



# EU agencies



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## Foreword



From Stockholm to Crete and from Lisbon to Warsaw some 29 EU agencies have been established to provide service, information and know-how to the EU Member States and their citizens.

Our agencies are involved in many and varied activities: improving the environment, protecting health, contributing to food safety, making transportation safe, processing trade marks, supporting training and education, strengthening and consolidating multilingualism, ensuring security and justice and looking after fundamental rights.

Each agency is unique and fulfils an individual function. Some answer the need to develop scientific or technical know-how in certain fields, others have the role of integrating different interest groups and thus facilitating dialogue at European and international level.

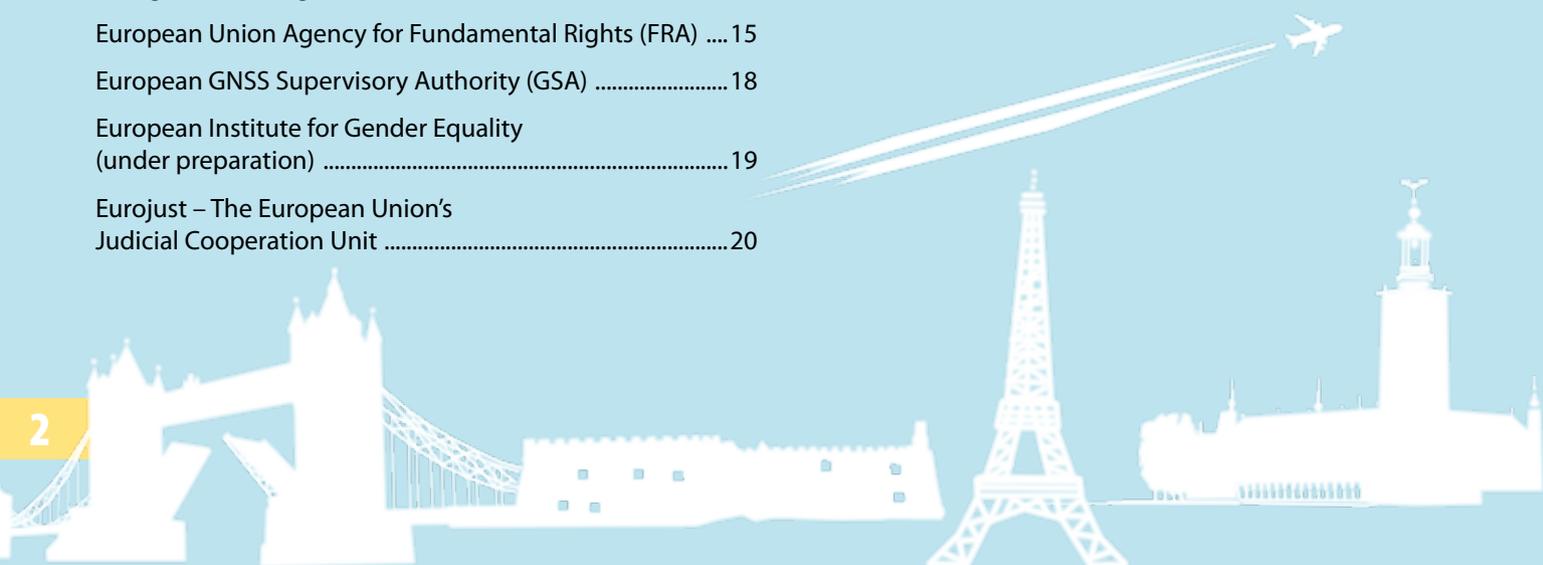
With more than 2 500 staff and significant budgetary resources, the agencies and their activities have become central to the operations of the European Union and they play a key role in the implementation of EU policies.

For the European Commission, the agencies are our satellites — picking up signals on the ground, processing them, and beaming them back and forth. Through their activities the agencies contribute to making 'Europe' closer to European citizens and hopefully easier to understand, and I fully share the agencies' strapline 'Whatever you do, we work for you.'

**José Manuel Barroso**  
President of the European Commission

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## Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA)



**Established:** 2002

**Executive Director:** Harm Koster

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**Website:** www.cfca.europa.eu

The primary role of the Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) is to organise coordination and cooperation between national control and inspection activities so that the rules of the EU common fisheries policy are respected and applied effectively.

The work of the agency contributes to a level playing field for the fishing industry so that obligations are observed and everyone in the sector is treated equally, wherever they might be operating. Secondly, it will contribute towards sustainable fisheries by enhancing compliance with existing conservation and management measures to the benefit of present and future generations.

As an independent executive body, the agency works closely with the European Commission, Member States, regional advisory councils and, where appropriate, third parties such as regional fisheries organisations.

The creation of the agency is designed to enhance cooperation and to ensure that legislation is implemented in a systematic, uniform and effective way to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing not only in Community waters, but, in principle, in all zones where European vessels fish.

The CFCA will have its official seat in Vigo, Spain, but is currently provisionally located in Brussels, Belgium.



## Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO)

The Community Plant Variety Office is a European agency meeting the challenges of the plant breeding industry.

As with trade names and industrial patents, protecting research and creativity in the field of plants is a strategic activity. Today, breeders must invest in new varieties that meet the criteria of quality, adaptation to the environment, productivity and



disease resistance. Protecting new varieties throughout the entire EU market is an effective way to assert breeders' rights and make investment in research and innovation profitable.

The protection of plant varieties is a specific form of industrial property law applied in various countries around the world. The Community protection system managed by the CPVO is unique while it covers the territory of the 27 EU Member States. Breeders can thus enforce their rights throughout the entire European Union.

The Community system encourages the introduction of new better-performing varieties in the market place, for the benefit of farmers, growers and consumers.



