

Vacancy Notice for the position of Head of Unit Operations

Reference:	GHEDCTP3/2024/TA/01
Type of contract	Temporary agent 2f
Type of Post	Head of Unit
Type of publication	Inter-agency and external
Grade for external publication	AD 11
Grade bracket for inter-agency publication:	AD 10 – AD 12
Duration of contract	3 years (renewable)
Place of employment	Brussels, Belgium
Deadline for applications	29 February 2024 at 23:59 CET Extended to: 7 March 2024 at 23:59 CET (Central European Time / Brussels time)
Reserve list valid until	31 December 2025

Number of persons to be selected for the reserve list: 3 Number of Persons to be recruited: 1

1.	Introduction	2
2.	Job description	3
3.	Eligibility, qualifications and experience required	4
4.	Selection criteria	5
5.	Independence and declaration of interest	6
6.	Selection and appointment procedure	6
7.	Equal opportunities	7
8.	Conditions of Employment	7
9.	Application procedure	8
10.	Protection of personal data	9
11.	Appeal procedure	11

1. Introduction

The Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking (GH EDCTP3 JU) is a partnership between the European Union and the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) Association whose members are several European and African countries. The GH EDCTP3 JU is established by Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe¹. It aims at supporting clinical research to deliver solutions to reduce the burden of infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa and strengthen research capacities to prepare and respond to emerging infectious diseases.

Since 2003, the first and second European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) programmes^{2,3} represent a flagship for conducting sound multi-country clinical trials in sub-Saharan Africa, building a true partnership between Europe and Africa, and fostering African leadership in scientific research. These programmes have also contributed to improving linkages between African research organisations, which resulted in the launch of four African Regional Networks of Excellence for clinical trials and more than 200 multi-country clinical trials and clinical studies. Moreover, these programmes have strengthened the ethics review capacity and national regulatory authorities in many African countries and contributed to establish relevant organisations in the region.

Building on the positive experience of the previous EDCTP programmes, GH EDCTP3 intends to:

- Reduce the socio-economic burden of infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa by promoting the development and uptake of new or improved health technologies;
- Increase health security in sub-Saharan Africa and globally by strengthening the research and innovation-based capacities for preparedness and response to control infectious diseases.

GH EDCTP3 JU is implementing a budget of approximately EUR 1.6 billion for the period 2021-2027 and consolidating a programme office of around 34 highly qualified, scientific, clinical and administrative professionals from multi-cultural backgrounds from Europe and Africa, operating in a multilingual context. The budget comes from the European Union Horizon Europe Framework Programme of Research and Innovation, the EDCTP Association member countries and additional contributing partners, such as philanthropic organisations and industry, which contribute on an ad-hoc basis. More information can be found in the mentioned Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe, notably in its Articles 99-114.

GH EDCTP3 JU is established until 31 December 2031 and is located in Brussels.

 $^{^1}$ Council Regulation (EU)2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014 (OJ L 427 of 30/11/2021, p. 17–119) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R2085.

² Decision 556/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the participation of the Union in a second European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership Programme (EDCTP2) jointly undertaken by several Member States <u>EUR-Lex - 32014D0556 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)</u>.

³ Decision No 1209/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2003 on Community participation in a research and development programme aimed at developing new clinical interventions to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis through a long-term partnership between Europe and developing countries, undertaken by several Member States https://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/HR/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32003D1209.

2. Job description

The GH EDCTP3 JU is organising a call for expressions of interest with a view to establishing a reserve list of Temporary Agents for the position of Head of Unit, Operations.

2.1 Profile

The Head of Operations is a key middle manager in the organisation. In his/her role as a manager, the successful candidate shall provide leadership of the Science Operations Unit, assisting the Executive Director in the management of the scientific and policy input development of the GH EDCTP3 JU annual work programmes, and the implementation of the core business of call and grants.

