

## Information Guide



# Agencies and Decentralised Bodies of the European Union

**A guide to information sources on the agencies and decentralised bodies of the European Union, with hyperlinks to further sources of information within European Sources Online and on external websites**

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## Introduction

As in many Member States, EU decentralised agencies have become an established part of the way the EU operates. In 2011, thirty one decentralised agencies perform a wide range of important tasks, using a significant amount of resources: they contribute to the implementation of important Union policies, thus helping all the institutions, in particular the Commission, to concentrate on core policy-making tasks. Agencies also have a role in supporting the decision-making process by pooling the technical or specialist expertise available at European and national level and thereby help enhance the cooperation between Member States and the EU in important policy areas.

The establishment of agencies was done on a case by case basis and has not been accompanied by an overall vision of their role and place in the Union. Following the Commission Communication entitled "European agencies: the way forward" [...] the three Institutions have recognised the important role of decentralised agencies in implementing the policies of the EU as independent legal entities and the need to make them a more effective tool in this respect.

From: [Joint Statement](#) of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission on decentralised agencies, 18 June 2012.

## Overview

The European Union's agencies are public authorities set up under European law and enjoying their own legal personality. Unlike the EU Institutions (Council, Parliament, Commission etc.) which are created by the Treaties, agencies are established under secondary legislation, with a view to fulfilling a task of technical or scientific nature or a specific management task specified in the corresponding act.

The first agencies - the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training and the European Foundation for the Improvement of the Living and Working Conditions - were created in the 1970s. Six were set up under the 1993 Treaty on European Union, and some 30 have been created since then. Not all of them have the word 'agency' in their official title: they may, instead, be called a Centre, Institute, Foundation, Office, Authority or College.

In 'European agencies - The way forward' ([COM\(2008\)135](#)), the Commission identifies two broad types of agency: 'executive' and 'regulatory'.

The 'executive' agencies are all set up under [Council Regulation \(EC\) 58/2003](#) of 19 December 2002, 'laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programmes'. With limited life-spans and a clear place in the Union's institutional framework, executive agencies are effectively managed by the Commission. Their annual activity reports are annexed to those of the relevant Commission Directorate-General and all executive agencies are subject to a standard Financial Regulation. There are currently just six executive agencies (see also Summaries of EU legislation [Executive agencies of the EU](#)).

Regulatory agencies, in contrast, are independent bodies, each with its own legal personality and its own individual legal basis. Regulatory agencies have been set up in successive waves in order to meet specific needs and there are no general rules governing their creation and operation.

The Commission's [agencies page](#) divides the agencies into:

- [Decentralised agencies](#)
- [EURATOM agencies and bodies](#)
- [Executive agencies](#) (i.e. those established under Council Regulation 58/2003)
- [European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#) (EIT - described as 'an independent, decentralised EU body')

The Regulatory agencies can, according to the Summaries of EU legislation [Regulatory agencies](#) page, be roughly categorised on the basis of their primary functions, which it suggests are:

- adopting individual decisions, legally binding on third parties (CVPO, OHIM, EASA, ECHA)
- providing technical or scientific advice to the Commission and the Member States (EMSA, EFSA, ERA, EMEA)
- undertaking operational activities (EAR, GSA, CFCA, FRONTEX, EUROJUST, EUROPOL, CEPOL)
- providing information and networking services to other agencies and institutions (CEDEFOP, EUROFOUND, EEA, ETF, EMCCDA, EU-OSHA, ENISA, ECDC, FRA, European Institute for Gender Equality)
- servicing other agencies and institutions (CDT).

The 29 regulatory agencies in existence when the Commission issued 'European agencies - The way forward' in March 2008 vary in size, from under 50 people to over 600, between them employing some 3,800 staff and with an annual budget of around €1,100 million (including a Community contribution of some €559 million).

(See also Press Release [MEMO/08/159](#) and Summaries of EU legislation [Regulatory agencies](#)).

Member States have traditionally had difficulty resolving disputes concerning the location of new agencies. The European Environment Agency (EEA), for example, was not fully operational for several years after the founding act was adopted ([Regulation \(EEC\) 1210/90](#)), because a decision could not be reached on where it should be located. It was not until the October 1993 European Council that agreement was reached on the location of the EEA (and eight other agencies - see Annex II to the [Presidency Conclusions](#)).

10 years later, following several years of uncertainty, agreement was reached at the December 2003 European Council (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)) on the location of nine more agencies.

Recognising the difficulties associated with this approach, the Commission's 2005 proposal for an interinstitutional agreement on the operating framework for the European regulatory agencies ([COM\(2005\)59](#)) stated:

Negotiations of this kind on 'packages' of issues have led to serious delays in the effective establishment of a number of agencies, which have been set up temporarily in Brussels for an a priori indefinite period. This approach is at the root of a number of administrative and practical problems which have arisen during the start-up phase: problems concerning the recruitment of staff, additional costs, practical problems with moving to another location, difficulties of access, etc. Without denying the Member States the right to decide the agency's seat at the highest political level, the Commission therefore proposes that this decision be taken in time so that it can be incorporated into the basic act. Failing that, the Commission proposes that a decision be taken within six months at the latest.

On 1 February 2010, the European Commission published a 'Study on the feasibility of the establishment of a Waste Implementation Agency' (see Press Release [IP/10/113](#)). The study recommended that a dedicated European body be established to oversee the implementation and enforcement of EU waste law. No official proposal has yet been put forward by the Commission.

## Function

There are a number of general aims underlying the agency operation as a whole:

- they introduce a degree of decentralisation and dispersal to Community activities
- they give a higher profile to the tasks that are assigned to them, by identifying them with the agencies themselves
- some answer the need to develop scientific or technical know-how in certain well-defined fields
- others have the role of integrating different interest groups and thus of facilitating dialogue at European or international level

The potential advantages of designating 'agencies' to carry out some of the administrative tasks relating to Community policies and activities are identified in [The Development of Agencies at EU and National Levels: Conceptual Analysis and Proposals for Reform](#), issued in 2004 by the Jean Monnet Center attached to the NYU School of Law:

First, they would lighten the workload of other EC institutions, which could in turn focus on their core strategic functions. Second, they would remove the resolution of technical issues from political pressures, thereby securing policy consistency over time. Third, the duty to resolve technical problems would be left to specialists thereby contributing to reducing asymmetries of information between the operators and the administration. Fourth, the setting up of European wide agencies would reduce transaction costs and ensure neutrality regarding national interests. Finally, the clarification of the competences that would result from the creation of agencies (political and strategic duties to the Commission - technical tasks for the agencies) would in turn contribute to a better understanding of the EC by its citizens.

## Budgetary control and audit

[Official Journal C 95](#) contains the statement of revenue and expenditure for EU agencies and other bodies for the financial year 2012 (for 2011 see [Official Journal C 100](#); for 2010 see [Official Journal C 86](#)).

In the majority of cases, agencies' internal audit is carried out either by the European Commission's Financial Controller or an auditor appointed by the agency. In either event, agencies are subject to the external control of the [European Court of Auditors](#) (ECA).

