Antonio Tanca was an official of the Council of the European Union from 1994 to 2016. He previously worked as a lecturer in international law at Florence University. Since April 2015 he teaches EU Common Security and Defence Policy at the Law School of the University of Milano-Bicocca.

He joined the Council Secretariat as a member of its Legal Service. He then worked in external relations, namely in the setting up of CSDP and in questions of arms control and non-proliferation. In 2004 he joined the Asia team dealing with relations with North East Asia. In 2008 he became Head of the Operational Unit in the Civilian Crisis Management directorate and, in 2010, Head of the Legislation Unit dealing with the Ordinary Legislative Procedure.

Dr Tanca holds a Ph.D in Law from the European University Institute, Florence (1990) as well as a Political Sciences degree from Florence University (1983).