**Established:** 1994

**President:** Bart Kiewiet

**Staff:** 43

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## European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR)



**Established:** 2000

**Acting Director:** Adriano Martins

**Staff:** 278

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Greece

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Podgorica, Pristina and Skopje

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**Website:** [www.ear.europa.eu](http://www.ear.europa.eu)

The European Agency for Reconstruction manages the EU's main assistance programmes in Serbia (including Kosovo), Montenegro, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Established in 2000 for Kosovo, the geographical coverage of the Agency was later expanded. The Agency with its headquarters in Thessaloniki, Greece has operational centres in Pristina, Belgrade, Podgorica and Skopje. It is an independent EU agency, accountable to the Council and the European Parliament, and overseen by a governing board of representatives of the 27 EU Member States and the European Commission. The Agency initially had a five-year mandate (from 2000 to 2004). This has been extended twice by Council Decisions, and the mandate currently runs until the end of 2008.

The total portfolio of EU assistance programmes managed by the Agency since 2000 stands at EUR 2.86 billion,

most of it from the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (CARDS) programme. The Agency's work is part of the wider Stabilisation and Association Process — the EU's key strategy for the western Balkans region. As the largest EU body managing assistance in the Balkans, the Agency is helping the region achieve lasting peace and prosperity, and progress towards eventual EU membership.

The Agency's emphasis has evolved from post-conflict reconstruction to helping countries with reform in areas such as justice and home affairs, public administration and public finance, and economic and social development. More recently, the Agency is also involved in programming and implementing IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance), helping the countries to get closer to EU standards and legislation.



*On the road to Europe: Helping the western Balkans help themselves*

## European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)

Safety and health at work is one of the European Union's most important and challenging policy areas.

Statistics show that every five seconds a worker in the EU is involved in a work-related accident, and every three-and-a-half minutes someone in the EU dies from work-related causes.

Workers need to be made aware of the risks that they face and how to deal with them. Employers need to know what they must do to keep their employees safe and how to do it. But occupational safety and health (OSH) issues are complex and diverse. Dealing with them effectively and equitably is more than individual organisations or Member States can manage alone.

That is why the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work was set up in 1996. We collect, analyse and communicate OSH-related information across the EU. Our mission is to make Europe's workplaces safer, healthier and more productive, by

promoting a culture of risk prevention.

Located in Bilbao, Spain, EU-OSHA has a dedicated staff of OSH specialists and a network of partners in all Member States and beyond.

At the national level we are represented by a network of focal points, which are typically the lead OSH organisations in their respective countries. These focal points work with government, employers' and workers' representatives, providing information and advice to support agency initiatives. They also manage the national agency websites, organise European campaign events in the individual Member States, and nominate representatives to expert groups, which provide advice to EU-OSHA in their own field of expertise.

Safety and health is an ethical issue, a basic human right, but it is also about company productivity and competitiveness.



European Agency  
for Safety and Health  
at Work

**Established:** 1994

**Director:** Jukka Takala

**Staff:** 61

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## European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex)



**Established:** 2004

**Director:** Ilkka Laitinen

**Staff:** 136

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The mission of Frontex is to strengthen security at external borders of the Member States of the EU by coordination of intelligence-driven operational cooperation. The tasks of Frontex cover a wide range of activities that enhance integrated border management.

Frontex complements Member States' activities through carrying out risk analysis, organising joint operations at the external borders, developing common curricula for border guards across Europe, providing information on the latest research related to border protection and assisting Member States in organising joint operations for the return of illegal migrants.

Frontex cooperates closely with law enforcement bodies in all EU Member States and Schengen associ-

ated countries (Iceland and Norway) as well as with border control authorities in third countries.

Border management has undergone evolution starting from nationally focused systems of each State to operational cooperation at the external borders. National border security systems are being complemented by a unified set of effective tools to manage potential risks at the external borders, while the responsibility for the control of external borders lies with Member States. Frontex was created particularly to integrate national border management systems of Member States against all kind of threats that could happen at or through the external border of the Member States of the European Union.



## European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)

Air transport is one of the safest modes of travel. It is also the fastest growing. That is why the European Union decided on a common initiative to keep air transport safe and sustainable, allowing for growth and improved safety. It is called the European Aviation Safety Agency.

The European Aviation Safety Agency promotes the highest common standards of safety and environmental protection in civil aviation in Europe and worldwide. It is the centrepiece of a new regulatory system which provides for a single European market in the aviation industry.

A milestone achievement of the agency in December 2006 was the certification of the Airbus A380, the world's largest airliner.

The agency's responsibilities include:

- expert advice to the EU for drafting new legislation;
- implementing and monitoring safety rules, including inspections in the Member States;
- type-certification of aircraft and components, as well as the approval of organisations involved in the design, manufacture and maintenance of aeronautical products;
- safety analysis and research.

The agency's responsibilities are growing to meet the challenges of the fast-developing aviation sector. In the future this will include legally binding rules for flight operations, the licensing of flight crews and the safety approval of non-European airlines.

Based in Cologne, the agency already employs over 350 professionals from across Europe. It will continue to recruit highly qualified specialists and administrators in the coming years as it consolidates its position as Europe's centre of excellence in aviation safety.

Our vision is to see European citizens benefit from the safest and most environment-friendly civil aviation system in the world.



*Your safety is our mission*



**Established:** 2003

**Director:** Patrick Goudou

**Staff:** currently 350

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## European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)



**Operational since:** 2005

**Director:** Zsuzsanna Jakab

**Staff:** 200 by end of 2007  
(approx. 300 by end 2008)

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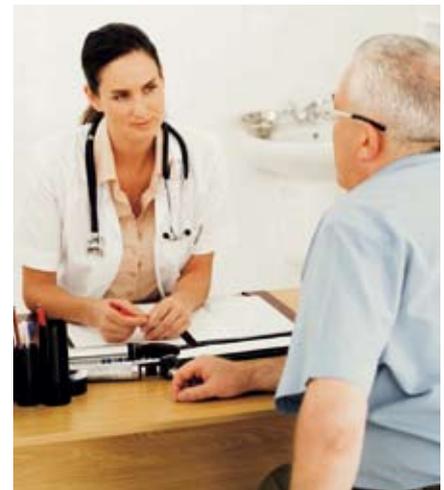
**Website:** [www.ecdc.europa.eu](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu)

As infectious diseases can spread internationally at alarming speed, coordinated efforts are needed at European level to enhance prevention and control measures. To strengthen Europe's defences against infectious disease, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) works closely with national disease control organisations, EU-level authorities and international organisations, encouraging cooperation and the pooling of knowledge. The ECDC's mission is to identify, assess and communicate threats to human health from infectious diseases in Europe.