The ECA issues a series of [Specific annual reports](#), each of which addresses an individual agency and includes an overview of the agency's budget, a statement of assurance on the annual accounts, comment on budgetary and financial management, and the agency's replies to the Court's observations.

The ECA also publishes a series of [Special reports](#), one of which - 'The European Union's agencies: Getting results' - examined eight regulatory agencies ([Special Report 5/2008](#); see also associated [Information Note](#)). The Court considered whether those regulatory

agencies planned their activities adequately; had introduced sound tools for monitoring their activities; and gave a proper account of their activities and evaluated their results.

On the basis of its review, the ECA recommended that the agencies:

- adopt multiannual and annual programmes based on ex ante evaluations and accompanied by clear objectives and performance indicators, and adopt activity-based budgeting;
- set up management control tools linked to the objectives and the performance indicators specified in their work programmes;
- provide activity reports offering an assessment of the progress made in terms of achieving the set objectives and modify their evaluation process by linking the rhythm of the overall periodic evaluations to that of the multiannual programmes.

In 'Delegating implementing tasks to executive agencies: a successful option?' ([Special Report 13/2009](#)) the ECA found, amongst other things, that the initiative to set up the six executive agencies created since 2003 was mainly driven by the need to compensate for staff shortages within the European Commission. Despite the need to save money, the ECA also found that the executive agencies are better than their parent DGs at delivering the services concerned, and conclude contracts, make payments and approve technical and financial reports on the projects more rapidly. However, the Commission's supervision of the executive agencies' activities is not fully effective said the Court.

### **'European agencies - The way forward'**

The European Commission's White Paper on European Governance ([COM\(2001\)428](#)) published in July 2001 recommended:

The creation of further autonomous EU regulatory agencies in clearly defined areas...to improve the way rules are applied and enforced across the Union. Such agencies should be granted the power to take individual decisions in application of regulatory measures. They should operate with a degree of independence and within a clear framework established by the legislature. The regulation creating each agency should set out the limits of their activities and powers, their responsibilities and requirements for openness.

In December 2002 the Commission published 'The operating framework for the European Regulatory Agencies' ([COM\(2002\)718](#)) which sets out a preliminary definition of the criteria for the creation of new regulatory agencies and the framework within which they should operate.

The paper was considered by the European Parliament's Committee on Constitutional Affairs in its Report on 'The operating framework for the European Regulatory Agencies' ([A5-471/2003](#)), debated in January 2004. In view of the many different operational structures and administrative boards of the existing agencies, the European Parliament's [Resolution](#) supported the aim of a limited number of models for such agencies, depending in particular on whether they are 'decision-making' agencies (i.e. with the power to enact legal instruments binding on third parties) or 'executive' agencies (without that power). Parliament's proposals were discussed by the Council in June 2004 (see - [Press Release](#)).

A draft 'Interinstitutional agreement on the operating framework for the European regulatory agencies' ([COM\(2005\)59](#)) was put forward by the Commission in February 2005, setting out fundamental conditions and rules for the creation, structure, operation, evaluation and control of future regulatory agencies.

In the Introduction to its Communication 'European agencies - The way forward' ([COM\(2008\)135](#)), published on 11 March 2008, the European Commission stated:

In recent years, using agencies to implement key tasks has become an established part of the way the European Union does its business. They have become part of the institutional landscape of the Union. Most Member States have taken the same path of using agencies to bring a different approach to precisely-defined tasks.

There are various reasons for the growing use of agencies. They help the Commission to focus on core tasks, making it possible to devolve certain operational functions to outside bodies. They support the decision-making process by pooling the technical or specialist expertise available at European and national level. And the spread of agencies beyond Brussels and Luxembourg adds to the visibility of the Union.

With the growth in the number of agencies, they perform a range of important tasks across a spread of policy areas. Significant resources are now devoted to agencies. As a result, it has become increasingly important to have clarity about their role, and about the mechanisms to ensure the accountability of these public bodies.

Progress with the 2005 draft interinstitutional agreement stalled, yet - as the Commission noted - the issues which it sought to address remain. The Commission's Communication - which focuses on regulatory agencies - therefore called for an inter-institutional debate on the issues, and invited the European Parliament and the Council to develop a common approach, addressing the following aspects of regulatory agencies: tasks; structure and working methods; accountability and relations with the other institutions; regulatory framework; establishment and termination; communication strategy.

Meanwhile, pending an agreement, the Commission said that it intended to: undertake a horizontal evaluation of regulatory agencies; refrain from proposing new regulatory agencies until the evaluation is complete; undertake a review of its own internal systems governing its relations with agencies.

On 13 June 2012, the Commission announced a breakthrough on a common approach on agencies (see Press Release [IP/12/604](#) and [2012 overhaul](#) - scroll down page). Details were given in a [Council Note](#) of 18 June which set out both a 'Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission on decentralised agencies' (Annex I) and the text of the 'Common Approach' (Annex II). According to the Joint Statement:

As in many Member States, EU decentralised agencies have become an established part of the way the EU operates. In 2011, thirty one decentralised agencies perform a wide range of important tasks, using a significant amount of resources: they contribute to the implementation of important Union policies, thus helping all the institutions, in particular the Commission, to concentrate on core policy-making tasks. Agencies also have a role in supporting the decision-making process by pooling the technical or specialist expertise available at European and national level and thereby help enhance the cooperation between Member States and the EU in important policy areas.

The establishment of agencies was done on a case by case basis and has not been accompanied by an overall vision of their role and place in the Union. Following the Commission Communication entitled "European agencies: the way forward" [...] the three Institutions have recognised the important role of decentralised

agencies in implementing the policies of the EU as independent legal entities and the need to make them a more effective tool in this respect.

To that end, the [Common Approach](#) addresses the following aspects of agencies:

- role and position in the Union's institutional landscape
- structure and governance
- operation
- programming of activities and resources
- accountability, controls and transparency, and relations with stakeholders

The Common Approach also proposes that, to avoid confusion among citizens and stakeholders, a standard term should be used for future agencies ('European Union agency for ...') and that the possibility of aligning the names of existing agencies should be explored.

Welcoming the Common Approach, Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič, responsible for Interinstitutional Relations and Administration, said:

This agreement represents a genuine breakthrough for the good governance and the improved efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of the EU's decentralised agencies. The added value we expect to gain will be of paramount importance in the current political and economic context, driven by the concern for efficiency gains. The Commission will work with all the EU agencies to make sure that implementation of this agreement is a success.

The Common Approach concerns 31 decentralised agencies, but does not cover agencies operating in the field of Foreign and Security Policy or the six executive agencies.

In its September 2012 report [The impact on the EU and national budgets of EU agencies - case studies](#), the European Parliament looked at the impact on both EU and national budgets of transferring responsibilities and tasks from the national to the EU level following the creation of EU agencies. The study focused on the European Aviation Safety Agency and the European Medicines Agency.

