Commission assessment EUCA seat selection – France (Lille)

'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.'		
	Member State answer	**Commission assessment**
Description	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.	The application refers to the French custom's involvement in cooperation structures such as the European Union Customs Alliance for Border (EUCAB) and the location of the Hauts-de-France region between the United Kingdom and the EU, as well as to Lille's location close to Brussels, hosting EU institutions and the World Customs Organization. The application indicates that Lille is ready to host EUCA in the proposed premises (AGORA building), available from early 2026. It also indicates the availability of a range of hotels in the Lille metropolitan area. The application indicates the availability of universities and companies in the field of cloud computing and cybersecurity. It also indicates the availability of the French National Customs School in Tourcoing. It indicates that as a university hub in France, Lille offers a pool of talent for EUCA recruitment and that Lille offers an attractive, affordable, and sustainable living environment.
Summary	**The application indicates that Lille is located in the Hauts-de-France region between the United Kingdom and the EU, close to Brussels which is hosting EU institutions and the World Customs Organization. It indicates that the proposed premises will be available from early 2026, and indicates the availability of hotels, universities, and companies in cloud computing and cybersecurity nearby, including the French National Customs School in Tourcoing. It furthermore states that Lille offers a talent pool around its university, along with an affordable and sustainable living environment.**	

Criterion 1 – *'The date on which EUCA can become operational on site after the entry into force of the Regulation'*		
Sub criteria	**Member State answer**	**Commission assessment**
Building 1		
Availability of the premises		
1) Adress of the proposed premises (Building 1)	137 Avenue Charles Saint-Venant, 59800 Lille	The application indicates that the address of the proposed premises is 137 Avenue Charles Saint-Venant, 59800 Lille.
2) General description of the proposed premises	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	The application proposes to host EUCA in the AGORA building in the centre of Lille, indicating that it will be available from February 2026. It indicates that the proposed premises consist of 8 748 m² of office space and can gradually accommodate EUCA employees: up to 250 by 2034 and 500 thereafter, with a final maximum of 987 people, The application indicates that the proposed premises will provide all facilities required for EUCA. It provides information on meeting rooms including an executive board room, a management board room, eight rooms with 10-15 seats, a 24/7 crisis

	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.	room, several secure operational rooms, a call centre, and an incident management and service desk in a restricted area. It also indicates the availability of relaxation areas and a large space for secure data management for up to 115 people. The application also indicates safety and other standards the building complies with, with more detail in the questions below.
3) Timeline of the availability of the premises (before fit-out and necessary adaptation works)	The premises will be available on February 1, 2026. 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.	The application indicates that the premises will be available on 1 February 2026 and that the necessary fit-out and adaptation work will be spread over a period of 12 months. It indicates that the entirety of the premises will be fit-out (including all the high level security arrangements) no later than February 2027.
4) Estimated time needed for fit-out and adaptation works (expressed in months)	12	The application indicates that the fit-out and adaptation works will require an estimated 12 months.
Organisation of the premises		
The size of the EUCA's premises should be at least 6 000 m² 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)	8748	The application indicates that the total surface of the premises is 8 748 m².
2) Staff capacity (expressed in maximum number of staff)	987	The application indicates a maximum staff capacity of the premises of 987 staff.
3) Availability of a dedicated meeting room for the executive board (10-15 seats)	Yes	The application indicates the availability of a dedicated meeting room for the executive board of 10-15 seats.
4) Availability of a dedicated Management Board room in the secure zone (60-70 seats + at least 30-40 seats in the back)	Yes	The application indicates the availability of a dedicated Management Board room in the secure zone of 60-70 seats + at least 30-40 seats in the back.
5) Availability of 'secure room'	Yes	The application indicates the possibility to install a 'secure room' on floors 7 and 8 in a restricted area, allowing information classified as EU Secret and EU Top Secret to

