Date: 27/11/2025 17:04:49

### **Member State application to host the EU Customs Authority (EUCA)**

Fields marked with * are mandatory.
✓ I have read the information on processing and protection of your personal data (EU Survey).
Privacy statement  privacy statement EU Survey EUCA.pdf  Applicant Member State
*Member State  AT - Austria  EE - Estonia  IT - Italy  PT - Portugal
BE - Belgium FI - Finland LV - Latvia RO - Romania
BG - Bulgaria FR - France LT - Lithuania SK - Slovakia
HR - Croatia DE - Germany LU - Luxembourg SI - Slovenia
CY - Cyprus EL - Greece MT - Malta ES - Spain
<ul> <li>CZ - Czechia</li> <li>HU - Hungary</li> <li>NL - Netherlands</li> <li>SE - Sweden</li> <li>DK - Denmark</li> <li>IE - Ireland</li> <li>PL - Poland</li> </ul>
*Main contact person in charge
*Email
*Backup person in charge

\*Email

'When selecting the location, the co-legislators have agreed that they will ensure that, given the nature of EUCA, the location enables the Authority to fully execute its tasks and powers, to recruit highly qualified and specialised staff and to offer adequate training opportunities.'

#### Description

2000 character(s) maximum

France has supported the Customs Union reform project since its launching under the French Presidency of the Council of the EU. French custom is heavily involved in several cooperation structures that foreshadow the mandate of the future authority, such as the European Union Customs Alliance for Border (EUCAB). France's bid to host this authority is a continuation of this ongoing support. The aim is to give this authority, whose creation we fully support, the best means to succeed in its ambitious tasks.

The Hauts-de-France region is a land of customs tradition at the crossroads of trade between the United Kingdom and the EU, with land, sea, and air borders, and has been able to look to the future by setting up an effective "smart border." The region is also home to the French National Customs School in Tourcoing, whose level of training is internationally recognized.

The Lille metropolitan area benefits from a strategic location close to Brussels, the European institutions, and the World Customs Organization. Lille is ready to immediately host the future Customs Authority's operations in the AGORA premises, which are scheduled for delivery in early 2026. It also has a wide range of hotels, enabling it to host major international events and European delegations.

Furthermore, the presence of a comprehensive and diverse digital environment, characterized by the presence of numerous companies, universities and trainings in the field of cloud computing and cybersecurity, makes Lille an ideal metropolis to host the European Union Customs Authority, in a context where customs data management is set to become a pillar of European digital sovereignty. As a major university hub in France, Lille is a veritable pool of talent for the Authority's future recruitment needs.

Finally, Lille offers an attractive, affordable, and sustainable living environment, ideal for future EUCA officials.

#### **CRITERION 1**

'The date on which EUCA can become operational on site after the entry into force of the Regulation'

### **Building 1**

Availability of the premises

Should there be more premises proposed, please see at the end of the survey.

#### 1) Address of the proposed premises (Building 1)

137 Avenue Charles Saint-Venant, 59800 Lille

#### 2) General description of the proposed premises

2500 character(s) maximum

The AGORA building, located in the heart of Lille, will be available from February 2026. It offers 8,748 m² of office space with a maximum capacity of 987 people, and will be able to gradually accommodate EUCA staff, up to 250 employees by 2034 and 500 thereafter. The refurbishment work, scheduled to take 12 months, will accompany this increase in capacity.

AGORA will provide all the facilities required for the EUCA's future work: meeting rooms of all sizes, including an executive board room, a management board room, eight rooms with 10-15 seats, a 24/7 crisis room, several secure operational rooms and a Call centre, incident management and service desk facilities in a restricted area. The building also includes relaxation areas and a large secure space for data management, designed for 115 people.

A high-security secure room, compliant with French and EU standards, allows for the processing of classified information up to the Top Secret level, with strict access control and anti-intrusion devices.

The site has a robust digital infrastructure, certified by WIRED SCORE, offering high availability, telecom redundancy and multiple connections. French operators provide very high-speed fibre solutions and secure clouds, backed by ANSSI (National Agency for Information Systems Security) expertise in setting up a classified network that complies with European requirements. The building can also host its own Information Technology systems thanks to its adapted electrical and spatial capacities. Cybersecurity is based on a comprehensive set of tools (anti-DDoS, WAF, NG firewalls, VPN, encryption, EDR, SIEM) and continuous monitoring by a 24/7 SOC.

AGORA offers 54 m³ of archive space, 83 parking spaces, 100 bicycle spaces and 4,000 m² of green space. It meets BREEAM Excellent, HQE Excellent, WELL Gold, WIRED SCORE Silver and E+C- standards, guaranteeing environmental performance, comfort and a low carbon footprint. Compliant with French and European construction, safety and accessibility standards, the building incorporates fire detection, access control, video surveillance and advanced security systems.

# 3) Timeline of the availability of the premises (before fit-out and necessary adaptation works)

1000 character(s) maximum

Date or estimated period.

The European Union Customs Authority will take on staff in waves, reaching 250 people in 2034. This number is likely to increase to 500 thereafter. The necessary fit-out and adaptation work will be spread over a period of 12 months and will be adapted to the Authority's gradual ramp-up. Thus, part of the building will be immediately fit-out in early 2026 to accommodate the first wave of EUCA staff. The rest of the building will be arranged over the following 12 months.

The entirety of the premises will be fully fit-out (including all the high level security arrangements) no later than February 2027, i.e. 6 months after the expected entry into force of the regulation.

4) Estimated time needed for fit-out and adaptation works (expressed in months) Please introduce only numbers.

	•
4.0	
12	

#### Organisation of the premises

The size of the EUCA's premises should be at least 6.000 m<sup>2</sup> gross floor area above ground. The Commission proposal provided for a EUCA staff of 250 Full Time Equivalents. The final number of staff will depend on the outcome of the negotiations and may increase.