In October 2012, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) published 'Management of conflict of interest in selected EU Agencies' ([Special Report No.15, 2012](#); see also Press Release [ECA/12/39](#)). The report looked at four agencies: European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

The ECA concluded that none of them adequately managed conflict of interest situations and recommended that they improve their conflict of interest policies and procedures by:

- screening candidates for conflict of interest before their appointment
- establishing conflict of interest policies and procedures which would ensure that conflict of interest situations are managed to a comparable standard by national authorities performing outsourced tasks (EASA and EMA)
- establishing clear and objective criteria for assessment of declarations of interest and applying them consistently
- introducing gifts and invitations policies and procedures for the entire Agency (EASA, ECHA and EFSA)
- developing clear, transparent and consistent breach of trust policies and procedures for the entire Agency
- improving the transparency of the declared interests during the meetings and in the context of scientific decision-making processes
- ensuring comprehensive and compulsory training on conflict of interest

- addressing post-employment issues in coordination with all the appointing bodies involved.

Further details were given on 19 December 2012, when the Commission confirmed that it had adopted a [Roadmap](#) on the agencies, aimed at improving their efficiency and accountability, and ensuring greater coherence, transparency, and more balanced governance (see Press Release [IP/12/1396](#)).

In its 10 July 2013 Communication 'Programming of human and financial resources for decentralised agencies 2014-2020' ([COM\(2013\)519](#)) the Commission set out programming of staffing and subsidy levels of each decentralised agency under the new multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2014-2020.

In that Communication, the Commission explained that:

The evolution of decentralised agency staffing and appropriations over the years 2014-2020 is guided by two overall constraints: on the one hand, the indicative envelopes for agency expenditure by heading embedded in the new MFF 2014-2020; on the other hand, the objective of reducing staffing levels in agencies by 5 % over 5 years. Like for other EU staff, this will be accompanied by an increase in working hours for staff without a corresponding rise in salary.

To ensure that needs are addressed within these constraints, the Commission has grouped the agencies in three categories depending on the degree of maturity and expected evolution of tasks of each agency until 2020:

- 'cruising speed' agencies are well-established agencies with stable tasks;
- 'new tasks' agencies have a 'cruising speed' part for which tasks do not change from previous years, but which also have additional or modified tasks as explicitly foreseen by an amendment of their founding Regulation, or in case additional tasks already foreseen in the initial Regulation are planned to enter into force at a later date; and
- 'start-up phase' agencies, which have been created recently and which have not yet reached a stable status.

This classification of agencies allows following a differentiated approach, since the agencies are in different starting positions and they face different needs.

## Information sources in the ESO database

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

### [2.12 Other EU organisations and agencies](#)

- [Key Source](#)
- [Legislation](#)
- [Policy-making](#)
- [Report](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [News source](#)
- [Periodical article](#)
- [Textbook, monograph or reference](#)
- [Background](#)



## Further information sources on the internet

- European Union: EUR-Lex  
The text of proposed and adopted legislation relating to EU Agencies and decentralised bodies can be found via EUR-Lex [Section 01.40 in the respective Directories]
  - [Proposed](#)
  - [Adopted](#)
- Alternatively, you can find relevant legislative information for each Agency on the website of the Agency.
- Europa
  - [Agencies and other EU bodies](#)
  - Summaries of EU legislation
    - [The institutions, bodies and agencies of the union](#)
    - [Executive agencies of the EU](#)
    - [Regulatory agencies](#)
- European Commission: EU WhoisWho directory
  - [Agencies and other bodies](#)
- European Commission
  - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: European agencies – The way forward ([COM \(2008\)135](#))
- European Court of Auditors
  - [Audit Reports and Opinions](#)
- European Parliament: Legislative Observatory (OEIL)
  - [Homepage](#): Carry out a [Search](#): in right-hand menu, expand 'Other institutions and bodies' and select 'Other sources'.
- European Commission: PreLex
  - [Homepage](#). In [Standard search](#), use the option 'Search on words from the title of the proposal' with 'agency' or other appropriate keyword.

## Individual agencies

### Regulatory agencies

- [Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators](#)
- [Community Plant Variety Office](#)
- [Euratom Supply Agency](#)
- [Eurojust](#)
- [European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Border](#)
- [European Agency for Reconstruction](#) (ceased operation in December 2008)
- [European Agency for Safety and Health at Work](#)
- [European Asylum Support Office](#)
- [European Aviation Safety Agency](#)
- [European Banking Authority](#)
- [European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training](#)
- [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)
- [European Chemicals Agency](#)
- [European Defence Agency](#)

- [European Environment Agency](#)
- [European Fisheries Control Agency](#)
- [European Food Safety Authority](#)
- [European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions](#)
- [European GNSS Supervisory Authority](#)
- [European Institute for Gender Equality](#)
- [European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#)
- [European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority](#)
- [European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy](#)
- [European Maritime Safety Agency](#)
- [European Medicines Agency](#)
- [European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#)
- [European Network and Information Security Agency](#)
- [European Police College](#)
- [European Police Enforcement Agency](#) (Europol)
- [European Railway Agency](#)
- [European Securities and Markets Authority](#)
- [European Systemic Risk Board](#)
- [European Training Foundation](#)
- [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#)
- [European Union Institute for Security Studies](#)
- [European Union Satellite Centre](#)
- [IT Agency](#)
- [Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market \(Trade Marks and Designs\)](#)
- [Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union](#)

### **Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators**

Established by [Regulation \(EC\) 713/2009](#), the purpose of [ACER](#) is to assist the regulatory authorities for the internal markets in electricity and natural gas. The Agency was formally opened in March 2011, following a December 2009 agreement that it would be based in Ljubljana, Slovenia (see Press Release [IP/11/246](#)). Its launch coincided with the Third energy package for electricity and gas markets entering into force.

- European Commission  
[Energy website](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Internal energy market](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators](#)

[15.1 Energy: General](#)

### **Community Fisheries Control Agency**

In April 2005, under [Council Regulation \(EC\) 768/2005](#) the Council of Ministers agreed to set up a [Community Fisheries Control Agency](#) as a key part of the drive to improve compliance with the rules under the 2002 [Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy](#) (CFP). The Agency is intended to strengthen the uniformity and effectiveness of enforcement by pooling EU and national means of fisheries control and monitoring resources and co-ordinating enforcement activities. The European Council decided at its meeting in December 2003 that the Agency would be located in Vigo, Spain, where it moved in 2008 (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)). From 1 January 2012, the Agency was renamed European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Community Fisheries Control Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[Community Fisheries Control Agency](#)  
[13.7 Fisheries](#)

### **Community Plant Variety Office**

The [Community Plant Variety Office](#) (CPVO), established by [Council Regulation \(EC\) 2100/94](#) of 27 July 1994 has been operating since April 1995. The headquarters were initially based in Brussels, but in December 1996, the Intergovernmental Conference of representatives of the Member States decided that the seat of the CPVO would be in Angers, France (see [Press Release](#)).

The CPVO implements and applies a system for the protection of plant variety rights established by Community legislation. This system allows intellectual property rights, valid throughout the European Union, to be granted for plant varieties. Previously, a breeder wanting to protect a variety throughout the EU had to submit an application to each of the Member States. Since the new Community protection system was introduced, the applicant need submit only one application to obtain the same level of protection. Community Plant Variety Rights are granted for a period of 25 years, and up to 30 years for vines, potatoes and trees. The CPVO is self-funding mainly on the basis of the various fees paid.

