

**Commission assessment of Belgium’s application to host AMLA (Brussels)**

***‘When selecting the location, the co-legislators have agreed that they will ensure that, given the nature of AMLA, the location enables the Authority to fully execute its tasks and powers, to recruit highly qualified and specialised staff, to offer adequate training opportunities for AML/CFT activities, where relevant, to allow for close cooperation with Union institutions bodies and agencies, and in order to avoid reputational risks, to consider how ML/FT risks are adequately addressed in the Member State based on publicly available, relevant and comparable information such as FATF reports.’***

	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
Description	<p>Located at the heart of the European Union, with Belgium being one of its founding members, Brussels is considered as the capital of Europe and is ideally placed to host the headquarters of the European Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA). Brussels has created a unique European ecosystem by being the seat of the main European institutions such as the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council of the EU. Considered as a European and international decision-making center, Brussels is Europe’s first leading congress city and the second international congress city. Belgium is ready to offer safe, high-quality infrastructure for the AMLA, near the European institutions. This proximity of the EU institutions and other EU bodies with which AMLA will need to cooperate will significantly reduce costs both during the period in which AMLA is being established and afterwards once AMLA is fully operational.</p> <p>Brussels has a long experience in setting up international organisations and agencies and can offer logistical convenience with plenty of office space available at short notice that meets European standards.</p> <p>Brussels is home to NATO and 8 related agencies and centers, 25 United Nations programmes and agencies and 32 other intergovernmental organizations of various sizes. 2,400 head offices of international associations and 1,500 international associations have established their European headquarters or sales subsidiaries in Brussels.</p> <p>There is nothing that would prevent AMLA from fully executing its tasks and powers if it would join these international organisations by having its seat in Brussels.</p> <p>Belgium is one of the most international countries in Europe, with expats making up more than 10% of the workforce. More than 140,000 European foreigners are currently working in Brussels.</p> <p>The city, home to numerous international institutions, global financial players, advocacy groups, lobbying companies, law firms and others offers an extensive pool of highly qualified and specialised staff (as well as challenging employment opportunities for the family members of staff).</p> <p>There is a wide range of conference venues in Brussels where AMLA could organise AML/CFT training and activities . Other organisations also offer AML/CFT training in Brussels in English, French and Dutch</p> <p>Choosing for Brussels as location to set up AMLA would come with significant cost reductions: AMLA would be based in the proximity of most important EU institutions, bodies and agencies with which it will collaborate. The European legislative actors (EU Parliament, Commission and Council) are all situated in Brussels, as well as the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), enabling AMLA to work closely together on AML/CFT issues.</p> <p>The headquarters of other important EU bodies can be reached in just a few hours by train:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Located in Luxemburg, the European Public Prosecutor’s Office and the Court of Justice of the European Union are reachable by direct train connection of 3h30;</li> <li>- In The Hague, Europol and Eurojust are reachable with a train ride of less than 2h;</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>[the location enables the Authority to fully execute its tasks and powers]</i></b></p> <p>The application refers to the central location of Brussels within the European Union and indicates that there is nothing that would prevent AMLA from fully executing its tasks and powers if it would join the EU institutions and international organisations present in Brussels. It points to Brussel’s experience in setting up international organisations and agencies and refers to various elements in relation to Brussels that are also covered under the criteria below, including availability of premises, accessibility and accommodation.</p> <p><b><i>[to recruit highly qualified and specialised staff]</i></b></p> <p>The application indicates that Brussels offers an extensive pool of highly qualified and specialised staff. It indicates that expats make up more than 10% of the workforce and that more than 140,000 European foreigners are currently working in Brussels.</p> <p><b><i>[to offer adequate training opportunities for AML/CFT activities, where relevant]</i></b></p> <p>The application indicates that on the one hand, Brussels offers a wide range of conference venues where AMLA could organise AML/CFT training and activities and, on the other hand, it mentions the presence of organisations that offer AML/CFT training in three different languages English, French and Dutch.</p> <p><b><i>[to allow for close cooperation with Union institutions bodies and agencies]</i></b></p> <p>The application indicates that Brussels is the seat of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the Commission. It further indicates that the presence of EU institutions and other EU bodies such as the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) in Brussels would enable AMLA to work closely with these on AML/CFT issues. In addition, the application indicates the need for very close cooperation with the Commission and the European Banking Authority in Paris as well as with other EU bodies which, according to the application, can be reached by train in a few hours: the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the Court of Justice of the EU in Luxembourg, Europol and Eurojust in the Hague, and the European Central Bank in Frankfurt. In addition, the application indicates the presence of NATO and related agencies and centers, United Nations programmes and agencies and other intergovernmental organisations, as well as international associations in Brussels.