1) Total surface of the premises (expressed in m²)

Please introduce only numbers.

8748		
0740		

2) Staff capacity (expressed in maximum number of staff)

Please introduce only numbers.



- 3) Availability of a dedicated meeting room for the executive board (10-15 seats)
  - Yes
  - O No
- 4) Availability of a dedicated Management Board room in the secure zone (60-70 seats + at least 30-40 seats in the back)

with a total surface of 240-280 sqm

- Yes
- O No

5) Availability of 'secure room'
for treating classified information
Yes
No
5.1) Description of the security features of the 'secure room' (size and security
measures applied)
1000 character(s) maximum
The secure room is used to process the most sensitive information. To this end, it is designated as a restricted area. Under French regulations, the restricted area has one of the highest levels of security. It thus provides additional protection to the protected area and allows information classified as Secret and Top Secret to be processed, compared to only Secret for the protected area.
This secure room is equipped with physical barriers and an anti-intrusion system, video surveillance, and access control. Access is strictly controlled and regulated. It is also subject to special legal protection under the Penal Code. As the room must be integrated into a protected area, it is set up in a restricted secure space for data management. Floors 7 or 8 are best suited for the installation of this room.
These arrangements will be designed so that EUCA can host and process EU classified information up to EU TOP SECRET in full conformity with EU security rules.
6) Availability of a medium-sized room (30-35 seats)
Yes
© No
INO
7) Availability of multiple small-sized rooms (10-15 seats)
Yes
No
7.1) If yes, how many?
8
8) Availability of state-of-the-art meeting and videoconference facilities in the meeting
rooms
Yes, in all of them
Yes, in some of them
No, in none of them
9) Availability of a lounge area for lunch and/or dinner catering

Yes
No
Specific technical requirements for Data Hub, data analysis, risk management and crisis management activities
10) Availability of a dedicated, secured and restricted area for 'data management' task (for at least 115 staff)    Yes  No
11) Availability of a 24/7 crisis response cell (situation room with capacity for 30 persons)   Yes  No
12) Availability of at least two (and ideally three) operational facilities (secure and isolated operational rooms)   Yes  No
12.1) If yes, how many operational analysis facilities are there?  Two Three  More
13) Availability of a call centre, incident management and service desk facilities in the secured and restricted area  Yes  No

14) Description of the availability and capacity of EU sovereign and highly available telecommunications and networking infrastructure with operational redundancy.

5000 character(s) maximum

The availability and capacity of EU sovereign and highly available telecommunications and networking infrastructure with operational redundancy depends, amongst others, on the **site resiliency**, **performance**, **site proximity to Optical Fiber Highways**, and **internet presence**.

- Indicators for site resiliency are: support multiple fiber entry routes, physical route diversity to enhance operational resilience, access to a broad ecosystem of Tier 1 & 2 carriers or local internet service providers, and power supply backup.
- Indicators for performance are: low-latency connectivity to major cloud providers and high-capacity and scalable bandwidth.
- Indicators for site proximity to Optical Fiber Highways are: proximity to major regional and international optical fiber routes and the support of high-capacity and scalable bandwidth.
- Indicators for internet presence is the location near an Internet Exchange Point.

The building, located in the heart of the city, is able to benefit from technical services that ensure high availability and operational redundancy for digital services. WIRED SCORE certification guarantees extremely high standards in terms of infrastructure, resilience, and wireless networks.

Buildings are assessed according to three criteria:

- The level and quality of the internet connection
- Infrastructure
- Connectivity potential

Certified buildings meet high standards for fiber optic availability and internet connection. They are therefore able to meet the needs of their occupants and have security measures in place to minimize the risk of connectivity failures.

It is entirely possible to subscribe to offers from telecommunications and electricity operators that provide redundancy for network connections and power supplies via different routes in order to compensate for any failures.

The quality of the services offered by French operators will enable the deployment of network capacities tailored to requirements, with some operators offering very high-speed solutions with dedicated fiber optics that can be adapted to the needs expressed by the Customs Authority's technical teams. France has recognized operators, both in terms of network offerings and secure cloud offerings. It is therefore possible to rely on French manufacturers (e.g., Orange, Dassault, Thales, etc.) to offer a comprehensive service enabling secure cloud connection to the customs data hub with high-speed access from the Customs Authority's premises.

The building also has the necessary space and electrical capacity to host one or more information systems (IS).

In terms of security, once the building work has been completed, it will be entirely feasible to implement a classified information system (IS) that meets the requirements of Interministerial Instruction 2102 on the security of classified dematerialized information of the European Union. This implementation will be facilitated by the uniqueness of the site, which makes it easier to secure a closed network within the building that meets security standards. In addition, the Customs Authority will be able to draw on the expertise of the French National Cybersecurity Agency (ANSSI), an internationally recognized entity, to support the implementation of its classified network in France. These arrangements will be designed so that EUCA can host and process EU classified information up to EU TOP SECRET in full conformity with EU security rules.

#### 15) Description of the available cloud-based data storage network solutions.

The Authority will have access to a range of cloud solutions that are fully compliant with European standards: secure private cloud, sovereign cloud operated by certified European providers, and hybrid architectures combining local and cloud storage. These options offer a high level of availability, encryption, redundancy and business continuity, in line with the requirements applicable to EU institutions and agencies. The host state guarantees access to these infrastructures without imposing any technological choices, so that the Agency is free to select the solution best suited to its needs, in line with the EUCI security framework and the Commission's guidelines (DIGIT).

