

Petra Mahnič has been a member of the Council Legal Service (CLS) since 2004, where she acquired legal expertise in wide-ranging areas of EU law and policies, building on her undergraduate studies in law in Ljubljana and Amsterdam, post-graduate studies of EU law at the College of Europe in Bruges and tenure as legal adviser in the Constitutional Court of Slovenia. In the General Secretariat of the Council she has obtained valuable insight into the Union's institutional structure and functioning, and the EU decision-making processes in particular. During the last six years, while in the CLS Directorate on external relations, she has gathered a considerable experience in the handling of EU restrictive measures, providing legal advice on proposals, assisting in the management of sanction regimes and defending as Council agent the legality of EU sanctions before EU Courts. Her areas of specialisation include EU common foreign and security policy, common security and defence policy and law of the sea.

Currently seconded to the Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU during the Slovenian presidency of the Council, where she provides legal and policy advice to the Council Presidency-in-office, including as regards restrictive measures.