The main areas of the ECDC's activities include providing scientific advice, strengthening Europe-wide surveillance (collection and dissemination of relevant data on infectious diseases), reinforcing and developing Europe's rapid alert systems against disease outbreaks, and supporting countries in strengthening their preparedness against and response to epidemics. The centre has a mandate to communicate both to stakeholders and the general public information concerning its activities. It offers technical assistance and training to Member States' authorities and facilitates the sharing of expertise and best practices. The centre publishes numerous reports on specific diseases,

and produces an Annual epidemiological report on communicable diseases in Europe, which offers an overview of the situation of communicable diseases in the EU and EEA/EFTA countries. The ECDC has a state-of-the-art emergency operations centre to ensure rapid response in the case of an international public health event.

Priorities of the centre's work include HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, reinforcing the EU-level response to anti-microbial resistance, assisting Member States in reviewing their preparedness against a possible influenza pandemic and developing an action plan against tuberculosis in the EU.



*Strengthening Europe's defences against infectious disease*

## European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)

To find and keep better jobs, people need to learn new skills, not just when young, but throughout working life. To do this we must change what, how and when we learn. Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, is working in the EU to help make these changes happen.

Improving vocational education and training is essential. EU skill levels are low compared with those of its major competitors. Almost a third of the workforce — 80 million people — are unskilled. The EU is working to change this. Declarations at Copenhagen in 2002, Maastricht in 2004 and Helsinki in 2006 strengthened cooperation among the Member States to modernise vocational education and training. This is the focus of Cedefop's work.

Using expertise gathered through research, analysis and networking,

Cedefop makes proposals for new policies, provides scientific advice, targets research, stimulates debate and disseminates information through websites, publications, study visits and seminars to improve vocational education and training for everyone.

In the EU, part of Cedefop's work is to enable people to have their work experience count towards a qualification; to be able to move anywhere in Europe for education, training or work through Europass; to compare qualifications from different Member States using the European qualifications framework and to take a training course in another Member State that counts towards a qualification in their own country through a European credit transfer system.



**Established:** 1975

**Director:** Aviana M. Bulgarelli

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**Interactive website:**  
[www.trainingvillage.gr](http://www.trainingvillage.gr)



## European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)



**Established:** 1 June 2007

**Interim Executive Director:**

Geert Dancet

**Visiting address:**

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**Website:** [www.echa.europa.eu](http://www.echa.europa.eu)

The European Chemicals Agency started operating on 1 June 2007. During the first 12 months it will build up its organisation, to be fully operational by 1 June 2008. The agency's mission is to ensure consistency in chemicals management across the EU and to provide technical and scientific advice, guidance and information on chemicals.

The agency will be responsible for coordinating the duties introduced by the new REACH regulation. It will manage the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction processes for chemical substances to ensure consistency across the European Union. These processes are designed to provide additional information on chemicals, to ensure their safe use and to enhance the competitiveness of the European industry.

One of the agency's first tasks is to

give sufficient information and guidance to companies — especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) — on how to comply with the new REACH requirements. To this end, the agency operates a multilingual website. The website serves as a single access point for general information on chemicals, REACH guidance documents and other tools which help companies to comply with the new legislation.

The management board of the agency is composed of representatives from the Member States, the European Parliament and the European Commission, and three members representing the industry, trade unions and NGOs. The agency will establish Member State Risk Assessment and Socioeconomic Committees and a Forum of national enforcement authorities.



## European Environment Agency (EEA)

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is the EU body dedicated to providing sound, independent information on the environment. We are the main information source for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy, as well as for the general public.

Our aim is to help the EU and its member countries make informed decisions about improving the environment, integrating environmental considerations into economic policies and moving towards sustainability.

We provide a wide range of information and assessments, covering the state of the environment and trends in it, pressures on the environment and the economic and social driving forces behind them. Our work also covers policies and their effectiveness. We try to identify possible future trends and problems using scenarios and other techniques.

A major source of information is the European environment information and observation network (Eionet). The EEA is responsible for developing the network and coordinating its activities. We work closely together with the national focal points (NFPs), typically national environment agencies or environment ministries in the member countries. They are

responsible for coordinating national networks involving about 300 institutions across Europe.

To support data collection, management and analysis we have established five European topic centres covering air and climate, biodiversity, land use and spatial information, resources and waste, and water.

We work closely with Commission services such as the Environment DG, the statistical office (Eurostat) and the Joint Research Centre. At the global level we collaborate actively with, amongst others, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Mediterranean action plan (UNEP/MAP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The agency's budget is about EUR 34 million (2007).



**Established:** 1994

**Executive Director:**  
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**Website:** [www.eea.europa.eu](http://www.eea.europa.eu)

## European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)



**Established:** 2002

**Executive Director:**  
Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle

**Staff:** 300 (end of 2007)

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Following a series of food crises in the late 1990s, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was created as part of a comprehensive programme to improve EU food safety, ensure a high level of consumer protection and restore and maintain confidence in the EU food supply. The authority was formally set up in January 2002 as an independent source of scientific advice and communication on risks associated with the food chain.

In the EU food safety system, risk assessment is carried out separately from risk management. As the risk assessor, EFSA delivers scientific advice to provide a sound foundation for European policies, legislation and decisions. EFSA's opinions inform EU risk managers: the European Commission, the European Parliament and Member States. EFSA also undertakes work on its own initiative, particularly in fields where knowledge is evolving, such as

emerging risks, and plays an important role in the collection and analysis of EU-wide scientific data to support European risk assessment.

With its headquarters in Parma, Italy, EFSA works closely with national food safety authorities across the EU, and co-operates with a wide range of partners including the European Commission, other EU institutions and agencies, international organisations and counterparts worldwide. The authority also works by consulting its many stakeholders and proactively seeking input from interested parties on its work and activities.