16) Internal archives capacity of the premises

Yes	
No	
16.1) Archives volume (expressed in m³)	
Please introduce only numbers.	
54	
17) Number of parking spaces (inside and outside) - availal Please introduce only numbers.	ble for EUCA
83	
18) Number of bike parking spaces (inside and outside) - a	vailable for EUCA
100	
19) Possibilities for extension of office space in its original p	premises or the nearby area
Yes	·
No	
19.1) Surface for possible extensions (expressed in m²)	
Please introduce only numbers.	
6000	
20) Are the premises EMAS verified?	
The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a premium management European Commission for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report performance.  Yes	• •
No	

21) Description of the premises' sustainability. If not EMAS certified, description of additional national/international sustainability certifications.

1000 character(s) maximum

AGORA is committed to exemplary sustainability and environmental performance. Designed to meet the highest standards, AGORA complies with the international BREEAM (Excellent level) and HQE Sustainable Building (Excellent level) certifications, guaranteeing resource-efficient design, optimal comfort, and responsible management of energy, water, and waste.

WELL certification (Gold level) ensures a healthy indoor environment that promotes the well-being, health, and productivity of occupants.

WIRED SCORE certification (Silver level) attests to high-performance, resilient digital connectivity, while the E+C- label (E2C1 level) confirms energy consumption control and carbon footprint reduction.

Together, these commitments reflect a strong commitment to designing sustainable, comfortable, and forward-looking offices.

22) Description of the general compliance with the **Manual of Standard Building Specifications** of the premises including for environmental, security and safety standards as well as for accessibility standards for people with disabilities

2000 character(s) maximum

AGORA is a new office construction project. It has been designed and built in accordance with current building specifications, incorporating all requirements relating to the quality, safety, sustainability, and accessibility of commercial buildings.

The premises comply with current environmental standards, with energy performance exceeding regulations: their energy consumption is 40% lower than the requirements of the 2012 Thermal Regulations (RT 2012).

In terms of safety and security, the building complies with the provisions of the French Labor Code and the Building and Housing Code. It incorporates fire detection, evacuation, and smoke extraction systems that comply with current standards, as well as secure access (access control, video surveillance).

The entire project complies with regulatory requirements regarding accessibility for people with disabilities.

23) Description of the digital security and connectivity features with regard to physical and digital infrastructure, in particular those allowing EUCA to comply with relevant cybersecurity standards and legislation and for all core facilities to implement certified protocols for end-to-end encryption of data, enforce access controls and deploy advanced systems for continuous issue detection, timely reporting and effective response.

		, ,	
3000	character(s	s) maxımur	$\eta$

The first line of defense is based on network perimeter protection. Anti-DDoS systems provide protection against distributed denial-of-service attacks, ensuring the continuity of essential services. The WAF (Web Application Firewall) filters and monitors HTTP/HTTPS traffic to web applications, blocking attempts to exploit vulnerabilities. Firewalls (NG) offer advanced protection combining traditional filtering, deep packet inspection, and intrusion prevention.

To secure internal exchanges, detection probes analyze network traffic in real time, looking for anomalies or malicious behavior. Intrusion prevention systems (IPS) actively block identified attacks. Network access control (NAC) reinforces this security by controlling and authenticating each device before granting it access to the network, limiting the risks associated with unauthorized or compromised terminals.

Securing communications between sites or with external partners relies on site-to-site IPsec VPNs, ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of data transiting public networks. For the exchange of sensitive information, encryption tools such as ZED! are deployed, ensuring optimal data protection.

Access to workstations and applications is secured by strong authentication, often based on the use of physical cards, enhancing security by adding a layer of hardware authentication and reducing the risk of credentials being compromised.

Endpoint security relies on several tools: antivirus software to detect and neutralize malware, EDR (Endpoint Detection and Response) for advanced threat monitoring and response, local firewalls to control incoming and outgoing traffic, and disk encryption to protect data in the event of theft or loss. A VPN client allows remote users to securely access internal resources. MDM (Mobile Device Management) ensures centralized management and security of mobile devices/tablets.

The robustness of the infrastructure is maintained through regular security audits, which identify and correct potential vulnerabilities. Automatic and tested backups ensure data can be restored in the event of a major incident.

The centralization of IT logs facilitates the monitoring and analysis of security events. SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) solutions correlate these logs to detect suspicious behavior in real time.

At the heart of the cybersecurity strategy, the Security Operation Center (SOC) provides continuous monitoring of infrastructure. Dedicated analysts handle alerts and incidents 24/7, with permanent on-call staff to respond quickly to any threat, whether internal or external.

All these arrangements will be designed so that EUCA can host and process EU classified information up to EU TOP SECRET in full conformity with EU security rules.

#### 24) Other

3000 character(s) maximum

For any other relevant information related to criterion 1.

The restricted secure area for data management (115 people) consists of platforms spread across the different floors of the building. These platforms are designated as protected areas. Under French regulations, the protected area offers a very high level of protection. It is created by ministerial decree determining the need for protection and is subject to a ban on unauthorized access, punishable by criminal penalties in the event of a violation (Articles 413-7 and R. 413-1 to R. 413-5 of the Penal Code).

The protected area consists of physical barriers as well as anti-intrusion, video surveillance, and access control

systems. These rooms allow analysts to securely receive, process, store, and disseminate sensitive and classified data up to the French or EU Secret level.

Analysts are equipped with classified computers connected to an internal network approved at the Secret level for processing digital data. They also have special safes for storing classified paper documents. Redundancy of information can be provided at another centre that is also approved as a protected area. Floors 7 or 8 are best suited for the installation of this space.

The 24/7 crisis room (30 people) is separate from the analysts' work areas. It is certified as a protected area and, as such, has physical barriers as well as anti-intrusion, video surveillance, and access control systems, which are usually implemented in this type of area.

#### The crisis room has:

- Access to the internal information system classified as Secret;
- Secure messaging, telephone, and videoconferencing systems;
- External communication systems (Internet, telephone, videoconferencing).