</p> <p>The application also indicates that a location in Brussels would lead to reductions in travel and accommodation costs due to the proximity to other institutions.</p> <p><b><i>[to avoid reputational risks, to consider how Money Laundering/Terrorist Financing risks are adequately addressed in the Member State based on publicly available, relevant and comparable information such as FATF reports].</i></b></p> <p>The application indicates the central role played by the Belgian FIU, CTIF, in ensuring the coordination of the ML/TF risk assessment and the AML/CFT policy and also in the creation of the Egmont Group with the</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Located in Paris, the European Banking Authority is reachable with a direct train connection less than 3h;</li> <li>- In Frankfurt, the European Central Bank can be reached by direct train connection of 3h30;</li> <li>- In addition, there is the availability of easy air d-services to major capitals of the world</li> </ul> <p>The reduction in travel and accommodation costs due to Brussels' central location and proximity to the other institutions would represent a huge cost savings compared to several other potential locations.</p> <p>Cost reduction will be particularly high in the first years of setting up AMLA, when there will be an almost permanent cooperation, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With the Commission for the adoption of the first regulatory and implementing technical standards (RTS and ITS) in implementation of the AML Regulation and Directive;</li> <li>- With the Commission and the EBA when taking over the management of two existing infrastructures: the AML/CFT database, currently managed by the European Banking Authority and the secure communication network for FIUs, FIU.net, which has been transferred to DG FISMA in Brussels and uses the datacentre of OLAF, also based in Brussels.</li> </ul> <p>But also, once AMLA is fully operational, cooperation will be necessary, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With OLAF, Europol, Eurojust and EPPO: in relation to Article 80 of the draft AMLA Regulation requiring a close relationship between AMLA, OLAF, Europol, Eurojust and EPPO, AMLA's proximity to these institutions will facilitate the establishment of separate working agreements defining the modalities of their cooperation.</li> <li>- With the Commission and co-legislators: AMLA will easily provide advice and input to the Commission and co-legislators on many aspects of AML/CFT policy, including on risks linked to jurisdictions outside the Union.</li> </ul> <p>There would be no reputational risk if AMLA were to be established in Brussels.</p> <p>Belgium has a longstanding experience in assessing and addressing its ML/TF risks and has been a forerunner in a number of areas in this field. For many years, Belgium has taken an approach based on risks in its AML/CFT activities and initiatives and the Belgian authorities possess a strong culture of fighting ML/TF.</p> <p>A central role is played by the CTIF, which is not only the Belgian FIU, but in that capacity also ensures the coordination of the ML/TF risk assessments and the AML/CFT policy. Since its creation in 1993, CTIF has been an active pioneer in international cooperation between FIUs. The Egmont Group was created in 1995 on the initiative of the CTIF and FinCEN, and the Secretary-General of the CTIF is currently the chairman of the Advisory Group of FIU.net.</p> <p>The risk-based approach has led Belgium to take AML/CFT measures that go beyond FATF standards or EU Directives. For example, Belgium extended the group of obliged entities with a number of sectors for which the national ML/TF risk assessments showed that they posed an increased ML/TF risk, in particular the diamond and the football sector. Belgium also restricted payments in cash to 3.000 euros as one of the measures to combat money laundering.</p> <p>The last few years, Belgium has developed a UBO-register with a sophisticated automated IT system, which comprises cross-checks, validations and structured data on ownership chains in which more than 90% of companies have registered their beneficial owners. Belgium also consistently and meticulously implements European targeted financial sanctions. Following the invasion of Russia by Ukraine, Belgium has blocked and frozen billions worth of Russian assets as a result of close cooperation between competent authorities and financial institutions based in Belgium.</p>	<p>US Financial Crimes enforcement network (FinCEN) back in 1995. The Secretary-General of the CTIF performs a role of chair in the Advisory Group of FIU.net.</p> <p>The application mentions that Belgium has transposed the 4th and the 5th AML Directive and some national legislative elements go beyond FATF standards or EU Directive, as for example the subjection as obliged entities of some entities of diamond and football sector and the restriction of cash payments to EUR 3 000.</p> <p>The application refers to Belgium's results of its last MER which concluded that Belgium, at that time, already had the core elements of a sound AML/CFT-regime, but some elements were not yet fully in line with the FATF Recommendations and its third follow-up report of 2018, the results of which led to the reassessment of 15 recommendations of the technical compliance part (37 out of 40 recommendations are assessed as 'largely compliant' or 'compliant' with the FATF recommendation). The application also mentions that, since the publication of the MER, Belgium made 'improvement of the AML supervision on the obliged entities, the strengthening of the cooperation and exchange of information between competent authorities and with the private sector, and the establishment of a beneficial ownership register that is seen as an example for others'.</p>