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[Community Plant Variety Office](#)  
[13.1.c Animal health - Plant health - Animal welfare](#)  
[6.4.e Intellectual property - Trade marks - Patents](#)

### **Euratom Supply Agency**

The [Euratom Supply Agency](#) (ESA) is responsible for the regular and equitable supply of nuclear fuels for Community users. The original 1958 Statutes establishing the ESA were replaced by [Council Decision 2008/114/EC, Euratom](#).

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Euratom Supply Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[Euratom Supply Agency](#)  
[15.4 Nuclear energy](#)

### **Eurojust**

[Eurojust](#) is the European body for the enhancement of judicial co-operation. It was established by Council Decision 2002/187/JHA and subsequently amended by Decision 2003/659/JHA and more recently by Council Decision 2009/426/JHA (see [Eurojust framework](#) for texts). Based in The Hague, it was set up in 2002 and plays an important role in co-operation between EU countries in the field of Justice and Home Affairs. It is competent to act in investigations concerning at least two Member States.

Eurojust's role is to promote co-ordination between competent authorities in the Member States but also to facilitate the implementation of international mutual legal assistance

and of extradition requests. Its competence covers inter alia, the types of crime and offences for which Europol has competence, (e.g. terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, counterfeiting and money-laundering, computer crime, fraud and corruption, the laundering of the proceeds of crime, participation in a criminal organisation).

Eurojust is composed of senior prosecutors or judges, one from each Member State, who together form the [College of Eurojust](#).

- European Commission: DG Justice and Home Affairs  
[Eurojust](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Fight against organised crime and terrorism: role of Eurojust and the European Judicial Network](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[Eurojust](#)  
[3.2.b Judicial, customs and police co-operation](#)

### **European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Border (FRONTEX)**

This Agency - often referred to in short form as [Frontex](#) - was established by [Council Regulation \(EC\) 2007/2004](#) (amended by [Regulation \(EU\) 1168/2011](#)) and took up its responsibilities on 1 May 2005. Although responsibility for the control and surveillance of external borders lies with the Member States, the Warsaw-based Agency assists the competent services of Member States responsible for implementing the Schengen acquis on control of persons at the external borders (national border guard services). In this context 'external borders' means the Member States' land and sea borders and airports and seaports, to which the provisions of Community law on the crossing of external borders by persons apply.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European External Borders Agency - Frontex](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[External Borders Agency](#)  
[3.2.b Judicial, customs and police co-operation](#)

### **European Agency for Reconstruction**

The mandate of the [European Agency for Reconstruction](#) (EAR) ended in 2008. The Agency was set up following a decision of the June 1999 European Council (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)) and managed the main EU assistance programmes in Serbia and Montenegro (Serbia, Republic of Montenegro, and UN-administered Kosovo) and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The EAR started its operations in Kosovo in February 2000, taking over from the European Commission's Task force for the reconstruction of Kosovo (EC TAFKO), which had been established in July 1999 as a temporary body. The Agency had its headquarters in Thessaloniki and operational centres in Belgrade, Pristina, Podgorica and Skopje.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Agency for Reconstruction](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Agency for Reconstruction](#)  
[18.6.j Balkan region / Black Sea region / S.E. Europe Region](#)

### **European Agency for Safety and Health at Work**

The [European Agency for Safety and Health at Work](#) (EU-OSHA) aims to make Europe's workplaces safer, healthier and more productive by developing, collecting, analysing and disseminating impartial information. An Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work was set up in 1974 to assist the European Commission with the drafting of legislation in these areas. The Action Programme adopted by the Commission on 20 November 1989 relating to the implementation of the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers made provision for creating an Agency for Health and Safety at Work. This led to the setting up of the Agency in 1994 under Regulation (EC) 2062/94 (subsequently amended - see [consolidated text](#)).

EU-OSHA has been located in Bilbao, Spain since 1995. It has three key areas of activity: collecting technical, scientific and economic information on health and safety at work in the Member States (through a Europe-wide network of designated experts); communicating information, in particular through a network of safety and health websites as well as a variety of specialist publications; developing knowledge through major pan-European Information Projects on important occupational safety and health themes. The Agency brings together representatives from three key decision-making groups in each of the EU's Member States - governments, employers and workers' organisations. It also has links with EFTA and candidate countries.

- European Commission: DG Employment and Social Affairs  
[Health and safety at work](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Agency for Health and Safety at Work](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Agency for Safety and Health at Work](#)  
[8.7 Health and safety at work](#)

### **European Asylum Support Office**

Established by [Regulation \(EU\) 439/2010](#), the three main objectives of the [European Asylum Support Office](#) (EASO) are: to develop practical cooperation among EU States on asylum, to support EU States under particular pressure, and to contribute to the implementation of the Common European Asylum System. Based in Valletta, Malta, the Office has been operational from mid-2011.

- European Commission: DG Home Affairs  
[EASO](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Asylum Support Office](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Asylum Support Office](#)  
[3.2.a Asylum, refugees, external frontiers and immigration](#)

## European Aviation Safety Agency

The [European Aviation Safety Agency](#) (EASA) started operating on 28 September 2003 as part of a new Community system of air safety and environmental regulation established by Regulation (EC) 1592/2002, later repealed by [Regulation \(EC\) 216/2008](#), which entered into force on 8 April 2008.

The Agency helps to maintain a high level of safety and environmental protection in European civil aviation, assisting the Commission with legislative and regulatory tasks, and issuing certificates for aeronautical products as well as approvals for design and maintenance organisations. It also supports the Member States and industry in putting the legislation into effect. The Agency has been located in Cologne since November 2004 following a decision by the December 2003 European Council (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)).

- European Commission: DG Mobility and Transport  
[The European Aviation Safety Policy](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Air Safety: European Aviation Safety Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Aviation Safety Agency](#)  
[14.5 Transport: Air transport](#)

## European Banking Authority

The [European Banking Authority](#) (EBA) was established by [Regulation \(EC\) 1093/2010](#) of 24 November 2010 and officially came into being on 1 January 2011. The Authority - which replaced the Committee of European Banking Supervisors (CEBS) - is responsible for: preventing regulatory arbitrage, guaranteeing a level playing field, strengthening international supervisory coordination, promoting supervisory convergence and providing advice to the EU institutions in the areas of banking, payments and e-money regulation, and on issues related to corporate governance, auditing and financial reporting.

- European Commission: DG Internal Market and Services  
[Financial Services and Capital Markets](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Banking Authority](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Banking Authority](#)  
[7.5.a Financial services](#)

## European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

The [European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training](#) (CEDEFOP - from the French: Centre Européen pour le Développement de la Formation Professionnelle) was set up in 1975, by [Council Regulation \(EEC\) 337/75](#) as a non-profit-making body, independent of the European Commission, to help rethink the direction and requirements of vocational training and assist the Commission in promoting the development of vocational training. Originally based in Berlin, the October 1993 European Council agreed to move CEDEFOP to Thessaloniki in Greece (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)). Cedefop also has a liaison office in Brussels. Regulation 337/75 was last amended by Council Regulation (EC) 2051/2004 (see Cedefop [legal texts](#) page).