EFSA's remit covers not only food and feed safety but also nutrition, animal health and welfare, plant protection and plant health. EFSA has already delivered over 500 scientific opinions on issues as diverse as BSE/TSE, food additives, pesticides and avian influenza, and in 2007 its activities extend to fields such as nanotechnology and animal cloning.



*Committed to ensuring that Europe's food is safe*

## European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)

The European Foundation was set up to contribute to the planning and design of better living and working conditions in Europe. Providing timely, in-depth analysis on areas such as employment and competitiveness, industrial relations and quality of work, and quality of life and social cohesion, the foundation seeks to support the continual improvement of the lives of European citizens.

Through its comparative research and analysis drawn from all EU Member States, the foundation is able to explore policies and practices that work and communicate the results by providing independent advice and expertise for both key actors in the field of EU social policy and for European citizens themselves.

A network of National Outreach Centres disseminate information from the foundation within their in-

dividual countries and provide a vital channel for connecting with citizens on social issues of most concern to them. In addition, the foundation assures a central presence at the heart of EU affairs through its Brussels Liaison Office.

The foundation regularly organises events to highlight key issues associated with living and working conditions and produces a variety of printed publications including a monthly newsletter *Eurofound News*, infosheets and detailed analytical reports. All publications can be downloaded free of charge from the foundation's website.

The foundation is open to the public and offers tailor-made visitor programmes.

The Foundation is a tripartite organisation working with the European Commission, the Social Partners and governments as well as European institutions and other international organisations active in the area of living and working conditions.



**Established:** 1975

**Director:** Jorma Karppinen

**Staff:** 100

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**E-mail:**

customer.relations@eurofound.  
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**Website:** [www.eurofound.europa.eu](http://www.eurofound.europa.eu)



## European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)



**Established:** 2007

**Director:** vacant

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The European Union is based on principles of freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law. It has a Charter of Fundamental Rights which reflects the rights common to the constitutional traditions and international obligations of its Member States. It is important that greater knowledge and awareness of these rights and issues related to them inform EU action. The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has been set up to contribute to that process.

The agency will provide assistance and expertise relating to fundamental rights, in line with Community law, to Community institutions and bodies and Member States. It will achieve this via the principal tasks of data collection, improving comparability and reliability of data, research and analysis, cooperation with international organisations, national specialised bodies and civil society, and raising public awareness of fundamental rights. It will get the results out in the form of conclusions and opinions to policymakers, stakeholders and those who implement policy and take action at the key levels of the EU and its Member States. The goal is to build respect and promotion of fundamental rights as part of the value system

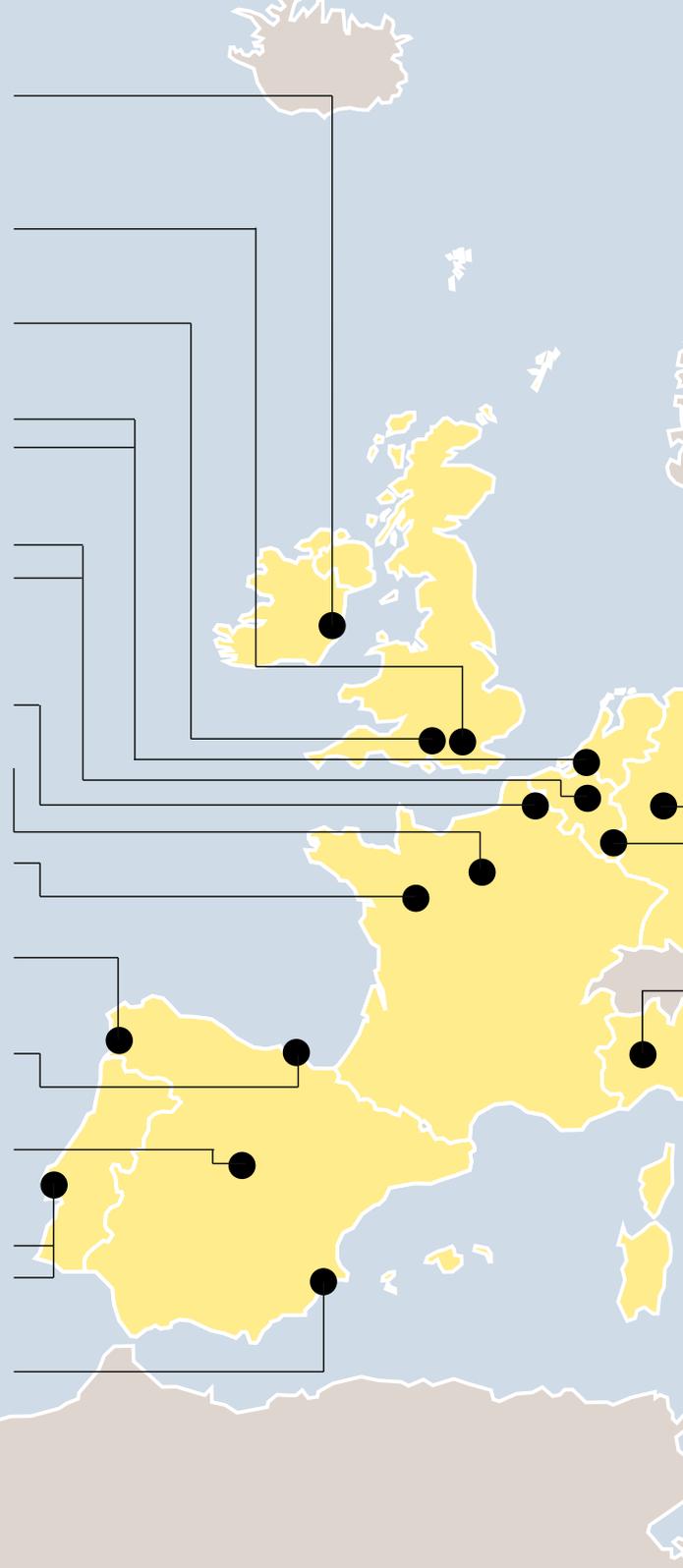
and culture of the EU.

