



## *Competition, for the benefit of all*

### Employment Offer

## Head of Unit (M/F)

### Digital Economy Unit

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As an independent administrative authority, the *Autorité de la concurrence* ensures the proper competitive functioning of France's economy. It contributes to the regulation of competition at European and international levels. Its cross-disciplinary competence leads it to intervene in all economic sectors.

It has four major missions:

**Fight against anticompetitive practices** (cartels and abuse)

**Control mergers** (mergers and acquisitions)

**Issue recommendations** (opinions to public authorities and economic stakeholders)

**Regulate certain legal professions**

Ranked in the Elite category (1<sup>st</sup>) for the past 7 years by the *Global Competition Review*, the *Autorité* is also at the forefront of emerging issues related to the digital economy.

### ENVIRONMENT OF THE POSITION

The accelerated digitisation of the economy is bringing about profound transformations: the emergence of platforms benefiting from considerable network effects, the disruption of physical distribution through online sales, technological innovations brought about by artificial intelligence and data science... All these phenomena are upsetting the rules of the competition and creating new challenges for the *Autorité de la concurrence*, which has decided to create a Digital Economy Unit at the heart of the *Autorité's* Investigation Services that will act in a cross-dimensional way, in a similar manner to the Economics Unit and the Inspections Unit.

The Investigation Services, which are supervised by the General Rapporteur, include some 100 permanent case officers (*rapporteurs*). They include five units for handling litigation cases, as well as the Regulated Professions Unit, the Mergers Unit, the Inspections Unit and the Economics Unit. The Digital Economy Unit will be placed under the responsibility of the General Rapporteur. It consists of a head of unit and three experts, who have the status of case officers, which enables them to exercise the investigation powers provided for by the Commercial Code (*Code de commerce*) (for instance the power to investigate, participation in dawn raids).

## DESCRIPTION OF THE POSITION

The first task of the head of unit will be to contribute setting up a team and an organisation to carry out the tasks entrusted to the newly created Digital Economy Unit. The missions of the unit are described below.

This unit will take part in the *Autorité's* discussions and sector-specific inquiries on new issues related to the development of digital technology, in line with those already carried out on big data, online advertising and algorithms. It will thus be able to contribute to on-going studies on payments, blockchain platforms and technologies, as well as on changes to physical retail brought about by digital technology ('phygital' study).

The team will also be responsible for developing new digital investigation tools, based in particular on algorithmic technology, big data and artificial intelligence.

The new unit will also provide support to the *Autorité's* investigation and inspection units that are handling cases with a significant digital dimension. It will thus contribute to the analysis of the most complex merger cases involving digital stakeholders or fields. The unit will also be associated to litigation procedures concerning compliance with competition law in a digital context: these cases can for instance involve breaches using digital resources, issues linked to search engine optimisation and classification bias or collusion practices using algorithms.

Finally, the Digital Economy Unit will work in close cooperation with industry regulators, relevant government departments and other competition authorities at the European and international levels to develop convergent and uniform methods of analysis and intervention. It will also be responsible for developing discussions with the academic community and research institutions specialising in digital subjects.

In this context, the head of unit shall:

- ✓ Supervise and lead a team of experts with varied profiles: engineers, economists, lawyers;
- ✓ Lead the reflexion on digital subjects within the *Autorité* in cooperation with the internal expert group dedicated to these questions;
- ✓ Participate and lead, conduct or coordinate the *Autorité's* work on digital issues;
- ✓ Cooperate with counterparts in national and international administrations, as well as with the scientific and academic communities;
- ✓ Carry out a technology review on digital subjects.

The head of unit may also be required to

- ✓ participate in investigative missions: enquiry (collection of evidence, hearing of witnesses, etc.), including dawn raids.

## APPLICANT'S PROFILE

The candidate must have an excellent knowledge of the issues at stake in the digital economy and major platforms. An understanding of and an attraction to the scientific and technical challenges of the digital economy are essential. Given the multidisciplinary nature of the team, it is also important that the applicant have a thorough understanding of the technological issues related to digital technology, including methods of programmatic analysis, as well as the legal framework within which

the *Autorité* operates. Managerial experience in relation to these different dimensions would be an additional asset in order to assume the responsibilities of head of unit.

The ability to develop a strategic vision and propose operational and innovative solutions while adapting to constrained deadlines would be an asset to the application. In addition, strong interpersonal skills are essential in order to interact with numerous external partners (businesses, lawyers, ministries, courts, academia, other national competition authorities, the European Commission) and internal partners (other *Autorité* services).

The candidate should have an excellent command of the French language, both written and spoken.

## APPLICATION AND RECRUITMENT PROCEDURES

The position is open to both tenured (secondment on contract) and contract (indefinite-term) personnel.

Send applications (curriculum vitae and letter of motivation) by e-mail no later than 05/03/2020 to [recrutement@autoritedelaconcurrence.fr](mailto:recrutement@autoritedelaconcurrence.fr)

Please note on your application the reference of the offer: Resp.SNUM.2020

For further information contact

Camille Reynaud, Recruitment Officer at the Human Resources Office, +33 (0)1 55 04 00 20

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