



EU AGENCIES

The way ahead



PROGRAMME

Exhibition: 'EU agencies — the way ahead'

European Parliament, Brussels

31.01–03.02.11



Acknowledgements

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EU agencies – the way ahead

Introduction

From Helsinki to Crete and from Lisbon to Vilnius, specialised agencies have been established to provide services, information, know-how and advice to the European Union, its Member States and citizens.

The EU agencies are involved in many and varied activities: improving health, safety and the environment; safeguarding freedom, justice and security; supporting education, business and innovation; and developing transport and satellite infrastructure. Today the agencies play a key role in implementing EU policies and are making a valuable contribution to the EU 2020 strategic objectives.

With this exhibition, we aim to improve understanding of what our agencies do, why we exist, and how we impact on the lives of Europe's 500 million citizens.

As the European Parliament, Council and Commission work towards a common approach on agencies, we take stock of how far we have come and how we see the way ahead.

3

Event set-up

A single exhibition stand serves as the focal point for a rich programme of activities, with 29 agencies presenting in four thematic clusters how they work together and with EP committees.

The exhibition stand is situated on the third floor of the Altiero Spinelli (ASP) building at the European Parliament in Brussels.



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Exhibition programme at a glance

Monday 31 January	
13.00 – 19.30	Opening

Tuesday 1 February	
9.30 – 14.00	Thematic session 1: Transport and satellite infrastructure
15.00 – 18.00	Thematic session 2: Education, business and innovation for growth and jobs
18.30 – 20.30	Reception Guests will include: MEPs, Directors of EU agencies, experts and stakeholders.

6

Wednesday 2 February	
9.00 – 14.00	Thematic session 3: Freedom, justice and security
14.30 – 19.30	Thematic session 4: Health, safety and environment

Thursday 3 February	
10.00 – 15.00	Thematic session 5: Education, business and innovation for growth and jobs
15.30 – 16.30	Closing



Thematic session 1

Transport and satellite infrastructure

Tuesday 1 February (9.30 – 14.00)

Overview

Europe's 500 million citizens need safe, effective transport systems, both for personal travel and for transporting the goods that we consume. The transport cluster focuses on how, together with the European Commission and Member States, the EU agencies help to 'keep Europe moving'. The cluster unites four agencies, three dedicated to transport by air, rail and sea — EASA, ERA and EMSA — plus GSA, the agency that manages the security and commercialisation aspects of the European satellite navigation programmes EGNOS and Galileo.

All agencies offer practical examples of how they help to keep Europe moving around the clock. Did you know that EASA managed the entire certification process of the Airbus A380 superjumbo? That via EMSA's SafeSeaNet system, the EU handled 1 500 million position messages from ships in European waters in 2010? That applications using the EGNOS system are so accurate that they can enable the control of racing cars to an accuracy of just a few centimetres? Or that ERA has set up a unified, interoperable system for registering trains, carriages and wagons?

7

Cluster programme

9.30 – 12.00	Simultaneous presentations on air, rail, sea and satellite infrastructure.
12.00 – 12.30	Speakers: Alfons Guinier, Secretary-General of the European Community Shipowners' Association, will talk on maritime safety and new technologies to improve safety. Patrick Goudou, Director of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), will talk on the contribution of EASA to aviation safety.
12.30 – 14.00	Sandwich lunch provided on the stand.

Activities: Slideshows and marketplace presentations on air, rail, sea and satellite infrastructure.

Cluster members

- European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
- European GNSS Agency (GSA)
- European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) — Cluster leader
- European Railway Agency (ERA)



Thematic session 2

Education, business and innovation for growth and jobs

Tuesday 1 February (15.00 – 18.00)

Overview

Europe's economy represents 500 million people, 200 million jobs and 20 million companies. Boosting education and innovation is key for Europe to create new jobs and support sustainable growth. The EU agencies supporting 'Education, business and innovation' are at the core of Europe's 2020 strategy to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. These objectives bring together nine agencies that work towards achieving the EU's ambitions for the next decade for employment, innovation, education and social inclusion.

Each EU agency has a part to play in making sure that the EU achieves the targets of Europe's 2020 strategy. Working with European organisations, researchers and industry, the EU agencies can help the EU's drive to create more jobs, improve lives and strive for a better, multilingual society.