5.1) Description of the security features of the 'secure room' (size and security measures applied)	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.	be processed. The application indicates that the room will be equipped with physical barriers and an anti-intrusion system, video surveillance, and access control. It will be subject to special legal protection under the French Penal Code.
6) Availability of a medium-sized room (30-35 seats)	Yes	The application indicates the availability of a medium-sized room of 30-35 seats.
7) Availability of multiple small-sized rooms (10-15 seats)	Yes	The application indicates the availability of 8 small-sized rooms of 10-15 seats.
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	The application indicates that state-of-the-art meeting and videoconference facilities are available in all meeting rooms.
9) Availability of a lounge area for lunch and/or dinner catering	Yes	The application indicates the availability of a lounge area for lunch and/or dinner catering.
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	The application indicates the availability of a dedicated, secured and restricted area for 'data management task' for at least 115 staff.
11) Availability of a 24/7 crisis response cell (situation room with capacity for 30 persons)	Yes	The application indicates the availability of a 24/7 crisis response cell.
12) Availability of at least two (and ideally three) operational facilities (secure and isolated operational rooms)	Yes	The application indicates the availability of more than 2 secure and isolated operational rooms serving as operational facilities.
12.1) If yes, how many operational analysis facilities are there? (*)	More	
13) Availability of a call centre, incident management and service desk facilities in the secured and restricted area	Yes	The application indicates the availability of call centre, incident management and service desk facilities in the secured and restricted area.
14) Description of the availability and capacity of EU sovereign and highly available telecommunications and networking infrastructure with operational redundancy	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.	The application indicates that the premises are equipped with technical services that ensure high availability and operational redundancy for digital services. It indicates that the building holds WIRED SCORE certification guaranteeing high standards in infrastructure, resilience, wireless networking, fibre optic availability and internet connection. The application indicates that telecommunication and electricity operators offer redundant network connections and power supplies. It indicates that French telecommunication operators can deploy tailored network capacities, including adaptable and high-speed solutions with dedicated fibre optics. The application indicates that recognised providers offer comprehensive and secure cloud services for high-speed connections on the site.

	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.	According to the application, the building has adequate space and electrical capacity to host multiple information systems. Once construction is complete, it can implement a classified information system meeting the requirements of French Interministerial Instruction 2102 for securing EU classified dematerialised information, the application states. According to the application, the building's design allows to create a secure, closed network in line with security standards, allowing EUCA to implement a classified information system in order to process EU classified information up to EU Top Secret in conformity with EU security rules, with the possibility to draw on the expertise of the French National Cybersecurity Agency (ANSSI).
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).	The application indicates that a range of secure cloud solutions, including those operated by certified European providers, are available. It states that France will guarantee access to these infrastructures without imposing any technological choices.
16) Internal archives capacity of the premises	Yes	The application indicates that the internal archives capacity of the premises is 54 m^3.
16.1) Archives volume (expressed in m^3) (*)	54	
17) Number of parking spaces (inside and outside) - available for EUCA	83	The application indicates that there are 83 parking spaces and 100 bike parking spaces (inside and outside) available for EUCA.
18) Number of bike parking spaces (inside and outside) - available for EUCA	100	
19) Possibilities for extension of office space in its original premises or the nearby area	Yes	The application indicates the possibility to extend the office space in its original premises or in the nearby area by 6 000 m^2.
19.1) Surface for possible extensions (expressed in m^2) (*)	6000	
20) Are the premises EMAS verified?	No	The application indicates that the premises are not EMAS verified.
21) Description of the premises' sustainability. If not EMAS certified, description of additional national/international sustainability certifications	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)	The application indicates that the premises comply with the following international certifications: • BREEAM (Excellent level), • E+C- label (E2C1 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.	• HQE Sustainable Building (Excellent level), • WELL (Gold level), and • WIRED SCORE (Silver level).
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 for people with disabilities	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.	The application does not provide information on the compliance with the Manual of Standard Building Specifications. It indicates that the proposed premises are a new office construction project complying with current environmental standards. It indicates that its energy performance is 40% better than required under the 2012 French Thermal Regulations (RT 2012). Further, it indicates that the premises comply with national labour and housing law. It indicates that the building incorporates fire detection, evacuation, and smoke extraction systems, as well as secure access (access control, video surveillance). The application states that the entire premises comply 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 affective response	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	The application provides detailed information on the security measures: • network perimeter protection and secure internal exchanges: Anti-Distributed-Denial-of-Service (Anti-DDoS), Web Application Firewalls and Next-Generation (NG) Firewalls, Intrusion prevention systems (IPS), network access control (NAC) site-to-site Virtual Private Networks, Intrusion Prevention Systems, encryption tool (such as ZED!); • access controls: reinforced by hardware authentication (physical cards); • endpoint security: antivirus software, Endpoint Detection and Response against advanced threats, disk encryption to protect data in the event of theft or loss, VPN for remote work, Mobile Device Management. In addition, the application indicates the following management practices: • regular security audits to identify and correct potential vulnerabilities; • centralisation of IT logs to facilitate the monitoring and analysis of security events. SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) solutions correlate these logs to detect suspicious behaviour in real time; • automatic and tested backups to ensure data can be restored in the event of a major incident; • a Security Operation Centre (SOC) to provide continuous monitoring of infrastructure and handling incidents 24/7.

