International Organisations in the Netherlands

An overview
International Organisations in the Netherlands

An overview
Preface

This is an overview of all the international organisations – that is, organisations established by two or more states – in the Netherlands. These organisations work in many different areas, ranging from peace and justice (in the case of the international courts and tribunals) to space exploration and police cooperation.

The Netherlands attaches great value to hosting these organisations. Despite their diversity, they have one thing in common: they all help make our world a better, more prosperous and safer place. This is important to the Netherlands. They also enhance our international profile. The Hague has a strong reputation as a city of peace and justice. To live up to this reputation and strengthen it, the Dutch government works closely with the municipality of The Hague to ensure that the city remains an attractive base for these organisations, their staff and their families.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs works with other ministries to ensure that these organisations can function independently and safely, and perform their activities as effectively as possible. The Hague’s status as a city of peace and justice has created a critical mass: a cluster of mutually reinforcing international courts and tribunals, knowledge institutions, NGOs, embassies, companies and public authorities. At the same time, other organisations make a major contribution to the Netherlands’ research and innovation climate, thus helping to improve the country’s competitive position. The Netherlands is home to an inspirational community of international organisations, which we hope to see grow in the future. The Netherlands wants to encourage new organisations to establish a base in our country. They, too, are most welcome.

This guide provides concise information on the background, history, structure and mandate of each of the international organisations in the Netherlands.

Frans Timmermans
Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hague, May 2014
Content

Legal organisations
The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HcCH) 7
The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) 9
International Court of Justice (ICJ) 11
Iran–United States Claims Tribunal (IUSCT) 15
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) 17
The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT) 19
Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) 21
Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL) 23
International Criminal Court (ICC) 25
European Police Office (Europol) 27
Eurojust 29

Peace and Security Organisations
Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC Brunssum) 31
NATO Airborne Early Warning & Control (NAEW&C) Programme Management Agency (NAPMA) 33
NATO Communications and Information (NCIA) 35
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) 37
The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) 39
International Development Law Organization (IDLO) 41
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) 43
European Air Transport Command (EATC) 45
Development Cooperation Organisations
African Management Services Company B. V (AMSCO) 47
The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) 49
The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) 51
Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) 53
UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education 55

European and Benelux Organisations (non legal)
European Space Agency/European Research and Technology Centre (ESA/ESTEC) 57
4EUROCONTROL 59
The Institute for Energy and Transport (JRC Petten) 61
Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BOIP) 63
European Patent Office (EPO) 65
European Commission Representation in The Netherlands 67
European Parliament Information Office in the Netherlands 69

Other organisations
Dutch Language Union (Nederlandse Taalunie) 71
International Organization for Migration (IOM) 73
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) 75
The United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology 77
Legal organisations
The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HccH)

The Hague Conference on Private International Law (Hague Conference) is the world organization for cross-border cooperation in civil and commercial matters.

Personal and family or commercial situations, which are connected with more than one country, are commonplace in the modern world. These are affected by differences between the legal systems in those countries. With a view to resolving these differences, States have adopted special rules known as “private international law” rules. The organization has now adopted 38 multilateral treaties (Conventions) in total. With 75 Members (74 States and the European Union) representing all continents, the Hague Conference is a global inter-governmental organization. An increasing number of non-Member States are also becoming Parties to the Hague Conventions. As a result, the work of the Conference encompasses 142 countries around the world.

History/structure

The Conference held its first meeting in 1893, on the initiative of T.M.C. Asser (Nobel Peace Prize 1911). It became a permanent inter-governmental organization in 1955, upon entry into force of its Statute. A Secretariat – the Permanent Bureau – located in The Hague, coordinates the activities of the Conference and supports the effective implementation and operation of the Conventions. The Permanent Bureau has also offices in Buenos Aires and Hong Kong. Since 2007 the Conference has provided greater understanding of the Hague Conventions by delivering specialized training programs and customized technical assistance.
Role/mandate

Members of the Hague Conference work for the progressive unification of the rules of private international law through the negotiation and drafting of multilateral treaties or Conventions in the different fields of private international law. Through the work of both Member and non-Member states, these instruments help to ensure that despite the differences between legal systems, persons - individuals as well as companies - can enjoy a high degree of legal security.

This involves finding internationally-agreed upon approaches for issues such as jurisdiction of the courts, applicable law, and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in a wide range of areas, from commercial law and banking law to international civil procedure and from child protection to matters of marriage and personal status.
The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) is an intergovernmental organization. It is dedicated to the resolution of disputes involving various combinations of states, state entities, intergovernmental organizations and private parties. 115 states are currently members of the PCA, and membership continues to grow. Arbitrations conducted under PCA auspices arise from bilateral or multilateral treaties, contractual agreements, and UN conventions.

History/structure

Established in 1899 and based in the Peace Palace since its completion in 1913, the PCA is the oldest institution for international dispute resolution, and the oldest of the international courts seated in The Hague. The PCA’s founding instruments are the 1899 and 1907 Conventions for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes (also called the 1899 and 1907 Hague Conventions). Under the terms of the 1899 Hague Convention, the PCA was established to facilitate the “immediate recourse to arbitration for international differences, which it has not been possible to settle by diplomacy.”

Role/mandate

The PCA functions as a permanent administrative framework for arbitration and other dispute resolution methods that promote peace and justice. This includes conciliation, mediation, and independent commissions of inquiry. Moreover, the PCA Secretary-General may act as the appointing authority for the appointment of an arbitrator, or designate an appointing authority in arbitrations conducted under the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission of International Trade Law, the various PCA Arbitration Rules and other rules of arbitral procedure.

PCA arbitrations span a wide range of subject-matters, including territorial, environmental, human rights, maritime, commercial, and investment disputes. Tribunals in PCA-administered proceedings consider and apply public
and private international law, as well as the municipal law that pertains to the parties’ dispute. The PCA’s burgeoning caseload, with 88 registry cases currently pending, is evidence of the valuable role arbitration can play in resolving disputes in the modern, inter-connected world. In recent years, PCA tribunals have issued influential decisions on maritime and territorial delimitation, international investment, and the allocation of natural resources, among other areas.
The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). Its seat is at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

History/structure

The ICJ was established in 1945. It replaced the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), which had functioned in the Peace Palace since 1922 during the League of Nations time. The ICJ Statute is an integral part of the UN Charter. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected to 9 year terms of office by the UN General Assembly and Security Council sitting independently of each other. It may not include more than one judge of any nationality. Elections are held every three years for onethird (5) of the seats. Retiring judges may be reelected. The next election will be held in 2014 (Autumn). The Members of the Court do not represent their governments but are independent magistrates. The composition of the Court has also to reflect the main forms of civilization and the principal legal systems of the world.

Role/mandate

The Court has a dual role: (1) to settle in accordance with international law the legal disputes submitted to it by States; and (2) to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized international organs and agencies.

Contentious cases between States (80% of the activity of the ICJ)

The ICJ is competent to entertain a contentious case only if the States concerned have accepted its jurisdiction. They can do so in one or more of the following ways: (1) by a joint agreement to submit the dispute to the ICJ; (2) by virtue of a special provision in a treaty whereby States may refer the dispute to the ICJ (over 300 treaties or conventions contain such a clause); (3) by unilateral declarations made by States in which they have accepted the jurisdiction of the ICJ as compulsory (70 such declarations are at present in force) and (4) a State may file an Application against another, inviting it to consent to the Court’s jurisdiction: if the second State does so, the case can be dealt with by the
Court (situation known as forum prorogatum). In cases of doubt as to whether the Court has jurisdiction, it is the Court itself which decides. **ICJ judgments are final (without appeal) and binding.** Should one of the States involved fail to comply with the Court’s judgment, the other State may turn to the UN Security Council. Since 1946, the Court has delivered more than 110 Judgments on disputes concerning inter alia land frontiers, maritime boundaries, territorial sovereignty, the non-use of force, violation of international humanitarian law, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and diplomatic relations.