This room is soundproofed and complies with French regulations on protection against compromising parasitic signals. NB: "Compromising parasitic signals" are listed in ANSSI DIRECTIVE No. 485 of November 20, 2013. These are parasitic signals that can escape from the protected area (via the mains power supply, telecommunications access points, radio transmitters, etc.) and then be picked up outside.

The operations management rooms are built on the model of the crisis management room but are independent of it.

The call and incident management center includes the security station that manages the Service's antiintrusion, video surveillance, and access control systems. To this end, it is set up as a protected and restricted area in order to provide a very high level of protection for the equipment it houses. It is isolated and subject to secure and continuously monitored access.

All these arrangements will be designed so that EUCA can host and process EU classified information up to EU TOP SECRET in full conformity with EU security rules.

#### Financial terms

#### 1) Description of the financial terms

2000 character(s) maximum

The rent shall be payable quarterly, in advance and in four equal instalments due on: January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st of each year.

The rent and charges are subject to VAT.

The rent will be indexed annually, on the anniversary date of the lease taking effect, based on the variation in the tertiary activities rent index (ILAT), published annually by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) and, for the first time, on the first anniversary of the date the lease took effect. The reference index is the latest index known on the effective date of the lease and the comparison index is the index for the same quarter of the following year.

The security deposit corresponds to three months' rent excluding tax and charges.

Any work carried out by the lessee, including initial fitting-out work, shall become the property of the lessor by virtue of accession at the end of the lease, without compensation of any kind, although the lessor may require the leased premises to be restored to their original condition.

At the expense of the lessee:

- · Comprehensive building insurance taken out by the lessor
- Taxes and duties (property taxes, additional tax, street cleaning tax and any new taxes payable by the tenant)
- Arthur Loyd marketing fees payable by the Tenant: 15% excluding VAT of the annual rent excluding VAT /charges, payable on the day the lease is signed.
- All work, except that referred to in Article 606 of the Civil Code, as well as expenses relating to work intended to remedy dilapidation or bring the premises in which they are located into compliance with regulations, and the replacement of large equipment.

All these costs (including intermediary fees, fit-out and non-606 works) will be fully borne by the French State and will not be charged to the EU budget.

2)	Monthly	, rental	cost	(expressed	in	FΙ	IR۱
<b>~</b> )		/ I GIIIai	COSL	( C V D   C 2 2 C C	111	ᆫ	ווע

	239924	
3)	Does the applicant Member	State intend to cover the rent?
	Yes	

- 3.1) Will the applicant Member State cover the rent?
  - Indefinitely

No

Please introduce only numbers.

- For a given period of time
- 3.2) If for a given period of time, for how many years?

Please introduce only numbers.

4) Monthly maintenance costs (expressed in EUR/m²)

Please introduce only numbers.

6

- 5) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the maintenance costs?
  - Yes

No
5.1) Will the applicant Member State cover the maintenance costs?
Indefinitely
For a given period of time
5.2) If for a given period of time, for how many years?
Please introduce only numbers.
9
6) Fit-out costs (expressed in EUR/m²)
Please introduce only numbers.
1432
7) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the fit-out costs?
8) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the cost of future upgrade and extension?  Please provide more information in the following question on the financial conditions of future upgrades and extensions.
Yes
No No
Depends
8.1) Financial conditions of future upgrades and extensions  1500 character(s) maximum
As there is scope for building extensions on site, the financial conditions are identical to those for the areas initially targeted.
9) Duration of the lease (expressed in years)
Please introduce only numbers.
9

#### 10) Financial conditions of termination before the end of the lease

1000 character(s) maximum

The lease must be honored until its term. Consequently, the tenant undertakes to pay the rent, charges, and taxes due until the end of the fixed 9-year period.

In principle, the lease does not allow for lease assignment. However, discussion between the parties remains possible in this situation, and the lessor's express agreement is reserved on criteria of solvency, SRI policy, AML/KYC, etc.

Insofar as the French government undertakes to pay the rent, charges, and taxes for a period of 9 years, it undertakes, in the event of early termination of the lease, to pay the rent, charges, and taxes due until the end of the fixed 9-year period.

#### 11) Other

1000 character(s) maximum

For any other relevant information related to this topic.

After nine years, the lessee will have the option to terminate the lease upon expiration by means of an extrajudicial document delivered to the lessor, giving at least twelve (12) months' notice.

The leased premises shall be returned in perfect condition in terms of maintenance, operation, repairs, and replacements, including repairs or replacements due to wear and tear, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1755 of the Civil Code, and in compliance with the requirements imposed by the law or regulations in force. The Lessee must provide the Lessor with all periodic inspection reports, free of any reservations.

#### **CRITERION 2**

#### 'Accessibility of the location'

#### Public transportation

# 1) Description of the access to air and rail transport linking the location with European capitals

2000 character(s) maximum

#### Rail network:

Four European capitals are located within a 330 km radius of Lille: Brussels, The Hague, Luxembourg and Paris. Intra-European rail links are a highly efficient mode of transport, providing fast connections between city centres without the need to change trains.

Lille has two train stations in the city centre within walking distance of AGORA: Lille Flandres (6 min) and Lille Europe (13 min).

With 24 daily connections, Paris is only an hour away from Lille.

Every day, 19 trains connect Brussels to Lille in 35 minutes. The European Commission and EUCA services will find it very convenient for improving their working arrangements (the first train arrives in Lille at 7:12 a.m. and the last train to Brussels leaves at 10:00 p.m.). This connectivity will ensure easy coordination of EUCA with TAXUD, the Council, Parliament and other agencies based in Brussels.