		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		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,	The application provides additional information on three points: secure area for data management, crisis room and call and incident management centre. It indicates that the building's secure area for data management (115 people), will be divided into protected platforms across various floors, which comply with French regulations and offer a high level of security through physical barriers, video surveillance, and access control systems to manage sensitive information up to French or EU Secret level. It indicates that the crisis room will operate separately from analysts' workspaces and include secure communications systems and soundproofing to prevent compromising signals, adhering to French regulations. It indicates that the call and incident management centre, set up as a protected area, will house systems for anti-intrusion, video surveillance, and access control. According to the application, this will meet EU security rules to host and manage classified information up to EU Top Secret.

	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 anti-intrusion, 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	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.	• The application provides information on the following lease and other fees:payable quarterly in advance; • subject to VAT; • indexed annually based on the French ILAT rent index; • deposit of three months' rent excluding tax and charges; • fittings carried out by EUCA become property of the lessor, who has the right to require the premises to be restored to their original state at end of lease • insurance is taken out by the lessor at the expense of EUCA • taxes and duties (property taxes, additional tax, street cleaning tax and any new taxes) are payable by the tenant • Arthur Loyd marketing fees are payable by the Tenant: 15% excluding VAT of the annual rent excluding VAT/charges, payable on the day the lease is signed; • all work is payable by the tenant, 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. The application states that all the costs related to the rent will be fully borne by France.
2) Monthly rental cost (expressed in EUR)	239924	The application indicates monthly rental costs of EUR 239 924 and that France intends to cover the rent for 9 years.
3) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the rent?	Yes	
3.1) Will the applicant Member State cover the rent? (*)	For a given period of time	

3.2) If for a given period of time, for how many years? (*)	9	
4) Monthly maintenance costs (expressed in EUR/m^2)	6	The application indicates that the monthly maintenance costs are EUR 6/m^2 and that France intends to cover the maintenance costs for 9 years.
5) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the maintenance costs?	Yes	
5.1) Will the applicant Member State cover the maintenance costs? (*)	For a given period of time	
5.2) If for a given period of time, for how many years? (*)	9	
6) Fit-out costs (expressed in EUR/m^2)	1432	The application indicates that the fit-out costs are EUR 1 432/m^2 and that France intends to cover the fit-out costs.
7) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the fit-out costs?	Yes	
8) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the cost of future upgrade and extension?	Yes	The application indicates that France intends to cover the future upgrade and extension. It further indicates that the financial conditions are identical to those for the areas initially targeted, because there is scope for building extensions on site.
8.1) Financial conditions of future upgrades and extensions	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)	9	The application indicates that the duration of the lease is 9 years.
10) Financial conditions of termination before the end of the lease	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.	The application indicates that the lease is for a fixed period of 9-year. It indicates that, in principle, the lease does not allow for an early termination. The application specifies that, even in the event of early termination of the lease, France still undertakes to pay the rent, charges, and taxes until the end of the fixed 9-year period.
11) Other	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.	The application indicates that after the 9-year term, EUCA can terminate the lease upon expiration, giving at least 12 months' notice. It specifies that the leased premises would have to be returned in perfect condition, notwithstanding Article 1755 of the Civil Code and other legal obligations.
Summary criterion 1	**The application indicates the availability of AGORA, located at 137 Avenue Charles Saint-Venant, 59800 Lille, which offers 8 748 m² and can host 987 people. The application indicates that the premises are available from 1 February 2026 (for the first wave of EUCA colleagues), with an estimated time for fit-out works of 1 year.** **The application indicates the availability of a dedicated meeting room for the executive board of 10-15 seats, a dedicated Management Board room in the secure zone of 60-70 seats + at least 30-40 seats in the back, a medium-sized room of 30-35 seats, 8 small-sized rooms of 10-15 seats. It indicates that state-of-the-art meeting and videoconference facilities are available in all of the meeting rooms. A lounge area for lunch and/or dinner catering is available as well as a dedicated, secured and restricted area for 'data management task' for at least 115 staff, a 24/7 crisis response cell, 3 secure and isolated operational rooms serving as operational facilities, a call centre, incident management and service desk facilities in the secured and restricted area. It indicates the availability of 54 m³ of internal archives capacity, 83 parking spaces and 100 bike parking spaces (inside and outside) available for EUCA. It also indicates the possibility for extension of office space by 6 000 m². The applications indicates that the premises are not EMAS verified but hold various certifications.** **The application proposes a secure room for floors 7 and 8, equipped for processing EU Secret information with physical barriers and advanced security systems. It indicates that the premises support WIRED SCORE certification for infrastructure standards, offer redundant connections, and tailored high-speed network capacities, that they can host information systems that meet French standards for securing EU classified dematerialised information, with a design that supports a**

