviewed taking into account the adjustment of the remuneration of officials and other servants of the European Union.
- (4) It is necessary to confirm that JPDs are entitled to maternity leave,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 201, 03.08.2010, p.30

<sup>2</sup> Article 4(3)(a), second indent, of the Council Decision (2010/427/EU) of 26 July 2010

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

**The Decision JOIN(2012)17 final of 12 June 2012 is amended as follows:**

Article 3 is replaced by the following:

‘The Director-General of Budget and Administration of the EEAS shall take the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of this Decision, in close coordination with the Commission and with each partner Member State of the EU. In particular, he shall ensure that the necessary arrangements with the Commission and the partner Member States of the EU are put in place.’

*Article 2*

**Annex I to the Decision JOIN(2012)17 final of 12 June 2012 is amended as follows:**

(1) in Point 2.1, the second paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘In addition, a biennial call for expressions of interest shall be launched by the EEAS to EU Member States' Permanent Representations and EU institutions and bodies with a view to identifying sponsors for the next scheduled rounds. The indicative total number of trainees sponsored by the EEAS, the Commission and their partners shall be communicated by the EEAS on its website for each round.’

(2) Point 5.3 is replaced by the following:

‘The agreement shall have a fixed term of one year and shall automatically end on its expiry date without any formalities.

A renewal of the agreement for another period of one year may be offered depending on budget availability by the EEAS, the Commission or the sponsoring Member State or EU institution or body. It shall take into account the evaluation of the learning progress of the trainees throughout the first period. However, the training period covered by the initial agreement and the renewal shall, under no circumstances, go beyond two (2) consecutive years. The training period shall not be split into different time periods.’

(3) in Point 6.1, the first paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘On the basis of the traineeship agreement they have signed, trainees shall be awarded a monthly basic grant by the EEAS (if applicable, on behalf of the Commission or the sponsoring partner). The amount of this grant shall be decided by the EEAS/Commission and other sponsoring partners on a biennial basis, dependent upon budgetary constraints and taking into account the adjustment to the remunerations of officials of the EU. It shall be published on the EEAS website’.

(4) in Point 6.2, the second paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘The amount of each of the above mentioned contributions, as well as the conditions to be met by the trainee to receive these contributions, shall be fixed at a biennial interval, taking into account the budget availability, through a decision by the EEAS and the Commission amending the Implementing Rules according to the place of training and shall be published on the EEAS website before the opening of a new training period.’

(5) Point 6.3 is replaced by the following:

‘For each training period of one year the EEAS/the Commission shall bear the cost of one journey from Brussels to the place of training and of one journey from the place of training to Brussels. Detailed rules shall be published on the EEAS website.’

(6) in Chapter 7, a Point 7.5 is added:

**‘7.5. *Maternity leave***

A pregnant trainee shall be entitled, on production of a medical certificate stating the expected date of confinement, to a maternity leave.’

*Article 3 – Date of taking effect and application*

This Decision shall take effect on the date of its adoption and shall be applicable to the Traineeship Programme beginning in September 2017.

Done at Brussels, 19.6.2017

*The High Representative of the European Union for  
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy*

*Federica MOGHERINI*

*For the Commission  
The President*

*Jean-Claude JUNCKER*