**Advisory Proceedings** (20% of the activity of the ICJ)

The advisory procedure is open solely to UN organs and agencies. Unlike judgments, the ICJ’s advisory opinions are consultative in character and are therefore not binding as such. Since 1946 the Court has given almost 30 Advisory Opinions on legal questions concerning inter alia the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo (2010), the construction of a wall in the occupied Palestinian territory (2004) and the threat or use of nuclear weapons (1996).
The Iran–United States Claims Tribunal (IUSCT) was established on 19 January 1981 by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America to resolve certain claims by nationals of one State Party against the other State Party and certain claims between the State Parties.

History/structure

The IUSCT is an international arbitral tribunal established out of an agreement between Iran, Algeria and the United States under an understanding known as the Algiers Accord of January 19, 1981. The Algiers Accords were the outcome of negotiations between Iran and the United States, mediated by Algeria, to resolve a hostage crisis. In exchange for the release of the hostages by Iran, the United States agreed to unfreeze Iranian assets. The tribunal was established to resolve claims by United States nationals for compensation for assets nationalized by the Iranian government, and claims by the governments against each other; any national court proceedings were nullified by the declarations. This was necessary in part because a large part of the frozen Iranian funds had already been transferred by United States courts to United States nationals as compensation; the declarations resulted in the reversal of all these United States court decisions. The seat of the Tribunal is in The Hague.

The Tribunal is composed of nine arbitrators: three appointed by Iran, three appointed by the United States, and a further three (neither Iranian nor United States nationals) appointed by the previous six arbitrators. The Tribunal hears individual cases in the formation of three-member chambers (consisting of one Iranian, one American, and one from the three appointed by the other six); it meets as a full tribunal to consider disputes between the two governments, and cases referred from the chambers.
Role/mandate

The IUSCT, which involves the United States and Iran, was established to resolve certain claims by nationals of one State Party against the other State Party and certain claims between the State Parties.

To date, the Tribunal has finalized over 3,900 individual cases (claims by non state parties). Currently on the Tribunal’s docket are several large and complex claims between the governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America.
The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is an ad hoc United Nations court of law dealing with war crimes that took place in the Balkans in the 1990’s. The ICTY specializes in international humanitarian law, international criminal law and human rights law. The ICTY has laid the foundations for what is now accepted as the norm for conflict resolution and post-conflict development across the globe, specifically to ensure that those leaders suspected of mass crimes will face justice. As the Tribunal’s mandate is coming to an end and as it was established as an ad hoc tribunal, the UN Security Council endorsed the Tribunal’s completion strategy for an ordered closure. This is expected to take place in 2016. The Mechanism for the International Criminal Tribunals will take care of certain residual issues (see in this guide the chapter Mechanism for the International Criminal Tribunals).

**History/structure**

The ICTY was established by the UN Security Council in 1993 in the midst of the conflict in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The ICTY was the first war crimes court created by the UN and the first international war crimes court since the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals. It was mandated to prosecute persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia between 1991 and 2001.

The Tribunal is composed of 16 permanent and up to 16 so-called ad litem judges, who are appointed for a specific case only. The ICTY consists of three Organs: the Chambers; the Office of the Prosecutor; and the Registry. Judges are divided between the Chambers: three Trial Chambers and one Appeals Chamber. The Appeals Chamber also conducts appellate proceedings for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, based in Arusha, Tanzania.
The Tribunal has contributed considerably to the development of international criminal and humanitarian law. Its role and record were of invaluable assistance to the adoption of the Statute of Rome in 1998 and the establishment of the ICC.

Role/mandate

The mission of the ICTY is fourfold: to bring to trial persons charged with violations of international humanitarian law; to render justice to their victims; to deter further violations of the law; finally, to help restore peace in the region by promoting reconciliation. The core objective of the ICTY is to put an end to impunity by putting on trial persons accused of the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in accordance with the highest standards of due process and with full respect for the rights of the accused. The maximum sentence allowed at the ICTY is life imprisonment. Over the past years, the ICTY has indicted 161 persons. The proceedings of 133 accused persons have currently been concluded. The proceedings for 28 accused are ongoing. The trials of Radovan Karadzić and Ratko Mladić are among the most prominent ones.
The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT)

The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT) was established by UN Security Council Resolution 1966 on 22 December 2010 to complete the remaining work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) once those two institutions reach the end of their respective mandates.

History/structure

The ICTY and the ICTR were established by the United Nations Security Council in, respectively, May 1993 and November 1994. Over the two decades since, the two tribunals have brought to trial people accused of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. As the two institutions neared the end of their mandates, a plan for a small successor institution was put in place, one that would finish the remaining appellate work of the ICTY and ICTR, and in addition continue some of the jurisdictions, rights, obligations and essential functions of the tribunals, while also maintaining their legacies.

The MICT comprises two branches. One branch covers functions inherited from the ICTR and is located in Arusha, Tanzania. It commenced functioning on 1 July 2012. The other branch is located in The Hague, began operations on 1 July 2013, and covers functions derived from the ICTY.

During the initial period of the MICT’s work, there will be a temporal overlap with the ICTR and the ICTY as they complete outstanding work on any trial or appeal proceedings which were ongoing as of the commencement dates of the respective branches of the MICT.

UN Security Council Resolution 1966 envisages that the MICT’s “functions and size will diminish over time, with a small number of staff commensurate with its reduced functions”. The resolution provides for an initial operating period of four years, before the end of which time the Security Council will review the progress made in the work of the Mechanism. Subsequent reviews will then be held every two years.

Role/mandate

Among the key functions of the MICT are: the tracking, arrest and prosecution of the three fugitives still wanted for trial by the ICTR; the conducting of all appellate proceedings for which the notice of appeal against the judgement or sentence was filed after the start date of the relevant branch of the MICT; trials for contempt and false testimony; the protection of victims and witnesses; the enforcement of sentences, including the designation of the State where the sentence is to be served and any decisions on commutation of sentence and early release; the provision of assistance to national courts trying war crimes cases in Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia and beyond; the management of the archives of the two tribunals.

Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals
Churchillplein 1
2517 JW The Hague
070 512 57 38
www.unmict.org
The Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) is the latest in the family of international criminal courts and tribunals in The Hague. Its primary mission is to try those who are found responsible for the terrorist crime which killed former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafiq Hariri and 22 others on 14 February 2005 and resulted in the injury of many others. The Tribunal also has jurisdiction over attacks carried out between 1 October 2004 and 12 December 2005 if they are found to be connected with the attack carried out against Rafiq Hariri and are of a nature and gravity similar to that attack. The STL is financed for 51% through voluntary contributions of countries and 49% by Lebanon.

**History/structure**

The STL was established following a request by the Government of Lebanon that the United Nations set up a tribunal of an international character to try all those allegedly responsible for the attack of 14 February 2005. Consequently, the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon negotiated an agreement which, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1757 (2007) of 30 May 2007, entered into force on 10 June 2007, along with the STL’s Statute. The STL commenced operations on 1 March 2009 and is based in Leidschendam, The Netherlands. The Tribunal also has an office in Beirut, Lebanon. In February 2012, the STL’s mandate was extended for an additional three years, until 1 March 2015.