She/he must have very good knowledge of core business of the GH EDCTP3 JU, and the ability to provide clear leadership, with an emphasis on cost effectiveness, efficiency, timeliness and sound management, as well as ensuring a culture of customer service. She/he will lead a staff of around 9 -12 people.

2.2 Tasks

The tasks of the Head of Operations will include, among others, the following:

Management, coordination and reporting:

- Leading and managing the Science Operations unit and its staff;
- Defining the work programme of the unit and coordinating the work of the team and its contribution to the programme objectives assigned;
- Monitoring and reporting of progress of supported projects;
- Ensuring the Unit contributes efficiently to promoting the GH EDCTP3 JU programme through information days;
- With the Senior Scientific Officers: managing the secretariat support to the GH EDCTP3 JU Scientific Committee and the GH EDCTP3 Stakeholders Group;
- Ensuring efficient and impactful input from the Scientific Team towards the GH EDCTP3 JU
 publications, events, scientific conferences and other important strategic initiatives that will
 strengthen synergies and complementarities with EDCTP partners.

Scientific Research and Advice:

- Assisting the Executive Director in oversight of the development of the scientific strategy of GH EDCTP3 JU and ongoing refinement of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda;
- Overseeing the development of the scientific priorities for the annual work programmes of GH EDCTP3 JU;
- Managing the operational implementation of the calls for proposals the annual work programme;
- Provide technical input in the Annual Technical Report preparation for submission to the European Commission.

Grant management and Monitoring:

 Assisting the Executive Director in the overall administrative management of the planning and monitoring of calls for proposals/tenders, preparing the evaluation phase (selection of experts, eligibility checks of proposals) for assigned panels, supporting the process of selection and final ranking;

- Overseeing the monitoring the preparation of grants agreements in close collaboration with Head of Unit of Finance & Administration and Legal Officers;
- With the support of the Senior Scientific Officers: supervise the entire calls & grants cycle;
- Oversee the contract preparation process for grants including agreeing contractual deliverables with beneficiaries in line with objectives of the GH EDCTP3 JU;
- Development and updating of the GH EDCTP3 JU Standard Operating Procedures and ensuring harmonised processes for collaboration with external partners;
- Assist the Administration and Finance Unit in producing the annual grants budget;
- Ensure that the cofounding requirements are met in respect of new grants contracts and budgeting for calls for proposals involving GH EDCTP3 JU partners.
- With the support of Senior Scientific Officers and in coordination with strategic partnership team: coordinating engagement activities with strategic partners.

Project Management:

- Working closely with the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer as well as the Communications Team to
 ensure a well-managed programme portfolio of projects and quality-controlled reports and
 publications;
- Overseeing the conduct and preparation of project reviews, assessing grants-related technical reports and participating in project meetings and/or in dedicated progress reviews;
- Ensuring the efficient Team participation in project meetings with project consortia to explain relevant programme/EU policies and procedures and promoting networking between project consortia;
- Ensuring efficient dissemination and promotion of project results and impacts, contributing to the Annual Activity Report, identifying, and disseminating best practices and presenting the programme and its' projects at information days, workshops, seminars, conferences, and other public events.

The successful candidate may be required to undertake other tasks and activities as necessary under the responsibility of the Executive Director according to the evolution and development of the GH EDCTP3 JU's structure or activities. Duties may evolve depending on the needs of the GH EDCTP3 JU.

3. Eligibility, qualifications and experience required

3.1 Eligibility criteria

Candidates will be considered for the selection phase on the basis of the following requirements, to be fulfilled by the closing date for applications:

• Be a <u>national of a member state</u> of the European Union;

Moreover, in order to be eligible, candidates must

Have a level of education which corresponds to <u>completed university studies</u> of at least four (4) years attested by a diploma⁴; and, after having obtained the diploma, at least fifteen (15) years full-time of appropriate professional experience;

⁴ Only qualifications issued by EU Member State authorities and qualifications recognised as equivalent by the relevant EU Member State authorities will be accepted.

