

Commission assessment EUCA seat selection – Belgium (Liège)

| <i><b>‘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.’</b></i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Member State answer</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Commission assessment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>La Belgique présente Liège comme ville candidate pour accueillir l’Autorité douanière européenne. Située au carrefour du continent, dotée d’un aéroport cargo parmi les plus importants d’Europe et du troisième port intérieur européen, Liège constitue un hub logistique multimodal de premier plan.</p> <p>Depuis 2018, la ville s’est imposée comme un véritable laboratoire douanier grâce à son expertise unique dans la gestion de flux massifs de colis provenant de pays tiers et dans la manipulation de trafics industriels sensibles, tels que la pharmacie, la défense ou le spatial. Son rôle stratégique a été confirmé par l’OMS durant la crise du Covid-19, qui l’a reconnue comme plateforme logistique de référence.</p> <p>À ces atouts s’ajoute une excellence académique rare en Europe, portée par l’Université de Liège et sa Customs &amp; Trade Law Academy. Reconnues par l’Administration générale des douanes et accises et labellisées « formation d’excellence » par la Commission européenne, ses formations couvrent l’ensemble du droit douanier : formation de base, certificat universitaire complet, module pionnier sur le e-commerce et formation dédiée au contentieux. L’ULiège organise aussi un master de spécialisation en droit douanier, l’un des plus avancés en Europe. Depuis 2018, plus de 700 professionnels ont été formés par des experts de la Commission européenne, de l’OMD, des autorités douanières et du secteur privé. Liège est également co-fondatrice, avec l’Université d’Anvers, de la seule chaire interuniversitaire européenne dédiée à l’appui aux autorités belges dans la réforme de la loi générale sur les douanes et accises.</p> <p>Enfin, Liège offre un cadre de vie attractif et cosmopolite : ville accessible, verte, proche de Maastricht et d’Aachen, forte de 160 nationalités, dynamique culturellement et connectée aux grandes capitales via le TGV.</p> <p>Choisir Liège, c’est ancrer l’Autorité douanière européenne au cœur d’un écosystème opérationnel et académique unique.</p> | <p>The application indicates that Liège is situated at the crossroads of the European continent and constitutes a logistics hub, equipped with an important cargo airport.</p> <p>The application indicates that since 2018, Liège has become a customs lab, due to its expertise in dealing with parcel flows from third countries and sensitive industrial traffic in pharmaceuticals, defence and space. The application indicates that the University of Liège and its Customs and Trade Law Academy provide trainings in Customs Law including basic training, university certificates, modules on e-commerce and litigation, and that it offers a Master in Customs Law. The application indicates that since 2018, experts from the European Commission, the World Customs Organization, customs authorities and private sector have trained 700 professionals. The application indicates that Liège is also co-founder, together with the University of Antwerp, of the only European inter-university chair dedicated to supporting the Belgian authorities in the reform of the general Law on customs and excises.</p> <p>The application indicates that Liège is accessible, green, situated near Maastricht and Aachen, and is composed of 160 nationalities, culturally dynamic and connected to large capitals via high-speed trains. The application indicates that the choice of Liège would place EUCA at the heart of an academic and operational ecosystem.</p> |
| Summary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>The application indicates that Liège is located centrally in Europe and equipped with a cargo airport and an internal port. It also indicates that Liège has developed expertise on customs, both at operational and academic levels and that it offers specific trainings on customs (Customs and Trade Law Academy of the University of Liège). It also provides information about the multicultural environment and connectivity.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Le bâtiment proposé, situé dans l’aile A (nord) de cet ensemble, présente une surface totale de 6 573 m² de bureaux, répartie sur six niveaux (du rez-de-chaussée au R+5). Il est dimensionné pour accueillir jusqu’à 500 membres du personnel, dans des conditions optimales de fonctionnalité et de confort. Le bâtiment dispose de 50 emplacements de parking en sous-sol, dont 8 équipés de bornes de recharge pour véhicules électriques, ainsi que de 10 places extérieures. La mobilité douce est favorisée grâce à la présence de 90 emplacements sécurisés pour vélos au rez-de-chaussée. Un espace d’archives d’une superficie de 200 m³ (dont 84 m² en sous-sol) est également prévu afin de répondre aux besoins de conservation documentaire de l’organisation.</p> <p>La répartition des surfaces par niveau est la suivante : 549,64 m² au rez-de-chaussée, 1 031,07 m² au R+1, 1 356,30 m² au R+2 et 1 212,13 m² pour chacun des niveaux R+3, R+4 et R+5, pour un total de 6 573,40 m².</p> | <p>parking spaces, 8 of which are equipped with electric vehicle charging stations and 10 outdoor parking spaces, 90 secure bicycle parking spaces on the ground floor and an archive space of 200 m³ (84 m³ of which is underground).</p> <p>The application indicates that premises’ surface is composed of 549.64 m² on the ground floor, 1 031.07 m² on the first floor, 1 356.30 m² on the second floor, and 1 212.13 m² each on the third, fourth, and fifth floors.</p> |
| 3) Timeline of the availability of the premises (before fit-out and necessary adaptation works)                                                                                                                                                                                     | 1er août 2028                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | The application indicates that the premises will be available as of 1 August 2028.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4) Estimated time needed for fit-out and adaptation works (expressed in months)                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | The application indicates that 6 months is the estimated time needed for fit-out and adaptation works.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Organisation of the premises</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <i><b>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.</b></i> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1) Total surface of the premises (expressed in m²)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 6573                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | The application indicates that the total surface of the premises is 6 573 m².                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2) Staff capacity (expressed in maximum number of staff)                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 500                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | The application indicates a maximum staff capacity of the premises of 500 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 availability of a ‘secure room’ and that the security features will be defined with the tenant according to their needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 5.1) Description of the security features of the ‘secure room’ (size and security measures applied)                                                                                                                                                                                 | Les éléments de sécurité sont à définir avec le locataire selon ses besoins                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 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)                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | The application indicates that there are no small-sized rooms of 10-15 seats available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 8) Availability of state-of-the-art meeting and videoconference facilities in the meeting rooms                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes, in some of them                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |





