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<p>Since then, Belgium has further strengthened its AML-framework, among others by transposing the 4th and the 5th AML-Directive into Belgian law. This progress was recognised in the third Follow-Up Report in 2018, in which the FATF re-rated Belgium on 15 of the 40 Recommendations. With 37 of the 40 recommendations largely or fully compliant with the FATF standards, Belgium now has one of the world's strongest AML-frameworks.</p> <p>Belgium has also taken to heart the recommendations in the FATF report that might increase the effectiveness of its AML-framework. This resulted in an improvement of the AML supervision on the obliged entities, the strengthening of the cooperation and exchange of information between competent authorities and with the private sector, and the establishment of a BO register that is seen as an example for others.</p> <p>Belgium is committed to continue these efforts and is ready to be the first FATF-member to be assessed in the 5th round.</p> <p>The last full evaluation of Belgium by the FATF dates back to 2014. The report of this evaluation concluded that Belgium at that time already had the core elements of a sound AML/CFT-regime, but some elements were not yet fully in line with the FATF Recommendations. It noted in particular that Belgium had established a system for assessing the ML/TF risks and that it uses an understanding of these risks as a basis for developing AML/CFT activities. The report also recognises the high standards of the research done by the FIU, the discrete but effective TF investigations and prosecutions and the good quality of international cooperation.</p>	
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<b>PREMISES 1</b>		
<b>Criterion 1 - 'The date on which AMLA can become operational on site after the entry into force of the Regulation'</b>		
<b>Building</b>		
<b>Sub criterion</b>	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
1) Description of the proposed premises 1 (address and general description)	<p>Avenue Louise 104/106 1000 Brussels</p> <p>The Precedent is a beautiful renovation and extension project of office space for rent in the Louise district of Brussels. With a total surface area of +/-8000m<sup>2</sup> spread over 9 floors.</p> <p>The offices for rent are located in the Louise district on one of the most prestigious avenues in Brussels, Avenue Louise, in the commune of Ixelles. This avenue is very easy to access by car via the inner ring road and very well served by public transport.</p> <p>The Louise district is very lively: you will find a mix of office buildings, housing, shops, restaurants and hotels. Avenue Louise itself is very popular for office rentals. Many companies have set up shop in the area, ranging from smaller companies sharing coworking spaces to large companies with a fully rented building.</p> <p>The project is very much focused on the well-being of its future occupants. Everything is designed to offer the most modern, comfortable and sustainable techniques to the tenants. The Precedent will offer a lot of daylight and an ecological environment, which will be much appreciated by your employees. You will find all the necessary comfort to work in the best possible conditions.</p>	<p>The application indicates the availability of The Precedent, located at Avenue Louise 104/106, 1000 Brussels, as proposed premises. It indicates that the building has a total surface area of about 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> spread over 9 floors.</p> <p>In addition, the application provides information on the Louise district in which the building is located.</p>
<b>Availability of the premises</b>		

1) Timeline of the availability of the premises (before fit-out and necessary adaptation works) as soon as possible after the entry into force of the Regulation	Q1 2024	The application indicates that the premises will be available in Q1 2024.
2) Estimated time needed for fit-out and adaptation works (expressed in months)	3	The application indicates that 3 months is the estimated time needed for fit-out and adaptation works.
<b>Organisation of the premises</b>		
<i>Indicatively, and depending on the final number of staff (between 250 and 400 staff members), the size of the AMLA's premises should be between 6.000 to 10.000 square meters gross floor area above ground.</i>		
1) Total surface of the premises (expressed in m <sup>2</sup> )	8340	The application indicates that the total surface of the premises is 8,340 m <sup>2</sup> .
2) Staff capacity (expressed in maximum number of staff)	400	The application indicates that the hosting capacity of the premises is 400 staff members.
3) Availability of one large conference room (including for the meetings of the General Board) (approx. 300 m <sup>2</sup> )	Yes	The application indicates that there is a large conference room of approx. 300 m <sup>2</sup> .
4) Number of meeting rooms for more than 40 persons	1	The application indicates that there is 1 meeting room for more than 40 persons.
5) Number of meeting rooms for 13-15 persons	5	The application indicates that there are 5 meeting rooms for 13-15 persons.
6) Number of meeting rooms for 25-35 persons	1	The application indicates that there is 1 meeting room for 25-35 persons.
7) Availability of a lounge area for lunch and/or dinner catering	Yes	The application indicates that there is a lounge area for lunch and/or dinner catering.
8) Availability of a dedicated area for FIU (around 30 individual offices)	Yes	The application indicates that there is a dedicated area for FIU.
9) Internal archives capacity of the premises	Yes	The application indicates that the internal archives capacity of the premises is of 70.62 m <sup>3</sup> .
9.1) Archives volume (expressed in m <sup>3</sup> )	70.62	
10) Number of parking spaces (inside and outside) - Available for AMLA	58	The application indicates that there are 58 parking spaces (inside and outside) available for AMLA.
