



EU AGENCIES

The way ahead





More information on the European Union is available on the Internet (<http://europa.eu>).
Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

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Introduction

A number of decentralised Agencies have been set up by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union to carry out specific legal, technical or scientific tasks within the European Union system. The majority work independently alongside the main EU institutions, adding value by helping to implement policy and promote the sharing of information and expertise in areas that impact on the lives of Europe's 500 million citizens.

The Agencies were established to help implement EU policies more efficiently and to respond to particular needs identified by the EU institutions and Member States. For example, the European Food Safety Authority was established in 2002 to help provide decision-makers with independent scientific advice on food safety. The European Chemicals Agency on the other hand, was set up in 2007 primarily to carry out tasks related to new EU legislation on chemicals.

The Agencies provide meaningful advice, facilitate exchanges of best practice among Member States and underpin consensus-building through networks and exchanges. All Agencies work in the public interest and as they are spread throughout the EU, they can facilitate outreach to EU citizens.

The Agencies represent a significant presence within the EU with a combined staff in 2008 of more than 4,460 people. Their combined budget of around €1.24 billion in 2008 represented just 1.03% of the overall EU budget for that year.

The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council have initiated discussions which will help shape the EU's future approach to the governance of EU Agencies, involving an evaluation of the existing Agencies and reflections on changes which could be made to improve the system in the future.

This brochure gives the reader an overview of the missions of all the EU agencies and describes our common objectives to strengthen the service we deliver to the EU institutions and ultimately to all EU citizens.

Common objectives

When planning future work or legislative programmes, the EU institutions, particularly the Commission, should involve the Agencies more through greater dialogue. This would help when new policy directions are being considered, and would assist the Agencies in structuring their own resources and budgets, thereby improving overall efficiency.

The Agencies support the objective of ensuring that EU bodies adhere to the same standards of management and governance. However, the agencies have faced significant difficulties in using the flexibility inbuilt in their specific regulatory framework by the legislator. These difficulties pertain mostly to the issue of having Commission Services acknowledge the needs for such flexibility to face the specific conditions under which the agencies operate.

The Commission and budgetary authorities need to maintain their financing commitments while an agency is being built up. If the mandate of an agency is changed, the financial implications of that change need to be examined to make sure the agency involved can carry out its new role.