#### Air network:

Lille enjoys exceptional air connectivity with no fewer than four international airports accessible within 1 hour and 30 minutes:

- Paris Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle International Airport is the leading airport in Europe and the 11th largest in the world. Every day, 22 high-speed trains connect Lille to Roissy-CDG in 55 minutes. This proximity and ease of access to Roissy-CDG offers the advantage, unrivalled in Europe, of connecting all international cities with non-stop flights.
- Lille-Lesquin International Airport, located less than 10 km from the European Customs Authority, can be
- ns.

reached in 20 minutes by bus. It offers direct flights to Geneva (1h20), Barcelona (1h55), Porto (2h30), and Athens (3h10). A shuttle bus connects Lille-Lesquin Airport to the centre of Lille.  • Brussels-Zaventem and Charleroi-Brussels-South international airports complete the air transport opti
For EU institutional travel, the de facto reference airport is Roissy-CDG. Therefore, this is the reference airport selected for the following answers.
2) Availability and types of public transport connections <b>from the closest</b>
international airport to the premises
between 1 and 4 choices
✓ Train
□ Metro
□ Tram
Bus
Frequency of <b>train</b> connections (expressed in minutes)
38
Duration of <b>train</b> connections (expressed in minutes)
55
O) A vallability and types of multiple types and a greations from the college.
3) Availability and types of public transport connections <b>from the closest</b>
international/national train station or other transport hub to the premises  between 1 and 4 choices
Local train
□ Metro
□ Tram

Βι	ıs

#### 4) Other

1500 character(s) maximum

For any other relevant information related to this topic.

Lille Metropolis has an efficient public transport network, managed by Kéolis, which covers 95 municipalities and serves 1.2 million inhabitants.

Kéolis offers a wide range of services:

- Two metro lines (1 and 2), fully automated since 1983 (world first). They connect the main urban centers (Lille, Roubaix, Tourcoing, Villeneuve-d'Ascq) with high frequency (up to every minute during rush hour).
- Two modern and accessible tram lines (R and T), connecting the city center to the suburbs and neighboring municipalities.
- More than 122 bus lines, including high-level service lines (Lianes).

100% of metro and tram stations are accessible to people with reduced mobility, and buses are equipped with ramps. Connections between the metro, tram, and bus are optimized, with strategic transfer hubs (such as Lille Flandres Station and Quatre Cantons).

By 2035, two tram lines and two high-level bus service lines will complete the network.

The city offers a self-service bicycle system with 2,600 V'Lille bikes, spread across 259 stations and 900 km of bike paths. Automated bike shelters are also available, particularly near the Lille Flandres and Lille Europe train stations.

Finally, there are several car parks near the premises: Les Tanneurs (533 spaces), Lille Flandres (374 spaces), Euralille (3,210 spaces), Grand Palais (1,187 spaces), etc.

#### Accommodation facilities in the vicinity of the premises (within 3km)

1)	N	uml	oer	of 3	3 star	hote	ls in	the	vicin	ity o	f the	prem	ises
----	---	-----	-----	------	--------	------	-------	-----	-------	-------	-------	------	------

Ple	ease introduce only numbers.
	36

#### 2) Number of 4 star hotels in the vicinity of the premises

Please introduce only numbers.

13			

#### 3) Number of 5 star hotels in the vicinity of the premises

Please introduce only numbers.

_			
:3			
U			

# 4) Description of available facilities for events and conferences outside EUCA premises

1000 character(s) maximum

Lille Metropolis has 9 venues for conferences, meetings, and professional events.

Lille Grand Palais offers 4 auditoriums (430, 500, 1,500, and 4,500 seats) and 30 meeting rooms (from 85 m² to 1,450 m²), as well as 3 exhibition halls (20,000 m²). La Cité des Échanges offers 3,000 m² of modular spaces for events for 10 to 1,500 people. The Nouveau Siècle has a 1,600-seat auditorium and 3,000 m² of multipurpose rooms. The Palais de la Bourse, in the city centre, has 1,500 m² divided into six modular spaces.

EuraTechnologies (3,500 m² of modular spaces), Le 1894 (400 m² in a pavilion, 400 seats in an amphitheatre, 120 m² on the rooftop) and the Chamber of Trades and Crafts (15,000 m², exhibition hall, auditorium) complete this offering.

42 hotels, 17 coworking spaces, and 26 other venues make it possible to organize events of all sizes. Lille is thus positioning itself as a destination of choice for business tourism.

#### 5) Other

500 character(s) maximum

For any other relevant information related to this topic.

The Lille metropolitan area has a suitable and diverse range of 141 hotels, including tourist residences and aparthotels: 8,980 accommodations. The city of Lille and its surrounding municipalities (Lomme and Lezennes) account for nearly half of the hotel offering, with 64 hotels and 4,660 rooms, most of which are located in the immediate vicinity of the Euralille district and train stations. 70% of the accommodation is accessible on foot/by metro/tram from AGORA and the Lille-Europe and Lille-Fl

#### **CRITERION 3**

1) Number of nurseries

Czech

Danish

Dutch

1

French

German

Greek

#### 'Existence of adequate education facilities for the children of EUCA's staff'

Pl	ease introduce only numbers.		
	461		
2)	Language options offered	by the nurse	ries
	Bulgarian Estonian	Irish	Portuguese
	Croatian Finnish	Italian	Romanian

Latvian

Maltese

Slovak

Spanish

Lithuanian Slovenian

#### English Hungarian Polish Swedish

# 3) Additional information concerning nurseries (names, location, capacity, language options offered, etc.)

2000 character(s) maximum

Before starting school (age 3), parents who want childcare for their children can choose between group childcare in nurseries or more personalized childcare with a childminder. Both alternatives offer the guarantees sought by parents, which are the conditions for trust.

There are two types of childcare available in nurseries:

- Single service provision (PSU): families' contributions are calculated based on income.
- Early childhood benefit (PAJE): family contributions are not based on income.

There are 7,634 places in the Single Service Provision (PSU) system and 2,844 places in the Early Childhood Benefit (PAJE) system.

There are 12,879 places available with individual childcare providers in the metropolitan area.

There are 19 bilingual French-English nurseries with 237 places in the metropolitan area.