	secure closed network for processing up to EU Top Secret data. It indicates the availability of secure cloud solutions and security measures that include Anti-DDoS, Web Application Firewalls, NG Firewalls, IPS, NAC, VPNs, hardware authentication, antivirus software, EDR, disk encryption, and Mobile Device Management. It indicates the that the premises support regular security audits, IT log centralization, SIEM for real-time detection, tested backups, and a 24/7 Security Operation Center. The application indicates that the monthly rental cost is EUR 239 924, the monthly maintenance costs are EUR 6/m² and the fit-out costs are EUR 1 432/m². It indicates that France undertakes to pay rent, charges, and taxes for the length of the lease which is 9 years and even in the event of early termination.

Criterion 2 – *'Accessibility of the location'*		
Sub criteria	**Member State answer**	**Commission assessment**
Public transportation		
1) Description of the access to air and rail transport linking the location with European capitals	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 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 options. For EU institutional travel, the de facto reference airport is Roissy-CDG. Therefore, this is the reference airport selected for the following answers.	The application provides information on air and rail transport. It indicates the availability of 4 international airports accessible within 1 hour and 30 minutes from Lille: • Paris Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle International Airport with 22 daily high-speed trains connect Lille to Roissy-CDG in 55 minutes • Lille-Lesquin International Airport, accessible in 20 minutes by bus. With direct flights to one Member State capital (Athens) and other cities in Europe; • Brussels-Zaventem; and • Charleroi-Brussels-South. In addition, it indicates the availability, in Lille, of two train stations in the city centre within walking distance of the proposed premises: Lille Flandres (6 min) and Lille Europe (13 min). The application provides information on trains connecting Lille and 4 EU capitals with direct links: Brussels, The Hague, Luxembourg and Paris. • 24 daily trains to Paris (1 hour); • 19 daily trains to Brussels (35 minutes).
2) Availability and types of public transport connections from the closest international airport to the premises	Train	The application indicates that train connections are available from the closest international/national train station to the premises.
Frequency of train connections (expressed in minutes) (*)	38	The application indicates that the frequency of train connections is 38 minutes, and the duration is 55 minutes.
Duration of train connections (expressed in minutes) (*)	55	