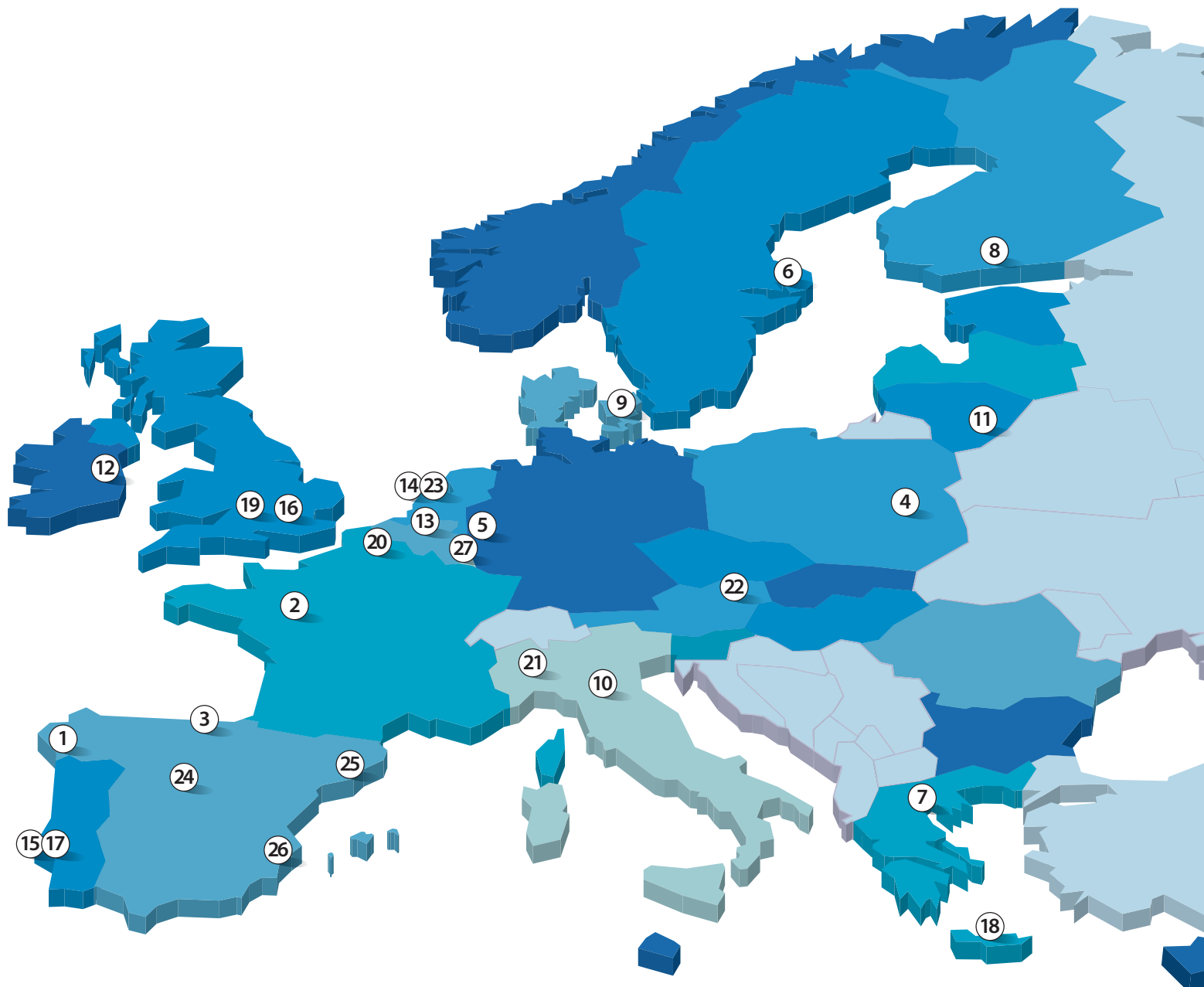


The Agencies would favour stronger and more direct contact with the European Parliament. MEPs could make more use of the specialised agencies to help them when they have to consider policy and legislative proposals involving scientific and technical matters.

The Agencies would welcome closer and more frequent dialogue with the Council which would allow them to better schedule their medium and long-term planning to assist the Council. They would also welcome the opportunity to give input at the earliest stage into the planning of Presidency programmes.

The Agencies play an important role in communicating to EU citizens in relation to their area of expertise and on the overall European “project”. **The Agencies want to strengthen their cooperation and networking with the Commission and other EU institutions.**

EU agencies



- ① Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA)
Vigo, Spain
- ② Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)
Angers, France
- ③ European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU OSHA)
Bilbao, Spain
- ④ European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX)
Warsaw, Poland
- ⑤ European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
Cologne, Germany
- ⑥ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
Stockholm, Sweden
- ⑦ European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)
Thessaloniki, Greece
- ⑧ European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
Helsinki, Finland
- ⑨ European Environment Agency (EEA)
Copenhagen, Denmark
- ⑩ European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
Parma, Italy
- ⑪ European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
Vilnius, Lithuania
- ⑫ European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND)
Dublin, Ireland
- ⑬ European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA)
Brussels, Belgium
- ⑭ European Law Enforcement Agency (EUROPOL)
The Hague, The Netherlands
- ⑮ European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
Lisbon, Portugal
- ⑯ European Medicines Agency (EMA)
London, United Kingdom
- ⑰ European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
Lisbon, Portugal
- ⑱ European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)
Heraklion, Greece
- ⑲ European Police College (CEPOL)
Bramshill, United Kingdom
- ⑳ European Railway Agency (ERA)
Lille and Valenciennes, France
- ㉑ European Training Foundation (ETF)
Turin, Italy
- ㉒ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
Vienna, Austria
- ㉓ The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (EUROJUST)
The Hague, The Netherlands
- ㉔ European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC)
Torrejón, Spain
- ㉕ Fusion for Energy (F4E)
Barcelona, Spain
- ㉖ Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs) (OHIM)
Alicante, Spain
- ㉗ Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT)
Luxembourg, Luxembourg