The Special Tribunal is a hybrid international court, consisting of national and international members. It consists of four organs: the Chambers, an International Prosecutor, the Registry and the Defense Office.

Interestingly, the Special Tribunal does not apply international (criminal) law, but provisions of the Lebanese Criminal Code relating to the prosecution and punishment of acts of terrorism and crimes and offences against life and personal integrity - with the exclusion, that is, of the death penalty and forced labour.
Role/mandate

The role of the STL is to try persons responsible for the attack of 14 February 2005, as well as other possible connected cases. The prosecutor submitted an indictment to the pre-trial judge which was confirmed on 28 June 2011. Proceedings before the Court are expected to start in January 2014. The proceedings will most probably take place ‘in absentia’ of the suspected persons. The Court has given permission for that case. Many witnesses are expected to be willing to come to the Court and testify. Their courage for the sake of finding the truth and contributing to the fight against terrorism is highly appreciated.
Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL)

The RSCSL is an independent tribunal established jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone to carry out the functions of the Special Court for Sierra Leone that must continue after the completion of its judicial activities. Pursuant to the Agreement on the Establishment of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone the RSCSL shall have its principal seat in Sierra Leone. The RSCSL shall carry out its functions at an interim seat in The Netherlands, with a branch in Sierra Leone for witness and victim protection and support, until such time as the parties agree otherwise. The RSCSL will commence operations on 1 January 2014.

History/Structure

The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone is the legal successor of the Sierra Leone Tribunal which closed down on 2 December 2014 after the final decision in the appeal procedure of Charles Taylor was taken.

The organization works through a roster of 16 judges who do not receive any remuneration or other benefits for being on the roster. If called upon by the President to serve the Residual Special Court judges will be remunerated on a pro-rata basis. The Secretary-General, after consultation with the Government of Sierra Leone shall appoint a Prosecutor. The Prosecutor shall carry out his or her functions remotely and shall be paid on a pro-rata basis. The RSCSL Registrar shall be appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the President of the RSCSL. The Registrar shall be responsible for the servicing of the RSCSL and for the recruitment and administration of staff. The Registrar shall also administer the financial resources of the RSCSL. The Registrar shall be based permanently at the interim seat of the RSCSL in the Netherlands.

Role/Mandate

The RSCSL shall continue the jurisdiction, functions, rights and obligations of the SCSL in accordance with the RSCSL Agreement and Statute. The RSCSL shall be responsible for functions including preservation and management of the SCSL archives; witness protection and support; supervision of the enforcement of prison sentences; and the conduct of review of convictions and/or contempt of court proceedings if required. The jurisdiction of the RSCSL is limited to persons who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone since 30 November 1996. That is, the RSCSL shall have the power to prosecute the remaining fugitive Special Court indictee if his case has not been referred to a competent national jurisdiction, and to prosecute any cases resulting from review of convictions and acquittals.
The International Criminal Court (‘ICC’ or ‘the Court’) is the world’s first and only permanent international criminal court. The primary mission of the ICC is to help end impunity for the perpetrators of serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, namely war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The ICC thus aims to contribute to the prevention of such crimes. The Court is based in The Hague.

History/structure

The ICC was established as a fully independent organization on 1 July 2002, when the Rome Statute of 1998, the international treaty founding the ICC, came into effect. Currently, 122 countries are Parties to the Rome Statute.

The Court consists of four Organs: the Presidency, the Judiciary, the Registry, and the Office of the Prosecutor which is an independent organ mandated to investigate and, where warranted, prosecute the perpetrators of crimes under the Court’s jurisdiction. The 18 Judges of the Court are elected by the Assembly of States parties and represent all regions and principal legal systems of the world. The Assembly of States Parties is the management oversight and legislative body of the International Criminal Court. It is composed of representatives of the States that have ratified and acceded to the Rome Statute. The Assembly of States Parties to the Court has also established a Trust fund of Victims of crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court.

Role/mandate

The ICC’s mandate is to investigate, prosecute and try individuals accused of committing the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and, subject to a future decision by the States Parties, the crime of aggression. The Court has jurisdiction over such crimes if they were committed after 1 July 2002 in the territories or by a national of a State Party or a State that has accepted the Court’s jurisdiction or alternatively in any state when the situation is referred to the ICC by the United Nations Security Council. Moreover, the ICC does not replace the national jurisdictions. It completes them. In other words, the ICC can investigate only when the national jurisdictions did not or
are not willing or able to conduct genuine investigations and prosecutions. Proceedings for the Court can be initiated by a resolution under chapter VII of the UN Security Council, upon a referral by a State Party, or by the Court Prosecutor on his/her own initiative with regard only to crimes committed after 1 July 2002 in the territories or by a national of a State Party or a State that has accepted the Court’s jurisdiction.

In 2013 the caseload of the ICC concerned 21 cases in 8 ‘situations’.

So far, four States Parties to the Rome Statute have referred situations occurring on their territories to the ICC: Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic and Mali.

In addition the UN Security Council has referred the situations in Darfur (Sudan) and in Libya to the ICC. The Prosecutor is conducting investigations in all these situations. Twice so far, the Prosecution was granted authorization to open an investigation proprio motu: in the situations of Kenya and Ivory Coast respectively.

In 2012, the ICC rendered its first verdict, in the case of The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo. The accused was found guilty of the war crimes of enlisting and conscripting children under the age of 15 into military forces. In 2013, the Court also issued its first acquittal for Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui. Both decisions are currently pending before the Appeals Chamber of the ICC.

The ICC has initiated preliminary examinations in a number of countries in different continents. Possibly, one or more of these will be followed by formal investigations.
European Police Office (Europol)

Europol is the European Union’s law enforcement agency whose mission is to make Europe safer by supporting EU law enforcement agencies in their fight against serious international crime and terrorism. It is based in The Hague.

History/structure

The Europol Convention, which came into force on 1 October 1998, provided the legal basis for Europol. In 2007, the Justice and Home Affairs Council agreed in principle that the Europol Convention should be replaced by a Council Decision. That would mean that Europol would be financed from the Community budget, and be subject to the EC Financial and Staff Regulations. This would align Europol with other bodies and agencies in the Justice and Home Affairs pillar of the EU. The new legal framework came into force on 1 January 2010 when Europol became an EU Agency.

Role/mandate

Europol’s role is to help achieve a safer Europe for the benefit of all EU citizens by supporting law enforcement authorities through the exchange and analysis of criminal intelligence between the 28 Member States. Europol actions focus on the following aspects of organized crime: drugs trafficking, fraud, money laundering, trafficking in human persons, and terrorism. One example of the investigations of Europol is the investigation it did involving police teams in 13 European countries into widespread football match-fixing.
Eurojust

Eurojust’s work is based on coordination and cooperation between national investigation and prosecution authorities of the EU Member States (28). In addition, Eurojust is housing 2 liaison officers (from the USA and from Norway). In coordination meetings, competent judicial authorities address the differences in the existing legal systems in the EU. They resolve legal issues and practical problems with regard to issues such as gathering and admissibility of evidence, confiscation and asset recovery. Through coordination centers, Eurojust offers logistical support, enabling judicial and police authorities of the different states to follow up on seizures, arrests and searches.

As crime does not stop at the borders of the European Union, Eurojust has cooperation agreements with third States, such as Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the USA, Iceland and Norway.

History/structure

Eurojust is a European Union body established in 2002 in The Hague to help EU Member States deal with serious cross-border crime. In 2009, the Lisbon Treaty (TFEU) made it possible for Eurojust to initiate criminal investigations and to resolve conflicts of jurisdiction.

