

How Ashton`s army of fat-cat eurocrats wastes Â£400m a year

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By Macer Hall | Daily Express

DETAILED plans of the personal office of European Union foreign affairs supremo Baroness Cathy Ashton yesterday revealed a vast empire of more than 100 highly-paid Eurocrats.

A diagram of the command structure of the European External Action Service â€” effectively Brusselsâ€™™ new diplomatic corps â€” confirmed that dozens of officials have been recruited.

EU pen pushers have been charged with forging diplomatic links with every part of the globe. And bureaucrats have been given roles with bizarre job descriptions, including overseeing â€œhorizontal affairsâ€• and â€œstrategic communicationâ€•.

The sprawling EU foreign affairs office â€” set up as a result of the controversial Lisbon Treaty â€” has a budget of more than Â£400million a year but that figure is tipped to rise to Â£2.5billion as the organisation grows.

And details of the senior staff joining the organisation triggered more criticism of former Labour peer Baroness Ashton, the first Eurocrat to take up the unelected foreign affairs role.

It is also bound to encourage further support for the Daily Expressâ€™™s crusade for Britain to quit the EU.

Growing anger against the EU was revealed yesterday after 15,000 Daily Express readers in just one day backed a vote for the UK to pull out of the European organisation.

Sian Herbert, of the think-tank Open Europe, said: â€œThe European External Action Serviceâ€™™s complex web of staff is growing by the day yet stands in stark contrast to its limited influence on the world stage.

â€œRecent events have shown clearly that decisions on foreign affairs are still made by the leaders of member states and not by Baroness Ashton or her team.â€•

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