Community Fisheries Control Agency

CFCA

- The core task of the CFCA is to ensure uniform and effective application of the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy by Member States. To this end, it organises operational cooperation between Member States and coordinates their fisheries control, inspection and surveillance activities at sea and ashore.
- Through its activities, the CFCA contributes to a European wide level playing field for the fishing industry and sustainable exploitation of common marine living resources.
- The CFCA promotes actively a culture of compliance by all stakeholders.

ESTABLISHED IN 2005

LOCATED IN VIGO, SPAIN

www.cfca.europa.eu



Community Plant Variety Office

CPVO

- Meeting the challenges of the plant breeding industry by high quality processing of applications for Community plant variety rights at affordable costs while providing policy guidance and assistance in the exercise of these rights for the benefit of stakeholders.
- CPVO's goals are to optimise quality and costs of plant variety rights system, to improve international cooperation in plant variety protection and to contribute to the enforcement of community plant variety rights.
- To date, the Community protection system managed by the CPVO has become the biggest of its kind in the world, with more than 36,000 applications processed resulting in the granting of more than 27,000 Community plant variety rights.

ESTABLISHED IN 1995

LOCATED IN ANGERS, FRANCE

www.cpvo.europa.eu

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work **EU-OSHA**

- Making Europe a safer, healthier and more productive place to work.
- EU-OSHA is Europe's reference point for occupational safety and health (OSH) information.
- We identify new and emerging risks in order to facilitate preventive action. We collect and analyse good practices and promote their exchange. And through our campaigns we raise awareness of work-related risks and how to prevent them.

ESTABLISHED IN 1994

LOCATED IN BILBAO, SPAIN

www.osha.europa.eu



European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders **FRONTEX**

- Coordinating Member States' actions in external borders management.
- Frontex aims to provide support to border control authorities in the Member States by coordinating operational activities, strengthening its analytical and intelligence capabilities, implementing a coherent and comprehensive strategy for relationships with external partners, and optimally managing its internal resources and procedures. By doing so, Frontex contributes to an efficient, high and uniform level of control on persons and surveillance of the external borders of the Member States.

ESTABLISHED IN 2004

LOCATED IN WARSAW, POLAND

www.frontex.europa.eu





European Aviation Safety Agency

EASA

- Your safety is our mission.
- EASA is the EU's central regulator for aviation safety; it promotes the highest common standards of safety and environmental protection in civil aviation in Europe and worldwide. Our vision is the safest and most environmentally-friendly aviation system in the world.
- A milestone achievement of the agency in December 2006 was the certification of the Airbus A380, the world's largest airliner. In addition to the airworthiness of aircraft and parts, the agency is taking up new responsibilities in the areas of air operations, flight crew licensing, air traffic management, airports and the approval of third-country operators flying into the EU.

ESTABLISHED IN 2002
LOCATED IN COLOGNE, GERMANY
www.easa.europa.eu

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

ECDC

- ECDC's mission is to strengthen Europe's defences against infectious diseases.
- ECDC seeks to be a proactive centre of excellence on all aspects of prevention and control of infectious diseases. Our aim is to make state-of-the-art knowledge, and the most up-to-date information, available to decision-makers in this area.
- ECDC gathers, analyses and disseminates data on 47 infectious diseases and two health issues (antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections). We provide scientific guidance to EU policy-makers and also support the EU's Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) on public health threats 365 days a year. When called on to do so, ECDC can offer hands-on technical support to the European Commission and Member States in responding to disease outbreaks.