In 1998 CEDEFOP established the Electronic Training Village (ETV), an interactive platform where experts in the field could share and exchange knowledge and experience with associates within and outside the EU. The ETV was subsumed into the main CEDEFOP website, which was relaunched in January 2010.

CEDEFOP helps policy-makers and practitioners of the Commission, the Member States and social partner organisations across Europe make informed choices about vocational training policy, including comparability of training qualifications and the retraining of women wishing to return to work. It is able to provide the latest information on the present state of and future trends in vocational education and training in the European Union.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Cedefop \(European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training\)](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training](#)  
[17.6.a Vocational Training](#)

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

The [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#) (ECDC) was created by [Regulation \(EC\) 851/2004](#) to provide a structured and systematic approach to the control of communicable diseases and other serious health threats such as influenza, SARS, HIV/AIDS and avian influenza. The European Council decided at its December 2003 meeting (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)) that the Agency's seat would be in Sweden, and from October 2005 the Centre has been housed on the campus of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. The ECDC, which became operational in May 2005, is linked to the EU's [Early Warning and Response System](#) (EWRS) on infectious diseases and its staff constantly monitor EWRS.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)  
[9.9.d Communicable diseases](#)

### **European Chemicals Agency**

The [European Chemicals Agency](#) is charged with administering the REACH system (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals). Created alongside REACH by [Regulation \(EC\) 1907/2006](#), the Agency started operating in June 2007. The Agency is located in Helsinki, as agreed by the December 2003 European Council (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)).

- European Commission: DG Enterprise and Industry  
[Chemicals](#)
- European Commission: DG Environment  
[REACH](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Regulatory framework for the management of chemicals \(REACH\), European Chemicals Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Chemicals Agency](#)

[11.1.e Chemicals](#)

[7.12.b Chemical industry](#)

## European Defence Agency

The [European Defence Agency](#) (EDA) was established in July 2004 by [Council Joint Action 2004/551/CFSP](#) to help EU Member States develop their defence capabilities for crisis-management operations under the Union's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The EDA is based in Brussels and began substantive work in 2005.

The Agency has four main tasks: to work for a more comprehensive and systematic approach to defining and meeting the capability needs of ESDP; to promote more effective use of defence Research and Technology resources in Europe; to promote equipment collaborations, both to contribute to defence capabilities and as catalysts for further restructuring of the European defence industry; to work for an internationally competitive European defence equipment market and a strong defence technological and industrial base.

- European External Action Service (EEAS)  
[European Defence Agency](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Defence Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Defence Agency](#)

[7.12.d Defence industry](#)

[18.3 External relations: Security and defence](#)

## European Environment Agency

The legal basis of the [European Environment Agency](#) (EEA) is [Regulation \(EC\) 401/2009](#), which repealed the original Council Regulation (EEC) 1210/90. Although established in 1990, the Agency did not come into operation for several years because agreement could not be reached on where it should be located - a discussion finally ended by the October 1993 European Council, which agreed to site the EEA in Copenhagen (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)).

The EEA does not make or enforce European Union environment policy or legislation but rather supports the development and implementation of sound environmental policies in member countries by delivering timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy-makers and the public.

To accomplish its aim, the EEA collects information through [EIONET](#) (the European Environmental Information and Observation Network) and a number of other [Networks](#). EIONET is a network of some 300 environmental bodies and institutions active in the EEA member countries. It is made up of national focal points, national reference centres and six [European Topic Centres](#) which collect data on specific fields covering: Air pollution and Climate Change mitigation; Biological Diversity; Climate Change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation; Inland, Coastal and Marine waters; Spatial Information and Analysis; Sustainable Consumption and Production. The Agency is open to all nations that share its objectives and currently has 32 member countries.



- European Commission: DG Environment  
[Environment](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Environment Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Environment Agency](#)  
[11.1.d European Environment Agency](#)

### **European Fisheries Control Agency**

In April 2005, under [Council Regulation \(EC\) 768/2005](#) the Council of Ministers agreed to set up a [Community Fisheries Control Agency](#) as a key part of the drive to improve compliance with the rules under the 2002 [Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy](#) (CFP). The Agency is intended to strengthen the uniformity and effectiveness of enforcement by pooling EU and national means of fisheries control and monitoring resources and co-ordinating enforcement activities. The European Council decided at its meeting in December 2003 that the Agency would be located in Vigo, Spain, where it moved in 2008 (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)). Initially called the Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA), it became the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) on 1 January 2012.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Community Fisheries Control Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[Community Fisheries Control Agency](#)  
[13.7 Fisheries](#)

### **European Food Safety Authority**

The [European Food Safety Authority](#) (EFSA) was established under [Regulation \(EC\) 178/2002](#) (since heavily amended), although it did not become active until the following year. It was initially located at a temporary headquarters in Brussels, because the December 2001 European Council meeting failed to reach agreement on a permanent site (see [Presidency Conclusions](#) items 36, 57). A permanent seat for EFSA in Parma, Italy, was subsequently agreed by the December 2003 European Council ([Presidency Conclusions](#)), and the Parma office was inaugurated in June 2005 (see Press Release [IP/05/765](#)).

The core task of EFSA is to provide independent scientific advice and support on all matters with a direct or indirect impact on food and feed safety, including animal health and welfare and plant protection. An Advisory Forum is made up of representatives from each of the Member States' national food agencies or other national authorities.

EFSA's remit falls into two areas: risk assessment and risk communication. Although the Authority's main 'customer' is the Commission, it responds to scientific questions from the European Parliament and the Member States and can also initiate risk assessments on its own behalf. One of its key tasks is communicating scientific and technical information directly to the public in a coherent and consistent manner.

- European Commission: DG Health and Consumers  
[Food safety](#)
- European Commission: Food and Veterinary Office  
[Home page](#)

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Food and feed safety](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Food Safety Authority](#)  
[12.8 Food issues](#)  
[7.9 Food and drinks industry](#)

### **European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions**

The [European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions](#) was one of the first agencies to be established. Now known by the abbreviation 'Eurofound', it was set up in 1975 by [Council Regulation \(EEC\) 1365/75](#), since amended by [Council Regulation \(EC\) 1111/2005](#).

Eurofound's task is to gather and disseminate information on living and working conditions, promote and co-ordinate research, and provide technical support to the European Commission in these areas. It promotes and manages co-operation between research teams, experts, and economic and social actors to develop a national and European consensus. Its areas of expertise are: living and working conditions; quality of work and quality of life; industrial relations; management of industrial change.

Eurofound has established three specialist research centres: the [European Monitoring Centre on Change](#) (EMCC); the [European Industrial Relations Observatory](#) (EIRO); and the [European Working Conditions Observatory](#) (EWCO).