Examples of bilingual nurseries:

- Les Petites Graines (Lille-Wazemmes): this nursery offers bilingual care, with half of the team being English-speaking and the other half French-speaking. This nursery can accommodate between 25 and 30 children, from 10 weeks old until they start preschool.
- Babilou bilingue (Marcq-en-Barœul): this nursery can accommodate 28 children. Through activities, motor skills workshops, and nursery rhymes, learning English is done in a playful way.
- People&Baby (Lille-Tilleul): bilingual nursery.
- Chlorophylle bilingual nursery (Lille): the establishment can accommodate 12 children.
- Merveilles bilingual nursery (Lille): the establishment can accommodate 10 children.
- Les Doux rêveurs bilingual nursery (Lille): the establishment can accommodate 26 children.
- Crechappy (Lille): network of three bilingual micro-nurseries located in the Bois-Blancs, Vauban, and Moulins neighbourhoods. The network has a capacity of around 30 children.

# 4.1) Availability and number of multilingual, European-oriented schooling (including European, European accredited and international schools)

2000 character(s) maximum

Lille offers the possibility of European or international schooling from the age of three. From nursery school (age 3) to high school (age 18), parents can choose between public schools and private schools under contract.

The Jacques Delors European School Lille Métropole, in Marcq-en-Barœul, is a public school approved by the Office of the Secretary-General of the European Schools. It offers a comprehensive education program covering nursery, primary, and secondary school and guarantees an excellent, free education for students aged 4 to 18, up to the European Baccalaureate.

It offers a European, multicultural, and multilingual environment, in line with European school curricula, with more than 40 nationalities represented. The teaching aims to develop both the students' knowledge of their

national and European identity/citizenship.

The languages available are English and French. In primary school, these languages are also taught as first foreign languages. In secondary school, German, Spanish, and Italian are offered as second foreign languages. In accordance with European school specifications, a language section is opened as soon as there are at least six native speakers.

The school is also committed to offering mother tongue instruction (among the official languages of the EU) to SWALS students whose parents work in a European institution. For other SWALS students, this instruction is provided subject to sufficient enrolment.

The school has a strong international outlook thanks to projects carried out with other European schools and its participation in the Erasmus program.

The Jacques Delors European School has 840 places, 720 of which are currently occupied. Children of EUCA officials will be given priority for enrolment and re-enrolment in accordance with European School regulations. Based on EUCA's staff projections, additional places will be reserved for EUCA staff's children, and the school is ready to expand its capacity accordingly.

### 4.2) Language options offered by the European, European accredited and international schools

	Bulgarian	Estonian	Irish	Portuguese
	Croatian	Finnish	Italian	Romanian
	Czech	French	Latvian	Slovak
	Danish	German	Lithuaniar	n Slovenian
1	Dutch	Greek	Maltese	Spanish
<b>V</b>	English	Hungarian	n <sup>™</sup> Polish	Swedish

# 4.3) Additional information concerning European, European accredited and international schools (names, location, capacity, language options offered, etc.)

5000 character(s) maximum

The Jeannine Manuel School, located in Marcq-en-Barœul, offers private education from kindergarten to high school. It is a bilingual school where, from primary school onwards, classes are taught equally in French and English, as part of an American international section. It prepares students for both the French and international baccalaureate. It is a UNESCO-associated school, accredited by the IBO (International Baccalaureate Organization), the ECIS (European Council of International Schools), the CIS (Council of International Schools), and the NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges), and recognized as an examination centre by the College Entrance Examination Board and Cambridge University.

Beyond the accredited European School, international sections within the French system provide additional multilingual schooling options that are widely recognised across the EU and facilitate educational mobility and reintegration into national systems where needed for EU staff's children. The following schools offer international sections and bilingual sections:

Sophie Germain International Elementary School

- International section: English

**Boufflers Elementary School** 

- International section: Spanish and Italian

Carnot Middle School

- International section: English

- Bilingual Class: German, Italian, and Arabic

Franklin Middle School

- International section: Spanish and Italian

- Bilingual classes: Russian and Dutch

- Modern language: German

Montebello International High School

- International sections: English (2), Spanish (1), Italian (1)
- European section: German and Dutch
- Modern languages: Portuguese and Polish.

The originality of the International Sections lies in integrating into the French school system not only language teaching, but also the culture and teaching methods of the partner country, thanks to a grouping of native and French students that enables them to become bilingual within the framework of a curriculum leading to the baccalaureate.

International Sections offer children from foreign or binational families living in France the opportunity to be integrated into the French school system while continuing to learn certain subjects in their mother tongue. This enables them to master the French language and culture, while maintaining close ties with their culture of origin, allowing them to return to the school system of their country of origin if they wish.

International Sections offer French children who have returned from living abroad or who have the necessary motivation and language skills acquired in middle school the opportunity to develop these skills in a bilingual and bicultural environment.

The teaching team is made up of native-speaking teachers who hold degrees awarded in the partner country. They teach specific subjects in their own language, based on the national curriculum and methods used in the corresponding classes in the partner country. The aim is to bring students beyond level C1 (independent user) of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Students in the "British" international section begin their studies at the Sophie Germain school in Lille, continue at the Carnot middle school in Lille, and complete their secondary education at the Montebello high school in Lille.

As for the Spanish and Italian international sections, students begin their studies at the Boufflers school in Lille, continue at the Franklin middle school in Lille, and complete their secondary education at the Montebello high school in Lille.

Access to these sections is free and reserved for students who have a very good level of proficiency in the language of the section, whether they are native speakers or not. This diversity of students has the advantage of enriching the cultural experience of the young people in school and encouraging them to learn languages.

Intensive French language instruction is provided for students, depending on their identified needs.

These sections are organized from the age of 6 up to the international baccalaureate (OIB).