ESTABLISHED IN 2004
LOCATED IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
www.ecdc.europa.eu



European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training **Cedefop**

- Cedefop is the centre of reference for vocational education and training for the European Union.
- Vocational education and training aims to provide people with the knowledge, skills and competence they need throughout their working life. With its expertise in research and policy analysis, Cedefop provides evidence to the European Commission, Council and European Parliament as well as Member States and the social partners who work together in this field. The aim is to ensure that people acquire the right skills, move easily between jobs, sectors and countries, and have their skills - however acquired - recognised and valued.
- Among other projects, Cedefop reports on policy developments in the EU Member States, forecasts the medium-term supply and demand of skills in Europe as a whole, analyses financing schemes, and studies the benefits of vocational education and training. In addition, the agency provides much of the expert advice underpinning the development of common European tools, such as Europass and the European qualifications framework.

ESTABLISHED IN 1975
LOCATED IN THESSALONIKI, GREECE
www.cedefop.europa.eu

European Chemicals Agency **ECHA**

- ECHA is working for the safe use of chemicals across Europe.
- ECHA ensures the consistent implementation of the new EU chemicals regulation (REACH) and classification and labelling regulation (CLP) and provides the best possible scientific advice on chemicals to EU institutions.
- ECHA's work will lead to higher levels of protection of human health and the environment by readily available information on the properties of chemicals, by stricter control of the use of hazardous chemicals and by progressive substitution or restriction of chemicals of very high concern.

ESTABLISHED IN 2007
LOCATED IN HELSINKI, FINLAND
www.echa.europa.eu





European Environment Agency **EEA**

- Information for improving Europe's environment.
- EEA's goal is to be globally recognised as the leading body for the provision of timely, relevant and accessible European environmental data, information, knowledge and assessments.
- To help the Community and Member countries make informed decisions about improving the environment, integrating environmental considerations into economic policies and moving towards sustainability.
- To improve communications and dissemination to citizens via multimedia, user-friendly, multilingual information.

ESTABLISHED IN 1990

LOCATED IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

www.eea.europa.eu



European Food Safety Authority **EFSA**

- Committed to ensuring Europe's food is safe.
- EFSA's goal is to become globally recognised as the European reference body for risk assessment on food and feed safety, animal health and welfare, nutrition, plant protection and plant health.
- Our large body of scientific advice has helped risk managers across the EU make informed decisions to protect the health of European citizens and respond rapidly on urgent food safety incidents such as dioxins in Irish pork and melamine in composite foods from China.
- EFSA works with Member States, European bodies, international and third country organisations to share information, data and best practices, identify emerging risks and promote coherent communications on risks in the food chain.

ESTABLISHED IN 2002

LOCATED IN PARMA, ITALY

www.efsa.europa.eu

European Institute for Gender Equality

EIGE

- To promote gender equality including gender mainstreaming across the EU and Member States.
- To fight discrimination based on sex.
- To raise EU citizens' awareness on the issues of gender equality via the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender-based information, the development of methods to improve data at European level and the setting-up and coordination of a European Network on Gender Equality.

ESTABLISHED IN 2006

LOCATED IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM AND SOON

TO RELOCATE TO ITS PERMANENT SEAT IN VILNIUS.

eige.europa.eu



European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

EUROFOUND

- Promoting the improvement of quality of work and life across the European Union.
- Eurofound's main objective is to provide policy-makers with relevant and timely information, data and analysis on key social policy issues and on anticipating and managing industrial change.
- Eurofound's network of European correspondents across the 27 EU Member States and beyond, as well as its three pan-European surveys on quality of life, working conditions and company practices, make it a unique source of information for all decision-makers seeking to improve the lives of Europe's citizens.