OR

Have a level of education which corresponds to completed university studies of at least three (3) years attested by a diploma and, after having obtained the diploma, at least 16 years full-time of appropriate professional experience;

 Have a thorough knowledge of one of the official EU languages and a satisfactory knowledge (at least B2 level) of another of these languages to the extent necessary for the performance of their duties (candidates are invited to specify in their CV possible language certificates they have obtained, which can demonstrate their language skills).

Eligibility criteria must be fulfilled by the deadline for applications and maintained throughout the selection procedure and appointment.

Failure to comply with the eligibility selection criteria will result in the disqualification of the applicant concerned.

4. Selection criteria

Eligible candidates will be considered for the selection phase on the basis of the following criteria, to be fulfilled by the closing date of applications.

4.1 Essential qualifications and experience

- At least five (5) years of management experience, with proven track-record in building, managing
 and motivating teams. Please indicate the size of the teams you managed and the number of years
 of management experience that you have;
- At least five (5) years of experience in management of grants and projects, including experience in financial management;
- Sound knowledge in an area related to the work of GH EDCTP3 JU such as public health, global health, medicine, biomedical sciences, epidemiology;
- Very good knowledge of EU financial rules; Horizon Europe General Model Grant Agreement and Guide;
- Professional experience in working in a multicultural, international and multidisciplinary environment:
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.

4.2 Advantageous criteria

- Ability to use electronic office tools (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, MS Teams, etc);
- Knowledge of EU tools: Sygma, Compass, ABAC, COMPASS, ARES, SEP, EMI, etc.;
- An MD or PhD in a field relevant to Global Health (e.g. medicine, bio-medical or life sciences, etc.).

4.3 Behavioural competences

- Leadership and people management skills;
- Excellent analytical and reporting skills;
- Strong sense of responsibility, commitment and co-operation;
- Ability to work under pressure and prioritise tasks in a demanding working environment;
- Ability to establish and develop good inter-personal relations with a broad range of stakeholders in cross-cultural environments;
- Excellent problem-solving skills;
- Service-oriented and results-driven attitude.

Candidates are invited to be as detailed and as clear as possible when describing their professional experience and specific skills and competences in their application. In order to be evaluated in the best possible way, candidates are advised to give evidence of their knowledge and detailed professional experience with specific examples and detailed professional experience.

5. Independence and declaration of interest

The successful candidate will be required to make a declaration of their commitment to act independently in the public interest and to make a declaration in relation to interests that might be considered prejudicial to his/her independence. Candidates must confirm their willingness to do so in their application.

6. Selection and appointment procedure

6.1 Selection Committee

The Executive Director of the GH EDCTP3 JU nominates a pre-selection Committee composed of at least 3 members, including a member designated by the Staff Committee of the GH EDCTP3 JU or another EU Institution.

The names of the pre-selection Committee members will be communicated to the candidates in the invitation letter to their pre-selection phase.

Under no circumstances should candidates approach the Selection Committee, either directly or indirectly, concerning the selection procedure. The Selection Committee's internal proceedings are strictly confidential and any contact with its members is strictly forbidden. The Chair of the Selection Committee reserves the right to disqualify any candidate who disregards these instructions.

6.2 Screening of applications and pre-selection phase

After applications are screened, the pre-selection Committee, based on the vacancy notice and on elements of the application, will draw up a list of candidates to be invited for a written test and interview, which will be held in Brussels or remotely. The candidates not invited will be informed that they were not selected.

The selection phase will be conducted in English and will consist of a written test and an oral interview in order to assess:

- The candidate's motivation and understanding of the position;
- The candidate's skills with reference to the job description;
- The candidate's knowledge of the field in which the Joint Undertaking operates;
- The candidate's general aptitudes and language abilities as necessary for the performance of their duties.

Following the pre-selection phase, the Selection Committee will draw up its conclusion and establish a reserve list of suitable candidates to participate in a management assessment centre run by external consultants.

