



HOUSE OF LORDS

House of Lords European Union Committee (Sub-Committee on External Affairs)

European External Action Service

Call for Evidence

The EU Sub-Committee on External Affairs of the House of Lords, chaired by Lord Teverson, is conducting an inquiry into the *European External Action Service (EEAS)*. The Sub-Committee seeks evidence from anyone with an interest.

Written evidence is sought by 12 December 2012. Public hearings will be held over the period November 2012 - February 2013. The Committee aims to report to the House, with recommendations, in April 2013. The report will receive a response from the Government and may be debated in the House.

The European External Action Service (EEAS), formally launched on 1 January 2011, is one of the most important institutional innovations of the Lisbon Treaty. The launch marked the culmination of a year-long negotiation between the EU institutions following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. The function of the EEAS is to assist the High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission (HRVP), currently Baroness Ashton, in performing her duties which include representing the Union for matters relating to the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), conducting political dialogue with third parties on the Union's behalf and expressing the Union's position in international organisations and international conferences.

In 2013 the High Representative will review the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service. This inquiry aims to influence the debate on the EEAS.

The Sub-Committee seeks evidence on any aspect of this topic, and particularly on the following questions:

1. What are the main achievements of the EEAS since its establishment? Where has it been less successful?
2. How well does the EEAS meet the objectives set out for it in the Lisbon Treaty and the Council Decision? Has the High Representative/Vice President fulfilled her mandate and the Council Decision for setting up the EEAS? What remains to be done?
3. How effective has the EEAS been in communicating and promoting the EU's policies and values? Has it implemented Council CSFP and CSDP Decisions effectively?

4. Has the creation of the EEAS led to a more coherent and integrated EU foreign policy?
5. Has the EEAS been effective in its response to crises?
6. How does the balance of responsibilities between the EEAS and the Commission work out in the development area? Has the creation of the EEAS improved the implementation of the EU's development policy?
7. How well does the relationship between the EEAS and the Commission work in the trade area? Does the EEAS have a role to play in EU trade policy and its implementation?
8. How well does the EEAS work as an institution?
9. How well has the objective of a geographically and gender balanced staff been met? How well has the objective been met of one third of staff from the diplomatic services of the Member States by mid 2013, a third from the Council Secretariat and a third from the Commission? Have staff been adequately trained to perform the diplomatic role? If not, what are the omissions?
10. Is the EEAS budget sufficient to meet its objectives? Are there any areas where the EEAS could make savings?
11. In what ways has the financial and economic crisis within Member States affected organisation and activity of the EEAS?
12. Has the EU created the right number and distribution of Delegations around the world?
13. How well do the relationships with the Foreign Ministries of the EU Member States work and how well do EU Delegations cooperate with the diplomatic missions of the EU Member States?
14. Has the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responded effectively to the establishment of the EEAS? Has the UK been able to second high level candidates to important positions within the EEAS? Has it also seconded a representative number to more junior positions?
15. Have the Foreign Services of other Member States all responded with their best candidates for EEAS posts?
16. What should the EEAS need to do over the next three years and what should it prioritise? How can it maximise the influence of Member States and the EU in the future? On which areas should the 2013 review focus?

You need not address all these questions in your response.

Written submissions should be provided to the Committee in an editable electronic form as a Microsoft Word document by e-mail to boltone@parliament.uk. Please do not submit PDFs. If you do not have access to Microsoft Word or to the internet you may submit in another editable electronic form. If you do not have access to a computer you may submit a paper copy to Edward Bolton, Committee Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW, fax 020 7219 6715. The deadline for written evidence is **12 December 2012**.

Short, concise submissions, of no more than six pages, are preferred. A longer submission should include a one-page summary. Paragraphs should be numbered. Evidence sent in paper form must be clearly printed or typed on single sides of A4 paper, unstapled. Submissions should be dated, with a note of the author's name, and of whether the author is acting on an individual or corporate basis. All submissions will be acknowledged promptly.

Personal contact details supplied to the Committee will be removed from submissions before publication but will be retained by the Committee staff for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, such as seeking additional information.

Submissions become the property of the Committee which will decide whether to accept them as evidence. Evidence may be published by the Committee at any stage. It will normally appear on the Committee's website and will be deposited in the Parliamentary Archives. Once you have received acknowledgement that your submission has been accepted as evidence, you may publicise or publish it yourself, but in doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee. If you publish your evidence separately, you should be aware that you will be legally responsible for its content.

You should be careful not to comment on individual cases currently before a court of law, or matters in respect of which court proceedings are imminent. If you anticipate such issues arising, you should discuss with the Clerk of the Committee how this might affect your submission.

Certain individuals and organisations may be invited to appear in person before the Committee to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast in audio and online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the Clerk or the Chairman of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

You may follow the progress of the inquiry at www.parliament.uk/hleuc