Eurojust is composed of a College of 28 National Members, one seconded from each Member State, who derive their powers from their domestic legal systems. The College is supported by the Administration, headed by the Administrative Director who is responsible for day-to-day management, budget and staff.

As a key interlocutor with the European Parliament, Council and Commission, Eurojust fulfils a unique role.
Role/mandate

Eurojust’s competence covers the same types of crime and offences for which Europol has competence. Eurojust facilitates the EU’s fight against terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, fraud, corruption, cybercrime, money laundering, and other organized crime activities. Through EU-funded joint investigation teams (JITS), Eurojust aims to stimulate and improve mutual legal assistance between EU Member-States. Eurojust ensures swift information exchange between competent authorities and assists them in providing the best possible co-ordination and co-operation. Eurojust also co-operates with the European Judicial Network, Europol, and OLAF.

Eurojust has chosen The City of Peace and Justice for its Permanent Premises.

Latest Developments

• The latest chapter in the development of Eurojust is contained in the Lisbon Treaty, namely in Chapter 4, Articles 85 and 86. Article 85 mentions Eurojust and defines its mission, “to support and strengthen coordination and cooperation between national investigating and prosecuting authorities in relation to serious crime affecting two or more Member States [...]”. Article 86 states that, “in order to combat crimes affecting the financial interests of the Union, the Council, by means of regulations adopted in accordance with a special legislative procedure, may establish a European Public Prosecutor’s Office from Eurojust”.

• In cooperation with the Host State, new premises will be realised for Eurojust in the World Forum Area and in close proximity to Europol. It is expected that Eurojust will start leaving its current temporary location towards the end of 2016 for a custom made building with sufficient possibilities for future growth.
Peace and Security Organisations
Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC Brunssum)

Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum is a NATO military Headquarters. JFC Brunssum enables NATO forces to accomplish their mission. It includes leading and facilitating everything from humanitarian relief to security assistance and military cooperation.

History/structure

As a result of the French decision in 1966, to cease integration of their armed forces in the military structure of NATO, the Alliance had to relocate its headquarters from France. The new location for Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) was established in the former Hendrik coal mines in Brunssum, Emma mine in Hoensbroek and the Tapijn barracks at Maastricht. The official inauguration of AFCENT took place on 01 June 1967. With the fall of the Berlin Wall the political and security situation in Europe changed fundamentally. The security focus changed from confrontation to cooperation. Regional Headquarters Allied Forces North Europe (RHQ AFNORTH) was formed in Brunssum 3 March 2000. As a consequence of the events in 2001, regional focus subsequently gave way to a broader worldwide focus for NATO. Subsequently, the structure of the former Regional Headquarters’ AFNORTH and AFCENT evolved into Headquarters Joint Force Command Brunssum, which was inaugurated 14 July 2004.

Role/mandate

Allied Joint Force Command (JFC) Brunssum, in The Netherlands, is one of two NATO Joint Force Headquarters (the other being JFC Naples) in Allied Command Operations; each is able to deploy in command of a Major Joint Operation supported by Headquarters Land Command (HQ LANDCOM), Headquarters Maritime Command (HQ MARCOM) and Headquarters Air Command (HQ AIRCOM). JFC Brunssum serves as the out-of-Theatre Operational headquarters for the ISAF mission, in Afghanistan, as our primary mission. Other tasks include Contingency Planning, Baltic Air Policing, Military Partnership, and NATO Response Force (NRF) leadership.
The NATO Airborne Early Warning & Control Programme (NAEW&C) is one of the Alliance’s collaborative ventures. Comprising seventeen NATO E-3A Aircraft (NE-3A) it is “NATO’s Air Force”, which participated in several NATO and NATO supported operations (Kosovo, Libya, Afghanistan, Counter-piracy). The programme has 17 members, the NAPMO Nations, including The Netherlands. NAPMA is located in Brunssum, NL.

History/structure

The Initial Programme started in 1978, included the acquisition of the then 18 aircraft (one was lost in a non-fatal crash), upgrade to ground radar sites, creating Force Command HQ, and activating the air bases. In 1990, an upgrade to the aircraft was implemented to enhance communication, surveillance and computer capabilities. Subsequently the NATO Mid-Term Modernisation (NMT) programme was initiated in 1997 to improve Air Battle Management capabilities. NMT has been completed and an on-board self-defence system called Large Aircraft Infra Red Counter Measures (LAIRCM) achieved Full Operational Capability in June 2012.
Role/mandate

The NAEW&C Programme Management Agency (NAPMA) is accountable for planning and coordinating acquisition strategy, managing projects associated with modernization of the seventeen E-3A fleet aircrafts, providing sustainment support services, and overseeing the technical aspects of the NAEW&C airworthiness programme.
NATO Communications and Information (NCIA)

The NATO Communications and Information (NCI) Agency connects forces, NATO and Nations, where and when required by providing interoperable Communications and Information Systems and services. The NCI Agency is a key pillar of NATO Secretary General’s Smart Defense and Connected Forces initiatives. NCIA is i.a. located in the Hague.

History/structure

NATO’s links with The Hague hark back to the early days of the North Atlantic Treaty (1949) and the subsequent launching in 1951 of SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe), which had a branch and Technical Centre in The Hague as of 1955. After other reforms, the new Agency was established on 1 July 2012 as a result of a broader NATO reform. The new Agency is part of the NATO Communications and Information Organisation. It “connects forces, NATO and Nations”, where and when required by providing interoperable Communications and Information Systems and services. NCIA Headquarters is located in Brussels (Belgium). The Agency has major locations in The Hague and Mons (Belgium) and smaller plants in some 30 other locations throughout Europe and in Afghanistan.

Role/mandate

The NCI Agency is the provider of NATO-wide IT services and state-of-the-art C4ISR capabilities including cyber and missile defense. In strengthening the Alliance, the Agency applies industry best practices and provides a full life-cycle approach: from analysis and concept development, through experimentation and capability development, to operations and maintenance for both missions and exercises.
OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM)

The High Commissioner on National Minority’s task is to provide “early warning” and, as appropriate, “early action” at the earliest possible stage “in regard to tensions involving national minority issues which have not yet developed beyond an early warning stage, but, in the judgment of the High Commissioner, have the potential to develop into a conflict within the OSCE area. The office of the High Commissioner is located in the Hague.

History/structure

Ethnic conflict is one of the main sources of large-scale violence in the OSCE area today. To respond to this challenge, the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE; now the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – OSCE) decided to establish the post of High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) in 1992 to be an instrument of conflict prevention at the earliest possible stage in regard to tensions involving national minority issues. Netherlands Minister of State Max van der Stoel was appointed as the first High Commissioner in December 1992. Mr. van der Stoel was asked to continue in office until 2001. He was succeeded by Ambassador Rolf Ekéus of Sweden until July 2013 by Ambassador Knut Vollebaek. The new OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), Ms Astrid Thors, started her mandate on 20 August 2013. Thors has been a Member of the Parliament of Finland since 2004. She also served as Minister of Migration and European Affairs of Finland and was a Member of the European Parliament.

Role/mandate

The High Commissioner on National Minority’s task is to provide “early warning” and, as appropriate, “early action” at the earliest possible stage “in regard to tensions involving national minority issues which have not yet developed beyond an early warning stage, but, in the judgment of the High Commissioner, have the potential to develop into a conflict within the OSCE area.
The High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM) thus has a twofold mission: first, to try to contain and de-escalate tensions and, second, to act as a “tripwire”, meaning that he or she is responsible for alerting the OSCE whenever such tensions threaten to develop to a level at which the High Commissioner cannot contain them with the means at his/her disposal.