3) Availability and types of public transport connections from the closest international/national train station or other transport hub to the premises		The application does not provide information on public transport connections to the closest international/national train stations or other transport hub to the premises. However, under point 1 it indicates two stations within walking distance of the proposed premises: Lille Flandres (6 min) and Lille Europe (13 min).
4) Other	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.	The application provides information on Lille's public transport network, including 2 high-frequency metro lines, 2 tram lines, and over 122 bus lines, including high-level service lines. It indicates that 100% of metro and tram stations are accessible to people with reduced mobility, and that buses are equipped with ramps. The application indicates plans to add two tram lines and two high-level bus service lines by 2035. The application indicates that Lille has a self-service bicycle system with 2 600 V'Lille bikes, spread across 259 stations and 900 km of bike paths. It indicates the availability of automated bike shelters near the two train stations. It lastly indicates the availability of four parking spaces near the premises, ranging from 374 to 3 210 spaces.
Accommodation facilities in the vicinity of the premises (within 3 km)		
1) Number of 3 star hotels in the vicinity of the premises	36	The application indicates the presence of 36 three-star hotels in the vicinity of the premises.
2) Number of 4 star hotels in the vicinity of the premises	13	The application indicates the presence of 13 four-star hotels in the vicinity of the premises.
3) Number of 5 star hotels in the vicinity of the premises	3	The application indicates the presence of 3 five-star hotels in the vicinity of the premises.
4) Description of available facilities for events and conferences outside EUCA premises	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.	The application indicates that Lille Metropolis has 9 venues for conferences, meetings, and professional events and presents details for 7. It also indicates the availability of 42 hotels, 17 coworking spaces, and 26 other venues for events of all sizes in Lille.

	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	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	The application provides additional information on hotel accommodation in the Lille metropolitan area, indicating 141 hotels, and, if including tourist residences and aparthotels, a total of 8 980 rooms. It lastly indicates that 70% of the accommodation is accessible on foot, metro or tram from the proposed premises and from the rail stations Lille-Europe and Lille-Flandres.
Summary criterion 2	**The application indicates the availability of train connections (38 min frequency and 55 min duration) from the closest international airport to the premises and the and of 2 train stations within walking distance of the premises: Lille Flandres (6 min) and Lille Europe (13 min). It indicates the presence of 4 international airports accessible within 1 hour and 30 minutes from Lille, including Paris Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle International Airport, leading airport in Europe and the 11th largest in the world. It provides information on Lille's public transport network (2 metro lines, 2 tram lines, 122 bus lines, self-service bicycle system).** **The application indicates in the vicinity of the premises the presence of 36 three-star hotels, 13 four-star hotels and 3 five-star hotels. It provides information on the presence of 9 venues for conferences, meetings, and professional events in Lille Metropole, such as the Lille Grand Palais offering 4 auditoriums (430, 500, 1 500, and 4 500 seats).**	

Criterion 3 – *'Existence of adequate education facilities for the children of EUCA's staff'*		
Sub criteria	**Member State answer**	**Commission assessment**
1) Number of nurseries	461	The application indicates the presence of 461 nurseries.
2) Language options offered by nurseries	French, English	The application indicates that English and French are the languages offered by the nurseries.
3) Additional information concerning nurseries (names, location, capacity, language options offered, etc.)	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.	The application indicates that for children of ages 0 to 3, the following options are available: • Nursery under Single service provision (PSU) for which families' contributions are calculated based on income (7 634 places); • Nursery under Early childhood benefit (PAJE) for which family contributions are not based on income (2 844 places); • More personalised childcare with a childminder (12 879 places). The application states that there are 19 bilingual French-English nurseries with 237 places in the metropolitan area and lists seven examples.

	• 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)	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.	The application indicates the availability of European or international school education for ages 3 to 18 in either public schools or private schools. It refers to one accredited European school, (Jacques Delors European School Lille Métropole, in Marcq-en-Barœul), covering ages 4 to 18, up to the European Baccalaureate. It provides information on • the languages of instruction available (English and French); • second foreign languages available (German, Spanish, and Italian); • the school places (840, 720 of which are currently occupied); • the priority to be given to children of EUCA staff for enrolment and re-enrolment in accordance with European School regulations; • the readiness of the school to expand its capacity according to EUCA's expansion.
4.2) Language options offered by the European, European accredited and international schools (*)	Portuguese, Italian, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, English, Polish	The application indicates that Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish are the languages offered by the European accredited and international schools.
4.3) Additional information concerning European, European accredited and international schools (names, location, capacity, language options offered, etc.) (*)	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	The application additionally indicates the availability of a private school (Jeannine Manuel School in Marcq-en-Barœul) which provides education from kindergarten to high school and has a bilingual French and English system available from primary school onwards, as part of an American international section. The application furthermore provides information on to the international sections within the French public education system. It provides additional information on the

(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).

path students take throughout the local schools as they graduate primary and middle school, across the Italian, Spanish and British international sections.

