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## **The autonomy of European Union Agencies. A comparative study of institutional development.**

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# **The Autonomy of European Union Agencies**



# The Autonomy of European Union Agencies

A Comparative Study of Institutional Development

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AASC	Assembly of Agency Staff Committees
AF	Advisory Forum
AHWGE	Ad Hoc Working Group on Europol
AR	Annual Report
AWF	Analysis Work File
AWP	Annual Work Programme
BKA	German Federal Criminal Police Office ( <i>Bundes Kriminal Amt</i> )
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CERD	United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
CHMP	Committee for Human Medicinal Products
CIA	United States Central Intelligence Agency
CMS	Case Management System
COBU	Committee on Budgets
COCUBU	Committee on Budgetary Control
CoE	Council of Europe
COMP	Committee on Orphan Medicinal Products
CORINE	Coordination of Information on the Environment programme
CPMP	Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products
CRI	Dutch Central Intelligence Agency ( <i>Centrale Informatiedienst</i> )
CTTF	Counterterrorism Task Force
CVMP	Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products
DG	Director(ate)-General
DG ENV	Directorate-General Environment, European Commission
DG JLS	Directorate-General Justice, Liberty and Security, European Commission
DG SANCO	Directorate-General Public Health and Consumer Protection, European Commission
DLO	Drugs Liaison Officer
EC	European Community
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ECB	European Central Bank
ECJ	European Court of Justice
ECRI	Commission against Racism and Intolerance
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EDIU	European Drugs Intelligence Unit
EDU	Europol Drugs Unit
EEC	European Economic Community
EFPIA	European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries' Associations
EGE	European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technology
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIONET	European Environment Information and Observation Network
EIS	Europol Information System
EJN	European Judicial Network
ELO	Europol Liaison Officer
EMCF	European Monetary Cooperation Fund
EMI	European Monetary Institute
ENAR	European Network Against Racism
ENU	Europol National Unit
ENVI	Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety
EP	European Parliament
EPAR	European Public Assessment Report

EPO	European Patent Office
EPP	European Public Prosecutor
EPSO	European Personnel Selection Office
ESA	European Space Agency
ETC	European Topic Centre
EU	European Union
FBI	United States Federal Bureau of Investigation
FDA	United States Food and Drug Administration
FoE	Friends of the Earth
FPÖ	Austrian Freedom Party
FSA	United Kingdom Food Standards Agency
FVO	Food and Veterinary Office
GM(O)	Genetically Modified (Organism)
HMA	Heads of Medicines Agencies
HMPC	Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products
JHA	Justice and Home Affairs
JIT	Joint Investigation Team
JRC	Joint Research Centre
JSB	Joint Supervisory Board
LIBE	Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
MAWP	Multi-annual Work Programme
MEP	Member of European Parliament
NDIU	National Drugs Intelligence Units
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NRC	National Reference Centre
OCSR	Organised Crime Situation Report
OCTA	Organised Crime Threat Assessment
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
ÖVP	Austrian People's Party
OVPIC	Office of Veterinary and Phytosanitary Inspection and Control
PCTF	Police Chief Task Force
PDB	Preliminary Draft Budget
PDCO	Paediatric Committee
PGE	Project Group Europol
RAXEN	Racism and Xenophobia Information Network
REACH	Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals
SEIS	Shared Environmental Information System
SES	Scientific Expert Services
SIS	Schengen Information System
SitCen	Joint Situation Centre
SME	Small and medium enterprise
SOCA	United Kingdom Serious Organised Crime Agency
SoE	State of the Environment and Outlook report
TEC	Treaty establishing the European Community
TECS	Europol Computer System
TE-SAT	Terrorism Situation and Trends Report
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VWA	Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority ( <i>Voedsel en Waren Autoriteit</i> )
WEU	Western European Union
WISE	Water Information System for Europe
WTO	World Trade Organization

## PREFACE

Five years ago I could not have imagined writing a book on agencies. From my studies I remembered the topic of agencies as being just as about the most boring subjects one could think of. However, throughout the last five years I became intrigued by the phenomenon of agencification at the EU level, now a heavily debated topic. This book is neither aimed at inflating nor at downplaying the problems that come with agency creation, design and development. On the contrary, it seeks to assist in understanding the challenges that EU agencies grapple with on a daily basis and explain how agencies are managing these challenges, particularly in their early years.

I am grateful for the contribution of a wide range of individuals to the writing of this book. First of all, those interviewed during the empirical research for this book, without whose contribution this book would not have been possible. Most of their names (some did not want to be mentioned) can be found in the annex. I found it inspiring and rewarding to talk to so many national, European and international scientists, professionals, bureaucrats and politicians that candidly told me about their experiences working for or with agencies. I hope this research is of use to them in further developing not only the theory but also the practice of EU agencies. I thank Beate Winkler and Geoffrey Podger for last-minute comments on the EUMC and EFSA case studies.

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