Even though the HCNM’s mandate places his/her work first and foremost in the category of short-term conflict prevention, the High Commissioner cannot, if he/she wishes to be effective, overlook the important long-term aspects of the situations.
The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization with a mission to support sustainable democracy worldwide. The objectives of the Institute are to support stronger democratic institutions and processes, and more sustainable, effective and legitimate democracy.

History/structure

International IDEA was established 27 February 1995 in Stockholm as an intergovernmental organization by 14 founding Member States. The Institute was mandated with the responsibility of sustaining and promoting democracy worldwide. Currently, International IDEA has 28 Member States.

Since August 2012 IDEA has a branch office in The Hague as well in the Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, West Asia and North Africa regions.

Role/mandate

International IDEA produces comparative knowledge in its key areas of expertise: electoral processes, constitution building, political participation and representation, and democracy and development, as well as on democracy as it relates to gender, diversity, and conflict and security.
International IDEA facilitates dialogue in support of democratic change, and i.a. convenes conferences, seminars and capacity-building workshops. It shares its expertise and experience with those working for democratic reform in the abovementioned fields.
International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

IDLO enables governments and empowers people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity. IDLO is striving to a world where every person lives in dignity and under the rule of law. IDLO’s mission is to enable governments and empower people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity.

History/structure

Since its establishment in 1983, IDLO has worked with over 20,000 legal professionals in 175 countries. Its growing worldwide network – consisting of 47 independent alumni associations and a roster of some 2,500 experts – gives the organization a unique possibility to draw on expertise from around the world.

IDLO was granted Observer Status by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001. It is supported financially by voluntary contributions from governments, multilateral organisations, private foundations and the private sector.

IDLO has its headquarters in Rome, liaison offices for the United Nations in New York and Geneva, and country offices in Afghanistan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, South Sudan, Somalia (based in Nairobi) and Tajikistan. In 2013 the Seat Agreement between IDLO and the Kingdom of the Netherlands was signed and in the same year IDLO opened an office in The Hague, NL.

Role/mandate

IDLO provides technical legal assistance and capacity development at the national and local level, often in the poorest and most insecure parts of the world. IDLO works in partnership with local actors and with different legal systems in an enabling and empowering – rather than prescriptive or directive – way. IDLO has extensive experience in countries emerging from conflict or striving towards democracy. Increasingly it is also working in emerging economies and middle-income countries to strengthen their legal capacity for sustainable development and economic opportunity. Creating a culture of justice entails responsive legal institutions, empowered citizens, and a legal system that enables fair outcomes.
Organisation for the Prohibiton of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The Organisation for the Prohibiton of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC or Convention). The OPCW now has 190 Member States. Together, they represent about 98% of the global population and landmass, as well as 98% of the worldwide chemical industry.

History/structure

The 1899 Hague Peace Conference adopted the first international document on chemical arms control banning the diffusion of certain gases. It did not prevent the use of poison gas in WW I. Neither did a 1925 Geneva Protocol banning the use of bacteriological and chemical weaponry stop governments from producing and stockpiling these weapons. Iraq’s use of chemical weapons in the 1980s triggered a renewed debate that finally resulted in the 1993 “Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction”. In April 1997 the Convention entered into force and the OPCW opened its doors in The Hague.

The organization’s principle organs are the Conference of States Parties, which meets annually and the Executive Council which provides political guidance and monitors operations. The Council has 41 Member States, elected for a two year term. This Council serves as spinning wheel or the Technical Secretariat, which supervises the implementation of the CWC with the help of international inspectors in the field.

Role/mandate

The primary aims of OPCW are fourfold: to monitor the non-proliferation of chemical weapons; to verify the destruction of all existing chemical weapon arsenals; to provide assistance and protection to member States; and to promote international cooperation in peaceful chemistry. The most important obligation under the Convention is the
destruction of chemical weapons. Up to now, 85% of all declared chemical weapons in the world have been destroyed in a secure and environmentally way.

In autumn 2013, under international pressure, Syria acceded to the Convention and declared its stockpiles of chemical weapons to the OPCW. In cooperation with the United Nations, a Joint UN-OPCW mission has been set up to monitor and supervise the destruction of production facilities and of stockpiles. Production facilities in Syria have been dismantled. The destruction of the stockpiles— which will be transported in order to be safely destructed at sea— is foreseen to take place in 2014.

With Syria, the number of Member States has risen to 190. Six States remain outside the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The OPCW has established a credible, transparent regime of verification, and effectively contributes to international security and stability. It is, by any standards, a daring and encouraging product of global cooperation to make this world ultimately a safer place for all.

The OPCW was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize.
European Air Transport Command (EATC)

The EATC is a multinational command for military air transport purposes. Every day it conducts more than 60 missions in average: tactical and strategic air transport, air-to-air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, VIP-flights and much more is organized and conducted with the aircraft operating from their national home bases in Germany, France, the Netherlands and Belgium. Some 150 aircraft are therefore available to organize world-wide military air transport. EATC is located at the airport of Eindhoven, NL.

History/structure

On 1 September 2010 a new chapter in the book of European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) was opened, as the EATC was inaugurated in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. The Participating Nations (PN) as of the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Germany have put major parts of their military air transport- and air to air refueling fleets under the operational control (OPCON) of the EATC. Additionally on November 22nd 2012 Luxembourg officially joined the EATC. In summer 2014 the Spanish Air Force is about to join.

Role/mandate

The main role of the EATC is to first effectively and in addition efficiently conducting assets of military transport aircraft with their Operational Division. The second, functional division harmonizes air transport topics like employment, training and technical issues of air transport and therewith creates concept/studies for any used aircraft such as the Airbus A400M in order to assure its smooth introduction within the Air Forces of the participating nations.
In 2013, upon request of France, logistic support by Dutch airplanes through the European Air Transport Command (EATC) has been made available for the peace operations in Mali.
Development Cooperation Organisations
The ATMS Project is sub-Saharan Africa’s biggest and most ambitious human capital development effort in the private sector. It was created to play a key role in Africa’s economic development and currently operates in twenty two countries. The Project provides human capital solutions that lead to skills development and wealth creation through the private sector and commercially operated state enterprises.

History/structure

The African Training and Management Services (“ATMS”) Project was proposed by UNDP and the International Finance Corporation (“IFC”), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, to provide management services that enable the private sector to play its rightful role in the economies of African countries. The ATMS Project was set up in 1989 to serve as a promoter of capacity development in Africa’s private sector, particularly in SMEs, with the IFC acting as the Executing Agency and the African Development Bank (“AfDB”) as the Regional Cooperating Agency with UNDP providing key logistical support. IFC established the African Management Services Company B.V. (“AMSCO”) and delegated its authority as the Executing Agency to AMSCO which provides management support to companies by seconding expatriate managers to key senior positions within these companies, and building the capacity of the companies through training activities. IFC also established the African Training and Management Services Stichting (the “ATMS Foundation”) which requests contributions from donors and provides financial support to qualifying clients of the Project.
Role/mandate

AMSCO’s mandate is to provide management and capacity building assistance to African enterprises to enable them become profitable, competitive and sustainable. AMSCO achieves this mandate through four human capital development services:

i  highly-skilled manager placement to enterprises;
ii  capacity development & training;
iii  recruitment services and;
iv  technical assistance programs.
The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) is an international organisation created to support the advancement of smallholder agriculture and food security in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. CTA’s main office is located in Wageningen.