It also indicates that access to these sections is free and reserved for students with very good proficiency, whether they are native speakers or not. Further, it indicates that these sections are organised from the age of 6 up to the international baccalaureate (OIB). It lastly provides information on the languages offered for OIB at 5 schools.

	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)	250	The application indicates the presence of 250 higher education facilities of university level or equal.
6) Language options offered by the higher education facilities	Portuguese, Croatian, Italian, Czech, Danish, German, Dutch, Greek, Spanish, English, Hungarian, Polish, Swedish	The application indicates that Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish are the languages offered by the higher education facilities.
7) Description of higher education facilities (Universities and academic disciplines)	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.	The application indicates that Lille hosts a university centre with 125 000 students enrolled in 250 public and private institutions in the metropolitan area. It refers to two main universities offering a wide range of courses, University of Lille with 80 000 students across 17 faculties, and Catholic University of Lille with 42 000 students across 22 educational establishments. The application indicates that Lille offers preparatory classes for French "grandes écoles" in several fields: economics, literature, and science. It also lists 5 of these schools. Lastly, it refers to the nearby National Customs School in Tourcoing, providing initial training for customs inspectors, category A civil servants, and senior customs officials.

	• 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	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.	The application indicates that Brussels and Paris offer additional educational options close by, from kindergarten to higher education.
Summary criterion 3	**The application indicates the availability of 461 nurseries providing over 23 000 places for children aged 0 to 3, including 19 bilingual French-English nurseries. The Jacques Delors accredited European School in Lille metropolitan area covers ages 4 to 18 up to the European Baccalaureate, with French and English as languages of instruction and capacity to expand for EUCA staff. Additional international sections within public schools offer Italian, Spanish, and British streams from age 6 to the International Baccalaureate. The application describes Lille's universities with 125 000 students across 250 institutions. It refers to the University of Lille hosting 80 000 students, and the Catholic University of Lille with 42 000 students. The application also points out the National Customs School in nearby Tourcoing, providing training for customs inspectors and senior officials, and additional educational options in nearby Paris and Brussels.**	

Criterion 4 – 'Appropriate access to the labour market, social security and medical care for both children and spouses'		
Sub criterion	**Member State answer**	**Commission assessment**
1) Number of hospitals available in the vicinity of the premises	18	The application indicates the presence of 18 hospitals in the vicinity of the premises.
2) Description of access to medical care (access to hospitals and other medical facilities, doctors, spoken languages, etc.)	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	The application indicates that the Lille metropolitan area has over 9 500 hospital beds spread across some 20 public and private hospital sites. It provides more detail about the main public hospital (3 000 beds), private hospitals, and 2 private healthcare establishments of public interest (ESPIC). The application provides information on Lille as an innovative region in terms of healthcare with the Eurasanté campus (Lille-Loos-Seclin) encompassing 12 hospitals. The application indicates the availability in the Lille metropolitan area of a dense network of private medical practices, with more than 2 000 general practitioners and specialists. It indicates that many doctors across specialties take consultations in English.

	• 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.)	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.	The application indicates the National Contact Point for Cross-Border Healthcare as responsible for providing foreign patients with information about their healthcare and reimbursement rights. It states that all information is available in English, German, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese. The application states that EUCA staff and their families will be covered by the EU Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme (JSIS), or otherwise the French social security system. The application indicates that depending on their individual situation, spouses and children not covered by JSIS fall under either of two scenarios: • free French healthcare if they meet French social security criteria, while retaining health insurance coverage for care received in their country of origin; • paid French healthcare with 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	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 application provides information on the employment opportunities for EUCA staff family members. It indicates the availability of international companies and anglophile sectors such as tech, IT, consulting, and finance in Lille which would allow the families of EUCA staff to find an English-speaking job. It indicates that Lille has 80 corporate headquarters with more than 500 employees, and that 80% of large French companies are present. It refers to Lille as the second city in France by 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. | It indicates the availability in Lille of 80 financial institutions and 13 international banks with 18 000 jobs in legal and accounting activities, 7 500 employees in the insurance sector, and 11 100 people in the banking sector.