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions](#)  
[8.9 European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions](#)  
[8.2 Working conditions / Work organisation](#)

### **European GNSS Agency**

The [European GNSS Agency](#) (GSA) supervises EGNOS (European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service) and Galileo, the European Union's two global navigation satellite systems intended to guarantee an uninterrupted service independent of US and Russian military systems. Based in Brussels, the GSA took over responsibility from the Galileo Joint Undertaking in 2007. [Regulation \(EC\) 1321/2004](#), establishing the GSA, was last amended by [Regulation \(EU\) 912/2010](#). The Agency was initially known as the European GNSS Supervisory Authority.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European GNSS Supervisory Authority responsible for European satellite radio navigation programmes](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European GNSS Supervisory Authority](#)  
[7.11.c Aeronautics and space](#)  
[16.5 Transport and space research](#)

## European Institute for Gender Equality

Located in Vilnius, the [European Institute for Gender Equality](#) (EIGE) was created by [Regulation 1922/2006](#), with the aim of supporting Member States and the EU in their efforts to promote gender equality, to fight gender discrimination and to raise awareness of gender issues. Although established in 2006, the Institute was not officially opened until December 2009.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Institute for Gender Equality](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Institute for Gender Equality](#)  
[9.4 Gender equality](#)

## European Institute of Innovation and Technology

The objective of the [European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#) (EIT) is to contribute to sustainable economic growth and competitiveness by reinforcing the innovation capacity of the Member States and the EU, through promoting and integrating higher education, research and innovation. Established under [Regulation \(EC\) 294/2008](#), the Institute is based in Budapest. A public consultation on the future strategy of the EIT was launched in April 2011 (see Press Release [IP/11/474](#)).

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\)](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Institute of Innovation and Technology](#)  
[7.2.e Innovation / Technology Transfer](#)  
[16.1 Science and technology](#)

## European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority

Based in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, the [European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority](#) (EIOPA) is responsible for supporting the stability of the financial system, ensuring transparency of markets and financial products, and for protecting insurance policyholders, pension scheme members and beneficiaries. EIOPA was created by [Regulation \(EU\) No 1094/2010](#) of 24 November 2010.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority \(EIOPA\)](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority](#)  
[7.5.a Financial services](#)

## European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy

Based in Barcelona, [Fusion for Energy](#) (the shorter name for the European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy) was set up in March 2007 by [Council Decision 2007/198/Euratom](#). With a lifespan of 35 years, its task is to work with European industry and research organisations on the development and

manufacturing of hi-tech components for the ITER fusion project' (ITER is the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor).

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy](#)  
[15.4 Nuclear energy](#)

## European Maritime Safety Agency

The [European Maritime Safety Agency](#) (EMSA) was established by [Council Regulation \(EC\) 1406/2002](#). The Agency became operational in December 2002, located temporarily in Brussels, but the December 2003 European Council decided that the Agency's permanent seat would be in Lisbon (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)).

The EMSA was created in the aftermath of the 'Erika' and 'Prestige' oil tanker disasters, with a objective of providing technical and scientific assistance to the Commission and Member States in the proper development and implementation of EU legislation on maritime safety, pollution by ships and security on board ships.

The main tasks of the Agency are: collecting information on maritime safety; evaluating and auditing maritime classification societies; organising inspection visits in the Member States to verify Port State Control conditions; facilitating the exchange of good practice between Member States and providing technical assistance to the Commission in all areas relating to maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution. In March 2004 Regulations [\(EC\) 724/2004](#) and [\(EC\) 725/2004](#) were adopted, widening the EMSA's competence to cover key elements of oil pollution response, training and security.

In October 2010, the European Commission adopted a proposal to modify EMSA's mandate to enable the Agency to deal with new developments since its launch in 2003 (see [COM\(2010\)611](#) and Press Release [IP/10/1446](#)). [Regulation \(EU\) 100/2013](#) was subsequently adopted in January 2013.

- European Commission: DG Mobility and Transport  
[Maritime transport](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Maritime Safety: European Maritime Safety Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Maritime Safety Agency](#)  
[14.4.b Sea transport](#)  
[14.4.c Ports](#)

## European Medicines Agency

The [European Medicines Agency](#) was established by Council Regulation (EEC) 2309/93 of 22 July 1993 and began operating in January 1995. It was originally called the 'European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products' but from 20 May 2004, under Article 55, Title IV of [Regulation \(EC\) 726/2004](#), it was renamed the European Medicines Agency. A new visual identity for the Agency was adopted in December 2009, at which point it was made clear that the Agency had decided not to use an abbreviated form of its name (e.g. EMEA, EMA) unless it was unavoidable - such as for its website and e-mail addresses; see [news item](#)).

Alongside the name change, a revised Regulation and two Directives introduced new responsibilities and a new administrative structure (see [Official Journal L136](#), 2004). The two new Directives amended existing Community Codes on human and veterinary medicines.

The EMEA is in charge of co-ordinating scientific resources existing in the Member States with a view to evaluating and supervising medicinal products for both human and veterinary use. It is responsible for approving all medicines based on biotechnology and all veterinary medicines likely to improve the productivity of farm animals. On the basis of the EMEA's opinion the European Commission authorises the marketing of innovative products and arbitrates between Member States for other medicinal products in case of disagreement. The Agency is financed from the budget and from fees paid by the pharmaceutical industry.

On 16 September 2013, the EMA announced details of a new organisational structure, aimed at improving support for its public and animal health mission, and its role as part of the European medicines regulatory system (see Press Release [EMA/549590/2013](#)).

- European Commission: DG Health and Consumers  
[Medicinal products for human use](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Authorisation and supervision of medicinal products - European Medicines Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Medicines Agency](#)  
[9.9.a Testing of drugs and medicines](#)  
[7.13 Pharmaceutical industry](#)

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

The [European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#) (EMCDDA) was established by Council Regulation (EEC) 302/93 (since repealed by [Regulation \(EC\) 1920/2006](#)) and became fully operational in 1995.

The EMCDDA's main tasks are: collecting and analysing existing data; improving data-comparison methods; disseminating data and information; co-operating with EU institutions, international partners and non-EU countries. The information collected, analysed and disseminated by the Centre focuses on: the demand and reduction of the demand for drugs; national and EU strategies and policies; international cooperation and the geopolitics of supply; control of the trade in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors; implications of the drugs phenomenon for producer, consumer and transit countries.

The EMCDDA co-ordinates a human and computer network of delete link national focal points set up in each of the EU Member States, Norway, the Candidate Countries and the European Commission. Together, these information collection and exchange points form the [European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction](#) (Reitox).

- European Commission: DG Justice  
[Drug control policy](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#)  
[9.9.b Social policy - Social issues: Drugs](#)

## **European Network and Information Security Agency**

The [European Network and Information Security Agency](#) (ENISA) was established under Regulation (EC) 460/2004 (since repealed by [Regulation \(EU\) 526/2013](#)). The Agency came into being in March 2004 with a budget of €3,500 million. The December 2003 European Council decided (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)) that ENISA was to be sited in Greece in a location to be decided by the Greek government; this was confirmed as Heraklion, Crete, in September 2005.