History/structure

CTA was established through an agreement between member states of the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states. CTA was officially inaugurated in 1984. It is funded by the EU and operates under the Cotonou Agreement.

Role/mandate

CTA’s mission is to advance food and nutritional security, increase prosperity and sustainable natural resource management in ACP countries. It provides access to information and knowledge, facilitates policy dialogue and strengthens the capacity of agricultural and rural development institutions and communities. Central to achieving CTA’s mission is the Centre’s strong partnership with national and regional bodies and civil society organisations in the ACP. It also works with a wide network of ACP-EU public and private sector bodies as well as international organisations around the world.
The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)

The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) is an intergovernmental financial institution established to strengthen and stabilize the commodity markets and to create a supportive external environment for economic development and upliftment of commodity producers. The Agreement Establishing the Common Fund for Commodities was negotiated under the aegis of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and came into force in 1989. Currently, the CFC has a membership of 105 member countries and 10 institutional members and is located in Amsterdam.

The founding principles of the CFC underscore equitable distribution of economic benefits from commodity production and trade in the long-term interest of both developed and developing countries, making the CFC an instrument of technical and economic co-operation, especially in the context of North-South and increasing South-South co-operation.

History/structure

With coming into effect of the Agreement Establishing the Common Fund, a modest beginning was made with an establishment of a small secretariat at Amsterdam, The Netherlands and, in 1991, the first project was approved. By December 2012, the fund had approved 198 regular projects plus a further 149 Fast Track projects; altogether 347 projects with a total cost of over USD 600 million of which approximately USD 310 million is contributed by the Common Fund (USD 276 million in grants and USD 34 million in loans). By 2014, The Fund’s flexibility of approach, its relationship with a multitude of partners, credibility and commitment has materialized into an increasingly large pending demand for future support.
Role/mandate

Contribute to social and economic development and promote development or global commodity sector including through sustainable value addition to commodities and related value chains in a transparent manner.

Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)

Postbus 74656
1070 BR Amsterdam
020 575 49 49
www.common-fund.org
Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)

The Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) of the University of Twente provides international postgraduate education, research and project services in the field of geo-information science and earth observation using remote sensing and GIS. The aim of ITC’s activities is the international exchange of knowledge, focusing on capacity building and institutional development in developing countries and emerging economies.

History/structure

The International Training Centre was established in 1950 by Willem Schermerhorn, a civil engineer and the first post-war prime minister of the Netherlands. The UN was not entirely satisfied with the aerial mapping of third-world countries and colonies so it asked whether a training institute could be set up in Enschede, the Netherlands.

Role/mandate

The key words are geo-information management, worldwide and innovative. ITC concentrates on earth observation, the generation of spatial information, and the development of data integration methods. Furthermore, ITC provides tools that can support the processes of planning and decision making for sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty in developing countries and emerging economies.

ITC-Faculty of Geo-Information Science & Earth Observation
Postbus 217
7500 AE Enschede
053 487 42 25
www.itc.nl
The mission of UNESCO-IHE is to contribute to the education and training of professionals, the knowledge base through research and to build the capacity of sector organisations, knowledge centers and other institutions active in the fields of water, the environment and infrastructure in developing countries and countries in transition.

**History/structure**

The UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, that is located in Delft, continues the work that was started in 1957 when a postgraduate diploma course in hydraulic engineering was first offered to practicing professionals from developing countries. Today, UNESCO-IHE has developed into the largest postgraduate water education facilities in the world and the only institution in the UN system authorized to confer accredited MSc degrees.

A Governing Board of 13 members appointed by the Director General of UNESCO governs UNESCO-IHE. The Rectorate, comprising the Rector and the Deputy Director, manages the Institute. The Office of the Rector (OR) provides policy and administrative support. It is responsible for public relations, communications and marketing, including events coordination.

The Institute has at its disposal a pool of more than 350 national and international guest lecturers from government agencies, partner universities and research institutes, private consultancy firms and other organisations. The Institute works closely with national Dutch knowledge centers.
Role/mandate

UNESCO-IHE envisions a world in which people manage their water and environmental resources in a sustainable manner, and in which all sectors of society can enjoy the benefits of basic services. IHE international education institute is offering a host of postgraduate courses and tailor-made training programs in the fields of water, the environment and infrastructure. The Institute confers fully accredited MSc degrees, and PhD degrees in collaboration with partners in the Netherlands.
European and Benelux Organisations (non legal)
European Space Agency/European Research and Technology Centre (ESA/ESTEC)

ESTEC in Noordwijk serves as the largest technical centre for satellite and human spaceflight projects of ESA, the European Space Agency. ESA is Europe’s gateway to space. Its mission is to shape the development of Europe’s space capability and ensure that investments in space continue to deliver benefits to the citizens of Europe and the world. ESA is an international organization with 20 Member states. By coordinating the financial and intellectual resources of its members, it can undertake programmes and activities far beyond the scope of any single European country. ESA has sites in several European countries, but the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) in Noordwijk is the largest. ESTEC is ESA’s technical heart, the incubator of the European space effort. Most ESA projects are born here, and this is where they are guided through the various phases of development. Around 2700 specialists work here on dozens of space projects.

History/structure

After World War II many European scientists left Western Europe in order to work in the United States. Although the 1950s boom made it possible for Western European countries to invest in research and specifically in space-related activities, Western European scientists realised solely national projects would not be able to compete with the two superpowers. The Western European nations decided to have two different agencies: ELDO (European Launch Development Organization) was concerned with developing a satellite launch system, while ESRO (European Space Research Organization, established on 20 March 1964) built scientific satellites – precursors of the European Space Agency. ESA in its current form was founded with the ESA Convention in 1975, when ESRO was merged with ELDO. ESA has 10 founding member states: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden,
Switzerland and the United Kingdom. ESA launched its first major scientific mission in 1975. ESA now has 20 Member States. ESTEC’s expert staff are recruited from all Member States and provide the technical competences and facilities needed to initiate and manage the development of space systems and corresponding technologies. ESTEC also operates an environmental test centre for spacecraft. It supports European space industry and works closely with other organisations, such as universities, research institutes and space agencies all over the world, as well as with national agencies from ESA Member States. Other branch offices of ESA are: the European Space Operations Centre (ESOC) in Darmstadt, Germany; the centre for Earth observation (ESRIN) in Frascati, Italy; the European Space Astronomy Centre (ESAC) in Villanueva de la Cañada, near Madrid, Spain; and the European Astronaut Centre (EAC) in Cologne, Germany. ESA’s launchers lift off from Europe’s Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. ESA is a prime example of what can be achieved by working together. By pooling resources, ESA has been able to develop fascinating projects that would not be possible for individual countries. The results of this cooperation are world-class industry, outstanding scientific discoveries and a stronger, richer European identity.

Role/mandate

ESTEC develops and manages all types of ESA missions: science, exploration, telecommunications, human spaceflight, satellite navigation, science and robotic exploration, and Earth observation. ESA is also working with the European Union on implementing the Galileo satellite navigation and Copernicus Earth observation programmes. ESTEC intensively supported the mission in 2012 of the Dutch astronaut Andre Kuipers on the International Space Station.
The Maastricht Upper Area Control Centre (MUAC), operated by EUROCONTROL on behalf of four European States, provides air traffic control for the upper airspace (above 24,500 feet, or 7,500 metres) of Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and north-west Germany. The lower airspace is managed by the national air traffic control agencies Belgocontrol, Luchtverkeersleiding Nederland (LVNL) and Deutsche Flugsicherung (DFS) respectively. Located either above or close to the four major international hub terminal areas of Paris, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and London as well as other key terminal areas such as Brussels, Düsseldorf, Berlin or Copenhagen, the MUAC airspace is one of the busiest and most challenging in Europe, with a complex structure and a significant portion of climbing and descending flights – up to 80% in some busy sectors.