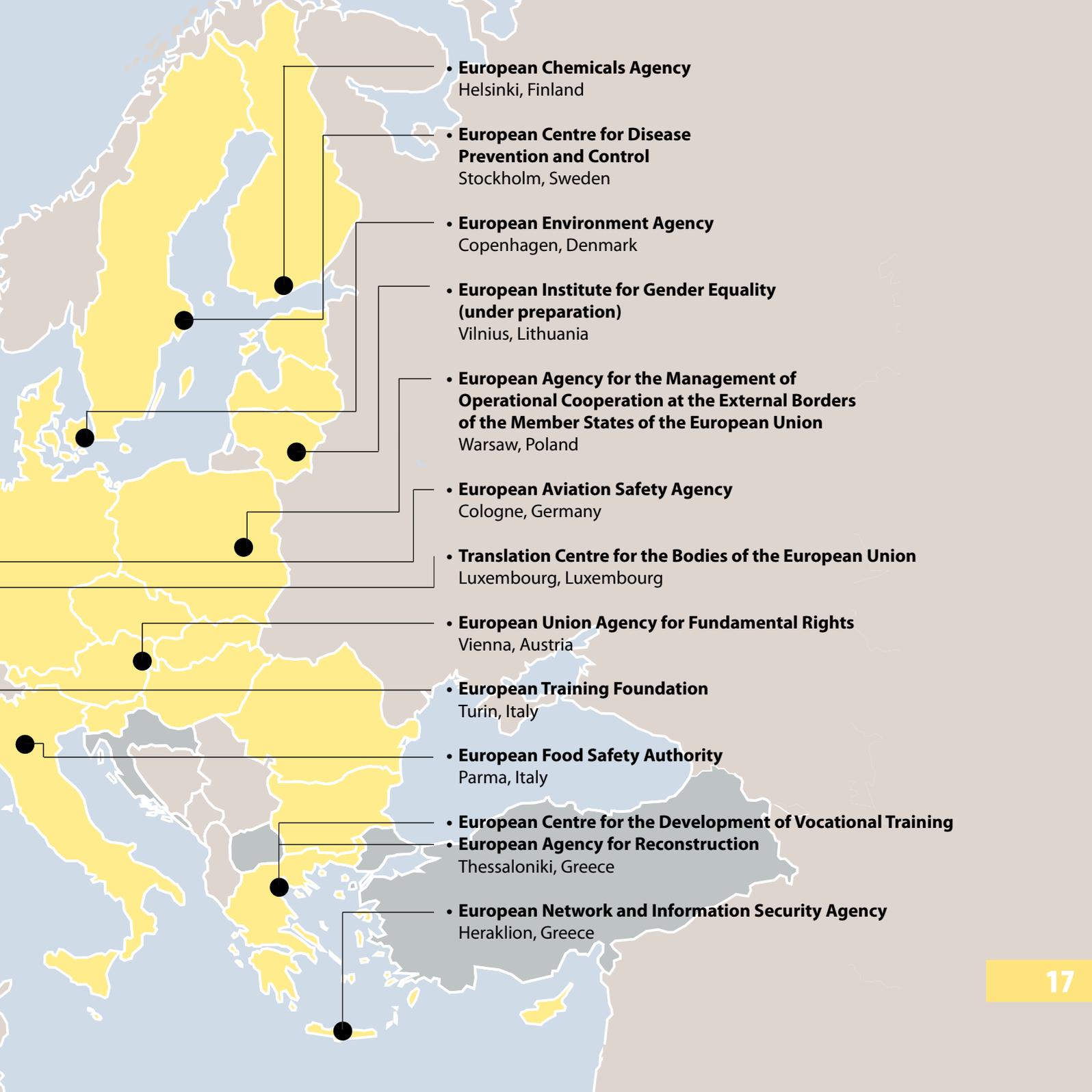
The agency will also lay great stress on engaging actively with a variety of groups and the wider public through the organisation of events, the hosting of seminars and workshops, the use of new technology and the publication of targeted materials. These activities will aim to highlight the relevance and importance of fundamental rights to all within the EU.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights was established through Council Regulation (EC) No 168/2007 of 15 February 2007 and builds on the work of the former European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC). The agency was launched on 1 March 2007 and has its seat in Vienna, Austria.



- **European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions**  
Dublin, Ireland
- **European Medicines Agency**  
London, United Kingdom
- **European Police College**  
Bramshill, United Kingdom
- **Eurojust – The European Union’s Judicial Cooperation Unit**
- **European Police Office**  
The Hague, Netherlands
- **European GNSS Supervisory Authority**
- **European Defence Agency**  
Brussels, Belgium
- **European Railway Agency**  
Lille and Valenciennes, France
- **European Union Institute for Security Studies**  
Paris, France
- **Community Plant Variety Office**  
Angers, France
- **Community Fisheries Control Agency**  
Vigo, Spain
- **European Agency for Safety and Health at Work**  
Bilbao, Spain
- **European Union Satellite Centre**  
Madrid, Spain
- **European Maritime Safety Agency**
- **European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction**  
Lisbon, Portugal
- **Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs)**  
Alicante, Spain





• **European Chemicals Agency**

Helsinki, Finland

• **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**

Stockholm, Sweden

• **European Environment Agency**

Copenhagen, Denmark

• **European Institute for Gender Equality (under preparation)**

Vilnius, Lithuania

• **European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union**

Warsaw, Poland

• **European Aviation Safety Agency**

Cologne, Germany

• **Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union**

Luxembourg, Luxembourg

• **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**

Vienna, Austria

• **European Training Foundation**

Turin, Italy

• **European Food Safety Authority**

Parma, Italy

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

• **European Agency for Reconstruction**

Thessaloniki, Greece

• **European Network and Information Security Agency**

Heraklion, Greece

## 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 radio navigation positioning system of the future.

Given the strategic nature of European satellite positioning and navigation programmes, which include both EGNOS and Galileo, and the need to ensure that essential public interests in this field are adequately defended and represented, the European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA) was established to manage the public interests and to be the



regulatory authority for the European GNSS programmes, while laying the foundations for a fully sustainable and economically viable system.