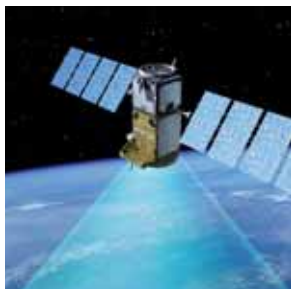
ESTABLISHED IN 1975

LOCATED IN DUBLIN, IRELAND

www.eurofound.europa.eu



European GNSS Supervisory Authority **GSA**



- By developing a new generation of global navigation satellite systems (GNSS), Europe is opening new doors for high-technology industry development, job creation and economic growth. With Europe in the driver's seat, Galileo has the potential to become a cornerstone of the global position, navigation and time system of the future.
- Given the strategic nature of satellite navigation, the GSA was established to be the regulatory agency for the European GNSS Programmes (which include both Galileo and EGNOS), while laying the foundations for economically viable systems.
- The GSA is working to:
 - Ensure the security accreditation of the systems and the operation of the Galileo Security Centre;
 - Contribute to the preparation of the commercialisation of the systems with a view to good-quality service provision and high market penetration (EGNOS officially began providing services in 2009);
 - Accomplish other tasks entrusted to it by the Commission, in particular the promotion of applications and services and ensuring the certification of the components of the systems.

ESTABLISHED IN 2004
LOCATED IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
www.gsa.europa.eu



European Law Enforcement Agency **EUROPOL**

- Europol is the European Law Enforcement Agency. It is an intelligence-led organisation and coordinates responses to international serious crime and terrorism. Europol takes a proactive approach to undermining entire criminal networks.
- Europol works closely together with the law enforcement agencies of the 27 EU Member States, as well as with other cooperation partners such as Australia, Canada, the USA and Norway.
- Europol puts analysis at the centre of its activities. By understanding how crime groups operate, Europol and its cooperation partners are able to undermine the criminal organisations and frustrate their activity. The exchange of personal data makes it important for Europol to live up to the highest standards of data protection and data security.

ESTABLISHED IN 1999
LOCATED IN THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
www.europol.europa.eu



European Maritime Safety Agency

EMSA

- Quality shipping, safer seas, cleaner oceans.
- EMSA provides technical assistance to the European Commission and the Member States in the development and implementation of EU legislation on maritime safety, pollution by ships and maritime security. It has also been given operational tasks in the field of oil pollution response, vessel monitoring and in the long-range identification and tracking of vessels.
- EMSA's role is a highly practical one, combining a range of services with the overall aim of ensuring safer and more secure shipping. For example, the agency runs a 24*7*365 Maritime Support Services centre for Member States, that offers amongst others a service for satellite imaging of oil spills (CleanSeaNet), a Europe-wide vessel traffic monitoring system using AIS broadcasts (SafeSeaNet), and the EU LRIT data centre, which tracks EU-flagged ships via satellite messaging. It has also set up a network of 16 oil pollution response vessels covering all EU waters, which are ready to assist Member States in case of a major pollution incident.

ESTABLISHED IN 2002

LOCATED IN LISBON, PORTUGAL

www.emsa.europa.eu

European Medicines Agency

EMA

- European Medicines Agency. Science. Medicines. Health.
- The mission of the agency is to foster scientific excellence in the evaluation, supervision and safety-monitoring of medicines, for the benefit of public and animal health. It provides the Member States and the EU institutions the best-possible scientific advice on any question relating to the evaluation of the quality, safety and efficacy of medicinal products for human or veterinary use.
- Almost all new medicines for human and veterinary use in the EU are approved through the EMA. The agency has a special role in medicines for children, medicines for rare diseases, advanced therapy medicines and herbal medicines.
- The agency works with other EU agencies such as ECDC, EFSA and EMCDDA on a range of scientific issues. Together with the European Commission, the agency maintains operational links with international partners on medicine-related issues.

