



European Committee
of the Regions

Human Resources and Finance

VACANCY NOTICE

Head of Unit - Press office, relations with media

Reference number: COR/AD9-AD14/18 BIS/26

Directorate	Directorate for Communication
Unit	Unit D.1 - Press office, relations with media
Vacancy	AD9-AD14
Type of post	Official – Head of Unit or equivalent Publication under Article 29(1)(a) and (b) of the Staff Regulations
Date of publication	13/05/2026
Deadline	1/06/2026 at noon (Brussels time)

1. Your job and responsibilities

Are you an experienced EU communicator with an interest in politicians and media? Are you interested in increasing the visibility and impact of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and its members?

Potentially one of the most interesting head of unit jobs in EU communication, this role involves working directly with politicians and political groups as well as with colleagues from across the institution, from personnel to policy experts.

Working under both the political authority of the rapporteur for the communication strategy and the day-to-day editorial coordination decided at senior management level, you will be responsible for the CoR's visibility in the media.

This ranges from covering high-profile statements by senior politicians in the Brussels bubble media to helping CoR members reach out to Europeans in their cities and regions, rural and peripheral areas.

In the new geopolitical circumstances, the CoR as a political assembly aims to make the EU stronger from the inside, through cohesion, resilience and proximity to people. At the same time, the CoR as an institution relies on effective media outreach, staying lean, cost-effective and ahead of the curve.

You will lead a unit of 16 staff members including press officers, audiovisual specialists and photographers and your mission will be to:

- generate positive media visibility appropriate to a political assembly of over 300 members representing more than a million elected local and regional leaders;
- develop audiovisual and photographic products based on key performance indicators of media mentions, social media engagement and web page views;
- consolidate a 'demand-driven' approach to maximising visibility, whereby the output is tailored to key issues in the media and the EU political agenda (rather than based solely on CoR activities);
- develop a culture of regular dialogue between the CoR press officers and Brussels-based journalists, with the objective of establishing and maintaining relationships with them;
- contribute to the CoR Directorate for Communication's contacts with other institutions' communicators, particularly on issues identified as relevant for EU communication;
- contribute to measuring and monitoring media communication (including using key performance indicators) and tailoring media contacts and partnerships to evolving trends;
- demonstrate the highest quality of personnel management, with a clear focus on staff well-being;
- pursue rigorous financial management based on cost-effectiveness, including acting as authorising officer by sub-delegation on commitments and payments.

2. Who are we? What are the challenges for us ahead?

The 'Press office and relations with media' unit works at the centre of the Directorate for Communication and consists of a press sector (10 people), the audiovisual team (four people) and several support staff.

As head of unit, you are expected to lead by example, with a focus on delivering communication on the CoR's political messages. The president, 1st vice-president, chairs of commissions and working groups, and rapporteurs are key political messengers who represent the views of EU local and regional authorities in Brussels. CoR members are also messengers for the EU in their constituencies, elected closest to citizens and the most trusted level of government. This role is built around matching the CoR's messengers and messages with the demands of the media and the EU political agenda.

The unit has a reinforced and high-performing press sector and a strong audiovisual team, along with joint studio facilities (shared with the neighbouring European Economic and Social Committee). Intrapreneurship is one of the assessment criteria for all managers at the CoR and you will be encouraged to innovate as part of turning the CoR from the House of EU Regions into the home of Europe's future.

3. Are you the talent we are looking for?

3.1 GENERAL ABILITIES AND CAPACITIES REQUIRED

- Think with a critical spirit, analyse and solve problems pragmatically.
- Assess critically credibility and reliability of sources, data and information and use relevant digital tools to carry out the duties.
- Organise own work, demonstrate responsibility, identify priorities, take appropriate decisions and deliver results.
- Adapt to an evolving working environment, demonstrate commitment and adopt a constructive attitude at all times. Remain effective and flexible even during periods of heavy activity.
- Take initiative to achieve individual and shared objectives, demonstrate ownership and work autonomously.
- Learn and professionally develop to continuously enhance job performance and knowledge of the organisation and working environment.
- Work together with others in a constructive way by contributing to diverse and inclusive working environment. Demonstrate respect and courtesy at all times.
- Convey information and relevant opinions clearly and concisely both orally and in writing, facilitate interaction and engage effectively with others. Treat confidential or sensitive information accordingly.