The GSA:

- manages the European satellite navigation programmes, controls the use of funds, and manages the related R & D activities;
- is responsible for matters related to the right to use the frequencies necessary for the operation of the systems, certification of the components, and their safety and security;
- will be the licensing authority, vis-à-vis the concession holders responsible for the operations and service provision of Galileo, and ensure contract compliance;
- owns the assets created or developed under the Galileo and EGNOS programmes.



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**Staff:** 50

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## European Institute for Gender Equality (under preparation)



**Established:** 30 December 2006  
(operational from 2008)

**Address:** Vilnius, Lithuania



The European Institute for Gender Equality, whose regulation was officially adopted on 20 December 2006 by the Council, is conceived as a technical support both for the Member States and the European institutions — notably the Commission — to ensure the best implementation of Community policy in the field of gender equality.

The institute will ensure the collection and analysis of objective, reliable and comparable information and data at Community level, and the develop-

ment of appropriate methodological tools, in particular for the integration of the gender dimension in all policy areas; it will facilitate the exchange of best practices and dialogue among stakeholders, and will raise awareness among EU citizens.

The institute will be operational in 2008 and located in Vilnius, Lithuania.



**Website (interim):** [www.ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/gender\\_equality/gender\\_institute/index\\_en.html](http://www.ec.europa.eu/employment_social/gender_equality/gender_institute/index_en.html)

## Eurojust – The European Union’s Judicial Cooperation Unit

Eurojust’s vision is to be the key player and centre of excellence at a judicial level for effective action against organised cross-border crime in the EU.

As the first permanent body established for judicial cooperation in the European legal area, or indeed anywhere in the world, it is the mission of Eurojust to enhance Europe-wide cooperation to deal more effectively with transnational criminal cases. The objective for Eurojust is to enhance the efficiency of the national investigating and prosecuting authorities, individually and collectively, when dealing with serious cross-border crime and more importantly to bring criminals to justice quickly and efficiently. Eurojust has the authority to

deal with a wide range of criminal offences, including terrorism, trafficking in human beings, narcotics offences and serious fraud; and Eurojust is unique in that it supports the national authorities in the Member States with coordination and assistance in individual prosecutions and investigations.

Eurojust operates as a college consisting of 27 national members, one from each Member State, permanently working in The Hague. The national members are senior, experienced prosecutors or judges. Some national members are supported by deputies or assistants.



**Established:** 2002

**Management:** Michael Kennedy, President of the College;  
Ernst Merz, Administrative Director

**Staff:** 144 (101 administrative staff plus 43 national members, deputies and assistants, and two liaison magistrates, Norway and USA)

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## European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)



**Established:** 2002

**Director:** Willem de Ruyter

**Staff:** 153 (end of 2007)

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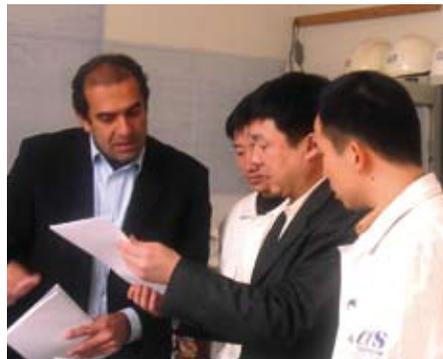
The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) has been established for the purpose of ensuring a high, uniform and effective level of maritime safety, maritime security and prevention of and response to pollution by ships within the Community.

The agency is tasked to help Member States apply Community legislation properly and monitor its implementation for example in the following areas: classification societies, port state control systems, maritime education and training in the EU and third countries, ship-related aspects of maritime security; port reception facilities; marine equipment and ship safety standards. It also provides support to, and facilitates cooperation between, the Member States and disseminates best practices. The agency evaluates the effectiveness of the measures in place and assists Mem-

ber States and the EU Commission to address marine pollution. It manages three main operational systems:

- a system tracking ships and their hazardous cargoes (SafeSeaNet);
- an oil-pollution preparedness and response support capability including a small fleet of contracted stand-by recovery vessels;
- a deliberate and accidental oil spill monitoring service by satellite (CleanSeaNet).

As a body of the European Union, the agency sits at the heart of the EU maritime safety network and collaborates with many industry stakeholders and public bodies, in close cooperation with the European Commission.



## European Medicines Agency (EMA)

High-quality, safe and effective medicines play an important role in the protection of public and animal health in our society. Without them, the efforts of healthcare professionals working on the prevention and treatment of illness and disease would be severely undermined.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), working closely with the Member States and institutions of the European Union, contributes towards the availability of appropriate medicines by: stimulating the development of innovative new medicines; assisting pharmaceutical companies with procedures for authorising their medicinal products; evaluating the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines prior to authorisation; constantly monitoring medicines once they are on the market.

EMA was set up to coordinate the evaluation and supervision of medicinal products in accordance with the EU's centralised procedure for the authorisation of pharmaceuticals. Using this procedure, companies can submit a single application to the EMA, which, pending a positive opinion from the agency's relevant scientific committee, can result in the granting of an EU-wide marketing authorisation by the European Commission.

Five scientific committees currently exist within EMA, with individual responsibilities for medicines for human use, medicines for veterinary use, medicines for paediatric use, medicines for rare diseases and herbal medicines. These committees comprise representatives from all Member States, and use the best-available resources in Europe to formulate objective opinions based on purely scientific criteria. Some committees also include representatives of patients' and healthcare professionals' organisations.

Alongside this core scientific work, EMA contributes towards the development of transparent and harmonised regulatory practices, towards creating the right environment for innovation in the EU and towards the provision of clear information about authorised medicinal products for patients, healthcare professionals and the general public.

Founded on international cooperation, driven by science and motivated by the need for high-quality, safe and effective medicines, EMA is a champion for better health in Europe.