ENISA was set up in order to develop a culture of network and information security in electronic communications for the benefit of citizens, consumers, business and public sector organisations in the European Union. In order to ensure the fulfilment of its objectives, ENISA's tasks are focused on: advising and assisting the Commission and the Member States on information security and in their dialogue with industry to address security-related problems in hardware and software products; collecting and analysing data on security incidents in Europe and emerging risks; promoting risk assessment and risk management methods to enhance our capability to deal with information security threats; awareness-raising and co-operation between different actors in the information security field, notably by developing public / private partnerships with industry in this field.

On 18 June 2013, it was announced that [Regulation \(EU\) 526/2013](#) was extending ENISA's mandate and duties (see [Press Release](#)).

- European Commission: DG Information Society and Media  
[Home page](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Network and Information Security Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Network and Information Security Agency](#)  
[7.10.a Telecommunications - Information technology - Electronics](#)

## **European Police College**

The [European Police College](#) (CEPOL) brings together national training institutes whose tasks include the training of senior policy officers of the Member States and accession and candidate countries. The courses are organised in different Member States and intended to increase the knowledge of national police systems, of European co-operation instruments and mechanisms, as well as of a wide range of specific subjects, such as counter-terrorism, illegal immigration and border control or trafficking in human beings.

CEPOL was established by Council Decision 2000/820/JHA but this original decision was repealed when a change in the financing of CEPOL - to allow it to be financed from the general budget - was initiated by [Council Decision 2005/681/JHA](#). The secretariat of CEPOL is located at Bramshill Police Training College in Hampshire, United Kingdom.

- European Commission: DG Home Affairs  
[The European Police College \(CEPOL\)](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Police College](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Police College](#)  
[3.2.b Judicial, customs and police co-operation](#)

### **European Police Enforcement Agency**

The European Police Enforcement Agency, [Europol](#), started limited operations in January 1994 as the Europol Drugs Unit. In 1995, the Council adopted a [Convention on the establishment of a European Police Office](#), on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union. Following the ratification by all EU Member States of the Europol Convention, the organisation took up its full activities on 1 July 1999 (the publication [Ten Years of Europol](#) was issued in 2009). The Convention was replaced by [Council Decision 2009/371/JHA](#) which established Europol as an Agency.

Europol promotes cross-border co-ordination between national law-enforcement agencies of the Member States (mainly national police forces, immigration and customs authorities). Based in The Hague, Netherlands, its main purpose is to improve the effectiveness and co-operation of the competent authorities in the Member States in preventing and combating terrorism, unlawful drug trafficking, illicit immigration networks, forgery of money, trafficking in human beings including child pornography, illicit vehicle trafficking, money laundering and other serious forms of international organised crime.

Since international organised crime does not stop at national borders, Europol has improved its international law enforcement co-operation by negotiating bilateral operational or strategic agreements with other states and international organisations.

On 27 March 2013, the Commission adopted a proposal to merge Europol with the European Police College (CEPOL). The draft Regulation ([COM\(2013\)173](#)) seeks to create a 'European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training' - to be known as Europol (check progress via [PreLex dossier](#)).

- European Commission: DG Home Affairs  
[Police cooperation and access to information](#)
- Europa Summaries of EU legislation  
[Europol: European Police Office](#) (until 31.12.2009)  
[European Police Office – Europol](#) (from 1.1.2010)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[Europol](#)  
[3.2.b Judicial, customs and police co-operation](#)

### **European Railway Agency**

The [European Railway Agency](#) (ERA) was established by [Regulation EC No 881/2004](#) which entered into force on 1st May 2004 and has since been amended by [Regulation \(EC\) 1335/2008](#). Fully operational in 2006, the ERA has two sites, both in France: an operational headquarter in Valenciennes and facilities for meetings and conferences in Lille.

As part of its common transport policy, the Community has adopted legislation to pave the way for gradual establishment of an integrated European railway area, both legally and technically. In that context, the Agency's main task is to reinforce safety and interoperability of railways in Europe.

- European Commission: DG for Mobility and Transport  
[Interoperability and safety](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Railway Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Railway Agency](#)  
[14.2 Transport - Railways](#)

### **European Securities and Markets Authority**

The [European Securities and Markets Authority](#) (ESMA) is an independent European Supervisory Authority (ESA) established under [Regulation \(EU\) No 1095/2010](#) of 24 November 2010. Its role is to help safeguard the stability of the Union's financial system by ensuring the integrity, transparency, efficiency and orderly functioning of securities markets, as well as enhancing investor protection.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Securities and Markets Authority \(ESMA\)](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Securities and Markets Authority](#)  
[7.5.a Financial services](#)

### **European Systemic Risk Board**

Created by [Regulation \(EU\) No 1092/2010](#) of 24 November 2010, the [European Systemic Risk Board](#) (ESRB) is based in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. It is responsible for the macro-prudential oversight of the financial system within the EU and helps prevent or mitigate systemic risks to financial stability.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Systemic Risk Board](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Systemic Risk Board](#)  
[7.5.a Financial services](#)

### **European Training Foundation**

The [European Training Foundation](#) (ETF) was established in 1994 to promote co-operation and co-ordination of assistance in the field of vocational training reform in Central and Eastern Europe, the New Independent States and Mongolia. In July 1998 the Council amended the original Regulation 1360/90 to extend the geographical scope of the Foundation's work to the countries eligible for support from the MEDA (Euro-Mediterranean) programme. The geographical scope of the ETF's work was further extended to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia under Regulation 2666/2000. Following more amendments, a new act was adopted in 2008 as [Regulation \(EC\) 1339/2008](#).

The Foundation's mission 'is to help transition and developing countries 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.'



- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Training Foundation](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Training Foundation](#)  
[17.6.a Vocational training](#)

### **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**

Based in Vienna, the [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#) (FRA) was originally established as the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC). The June 1996 European Council approved in principle the establishment of the EUMC (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)), which was then set up in June 1997 under Council Regulation (EC) 1035/97 and started work in July 1998. The December 2003 European Council ([Presidency Conclusions](#)) agreed to extend the mandate of the EUMC by converting it into a Fundamental Rights Agency. That was done under [Council Regulation \(EC\) 168/2007](#) and the FRA became operational in March 2007.

- European Commission: DG Justice, Freedom and Security  
[European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Fundamental Rights Agency](#)  
[European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#)  
[European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia](#)  
[3.2.c Racism and xenophobia](#)  
[3.2.d Human rights and fundamental freedoms](#)

### **European Union Institute for Security Studies**

The [European Union Institute for Security Studies](#) (EUISS or ISS) is based in Paris and was created by [Council Joint Action 2001/554/CFSP](#), since amended by [Council Joint Action 2006/1002/CFSP](#) (see also [corrigendum](#)). It was established to replace the Western European Union Institute for Security Studies. The EUISS contributes to the development of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and in particular the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), primarily by conducting academic research and policy analysis, organising seminars and carrying out relevant information and communication activities.