Cluster programme

8

15.00	Opening of session on 'Education, business and innovation for growth and jobs', involving MEPs, agency Directors and business representatives.
15.30 – 16.00	'Entrepreneurship and innovation' — chat and live interview with former Skype Director and Estonian IT College Rector, Linnar Viik. The interview will be conducted by the BBC's Diana Madill and displayed on the big screen at the stand.
16.00 – 18.00	Round table on 'Education, business and innovation for growth and jobs', broadcast via the EP Vox Box (EuroparlTV). Business representatives: Dr Adriana Silvia Sartor, EU Female Entrepreneurship Ambassador and owner of Elettrotec, Milan, and Markus Schwertel, Regional Manager, Corporate Affairs, Cisco. Agency Directors: CdT, Cedefop, CPVO, EFSA and Eurofound. MEPs: Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Alejandro Cercas, Nadja Hirsch, Stephen Hughes, Diana Wallis (tbc). This session will also be moderated by Diana Madill and will be followed by a talkshow session displayed on the big screen and broadcast through the EP Vox Box (EuroparlTV). MEPs, Directors and guests will have the opportunity in this session to exchange information in an informal way.

Activities: Slideshows and presentations will highlight the work of the nine participating agencies. A small 'experimentarium' for visitors' active participation will also be established and will feature: a language game; online Europass presentation; language terminology database; floating magnets; and 'food for thought'.

Cluster members

- Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)
- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
- European Training Foundation (ETF) — Cluster leader
- Fusion for Energy (F4E)
- Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs) (OHIM)
- Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT)



Thematic session 3

Freedom, justice and security

Wednesday 2 February (9.00 – 14.00)

Overview

Working for a free, fair and safe Europe is the task of the EU agencies in this cluster. This they tackle from very different angles: from creating a common European security culture to promoting fundamental rights; from securing the information society to fighting cross-border crime and terrorism; from boosting police cooperation to combating gender inequality; and from informing drug policy to managing Europe's external borders.

The key concepts of freedom, security and justice frame the work of these agencies. These three concepts are inextricably linked and are based on some of the most cherished values and principles among Europeans today, such as democracy, equality, tolerance and the rule of law. People are only free if they are treated fairly and feel safe. Working towards this aim, the 10 agencies in this cluster cooperate in their daily work, as illustrated through examples during this exhibition.

10

Cluster programme

9.00	Welcome: Morten Kjærum, Director, Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA).
9.10 – 9.30	'Making Europe safer', Christian Jechoutek, Assistant Director, European Law Enforcement Agency (Europol).
9.30 – 9.50	Presentation of 'Charterpedia', Morten Kjærum, Director, FRA and Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Chairman of the EP Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (tbc). Launch of a new FRA report on multiple discrimination.
9.50 – 10.10	'EIGE to become the centre of excellence on gender equality', Virginija Langbakk, Director, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE).
10.10 – 10.30	'Educate, innovate and motivate', Dr Ferenc Bánfi, Director, European Police College (CEPOL).
10.30 – 11.10	Frontex–FRA joint round table on fundamental rights at external borders: Ilkka Laitinen, Frontex Director; Morten Kjærum, FRA Director; MEP Ernst Strasser; Judith Kumin, Director of UNHCR Bureau for Europe (tbc).
11.10 – 11.30	'Eurojust makes the difference', Joannes Thuy, Spokesperson, The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (Eurojust).

11.30 – 11.50	'New drugs in Europe', Paul Griffiths, Scientific Director, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).
11.50 – 12.10	'Tackling data breach in the EU', Demosthenes Ikonomou, Senior Expert, European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA).
12.10 – 12.30	'The EU as an actor for democracy and peace', Álvaro de Vasconcelos, Director, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).
12.30	Introduction, co-referent MEP Juan Fernando López Aguilar (tbc). Keynote speech: 'The EU: what challenges, what society in 2020?' Dr Ian Goldin, Director of the Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford and Professorial Fellow, Balliol College, Oxford. Former Vice-President of the World Bank and previously Chief Executive of the Development Bank of Southern Africa and Advisor to President Mandela.
13.00 – 14.00	Sandwich lunch provided on the stand.