3.2 JOB-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- You have at least three years' professional experience in coordination of teams in an international context.
- You have a proven track record in EU communication and want to help promote the work of the CoR and its members.
- You demonstrate sound knowledge of the EU agenda and its diverse communication environment, and you are able to balance the priorities of a political assembly with the need to ensure appropriate visibility for the CoR's legislative work in its advisory capacity.
- You have relevant experience and a solid understanding of how journalists operate, including how to build and maintain effective relationships with them.
- You demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of the specific nature of political leadership at local and regional level.
- You demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of the CoR's added value in the EU inter-institutional setting, proving your skills in developing narratives that make CoR's political messages attractive to journalists and relevant to an ever-changing EU political agenda.
- You demonstrate an ability to adapt the CoR's political messages to ensure that they are both attractive and relevant to local media across the EU.
- You have a thorough knowledge of one of the official languages of the European Union (EU) and a satisfactory knowledge of another of the EU official languages. For functional reasons, a high level of English is required and a good level of French is desirable.
- You have a good command of IT applications and tools, such as Outlook, Excel, Word and SharePoint, including AI tools in a secure environment.
- You have experience in coordinating and executing complicated tasks, including with outside contractors.

- You have experience working with budgets and contracts, and with external stakeholders and technical experts, including on issues such as artificial intelligence and protection of personal data.

3.3 ASSETS

- Knowledge of internal systems such as ABAC and ARES would be an asset.
- Experience working with subnational media would be an asset.

4. Are you eligible for this position?

On the closing date for applications and without prejudice to the other provisions of Article 28 of the Staff Regulations, applicants for a head of unit position published according to Article 29 § 1 (a) of the Staff regulations must be established permanent officials of the CoR of grades AD9 to AD14. Also eligible are CoR established officials of the AD function group of grade AD8 provided they have at least two years of seniority in the grade on closing date for applications.

Candidates applying for this position following Article 29§1 (b) of the Staff regulations must be established permanent officials of the EU of grades AD9 to AD14.

Each candidate must have at least 10 years of relevant working experience, three of which must have been acquired in a position that required coordination of teams in an international context.

5. Two step selection process

A selection panel will assess the applications received by the deadline. The best eligible applicants will be invited to an interview with a panel. Based on the results of this interview, a shortlist of up to three candidates will be proposed to the secretary-general.

The secretary-general will meet individually all the shortlisted candidates and will decide which one will be proposed to carry out the duties of head of unit.

The CoR aims for a high degree of diversity in its management team in terms of gender and geographical balance. In line with its commitment in the area of equal opportunities, in case of equal merit, preference will be given to candidates of the underrepresented gender and to candidates which further diversify the geographical balance of CoR management team.

6. What we offer

- A European institution on a human scale at the heart of the European quarter and easily accessible.
- Flexible working hours and teleworking opportunities subject to the needs of the service.
- An active talent management policy focusing on continuous development and training and a policy to encourage internal mobility.

- A friendly and dynamic working environment in which self-motivation, initiative and team spirit are valued.
- An institution that promotes equal opportunities, diversity and non-discrimination to help nurture a respectful and inclusive working environment and that is actively engaged in the consultation process prior to the adoption of EU legislation. Our dedication to inclusivity is also reflected in our efforts to enhance the accessibility of our vacancy notices, including the layout of the current vacancy and its annex (left alignment, increased spacing and font size etc.). By improving their readability, we strive to make these documents accessible to all, including individuals with disabilities.
- An EMAS-certified institution that is continuously looking to improve its environmental performance.

7. Are you interested in this challenge?

If you have the skills we are looking for and think you fit the profile above, please apply using the [online application form](#) before 1/06/2026 at noon.

Please remember to read carefully the appendix to this vacancy announcement to learn relevant details about this selection procedure.

The Secretary-General
Petr Blížkovský

The [European Committee of the Regions](#) (CoR) is the political assembly which allows the views of regional and local authorities to be heard when European Union policies are being devised and legislation drafted. It is an advisory body which was created in 1994. Its consultative role allows its 329 members, and through them the regional and local authorities they represent, to take part in the EU decision-making process.