- European External Action Service (EEAS)  
[European Union Institute for Security Studies](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Union Institute for Security Studies](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[European Institute for Security Studies](#)  
[7.12.d Defence industry](#)  
[18.3 External relations: Security and defence](#)

## European Union Satellite Centre

The [European Union Satellite Centre](#) (EUSC or EU SatCen) was set up in 2002 by [Joint Action 2001/555/CFSP](#), since amended by [Council Joint Action 2009/834/CFSP](#). Based in Torrejón de Ardoz, Madrid, the Centre operates under the political supervision of the Political and Security Committee and the operational direction of the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union.

Its task is to support European Union decision-making in the context of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CSFP), and in particular of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) by exploiting and producing information derived primarily from the analysis of earth observation space imagery. The Centre also carries out training activities for expert personnel in the fields of Digital Geographic Information Systems and imagery analysis.

- European External Action Service (EEAS)  
[European Union Satellite Centre](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[European Union Satellite Centre](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Union Satellite Centre](#)  
[18.3 External relations: Security and defence](#)

## IT Agency

Initially called the Agency for the Management of Large-Scale IT Systems, the Union's newest agency is now referred to as the [IT Agency](#). Established under [Regulation \(EU\) No 1077/2011](#) of 25 October 2011, the Agency started work on 1 December 2012. Its role is to provide a viable, long-term solution for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of Home Affairs, including EURODAC, the Visa Information System (VIS) and the second-generation Schengen Information System (SIS II). Its main task is to keep the relevant IT systems functioning 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The IT Agency is based in Tallinn, Estonia, with operational management of the large-scale systems carried out in Strasbourg, with a secondary site in Sankt Johann im Pongau, Austria. At the time of writing, the IT Agency did not have its own website.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[IT agency for the area of freedom, security and justice](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[Management of Large-Scale IT Systems](#)  
[3.2.a Asylum, refugees, external frontiers and immigration](#)  
[3.2.b Judicial, customs and police co-operation](#)

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

The [Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market](#) (OHIM) is based in Alicante, Spain and began operating in September 1994. Under Council Regulation (EC) 40/94 of 20 December 1993 on the Community trade mark, businesses are allowed to secure trade mark protection throughout the EU Member States by registering the trade mark with OHIM (the Regulation has since been heavily amended - see [EUR-Lex page](#)).

The adoption of [Council Regulation \(EC\) 6/2002](#) of 12 December 2001 on Community Designs introduced a single Community system for the protection of designs. OHIM

began registering Community Designs from 1 April 2003 with a system that was intended to be simple and inexpensive.

OHIM's task is to promote and manage [trade marks](#) and [designs](#) within the European Union. It carries out registration procedures for titles to Community industrial property and keeps public registers of these titles. It shares with the courts in Member States the task of pronouncing judgement on requests for invalidation of registered titles. The Madrid Protocol on the International Registration of Marks was integrated into the OHIM activities during 2004. As from 1 October 2004, the OHIM receives and deals with international applications.

- European Commission: DG Internal Market and Services  
[Industrial property](#)
- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Community trade mark](#)  
[Community design](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market](#)  
[6.4.e Intellectual property - Trade marks - Patents](#)

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

The [Translation Centre for Bodies of the European Union](#) in Luxembourg was created by [Council Regulation \(EC\) 2965/94](#) as a response to the translation needs of the large number of European agencies and offices that were being established at the time. The founding Regulation (EC) 2965/94 was amended by [Council Regulation \(EC\) 1645/2003](#).

The Council expanded the Centre's role in 1995 through [Council Regulation \(EC\) 2610/95](#), which strengthened inter-institutional co-operation in the field of translation and extended role of the Centre to include providing translation and related activities to those institutions and bodies with a translation service, but which wished to use the Centre's facilities on a voluntary basis.

- European Commission: Translation Service  
[DG for Translation](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:  
[Translation Centre for Bodies of the European Union](#)  
[2.3.e Language in the EU institutions](#)

### **Executive agencies**

- [Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency](#)
- [European Research Council](#)
- [Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation](#)
- [Executive Agency for Health and Consumers](#)
- [Research Executive Agency](#)
- [Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency](#)

### **Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency**

Created by Commission Decision 2005/56/EC (replaced in 2009 by [Commission Decision 2009/336/EC](#)), the [Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency](#) (EACEA) is responsible for managing funding opportunities and networks in the fields of education

and training, citizenship, youth, audiovisual and culture. Based in Brussels, the Agency was established for the period 1 January 2005 and ending on 31 December 2015.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency](#)

[17.1 Education and training - General](#)

[17.8 Culture](#)

[17.9 Audiovisual policy](#)

### **European Research Council**

Based in Brussels, the [European Research Council](#) (ERC) was established by [Commission Decision 2008/37/EC](#) for the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2017. The Agency's responsibilities include project management, funding and guidance within the 'Ideas' Specific Programme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The ERC Executive Agency is part of the European Research Council, set up in February 2007 to support and encourage scientists, scholars and engineers.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[The European Research Council Executive Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[European Research Council Executive Agency](#)

[16.1.a Research - EU policy - General](#)

### **Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation**

The [Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation](#) (EACI) is based in Brussels and is responsible for managing initiatives under the 2007-2013 Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme. Those initiatives are: Intelligent Energy - Europe; Marco Polo; Eco-innovation; and the Enterprise Europe Network. EACI was created by [Commission Decision 2007/372/EC](#); EACI has its origins in the 2003 Intelligent Energy Executive Agency (IEEA), set up by DG Energy and Transport to implement its Intelligent Energy and Europe programme.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation](#)

[7.2 Competitiveness](#)

[7.2.e Innovation / Technology Transfer](#)

### **Executive Agency for Health and Consumers**

Based in Luxembourg, the [Executive Agency for Health and Consumers](#) (EAHC) was created on 1 January 2005 and in 2008 had its scope extended by [Commission Decision 2008/544/EC](#) to include actions in consumer protection and food safety. Originally set up by Commission Decision 2004/858/EC as the Public Health Executive Agency, the EAHC now implements the EU's Health Programme, Consumer Programme and the Better Training for Safer Food initiative.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Executive Agency for Health and Consumers](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[Executive Agency for Health and Consumers](#)

[9.9 Health](#)

[12.1 Consumer affairs: General](#)

### **Research Executive Agency**

Created as a funding body to foster excellence in research and innovation, the Brussels-based [Research Executive Agency](#) (REA) was established by [Commission Decision 2008/46/EC](#) to manage large parts of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The REA's lifespan covers the period 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2017.

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Research Executive Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[Research Executive Agency](#)

[16.2 Research - EU policy - Framework Programme - General](#)

### **Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency**

The [Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency](#) (TEN-T EA) was created in November 2006, with a mandate ending on 31 December 2015. In cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Transport, the Agency ensures the technical and financial implementation and management of the TEN-T programme. The original act establishing the Agency was [Commission Decision 2007/60/EC](#), since amended by [Commission Decision 2008/593/EC](#).

- Europa: Summaries of EU legislation  
[Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency](#)

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

[Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency](#)

[14.1.a Trans-European Transport Networks \(TEN-T\)](#)

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