Activities: Agencies will organise round tables with agency stakeholders, experts and MEPs and also a programme of briefing sessions with assistants and advisors. A slideshow highlighting key aspects of the agencies' work will be shown throughout the thematic session.

Cluster members

- European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex)
- European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)
- European Law Enforcement Agency (Europol)
- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
- European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)
- European Police College (CEPOL)
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) — Cluster leader
- European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)
- European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC)
- The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (Eurojust)





Thematic session 4

Health, safety and environment

Wednesday 2 February (14.30 – 19.30)

Overview

A number of EU agencies work in the fields of health, safety and the environment. The seven agencies in this cluster all share the common mission to help make Europe a safe, healthy and sustainable place to live and work.

Although the tasks of these agencies are diverse, each agency works to provide European added value by building on the best scientific and technical knowledge made available by Member States. The diversity of our tasks includes: evaluating the effectiveness of national and EU-level policies; providing advice and assessments; ensuring consistent implementation of legislation at Community level; and promoting the harmonisation of standards across Europe. Our opinions are based on networking national and EU scientific and technical expertise. By pooling expertise and information from across Europe, we are able to provide professionals, policymakers and EU citizens with transparent, impartial and objective advice.

12

Cluster programme

14.30 – 18.00	Presentations and activities on health, safety and the environment. Come and talk to experts from the agencies. Learn about the new labelling of dangerous chemicals. Take part in a quiz on 'Things that you didn't know about health, safety and the environment' (followed by prize-giving, see below).
From 18.00	Cocktail.
18.30 – 19.30	Speeches: Professor Klas Kärre, Chairman of the Nobel Prize Committee for Physiology or Medicine. Geert Dancet, Executive Director of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Prize-giving.

Activities: Presentations, slideshows, games, quiz.



Cluster members

- Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA)
- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) — Cluster leader
- European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
- European Environment Agency (EEA)
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- European Medicines Agency (EMA)



Thematic session 5

Education, business and innovation for growth and jobs

Thursday 3 February (10.00 – 15.00)

Overview

Europe's economy represents 500 million people, 200 million jobs and 20 million companies. Boosting education and innovation is key for Europe to create new jobs and support sustainable growth. The EU agencies supporting 'Education, business and innovation' are at the core of Europe's 2020 strategy to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. These objectives bring together nine agencies that work towards achieving the EU's ambitions for the next decade for employment, innovation, education and social inclusion (see page 9).

Each EU agency has a part to play in making sure that the EU achieves the targets of Europe's 2020 strategy. Working with European organisations, researchers and industry, the EU agencies can help the EU's drive to create more jobs, improve lives and strive for a better, multilingual society.

Cluster programme

14

10.00	Opening of session on 'Education, business and innovation for growth and jobs'.
12.30 – 14.00	<p>'Innovation and business: what it takes to create a movement to be the world's number one' — Lars Williams, Head of R&D at the Nordic Food Lab, Copenhagen.</p> <p>(The Nordic Food Lab is a non-profit self-governed institution established by Rene Redzepi, head chef at the Copenhagen restaurant Noma and by Claus Meyer, gastronomic entrepreneur. Its aim is to explore scientifically the 'New Nordic Cuisine' and to disseminate the results of this exploration).</p> <p>'Driving 1 538 km/L' – Team H2politO's students and professor Massimiliana Carello of the <i>Politecnico di Torino</i> will present their awarded, innovative, hydrogen and hybrid vehicles.</p> <p>Round table with Lars Williams, Massimiliana Carello, students, MEPs and the Directors of EIT and ETF. The discussion will focus on lessons learnt from success stories in promoting innovative education and business cooperation.</p> <p>Sandwich lunch provided on the stand.</p>
15.00	End of session.





EU agencies — the way ahead

European agencies have been set up in successive waves since the mid-1970s and today form an important part of the EU's institutional landscape. Responding to needs identified by the EU and its Member States, they perform a variety of legal, technical and scientific tasks across a broad range of policy areas.

The purpose of this exhibition is to raise awareness among MEPs of the role and activities of the EU agencies. Through thematic clusters, the agencies will demonstrate how they:

- make Europe a safe, healthy and sustainable place to live and work;
- work for a free, fair and safe Europe;
- support the European vision for more jobs, improved lives and a better society; and
- help keep Europe moving around the clock.