ESTABLISHED IN 1993

LOCATED IN LONDON, UK

www.ema.europa.eu





European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction **EMCDDA**

- Your reference point on drugs in Europe
- Independent, science-based information is a vital resource to help Europe understand the nature of its drug problems and better respond to them. The EMCDDA offers policy-makers the data they need for drawing up drug laws and strategies. It also provides drug professionals with best-practice examples and evaluation tools to improve the quality of their services.
- One of our tasks is to detect new drugs appearing on the illicit market that could pose risks to European citizens. In cooperation with Europol and EU Member States, we carry out early-warning and risk-assessment activities that may pave the way for legal controls. To date, we have detected almost 100 new uncontrolled substances.

ESTABLISHED IN 1993

LOCATED IN LISBON, PORTUGAL

www.emcdda.europa.eu

European Network and Information Security Agency **ENISA**

- ENISA – Securing Europe’s Information Society.
- Every day, we experience the Information Society. Interconnected networks touch our everyday lives, at home and at work. It is therefore vital that computers, mobile phones, banking, and the internet function, to support Europe’s digital economy. ENISA is the EU’s response to network and information security issues of the European Union. As such, it is the ‘pacemaker’ for information security in Europe.
- ENISA’s role is an expert body in Network and Information Security (NIS) for the EU. As such it is:
 - Giving independent, expert advice to the EU and its Member States,
 - Promoting good practices in, for example, risk assessment and risk management, awareness raising, and how to respond to computer security incidents.

ESTABLISHED IN 2004

LOCATED IN HERAKLION, GREECE

www.enisa.europa.eu



European Police College

CEPOL

- Brings together senior police officers through its training activities, exchange programmes and specialised projects to support and develop a European approach to the main problems facing Member States in the fight against crime, crime prevention, and the maintenance of law and order, and public security.
- Operates as a network with the core activities implemented in and by Member States.
- Organises between 70-100 training activities a year, creates Common Curricula relevant to all Member States and operates a state-of-the-art electronic network to assist learning and communication.

ESTABLISHED AS AN EU AGENCY IN 2005 (2001)

SECRETARIAT LOCATED IN BRAMSHILL, UK

www.cepol.europa.eu



European Railway Agency

ERA

- We work for a safe and modern railway.
- The activities carried out by the agency aim at:
 - Developing a common approach to safety,
 - Improving the interoperability of the European rail system,
 - Facilitating the exchange of information within the railway sector.
- The adoption of the new legal framework at the end of 2008 with the amendment of the Agency Regulation, the new Interoperability and Safety directives, resulted in new tasks for the agency. A Cross Acceptance Unit has started its work in 2008 and the first recommendation on the list of parameters to be checked for vehicle authorisation was supported by the Risk Committee in June 2009. The Agency has established itself as the system authority for the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) specifications.

ESTABLISHED IN 2004

LOCATED IN VALENCIENNES AND LILLE, FRANCE

www.era.europa.eu



European Training Foundation

ETF

- The ETF helps transition and developing countries in the EU neighbourhood to harness the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems in the context of the EU's external relations policy.
- Our vision is to make vocational education and training in the partner countries a driver for lifelong learning and sustainable development, with a special focus on competitiveness and social cohesion.
- By developing people's skills and knowledge the ETF's activities contribute to a better functioning labour market, thus increasing prosperity, creating sustainable growth and encouraging social inclusion in transition and developing countries.

ESTABLISHED IN 1994

LOCATED IN TURIN, ITALY

www.etf.europa.eu



European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

FRA

- Helping to make fundamental rights a reality for everyone in the EU.
- The agency undertakes comparative research across a range of thematic areas in the context of the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- Further to that, the agency gives evidence-based advice and formulates opinions to the EU institutions and the EU Member States.
- The agency cooperates closely with civil society and raises awareness on fundamental rights among the general public.