Teachers are recruited on the basis of their specific qualifications, in particular the requirement for a high level of language proficiency (native speakers or C2 level) and their extensive expertise in their field of training. They have proven experience in the country of the section.

In addition, the inclusion of students with special needs is a stated priority of national education policy. In this context, individualized support is provided.

#### 5) Number of higher education facilities (university level or equal)

Please introduce only numbers.

250			

#### 6) Language options offered by the higher education facilities

Bulgariar	n Estonian	Irish	Portuguese
Croatian	Finnish	Italian	Romanian
Czech	French	Latvian	Slovak
Danish	German	Lithuania	n Slovenian
Dutch	Greek	Maltese	Spanish
Fnalish	Hungaria	n <sup>☑</sup> Polish	Swedish

#### 7) Description of higher education facilities (Universities and academic disciplines)

2000 character(s) maximum

The youngest city in France and French second largest university center, Lille is also known for its dynamic student life: 125,000 students are enrolled in the 250 public and private institutions in the metropolitan area. Lille offers higher education programs that are recognized for their excellence.

Higher education is one of France's strengths on the international stage, particularly when it comes to welcoming exchange students (3rd country according to the OECD).

A public university and a Catholic university in the Lille metropolitan area offer a comprehensive range of courses with a wide variety of learning methods.

#### University of Lille:

- 80,000 students, including 11,000 foreign nationals (152 nationalities)
- 7 faculties and 10 grandes écoles and institutes
- 64 research units, 50 research platforms, 7 doctoral schools, 2,100 doctoral students

#### Catholic University of Lille:

- 42,000 students, including 8,800 foreign nationals.
- 22 educational establishments, multidisciplinary teaching 354 courses in 6 areas of study
- 550 partner universities.
- 12 research units, 900 teacher-researchers and university hospital researchers, 250 doctoral students.

Specific higher education courses are offered through preparatory classes for the grandes écoles (CPGE) in a number of fields: economics, literature, and science. More than 30 renowned grandes écoles guarantee

master's-level degrees and excellent career prospects (EDHEC, IEP/Sciences Po Lille, Ecole Centrale, IESEG, journalism school, etc.).

Along with Paris, the European metropolis of Lille has three schools in the Financial Times' top 100 business schools in the world (EDHEC, SKEMA, IESEG).

Numerous university programs, particularly in business and science, are offered in both French and English.

Tourcoing is home to the National Customs School, which provides initial training for customs inspectors, category A civil servants, and senior customs officials.

#### 8) Other

500 character(s) maximum

For any other relevant information related to this topic.

Lille's geographical location broadens the range of possibilities. Its proximity to Brussels also means that there is a wide range of international education options available, from kindergarten to high school. In addition, the internationally renowned universities and colleges of Paris also offer a wide choice of courses in close proximity to Lille.

#### **CRITERION 4**

'Appropriate access to the labour market, social security and medical care for both children and spouses'

1) Number of hospitals available in the vicinity of the premises

Ple	ease introduce only numbers.
	18

2) Description of access to medical care (access to hospitals and other medical facilities, doctors, spoken languages, etc.)

2000 character(s) maximum

The Lille metropolitan area has an internationally renowned center of excellence in healthcare with a comprehensive range of high-quality hospitals at the cutting edge of the latest medical innovations, including more than 9,500 hospital beds spread across some 20 public and private hospital sites.

Ten public institutions are grouped together within the Greater Lille Public Hospitals Group (GHT), which covers approximately 1.5 million inhabitants. They share a common strategy for access to care and medical innovation. The main component of the Group is the Lille University Hospital (CHU), which comprises 14 specialized hospitals and has a total capacity of over 3,000 beds. This university hospital employs around 16,000 professionals.

The private sector is mainly represented by the Ramsay Santé group, which operates several establishments in the metropolitan area, as well as by independent clinics.

- La Louvière Private Hospital
- · Bois Polyclinic
- Ambroise Paré Clinic
- Saint-Roch Clinic
- Louvière Clinic
- Mitterie Clinic

Finally, there are two private healthcare establishments of public interest (ESPIC):

- Oscar Lambret Center regional cancer center
- Specialized institutes of the University Hospital (cardiovascular, neurology, oncology, pediatrics, etc.) integrated into the Eurasanté campus

Lille is an innovative region in terms of healthcare with the Eurasanté campus. Around the Eurasanté park (Lille-Loos-Seclin), there are:

- 12 hospitals bringing together 17,000 professionals
- 50 research laboratories
- 200 innovative healthcare companies, including several healthcare facilities and university hospital startups.

The metropolitan area benefits from a particularly dense network of private medical practices, with more than 2,000 general practitioners and specialists. Many doctors, in all specialities, are able to conduct consultations in English.

3) Description of access to medical care and social security for EUCA children and spouses not covered by the EU Staff Regulations (benefits, conditions, assistance, etc.)

2000 character(s) maximum

France has one of the most advantageous social security systems in the world. The National Contact Point for Cross-Border Healthcare (www.cleiss.fr) is responsible for providing foreign patients with information about their rights, particularly regarding access to healthcare and reimbursement. All information is available in English, German, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese.

EUCA officials and their families are covered by the French healthcare system through the Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme (JSIS). European Union officials and civil servants are covered by the Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme (JSIS), which reimburses 80-85% of the cost of most medical procedures and treatments (subject to certain reimbursement limits). Staff members and their families can benefit from the French healthcare system by joining the JSIS.

Spouses and children not covered by JSIS will have access to the French social security system. Their employer will initiate the procedure on their behalf and only a few documents will be required (birth certificate, passport, residence permit if applicable). Depending on their individual situation, there are two only possible scenarios:

- If they meet the criteria of French social security legislation, family members will be eligible for health coverage in France as if they were affiliated with the French social security system without paying contributions. They will also retain health insurance coverage for care received in their country of origin.
- In any case, family members may be eligible for affiliation to the French social security system on the basis of stable and regular residence in France, with the possibility of paying French social security contributions.