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**Director:** Thomas Lönngren

**Staff:** 441 (2007)

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## European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)



[emcdda.europa.eu](http://emcdda.europa.eu)

**Established:** 1993

**Director:** Wolfgang Götz

**Staff:** 92

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Just over a decade ago, Europe's capacity for monitoring its drug problem was extremely limited. National approaches to the topic varied greatly and there was a lack of reliable and comparable information at European level concerning drugs, drug addiction and their consequences. In other words, it was impossible to talk with confidence about patterns and trends in drug use across the EU. The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) was set up in 1993 to change that.

The EMCDDA exists to provide the EU and its Member States with a factual overview of European drug problems and a common information framework to support the drugs debate. Today it offers policymakers the scientific evidence base they need for drawing up drug laws and strategies and helps professionals and researchers pinpoint best practice and new areas for analysis.

Improving the comparability of drug information in the EU is central to the agency's work. The EMCDDA therefore relies on a network of some 30 national monitoring centres (Reitox network) to gather and analyse country data according to common data-collection standards and tools. The results of this national monitoring process are fed to the EMCDDA and are ultimately analysed in its *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in Europe*.

As well as monitoring today's drug situation, the EMCDDA is ever vigilant for new drugs and emerging trends. With the production of cocaine and heroin at historically high levels and with over 7 000 Europeans dying every year of drug overdoses, constant monitoring is imperative.



*EMCDDA, your reference point on drugs in Europe*

## European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)

Every day we experience the information society. Interconnected networks are touching our everyday lives, at home and at work. Who has not a mobile phone or not received spam in their e-mail box? The correct functioning of computers, mobile phones, online banking and the Internet, etc. is vital, as these components constitute the 'digital economy'.

Today, communication networks and information systems are essential factors in the development of the economy and of society. Secure networks are increasingly becoming as indispensable as electricity or water. Therefore, communication network security is of escalating concern from a financial perspective, for business, citizens and society alike.

The future entails more for the information society, but that future

is threatened. This stems from the complexity of information systems, accidents, mistakes and attacks to the infrastructures delivering critical services to the EU citizens. This future needs to be defended. That is why ENISA is working on network and information security for the EU and the Member States, giving expert advice, recommendations and information on best practices, and facilitating contacts between the EU institutions, the Member States and private business and industry.

ENISA consequently contributes to modernising Europe and securing the smooth functioning of the digital economy and information society.



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## CEPOL — European Police College



**Established:** 2006 (2001)

**Director:** Ulf Göransson

**Staff:** 22

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CEPOL is tasked with organising training for senior police officers in the EU Member States. CEPOL brings together senior police officers, supports the development of a network and encourages cross-border cooperation in the fight against crime, public security and law and order. CEPOL particularly focuses on: combating cross-border crime through specialist training; disseminating best practice and research findings; facilitating exchanges and secondments between police forces; providing training for trainers; developing common curricula to harmonise training programmes; providing training for police authorities in candidate countries; providing an electronic network for sharing knowledge and best practice.

CEPOL organises between 80 and 100 courses, seminars and conferences per year on key topics relevant to police forces in Europe today. The implementation of the activities takes place at the national police training colleges. In 2007, some 1 350 senior police officers attended a CEPOL activity.

CEPOL was estab-

lished as an agency of the EU in 2006. The CEPOL Secretariat is based at Bramshill, approximately 70 km west of London.

The agency cooperates with a wide range of partners, including other law enforcement agencies such as Europol, Eurojust and Interpol. CEPOL has working agreements with non-EU Member States (Norway, Iceland and Switzerland) and has built relationships with non-EU Member States and different universities and research institutes.

The acronym CEPOL is French and stands for Collège européen de police — European Police College (in English).

CEPOL has an annual budget of about EUR 7.5 million (2007) and is funded by the European Communities.



*Improving European police cooperation through training*

## European Police Office (Europol)

Europol is the European law enforcement organisation which aims at improving the effectiveness and cooperation of the competent authorities in the Member States in preventing and combating terrorism, unlawful drug trafficking and other serious forms of international organised crime.

Europol's aim is to help the EU Member States cooperate more closely and effectively in preventing and combating organised international crime, and in particular drug trafficking, immigration networks, vehicle trafficking, trafficking in human beings including sexual abuse of children, forgery of money and other means of payment, trafficking in radioactive and nuclear substances, and terrorism.

Europol is a multinational and multidisciplinary agency comprising regular police officers as well as staff members from customs, immigration, security services, border and financial police and whose staff members are required to have nationalities originating from EU Member States.

Europol supports Member States by providing various platforms and levels of expertise for the purposes

of police cooperation in the EU and sometimes outside the EU within the scope of cooperation agreements. Specifically, Europol is competent to facilitate information exchange, provide operational analysis and support operations in Member States and provide expertise, training and technical support.

Europol additionally provides strategic support via its two main publications, the EU organised crime threat assessment (OCTA) and the EU terrorism situation and trend report (TE-SAT), which are produced annually.

Europol is accountable to the Justice and Home Affairs Council, i.e. the justice and home affairs ministers of all the EU countries.



**Established:** 1999

**Director:** Max-Peter Ratzel

**Staff:** 460 Europol staff and 120 liaison officers

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*Europol: Promoting freedom, security and justice in the EU by improving the effectiveness and cooperation of the competent authorities in the Member States in preventing and combating all forms of serious international crime.*

## European Railway Agency (ERA)



**European Railway Agency**  
**Agence ferroviaire européenne**

**Established:** 2004

**Executive Director:** Marcel Verslype

**Staff:** 90

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The construction of a safe, modern integrated railway network is one of the EU's major priorities. Economic integration and rapid growth in trade have transformed the European Union's transport needs. In order to service this integrated market, railways must become more competitive and offer high-quality end-to-end



services without being restricted by national borders.

The European Railway Agency was set up to help create this integrated railway area by reinforcing safety and interoperability. Its main task is to develop economically viable common technical standards and approaches to safety, working closely with railway sector stakeholders, national authorities and other concerned parties, as well as with the European institutions.

The agency also acts as the system authority for the European rail traffic management system project, which has been set up to create unique signalling standards throughout Europe.