6.3 Assessment centre

All shortlisted applicants by the Selection Committee shall take part in an assessment centre, unless they have already taken part in such an assessment centre in the course of the two years preceding the closing date for the receipt of applications. If an applicant has taken part in an assessment centre within this two-year period,

but not within the 18 months preceding the closing date for the receipt of applications, he/she may at his/her request be admitted to the assessment centre.

The assessment centre shall evaluate the applicants' potential and shall provide an in-depth analysis of managerial skills, adaptability and other core competencies. It shall comprise individual and/or group exercises as well as in-depth interviews focussed on management skills.

6.4 Appointment and reserve list

The Appointing Authority and one member of a grade a management function equal to that of the function to be filled shall interview the short-listed candidates. The Appointing Authority will select the successful candidate to be offered the post. The result of the assessment centre shall be taken into consideration by the Appointing Authority.

A binding commitment can only be made after the verification of all conditions and will take the form of a contract signed by the Appointing Authority of the GH EDCTP3 JU⁵.

The reserve list may be used in order to fill vacant positions within GH EDCTP3 JU and shared with other JUs.

Candidates should note that inclusion on the reserve list does not guarantee recruitment. Recruitment will be based on the availability of posts and budget.

The reserve list will be valid until <u>31 December 2025</u> and may be extended at the discretion of the Appointing Authority.

7. Equal opportunities

The GH EDCTP3 JU, as a European Union body, applies a policy of equal opportunity for men and women and accepts applications without distinction on grounds of sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic characteristics, and language, religious, political or other convictions or opinions, financial situation, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status or family situation.

8. Conditions of Employment

The successful candidate will be appointed as a **Temporary Agent AD 11**, pursuant to Article 2(f) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union, for a period of three years, with a probation period of 9 months and managerial trial period. After an evaluation of the post holder's performance, and subject to budget availability, the term of office may be extended. The period of engagement will not in any case exceed the lifetime of the GH EDCTP3 JU.

<u>Information reserved for applicants employed under Article 2(f) of the CEOS, in EU Institution other than GH EDCTP3 JU:</u>

According to GH EDCTP3 JU Governing Board decision EDCTP3-GB-DEC-2022-7 adopting the implementing rules on the procedure governing the engagement and use of temporary staff under Article 2(f) of the CEOS,

⁵ Before his/her appointment, the candidate shall be medically examined in line with the requirement of Article 12(2)(d) of the Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Communities.

and in particular Article 12 (2), if a successful applicant from this external procedure, on the closing day for applications, as well as on the day of taking up duty at GH EDCTP3 JU:

- Is a member of temporary staff under Article 2(f) of the CEOS, and
- Is employed within their agency in function group and grade included in the range "AD10 AD12",

GH EDCTP3 JU shall offer the applicant, in writing, the opportunity either:

a) To be assigned to the post by means of internal mobility, as per Article 10 of EDCTP3-GB-DEC-2022-7. In this case the contract at GH EDCTP3 JU will be in continuity with the contract of the previous EU Institution (namely with regard to grade, step, seniority in step, and duration).

OR

b) In case the eligibility, qualification and professional experience requirements for the grade indicated in this vacancy notice, (AD11) are met, to be assigned to the post on the basis of a new contract (first fixed-term) of three years duration, subject to the probationary period of 9 months, at the grade indicated in the vacancy notice (AD11).

Remuneration

The successful candidate who is offered a contract of employment will be graded on entry into service in the relevant step (1 or 2), according to the length of his/her professional experience.

The basic monthly salaries for a Temporary Agent AD 11, as of 1 January 2024 in Brussels, are:

step 1: EUR 11,554.11 step 2: EUR 12,039.62

In addition to the basic salary, staff members may be entitled to various allowances, in particular expatriation or foreign residence allowance, family allowances including household allowance, dependent child allowance, pre-school allowance and an education allowance.

The salary is subject to a Community tax deducted at source and staff members are exempt of national taxation.