It indicates the presence of EuraTechnologies in the tech and digital sector which is a. hub that houses 600 companies/start-ups, supports 200 new projects per year, and has created 8,000 jobs in 15 years.

Further, it provides information on the cyber sector, with 116 companies in this field providing 8 000 jobs. It indicates the availability in the Lille metropolitan area of 8 major cyber companies and 45 specialist firms. It refers to the Hauts-de-France Cyber Campus and the OVHcloud.

The application provides information on the proximity of the Paris labour market and frequent daily commuting connections within an hour. It states that 1 500 residents of Lille and metropolitan work in Paris every day, and that Brussels is also accessible. |
| 5) Availability of services assisting expatriates and foreign nationals in seeking jobs | 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 | The application indicates that spouses of EUCA staff will receive job search support from France Travail, the French national employment agency which coordinates Eures (EURopean Employment Services).

It indicates that all services offered by France Travail are free of charge. Further information is provided on France Travail's offer, including personalised support (in English and French) from a team of 9 specialised bilingual advisors in Lille. |

	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	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.).	The application indicates several relocation companies, partners of the Hello Lille metropolitan agency, which offer personalised support for EUCA officials and their families.
Summary criterion 4	**The application indicates the availability of over 9 500 hospital beds across 20 public and private hospital sites in the Lille metropolitan area. It specifies that the main public hospital, Lille University Hospital (CHU), comprises 14 specialised hospitals with over 3 000 beds and that the area also has more than 2 000 general practitioners and specialists in private practice, many of whom consult in English.** **EUCA officials and their families are covered by the EU Joint Sickness Insurance Scheme. The application states that spouses and children not covered by JSIS can access the French social security system, either free of charge if they meet French criteria or through paid contributions. It states that the National Contact Point for Cross-Border Healthcare which provides information in English, German, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese.** **The application states that Lille hosts 80 corporate headquarters with over 500 employees, including 15 international headquarters. Key sectors include finance (80 institutions, 13 international banks), tech (EuraTechnologies with 600 companies and 8 000 jobs), and cyber (116 companies, 8 000 jobs). The application states that France Travail offers free job search support with bilingual advisors, and Paris is accessible within an hour for daily commuting.**	

'Geographical balance'		
	Member State answer	**Commission assessment**
Description	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.	The application indicates that France currently hosts the seat of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. It also indicates that the following EU agencies are hosted in France: 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 It refers to EU statistics according to which the agencies in France employ around 700 people. Including the institutions and bodies of the European Union, around 1 300 people work in France. The application states that 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, indicating that France is still under-represented compared to other large Member States.
Summary	**The application indicates that France hosts the European Parliament and five EU decentralised agencies with a total of 1 300 EU employees. It states that France ranks 8th in terms of EU staff hosted and 22nd when adjusted for population and therefore remains behind other Member States.**	

Any benefits granted in addition to Protocol 7		
	Member State answer	**Commission assessment**

1) Does the applicant Member State offer additional privileges?	Yes	The application indicates that French Order No. 2022-533 of 13 April 2022 allows an EU agency to be granted the following additional privileges to Protocol 7 on the privileges and immunities of the European Union:
1.1) If yes, which ones? (*)	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. • Registration facilities for vehicles assigned for use by EUCA. • Representatives of Member States enjoy the same privileges as representatives to an international organization. • 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. 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.	• An agency may contract, acquire, or dispose of real estate and movable property and be a party to legal proceedings. • Registration facilities for vehicles assigned for use by EUCA. • Representatives of Member States enjoy the same privileges as representatives to an international organisation. • 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.

Headquarters Agreement		
Applicant Member State's commitment to confirming the conditions included in the application in a future headquarters agreement with EUCA (!)	Yes	The application indicates that France commits to confirm the conditions included in the application in a future headquarters agreement with EUCA.