

Seconded National Experts in DG MARKT: real assets part 2



How do Seconded National Experts (SNEs) fare in DG MARKT? Meet another 4 SNEs from DG Markt¹:

Name: Dr. Kristin Hentschel
Works in: Postal Services (E4)
Arrived in DG MARKT in: October 2008
Seconded from: German regulator, the Bundesnetzagentur



What is your background and expertise and what is your responsibility in DG MARKT ?

I am a lawyer. I used to work for the Bundesnetzagentur in Bonn, which is the regulatory body for all network industries in Germany; I was a deputy head of unit in the railway department. The Bundesnetzagentur coordinates with other European regulators and the Commission on market opening and the implementation of the EU regulatory framework. I have also worked as a researcher in the Centre for European Integration Studies.

In DG MARKT, I am involved in the implementation of the Third Postal Services Directive in the Member States. One of the main issues is assisting the Member States in transposing the law, to prepare for full

market opening. Before, I was involved in law transposition procedures in Germany, so I have valuable experience to bring from the 'other side'. I also work with a couple of Member States on continuous active market monitoring.

What knowledge and experience gained will you take back home ?

A better knowledge of the substance of the law. How the Commission cooperates with each Member State, how standards are defined and how it consolidates knowledge resulting from many cultures and market players working together. Where to find external expertise and how to tap into networks for info. Against this background, I expect to have an important link function between Germany and the Commission when I get back.

Name: Sander van Sluis
Works in: Horizontal Policy Development Unit (B1)
Arrived in DG MARKT in: April 2007
Seconded from: The Netherlands, Ministry of Economic Affairs

What is your background and expertise and what is your responsibility in DG MARKT ?

Before I came here, I worked in the ministry of Economic affairs in the competition directorate, which did for the Netherlands what DG MARKT is doing for Europe. I have always been involved in public procurement policy, for which I did negotiations in the Council Working Party on behalf of the Netherlands. After, I helped to transpose the new legislation into Dutch law.

Now I work in the coordination Unit of DG MARKT. I work on the 'Partnership recommendation', which is now in the

implementation phase. I prepare briefings for the Commissioner and for the DG and I coordinate inter-service consultations with other DGs for anything to do with Services, Public Procurement, Intellectual Property and Copyright.

What knowledge and experience gained will you take back home ?

The experience of working with people from different nationalities made me realise that Europe is more than just the sum of its participants. I also take home the knowledge of how it works here and how to find my way around the Commission.



¹ See Single Market News 55 for the first article on DG MARKT SNEs

Name: Dr. Konrad Szelag
Works in: Banking and Financial Conglomerates (H1)
Arrived in DG MARKT in: May 2009
Seconded from Poland, Ministry of Finance

What is your background and expertise and what is your responsibility in DG MARKT ?

Before I came to DG MARKT I worked in the Ministry of Finance as Advisor to the Minister and before that in the National Bank of Poland as Head of the European Integration Unit. For the past five years, I was a member of the European Banking Committee and various Commission and Council working groups (on capital requirements for banks (CRD), deposit protection, etc.).

Also, my experience as a Fulbright scholar in the United States is very relevant for my current work at the Commission, notably my internships at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) in Washington DC.

In DG MARKT, I work on 'Deposit Guarantee Schemes' (DGS) and some supervisory issues. Currently, I participate in the preparation of the complex reform on DGS in the EU. The DGS Directive (aimed at ensuring the safety

of depositors' money in case of bank failures) was adopted in 1994 and not changed until the aggravation of the financial crisis in autumn 2008². But it was only a 'quick-fix' as a response to the crisis and, therefore, a comprehensive DGS reform is still needed in the EU – as the crisis highlighted serious drawbacks of the Directive undermining depositors' confidence in the banking sector and threatening financial stability.

What will have been the advantages for Poland and for you when you go back ?

I will bring back a European perspective on my areas of expertise, i.e. deposit protection and banking supervision (the Minister of Finance in Poland oversees the Bank Guarantee Fund and has its representative in the Polish Financial Supervision Authority). It will also be useful to know some particular solutions in individual Member States. Last but not least, professional contacts at the Commission and some international organisations will be an asset as well.



Name: Lee Foulger
Works in: Financial Services Policy Unit (G1)
Arrived in DG MARKT in: May 2009
Seconded from the UK, Ministry of Finance



What is your background and expertise and what is your responsibility in DG MARKT ?

I have been working in the UK Ministry of Finance for the last 7 years. I have also spent some time in the banking sector. Most recently, in the Treasury I have been working on reforms to banking regulation and responding to the financial market turbulence from the UK's perspective. In DG MARKT, I am working on the reforms to the EU supervisory architecture.

How do you think you can add value to the Commission following the financial crisis ?

I can bring the perspective of a policy maker from a National finance ministry to policy making at the EU level. National finance ministries often have a different perspective and have experienced the financial crisis in a different way to the Commission. They

have had to deal with urgent problems involving financial institutions on an almost daily basis. While a lot of this work is done in close cooperation with the Commission, the focus at the EU level will be to implement the necessary reforms, building on the experiences of Member States and produce a cohesive, stronger Single Market at the end of it.

What knowledge and experience gained will you take back home ?

Bringing back an understanding of the way the Commission and other institutions see things is useful for my work in the Treasury and for the UK Government more generally. We are also going to have to implement all the reforms that the Commission is currently working on, so someone with some knowledge about what the reforms are intended to do might add some value in the implementation!

² Directive 94/19/EC on deposit guarantee schemes (amended by Directive 2009/14/EC).