For any further information on contractual and working conditions, please refer to the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants (CEOS) of the European Union, which is available on the following web page:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1962R0031:20140101:EN:PDF

9. Application procedure

Important information for candidates

For applications to be valid, candidates must submit an application consisting of a <u>motivation letter</u> and a <u>curriculum vitae</u> to the functional mailbox <u>EC-GLOBAL-HEALTH-EDCTP3-JOBS@ec.europa.eu</u>.

Candidates are required to quote the reference of the vacancy for which you have applied in all correspondence: **GHEDCTP3/2024/TA/01**

Applications shall be made in English to be considered.

In order to facilitate the selection process, all communications to candidates concerning this vacancy will be in English.

When filling in their application, candidates are requested to **provide examples** of their **professional experience** and **competences**.

When submitting more than one application for a position, any new application made by a candidate will be considered to supersede and replace the previous application for that position.

Candidates are advised to apply using an e-mail address that will remain valid for several months.

Candidates are asked to report any potential change of contact details in writing, without delay, to the following e-mail address: <u>EC-GLOBAL-HEALTH-EDCTP3-JOBS@ec.europa.eu</u>.

Candidates are advised <u>not to wait until the last few days</u> before applying as heavy internet traffic or a problem with the internet connection could lead to your application being interrupted. After the closing date, applications will no longer be accepted.

Applications sent by post will not be accepted.

Supporting documents (e.g. certified copies of degrees/diplomas, references, proof of experience, etc.) should not be sent at this point but must be submitted at a later stage of the procedure if requested.

10. Protection of personal data

The personal information that the GH EDCTP3 JU requests from applicants will be processed in line with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (hereinafter referred to as the EU Data Protection Regulation)⁶.

Types of personal data

The following details are collected in the context of staff selection procedures:

- Personal details: names, gender, date and place of birth, nationality, civil status, family situation and related supporting certificates, residence certificate, ID format photos;
- Contact details;
- Passport number/ ID number; financial identification form, bank account; legal entity form;
- Degrees, diplomas or educational certificates concerning knowledge of languages, professional experience, current and previous employment contracts, recommendation letters, motivation letters;
- Moral conduct recent criminal record;
- Declaration concerning conflicts of interest.

Purpose and technical means of personal data processing

The main purpose of the collection of the data above is to prepare selected candidates' files and to finalise the recruitment procedure to permit entry into service.

⁶ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1725

Recruitment files are stored electronically and access is protected by the management of access rights. Paper documents are archived in physical files and stored in a locked cabinet until their destruction.

Legal basis

- Articles 12 15 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union;
- General implementing provisions on the procedure governing the engagement and the use of temporary agents at the Global Health EDCTP3 JU.

Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

For the purposes detailed above, access to your personal data is given to the following people, without prejudice to a possible transmission to the bodies in charge of a monitoring or inspection task in accordance with European Union law:

Only authorised GH EDCTP3 JU staff have access to your personal data for the purposes of screening, interviewing and recruiting candidates. The people to whom your data is disclosed include:

- Members of the Selection Committee;
- GH EDCTP3 JU staff dealing with human resources matters;
- European Commission staff supporting the setting up and implementation of the GH EDCTP3 JU in the period prior to autonomy of the GH EDCTP3 JU.

What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

Access

In case you wish to access your personal information, you can contact the GH EDCTP3 JU's Data Protection Controller at EC-GLOBAL-HEALTH-EDCTP3@ec.europa.eu.

Rectification

You can, if need be, rectify any inaccurate personal data throughout the entire selection process by sending a written request to the above-mentioned e-mail address.

You cannot, however, send us any changes of your personal data related to the admissibility criteria after the application deadline.

Erasure

You may make a request for the erasure of your personal data under the conditions laid down by Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. In this case, you should send a written request to the e-mail address mentioned under "Access".

We will respond to your request without undue delay and at the latest within one month.

You could further request cancellation of your application and deletion of all linked personal data by making use of the contact information mentioned above.