All of the agency's work is aimed at increasing freight and passenger traffic by simplifying technical procedures and reducing delays caused by incompatible national systems. The introduction of standardised railway equipment will also cut costs for the railway industry and help the sector to become more dynamic and competitive.

The agency is based in the French region of Nord – Pas-de-Calais, renowned as a centre of excellence and business in the railway industry.

## European Training Foundation (ETF)

Relations with our neighbours have become the EU's main external priority since the enlargement of 2004, and the European Training Foundation (ETF) supports the reform of education and training systems in neighbouring regions such as the Balkans, North Africa, the Middle East and the former Soviet Union.

Working on behalf of the EU, the ETF helps some 30 countries in these regions to develop people's skills and knowledge to promote better living conditions, active citizenship and democratic societies that respect human rights and cultural diversity.

The work of the ETF is based on the conviction that human resources development can make a fundamental contribution to a well-functioning labour market, thus increasing prosperity, creating sustainable growth and encouraging social inclusion in transition and developing countries.

Many of the countries with which the ETF works face enormous socioeconomic and demographic problems associated with poverty, governance, infrastructure, unemployment and access to investment. The modernisation of education and training systems to improve the quality and level of skills available in their labour markets are part of the solution to these problems.

Education and training are also integral parts of social development, transmitting values of solidarity, equal opportunity, and social participation whilst at the same time producing positive effects on health, democratisation, and general quality of life. Education and training are determining factors in every country's development potential and its relationship with the world economy.



**Established:** 1994

**Director:** Dr Muriel Dunbar

**Staff:** 105

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## Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs) (OHIM)



**Established:** 1994

**President:** Wubbo de Boer

**Staff:** 677

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The Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) is the European agency responsible for managing the registration systems of the Community trade mark and the Community design.

The OHIM has been based in the Spanish city of Alicante since it was established in 1994, with the Community trade mark coming into effect in April 1996 and the registered Community design seven years later in April 2003. Close on a quarter of a million companies from around 200 countries worldwide have made applications to register over 600 000 Community trade marks and more than 250 000 Community designs.

A trade mark is a sign which is capable of distinguishing the commercial origin of a company's goods or services in the European Union,

and a design is the outward appearance of a product itself. By making a single application to the OHIM, either for a Community trade mark or for a registered Community design, businesses from across the world can obtain trade mark and design protection throughout the entire European Union.

The OHIM offers a wide range of web services through its Internet site, including electronic filing, e-payment, search tools and personalised access accounts for frequent users, aiming in this way to make the agency more accessible and user friendly. In this sense, the OHIM aims to become a truly electronic office, where geographic location and time become irrelevant for its users.



## Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT)

The European Union's language policy clearly recognises that linguistic diversity is an asset that has to be preserved and promoted. The Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union is one of the bodies which helps implement the EU's strategic framework for multilingualism.

The Translation Centre was established to provide translation services to the other decentralised EU agencies and to assist those EU institutions and bodies which have their own translation services in times of peaks in workload. We provide these services on the basis of a cooperation agreement concluded with each client. Today, we translate for over 30 EU agencies, institutions and other bodies.

Our second mission is to contribute actively to cooperation between the EU's various translation services. The objective of this interinstitutional cooperation is to rationalise working methods, to harmonise procedures and to make overall savings in the field of translation in the EU.

One of the most striking achievements of that cooperation is without doubt the creation of the EU terminology database IATE (Inter Active Terminology for Europe). The IATE project was launched by the Translation Centre in 1999 and has brought together the terminological resources of all the EU translation services. With over 8.5 million terms, IATE is today the biggest terminology resource in the world.



**Established:** 1994

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## European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC)

Accurate and timely information, and in particular geospatial intelligence, forms an essential foundation for sound decision-making in the context of the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and the European security and defence policy (ESDP).

The European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC) was specifically created by the Council of the European Union to provide such support to the CFSP and ESDP by providing geospatial intelligence products based on the analysis of satellite imagery and other collateral data. These geospatial intelligence products typically include image maps, analysis reports and geographic information systems that are used by planners and decision-

makers for a wide range of applications. These applications include counter-terrorism, counter-proliferation, contingency planning, crisis management operations and humanitarian aid missions in response to natural or man-made disasters.

The EU Council, Member States and Commission are the main users of the EUSC's products and services. However, when authorised by the Secretary General/High Representative for CFSP, the EUSC also works in support of international organisations such as the United Nations and NATO.



European Union Satellite Centre

**Established:** 2001

**Director:** Frank Asbeck

**Staff:** 75

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## European Defence Agency (EDA)

The European Defence Agency has been created to help EU Member States develop their defence capabilities for crisis-management operations under the European security and defence policy (ESDP). The agency's tasks include working towards a more comprehensive and systematic approach to defining and meeting the capability needs of the ESDP, promoting European defence-relevant R & T as vital both to a healthy defence technological and industrial base, and defining and satisfying future capability requirements. This will involve: pursuing collaborative use of national defence R & T funds, in the context

of a European defence R & T strategy which identifies priorities; promoting European cooperation on defence equipment, both to contribute to defence capabilities and as a catalyst for further restructuring the European defence industry; and working, in close cooperation with the Commission, on steps towards an internationally competitive market for defence equipment in Europe.

The agency's 'comparative advantage' should be its ability to comprehend all these agendas, and relate them so as to realise their synergies.

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## European Union Institute for Security Studies (ISS)

The European Union Institute for Security Studies was created by a Council joint action on 20 July 2001. Its aim is to help create a common European security culture, to support the strategic debate by providing the best possible interface between European decision-makers and the diverse circles of non-official specialists. The institute's activities are directed towards data analysis and recommendations necessary for EU policy-making. Consequently, the institute contributes to the development of the European Union common foreign

and security policy (CFSP) by executing several main tasks: research and debate on the major security and defence issues that are of relevance to the EU; forward-looking analysis for the Union's Council and High Representative; and development of a transatlantic dialogue on all security issues with the countries of Europe, Canada and the United States.

The institute has an autonomous status and intellectual freedom, which means that it does not represent or defend any particular national interest.

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