ESTABLISHED IN 2007

LOCATED IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

fra.europa.eu

The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit **EUROJUST**

- Eurojust, the European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit.
- Eurojust's goal is to reinforce the fight against serious organised and cross-border crime. Eurojust is composed of 27 National Members, who are prosecutors or judges, one from each EU Member State. The national members are seconded in accordance with their respective legal systems and hold permanent seats in The Hague.
- Eurojust receives requests for assistance from national authorities in cases of serious organised crime and involving two or more Member States. Eurojust then organises judicial coordination and cooperation between the Member States, as well as with other cooperation partners such as Norway, Iceland, the USA, Croatia, Switzerland, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Eurojust also has 31 judicial contact points in 23 countries outside the European Union.
- The national members and the College are supported by an administration led by the Administrative Director. The Secretariat of the European Judicial Network (EJN) is situated within the Eurojust administration.
- In 2008, Eurojust managed 1,193 cases, and organised 132 coordination meetings in The Hague, involving police and judicial authorities both within and outside the Member States.

ESTABLISHED IN 2002

LOCATED IN THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

www.eurojust.europa.eu



European Union Satellite Centre **EUSC**

- Observation and analysis for security.
- The European Union Satellite Centre supports the decision-making of the European Union by providing geospatial intelligence products and services in the context of Europe's common foreign and security policy and, in particular, the European security and defence policy (ESDP), primarily through the analysis of data from Earth observation satellites.
- The EUSC has supported, and is currently supporting the Council of the EU, EU Member States, the European Commission, Third States and international organisations such as the UN and NATO in decision-making at EU, national and international level. Prime beneficiaries of EUSC services are ESDP missions and operations.

ESTABLISHED IN 2001

LOCATED IN TORREJÓN, SPAIN

www.eusc.europa.eu





Fusion for Energy

F4E

- Bringing the power of the sun to earth.
- Fusion for Energy (F4E) is the European Union's organisation responsible for providing Europe's contribution to ITER, the world's largest scientific partnership that aims to demonstrate fusion as a viable and sustainable source of energy. ITER brings together seven parties that represent half of the world's population- the EU, Russia, Japan, China, India, South Korea and the United States.
- F4E also supports fusion research and development initiatives through the Broader Approach Agreement, signed with Japan, a fusion energy partnership which will last for 10 years.
- Ultimately, F4E will contribute towards the construction of demonstration fusion reactors.
- To date, F4E has placed grants across Europe financing the enhancement of fusion technologies for ITER and the manufacture of ITER components. F4E has also been proactive in communicating through awareness campaigns the merits of fusion energy and the associated business opportunities for industry and SMEs.

ESTABLISHED IN 2007

LOCATED IN BARCELONA, SPAIN

www.fusionforenergy.europa.eu

Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs)

OHIM

- OHIM is the trade mark and design registration office of the European Union.
- The office, which is non-profit-making and funded entirely by fees from users, administers the Community trade mark (CTM) and the registered Community design (RCD).
- Community registration of trade marks and designs offers EU-wide protection for these intellectual property rights through a single cost-effective registration process.
- Since its establishment, OHIM has registered around 1m Community trade marks and designs for organisations drawn from over 170 countries.

ESTABLISHED IN 1996

LOCATED IN ALICANTE, SPAIN

www.oami.europa.eu



Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union

CdT

- One of the translation services which helps implement the EU's strategic framework for multilingualism.
- CdT contributes to the smooth operation of the Community agencies and offices by meeting their translation needs. Today CdT provides translation services (747,000 pages in 2008) to over 40 Community agencies, institutions and other bodies, and enables them to better achieve their policy objectives.
- CdT contributes to the overall economy of the Community translation system in particular by undertaking large-scale projects, such as the interinstitutional terminology database, IATE. The IATE project has merged the terminological resources of the translation services of the EU and was launched by the Centre in 1999. Today IATE is, with over 8.5 million terms, the biggest terminology resource in the world and accessible to any EU citizen (iate.europa.eu).

ESTABLISHED IN 1994
LOCATED IN LUXEMBOURG
www.cdt.europa.eu



Agencies online

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