**History/structure**

To ensure greater efficiency, the airspace is organized on a European rather than a national basis, driven not by geopolitical boundaries but by the operational requirements of traffic flows. Today, such large-scale international airspace is still unique in Europe. It represents a perfect example of European cooperation in the spirit of the Single European Sky - Europe’s air traffic management integration programme, launched in 2004.

**Role/mandate**

In order to facilitate the closest possible cooperation between civil and military air traffic, a Deutsche Flugsicherung (DFS) unit, controlling military operations over north-west Germany, is located on MUAC’s premises. Real-time radar and flight plan data is exchanged with the military aviation partner in Belgium and the Netherlands. To further improve safety MUAC controller working positions have been deployed at the Nieuw Milligen military
facility (NL) as a virtual extension of the MUAC ATC system. More than 1.5 million flights pass through MUAC’s airspace each year, making it the second busiest air traffic control facility in Europe in terms of traffic volume. During the summer, there can be more than 5,200 flights per day. Over the past ten years, air traffic has increased by 23%.
The Institute for Energy and Transport (JRC Petten)

The Institute for Energy and Transport (IET) is one of the seven Institutes of the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC). The IET is based both in Petten (the Netherlands) and Ispra (Italy) and has a multidisciplinary team of more than 300 academic, technical and support staff. CHECK

History/structure

In 1961 the legal basis to locate a European centre in Petten was signed between the Dutch government and the European Commission within the context of the EURATOM treaty. The JRC Petten site was established on 31st October 1962.

In the 60s the Institute was simply known as Euratom, in the 70s the name changed to Joint Research Centre, Petten site, and in the 80s the centre received a name relevant to its specific expertise namely the Institute for Advanced Materials. Much of the materials work at the Institute was related to energy applications and since the 1st September 2001 the Institute refocused its research to purely energy related work and consequently it became known as the Institute for Energy (IE). On the 1st January 2011 the Institute for Energy was expanded to include the Ispra based Sustainable Transport Unit and on the 1st September of the same year, the name became Institute for Energy and Transport to better represent the Institute’s new portfolio.
Role/mandate

The mission of the JRC-IET is to provide support to European Union policies and technology innovation to ensure sustainable, safe, secure and efficient energy production, distribution and use and to foster sustainable and efficient transport in Europe.
Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BOIP)

The Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BOIP) is the official body in the Benelux region responsible for the registration of trademarks and industrial designs. The BOIP is part of the Benelux Organization for Intellectual Property, an international organization that has been established by the Benelux Convention on Intellectual Property and is monitored by its Executive Board. This Board is manned by representatives from all three Benelux countries.

History/structure

The Benelux Convention on Trademarks came into effect on 1 July 1969. The Benelux Office was established in 1971 and is located in The Hague. The BOIP was founded in 2006 as an offspring of the Benelux Treaty for Intellectual Property concluded in The Hague in 2005. Today, the BOIP is part of an international organization, having international legal personality and having the status of a diplomatic mission.

Role/mandate

The Organization has been assigned the following tasks and duties:

a. to execute the Convention and the implementing regulations;

b. to promote the protection of trademarks and designs in the Benelux countries;

c. to carry out additional tasks in other fields of intellectual property law, as directed by the Executive Board;

d. continual evaluation and, if necessary, amendment of the Benelux legislation on trademarks and designs, in the light of international, Community and other developments.
The BOIP carries out all work connected with the implementation of the legislation for trademarks and designs. In addition, the BOIP also offers the possibility to formally record the existence of ideas, concepts, designs prototypes and the like on a certain date in an i-DEPOT. One hundred multilingual employees are based at the office in The Hague and work closely with the national offices in Belgium and Luxembourg.
European Patent Office (EPO)

Supporting innovation, competitiveness and economic growth across Europe.

The EPO provides a central one-stop service to both individual inventors and companies from around the world. It enables them to obtain patent protection through a uniform procedure requiring just one application in one of the EPO’s three official languages (English, French or German). The EPO examines patent applications for inventions in all fields of technology and grants patents for innovative solutions to technical problems. European patents support innovation by protecting the fruits of a company’s R&D, as well as providing a legal basis for licensing and attracting investment.

An equally important part of the EPO’s mission is to facilitate the diffusion of knowledge and technology by publishing patents. The EPO’s public patent database, Espacenet (www.epo.org/espacenet), contains more than 80 million patent documents with information on inventions and technological developments from all over the world. And thanks to the EPO’s free machine translation tool, Patent Translate, these documents can now be automatically translated from and into multiple languages, including Chinese and Japanese.

History/structure

On 5 October 1973, sixteen countries seeking to improve co-operation on patent protection for inventions in Europe signed the European Patent Convention. The Convention led to the creation of the European Patent Organization, with its executive body, the European Patent Office (EPO). Forty years on, this has grown into the largest and most successful regional patent system in the world, currently covering 38 member states and a territory of some 600 million people.

Today the EPO is one of the largest European organisations, employing 7,000 staff of more than 30 different nationalities, the majority of whom are highly qualified scientists and engineers working as patent examiners. Its headquarters are in Munich, and the EPO also has offices in The Hague, Berlin, Brussels and Vienna. With nearly 3,000 staff working in Rijswijk, the EPO is the largest international...
organization located in the Netherlands. Although it is not an institution of the European Union, the Office works closely with the EU bodies.

Role/mandate

The mandate of the organization is described above. The high quality of the services provided by the EPO attracts users from around the globe. Today the Office receives over 250,000 patent filings and grants more than 60,000 patents a year. This success is one reason why the EU designated the EPO to grant and also administer the future unitary patent – a single European patent covering the territory of all participating EU member states – which should render Europe even more attractive for inventors and investors from all over the world.
European Commission Representation in The Netherlands

The Representation of the European Commission in The Netherlands is part of the Commission’s network of representative offices throughout the Member States of the European Union. It acts as the Commission’s voice in The Netherlands and monitors public opinion. The representation falls under the civil service of the European Union and specifically represents the Commission both diplomatically and politically in The Hague.

History/structure

The Representation has been in the Netherlands since approximately 1969 and is located in The Hague. The official cooperation with the European Parliament Information Office gave rise to the Europe House. Europe House was established and opened in 2011 by Her Majesty then Queen Beatrix. Both the EU Representation and the EP Information Office are located here and a joint information point is open to all visitors.

Role/mandate

The Representation has a threefold role. Firstly, the Representation has a political dimension. It reports back to Brussels on developments in Dutch politics, in the media and regarding the public sentiment more generally. In the same role it also provides information on the developments in Brussels and organises visits of Commissioners and civil servants to provide information and engage in debate. Secondly, there is a press department providing press releases from Brussels for journalists, organising further contacts with the press for Commissioners when in The Netherlands, and drawing the attention of the media to events organised by the Representation or at Europe House by third parties. Lastly, the European Commission is committed to informing and engaging in dialogue with citizens and civil society. This important role is covered by the communications department and involves frequent contacts with schools, universities, NGOs, businesses and other organisations in the Netherlands. This department also manages the 14
Europe Direct Information Centres, which the Commission established throughout the Netherlands, and which are located and run by local host organisations, such as libraries or municipal communities.