# 4) Situation of the national labour market and its capacity to offer international job opportunities (number and capacity of international companies acting in the region) for children and spouses of EUCA staff

2000 character(s) maximum

In terms of access to employment, families of EUCA employees will benefit from both Lille's dynamism and its geographical location.

The European metropolis of Lille is home to 80 corporate headquarters with more than 500 employees, and 80% of large French companies are present in the metropolis. Lille is also the second city in France with the highest number of international corporate headquarters (15).

The Lille European Metropolis is the 2nd Financial centre in France, with 80 financial institutions and 13 international banks. There are 150 customer service centres in the area, representing 10,000 employees. There are 18,000 jobs in legal and accounting activities, 7,500 employees in the insurance sector, and 11,100 people in the banking sector.

The tech and digital sector are very dynamic, with the presence of EuraTechnologies. France's leading hub for start-ups and innovation, this centre of excellence is home to nearly 600 companies/start-ups, supports 200 new projects per year, and has created 8,000 jobs in 15 years.

Lille is a cyber territory, with 116 companies dedicated to this field, representing 8,000 jobs created. The metropolis 8 major cyber players and 45 pure players. The Hauts-de-France Cyber Campus is the first territorial cyber lab certified by the National Cyber Campus. The European champion OVHcloud has its headquarters in the metropolis which also hosts the InCyber Forum every year.

The presence of many international companies and traditionally anglophile sectors (tech, IT, consulting, finance, etc.) will allow the families of EUCA staff to easily find an english speaking job.

Lille is also at the heart of the Lille-Courtrai-Tournai Eurometropolis, which has 2 million inhabitants, 915,000 jobs, and 14,000 new businesses created each year.

The proximity of Paris and the numerous daily connections within an hour allow 1,500 Lille and metropolitan residents to work in Paris every day. Brussels is also accessible.

### 5) Availability of services assisting expatriates and foreign nationals in seeking jobs

2000 character(s) maximum

In their search for employment, spouses of EUCA employees will receive support providing them with the information they need to guide their search, facilitating contact with companies through direct networking. Lille's strength also lies in its good knowledge of economic players and networking, which facilitates contacts. France Travail, the French national employment agency heavily involved in professional mobility, is the coordinator of Eures (EURopean Employment Services) in France. France Travail's international mobility service works to connect job seekers with recruiters.

All services offered by France Travail are free of charge. Their missions are as follows:

- Supporting foreign candidates in their integration into the labor market and French culture
- Advising companies on how to optimize their recruitment and internal skills management

- Support executives and job seekers in their professional development and job search
- Promoting job seekers' applications to employers
- Matching the skills of job seekers with the needs of employers
- Implement training tools
- Conducting analyses and comparative studies of major trends, as an observatory of the job market
- · Advertise job vacancies

France Travail and its partners also offer a wide range of workshops on various topics (job search tools, settling in France, networking, pitching, multiculturalism, etc.) as well as personalized support (in French or English) from a team of nine specialized bilingual advisors in Lille, and various recruitment and job dating events.

These services already support spouses of EU officials based in other French cities (Paris, Strasbourg, etc.). France Travail has thus acquired significant experience in providing tailored guidance in English and other EU languages.

#### 6) Other

500 character(s) maximum

For any other relevant information related to this topic.

Several companies specializing in relocation, which are partners of the Hello Lille metropolitan agency, will offer personalized support for EUCA officials and their families. They will offer a discovery day in the Lille metropolitan area and assistance on various topics: finding accommodation and organizing the move, immigration procedures, school enrolment, and various administrative procedures (banks, driver's licenses, vehicle registration, social security affiliation, etc.).

#### 'Geographical balance'

#### Description

2000 character(s) maximum

France currently hosts the following EU institutions:

European Parliament, Strasbourg

In addition, France currently hosts the following EU agencies:

- 1. Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO), Angers
- 2. European Union Agency for Railways (ERA), Valenciennes
- 3. European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), Paris
- 4. European Banking Authority (EBA), Courbevoie
- 5. European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris

According to figures provided by European institutions, the European agencies based in France employ around 700 people. Including the institutions and bodies of the European Union, around 1,300 people work in France.

Despite this, France only ranks 8th in terms of EU staff hosted (after Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain and Poland) and 22nd when adjusted for population, which underlines that France is still under-represented compared to other large Member States.

### Any benefits granted in addition to Protocol 7

<ul> <li>1) Does the applicant Member State offer additional privileges?</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>1.1) If yes, which ones?</li> </ul>
1000 character(s) maximum
Order No. 2022-533 of April 13, 2022 supplements Protocol N°7 by allowing a EU agency to be granted the following privileges:  • An agency may contract, acquire, or dispose of real estate and movable property and be a party to legal proceedings.
EUCA staff, for income derived from their activities within EUCA, and their families are exempt from all compulsory contributions to the French social security system.
<ul> <li>Registration facilities for vehicles assigned for use by EUCA.</li> <li>Representatives of Member States enjoy the same privileges as representatives to an international organization.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Privileges, the scope of which is defined by the ordinance, are granted to experts on mission for the agency, persons officially invited to participate in its work, and Seconded National Experts.</li> </ul>
These provisions are designed to align with Protocol N°7 and with existing headquarters agreements of other EU agencies located in France, ensuring legal certainty and continuity for EUCA.
Headquarters Agreement
Applicant Member State's commitment to confirming the conditions included in the
application in a future headquarters agreement with EUCA
Yes
No
Do you propose other premises (2)?  Please fill in the survey concerning premises 2 - only for criteria 1 and 2.  Yes  No.
No

### Do you propose other premises (3)?

Please fill in the survey concerning premises 2 - only for criteria 1 and 2.



Yes

No

### **Background Documents**

**Questions Answers** 

#### Contact

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