Restriction of processing

You may make a request for restricting the processing of your personal data under the conditions laid down by Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 for the following reasons: you would like to contest the accuracy of the personal data; you consider that the processing is unlawful and you would oppose the erasure of the personal data and request the restriction of the use of the personal data instead; when the GH EDCTP3 JU as controller no longer needs your personal data for the purposes of the processing, but it is required by you as data subject for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims; or when you have objected to processing pursuant to Article 23(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, pending the verification of legitimate grounds.

In this case, you should send a written request to the e-mail address mentioned under "Access".

Right to data portability

You have the right to receive the personal data, which you have provided to us in a structured, commonly used, and machine-readable format, and you may also request us to transmit this data to any other controller under the conditions of Article 22 of Regulation 2018/1725. In this case, you should send a written request to the e-mail address mentioned under "Access".

Right to object

You may object at any time to processing of your personal data under the conditions laid down by Article 23 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, on grounds relating to your particular situation. In this case, you should send a written request to the e-mail address mentioned under "Access".

The European Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the European Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register.

How long do we keep your personal data?

Recruitment files of successful candidates are stored for a period of 10 years as of the termination of employment.

The files of non-recruited applicants are retained for up to 2 years following the recruitment procedure.

The retention of files of non-recruited applicants on reserve lists is fixed in terms of the validity and the actual extension of the respective reserve lists.

The periods indicated above may be extended in the event of audits initiated prior to the applicable expiry dates.

Contact information

For any questions related to your rights, feel free to contact the Data Controller at EC-GLOBAL-HEALTH-EDCTP3@ec.europa.eu indicating 'Data Protection' in the subject and explicitly specifying your request.

Recourse to the European Data Protection Supervisor

You have the right to submit a complaint at any time directly to the European Data Protection Supervisor:

Rue Wiertz 60 – MO 63 B-1047 Bruxelles Belgium

Tel: +32 2 283 19 00 Fax: +32 2 283 19 50

E-mail: edps@edps.europa.eu

11. Appeal procedure

Candidates who consider that their interests have been prejudiced by any decision related to the selection procedure can take the following actions:

11.1 Request for review of the decision taken by the pre-selection Committee

After receiving the letter notifying the candidate of the decision taken by the pre-selection Committee, he/she may submit a written request for a review of such a decision, within 10 calendar days from the date when the

letter/e-mail notifying him/her of the decision was sent to him/her, setting out the reasons for the request to the following e-mail address: EC-GLOBAL-HEALTH-EDCTP3-JOBS@ec.europa.eu

11.2 Appeals

If a candidate considers that he/she has been adversely affected by a particular decision, he/she can lodge a complaint under Article 90(2) of the Staff Regulations at the following address:

Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking

For the attention of Michael Makanga, Executive Director TO 56 1049 Brussels Belgium

The complaint must be lodged within three months, starting from the date the GH EDCTP3 JU notifies the candidate of the act adversely affecting him/her.

Should the complaint be rejected, the candidate may bring a case under Article 270 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 91 of the Staff Regulations of Officials and Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union before:

The Court of Justice of the European Union Rue du Fort Niedergruenewald L-2925 Luxembourg https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/T5 6308

11.3 Complaint to the European Ombudsman

Any citizen of the European Union or any natural or legal person residing in a Member State may direct a complaint concerning instances of maladministration to the European Ombudsman pursuant to Article 228(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union:

Before the Ombudsman can accept a complaint, it is necessary that the complaint is first addressed to the GH EDCTP3 JU. Any complaint to the Ombudsman must be made within two years of receiving the Joint Undertaking's final position on the matter. (http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu).

The European Ombudsman

1 avenue du Président Robert Schuman CS 30403 F-67001 Strasbourg Cedex FRANCE

http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/start.faces

Please note that complaints to the European Ombudsman do not have the effect of suspending the period mentioned in Articles 90 and 91 of the Staff Regulations for lodging complaints or submitting an appeal before the General Court according to Article 270 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.