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What do you do?

Provide advice and analysis on risk capital and SME financing in the EU and the US as input into the policy process.

What are the most interesting and demanding aspects?

I love working in a multinational team to achieve common European objectives, but developing a European approach to the problems we face, which can encompass the different legal and economic settings in the 25 member states, is a challenge.

What made you move into the public sector?

What are the benefits?

I worked in the private sector (in the manufacturing and financial sector) for more than 10 years, but working in politics, at either national or international level, offered me a unique opportunity to influence decision-making for the better in my area of expertise. Benefits include the stable career path – it is easier to change the direction of your work without losing the seniority and credibility that you have acquired in your organisation.

How did you get to where you are now?

In 2001, I applied for an open competition for EU citizens with professional experience in taxation, passed it and then found a job within the Commission that required expertise in both the private and public sectors. I am now a permanent official of the Commission.

Some people see the public sector as 'second rate'?

If you like to see your name in lights, you should go for a position in the private sector. However, if you can cope with having an impact only in the long term, the public sector offers opportunities. Many civil servants have worked only in public administration, so a chartered surveyor with solid private sector experience can enrich policy development.

What has been your most interesting project?

A study I undertook at the German Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Housing comparing six member states with different approaches to improving public sector construction using public-private partnerships (PPPs). I drew some interesting conclusions on how to modernise German legislation in the area of PPP.

What are the challenges for the European Commission and the public sector as a whole?

We need to continue re-focusing communication of objectives and work to the public rather than the member states, just as targeting information is becoming a much more prominent task for all public administrations as they develop a better service culture.

How can the public sector attract more people to work in it?

The payment and promotion structure is often not rewarding enough for those already successful in the private sector, making it difficult to attract professionals. Mutual recognition of experience could encourage mobility between the public and the private sector.

What are your plans and ambitions for the future?

To have the opportunity to bring my past experience to bear on new problems, while expanding my knowledge in new areas. As long as it provides me with challenges and new opportunities for lifelong learning, I am sure I will enjoy it!