European Commission Representation in the Netherlands
Korte Vijverberg 5
2513 AB The Hague
070 313 53 00
www.ec.europa.eu/netherlands
European Parliament Information Office in the Netherlands

Based in the 28 Member States of the European Union, the Information Offices of the European Parliament are the first point of contact for citizens with European Parliament. They have an important role in raising awareness of the decisions taken by the European Parliament in the media, among the general public and amongst opinion formers both at national and regional level.

History/structure

The European Union was founded in 1951 as the European Coal and Steel Community. Until 1979 its Parliamentary Assembly was composed of national parliamentarians. From 1979 onward directly elected Parliamentarians formed the European Parliament. Initially European Parliament was mainly an advisory body but over time its powers grew and since the Lisbon Treaty came into force in 2009 it is a full co-legislatory body. To date 26 out of the 751 Members of the European Parliament are elected in the Netherlands (continental and Caribbean part) and Aruba, Curacao and St Maarten.

Role/mandate

Next to the role in raising awareness the Information Office in the Netherlands is liaising on an institutional level with the Dutch national parliament (Eerste en Tweede Kamer). Since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, national parliaments have a more formal role in the European decision making process.
Other organisations
Dutch Language Union (Nederlandse Taalunie)

The Nederlandse Taalunie – the Dutch Language Union – is an international organisation in which the Netherlands, Flanders and Suriname have joined forces to support and promote the Dutch language in every possible way. It is the goal of the Taalunie to help users of Dutch around the world so that they can use their language in an effective and creative way and so that the language continues to be as dynamic and vigorous as it is today. The Taalunie also stimulates the use of Dutch within several sectors in society. Our motto ‘Language creates opportunities’ is our guideline in everything we do and stand for.

History & structure

The Taalunie was founded in 1980 by the Netherlands and the region of Flanders (Belgium) who both uses Dutch as their official language. But Dutch is spoken in other parts of the world as well. The Republic of Suriname became an associated member in 2004. Framework agreements with the islands of Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten, where Dutch is an official language, have been set up since 2007.

The policy of the Nederlandse Taalunie is set out by the Committee of Ministers, comprising the Dutch and Flemish ministers of education and culture and a representative from Suriname. Members of parliament monitor it and a council of specialists gives advice. Policies are prepared and implemented by the general secretariat in The Hague.

Role

As language is constantly moving and shifting, the Taalunie believes that the Dutch language belongs to its users. The Taalunie helps those users by describing the standard of the language in grammar rules and dictionaries. Language advisors help language users who want to apply the standard. Only in the case of spelling does the Nederlandse Taalunie set up the rules.

The main goal of the Nederlandse Taalunie is to create the necessary conditions for using Dutch as effectively as possible. Learners of Dutch worldwide and Dutch studies abroad are actively supported. Furthermore, the Taalunie advises governments with regard to language policy – also within the European context - and it collects Dutch-related knowledge and resources for science and innovation.

Finally, the Taalunie promotes language-related creative industries abroad and encourages cultural cooperation within the language area.
International Organization for Migration (IOM)

As an inter-governmental organization, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

History/structure

IOM was established in 1951, born out of the chaos and displacement present in Western Europe following the Second World War. Today, IOM is the global lead agency on migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. It has 149 member states, a further 12 states holding observer status, and offices in over 100 countries.

The organization’s organs are the Council, the Executive Committee and the Administration. The Council of Member States is the highest authority and determines IOM policies. The Executive Committee examines and reviews policies, operations and administration. The Standing Committee on Programmes and Finance (SCP) meets twice a year to examine and review policies, programmes and activities and to discuss budgetary and financial matters. IOM’s headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. The organization has more than 100 offices, among which one in The Hague, NL.

Role/mandate

IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants. IOM works in four broad areas of migration management: migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and forced migration.

IOM activities that cut across these areas include the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants’ rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration.
The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), also known as the UN Refugee Agency, is a United Nations agency mandated to protect and support refugees at the request of a government or the UN itself and assists in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland. UNHCR also has an office in The Hague, NL.

**History/structure**

UNHCR was established on 14 December 1950 and succeeded the earlier United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. In 1956, UNHCR was involved in coordinating the response to the uprising in Hungary. Just a year later, UNHCR was tasked with dealing with Chinese refugees in Hong Kong, while also responding to Algerian refugees who had fled to Morocco and Tunisia in the wake of Algeria’s war for independence. Decolonization in the 1960s triggered large refugee movements in Africa, creating a massive challenge that would transform UNHCR; in the 1970s, UNHCR refugee operations continued to spread around the globe, with the mass exodus of East Pakistanis to India shortly before the birth of Bangladesh. Adding to the woes in Asia was the Vietnam war, with millions fleeing the war-torn country. The 1980s saw new challenges for UNHCR, with many member states unwilling to resettle refugees due to the sharp rise in refugee numbers over the 1970s. The end of the Cold War marked continued inter-ethnic conflict and contributed heavily to refugee flight. In addition, humanitarian intervention by multinational forces became more frequent and the media began to play a big role, particularly in the lead up to the 1999 NATO mission in Yugoslavia while by contrast, the 1994 Rwanda Genocide had little attention. UNHCR presently has major missions in Lebanon, South Sudan, Chad, Darfur, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan as well as Kenya to assist and provide services to refugees.

**Role/mandate**

The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.

**UNHCR Representation in the Netherlands (UNHCR, Nederland)**

Postbus 18815
2502 EV The Hague
070 346 61 00
www.unhcr.nl
The United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology

The United Nations University - Maastricht Economic and social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT) is a research and training centre of United Nations University and Maastricht University, based in southeast Netherlands. Through its team of researchers and fellows, UNU-MERIT explores the social, political and economic factors that drive technological innovation, with a particular focus on creation, diffusion and access to knowledge.

History/structure

Established in 1990 as the UNU-Institute for New Technologies (UNU-INTECH), it was renamed UNU-MERIT in 2006 following a formal integration with its sister research institute, MERIT, at Maastricht University. A second integration, with the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, followed in December 2010. In its enlarged form UNU-MERIT now functions as a unique research centre and graduate school for over 80 PhD fellows and 100 Master’s students, and as a UN think tank addressing a broad range of policy questions on science, innovation and democratic governance.
Role/mandate

To explore how countries can catch up in the unequal global playing field of the 21st century, without increasing inequality and social exclusion; To analyse knowledge flows at the regional and global levels, and their impact on local development, employment and productivity; To train specialists who combine a high level of academic scholarship with leadership, in order to strengthen democratic governance in domestic and international organisations.

UNU-MERIT delivers research and training for and with a range of international organisations, including the European Commission, International Labour Organization, UN Development Programme, UN Environment Programme, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and the World Intellectual Property Organization. It also trains government officials via its course on the ‘Design and Evaluation of Innovation Policy in Developing Countries (DEIP)’. This was first offered in 2004 and has since been held in more than 15 developing countries around the world, from Latin America, through Africa and the Middle East, to Southeast Asia.

UNU Maastricht Economic & social Research & training centre on Innovation and Technology (UNU-MERIT)
Keizer Karelplein 19
6211 TC Maastricht
043 388 44 00
www.merit.unu.edu
Colophon

This brochure is a publication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was developed in cooperation with the international organisations mentioned in the brochure.

Contact

For further information please contact the Ambassador for International Organisations or the Protocol Department (Host Nation Division)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Bezuidenhoutseweg 67
2594 AC The Hague
+31 (0)70 348 64 90

DKP@minbuza.nl

http://www.govemment.nl/ministries/bz