11) Possibilities for extension of office space in its original premises or the nearby area	Yes	The application indicates that there is the possibility for extension of office space in its original premises or the nearby area.
11.1) Surface for possible extensions (expressed in m <sup>2</sup> )	10000	The application indicates that the surface for possible extensions is 10,000 m <sup>2</sup> .
12) Are the premises EMAS verified?	Yes	The application indicates that the premises are EMAS verified.
13) Description of the general compliance with the Manual of Standard Building Specifications of the premises including for environment performance standard	In accordance with the imposed regulations. New or fully renovated building.	The application does not provide information about the general compliance with the Manual of Standard Building Specifications, but indicates that the building is in line with the imposed regulations and that it is a new or fully renovated building.
14) Description of the digital security and connectivity with regard to physical and IT infrastructure	Fiber and ID access can be provided.	The application indicates the availability of fiber and ID access.
15) Other	As a single tenant, meeting rooms can be provided on each floor. The walls can be removed and spaces can be rearranged depending on needs of the occupier.	The application indicates that meeting rooms can be provided on each floor as the walls can be removed and spaces can be rearranged.
<b>Financial terms</b>		
1) Description of the financial terms	Costs: 40€/m <sup>2</sup> /year Property taxes: 30€/m <sup>2</sup> /year Regional taxes: 17€/m <sup>2</sup> /year Local taxes: 17€/m <sup>2</sup> /year	The application indicates the following costs and taxes for the premises: Costs: 40€/m <sup>2</sup> /year Property taxes: 30€/m <sup>2</sup> /year Regional taxes: 17€/m <sup>2</sup> /year

	Inside parking: 2000€/p/year Floor -1 (archives): 100€/m <sup>2</sup> /year Floor 1-4: 275€/m <sup>2</sup> /year Floor 5-9: 300€/m <sup>2</sup> /year	Local taxes: 17€/m <sup>2</sup> /year Inside parking: 2000€/p/year Floor -1 (archives): 100€/m <sup>2</sup> /year Floor 1-4: 275€/m <sup>2</sup> /year Floor 5-9: 300€/m <sup>2</sup> /year
2) Monthly rental cost (expressed in EUR)	40189	The application indicates that the monthly rental cost is 40 189 EUR.
3) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the rent?	Yes	The application indicates that the Belgium does intend to cover the rent indefinitely.
3.1) Will the applicant Member State cover the rent	Indefinitely	
4) Monthly maintenance costs (expressed in EUR)	0	The application indicates that the monthly maintenance costs are 0 EUR.
5) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the maintenance costs?	Yes	The application indicates that the Belgium intends to cover the maintenance costs.
6) Fit-out costs (expressed in EUR/m <sup>2</sup> )	0	The application indicates that the fit-out costs are 0 EUR/m <sup>2</sup> .
7) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the fit-out costs?	Yes	The application indicates that the Belgium intends to cover the fit-out costs.
8) Does the applicant Member State intend to cover the future upgrade and extension?	Yes	The application indicates that the Belgium intends to cover the future upgrade and extension
9) Financial conditions of future upgrades and extensions	The fact that the building is new or totally renovated implies no immediate upgrades.	The application indicates that no immediate upgrades are needed as the building is new or totally renovated.
10) Duration of the lease (expressed in years)	9	The application indicates that the duration of the lease is of 9 years.
11) Financial conditions of termination before the end of the lease	To to be negotiated.	The application indicates that the financial conditions of the termination of the lease are to be negotiated.
12) Description of any special conditions with regard to the costs and dedicated infrastructure	Not applicable.	The application does not provide information on any special conditions with regard to the costs and dedicated infrastructure.
13) Other	Fit-out costs and maintenance costs are yet to be calculated according to the specific needs of the occupier.	The application indicates that fit-out and maintenance costs are yet to be calculated.
Summary Criterion 1		<p><b>The application provides information on the proposed premises ‘The Precedent’ at Avenue Louise 104/106, 1000 Brussels, with a total surface area of 8,340 m<sup>2</sup> spread over 9 floors. It indicates that the building has a hosting capacity of 400 staff, and indicates the availability of meetings rooms (1 for 40 persons, 5 per 13-15 persons and 1 for 25-35 persons), a lounge area for lunch and/or dinner catering, a dedicated area for FIU, internal archives (70.62 m<sup>3</sup>) and 58 parking spaces for AMLA. The premises are EMAS verified and in accordance with imposed regulations. Lastly, it indicates the possibility for installing fiber and ID access as well as for possible future extensions (10,000 m<sup>2</sup>).</b></p> <p><b>The application indicates that the monthly rental cost is of EUR 40 189 which Belgium intends to cover indefinitely, together with maintenance and fit-out costs and possible future upgrades and extensions. It further indicates that the duration of the lease contract is of 9 years with the conditions for termination still to be negotiated and the fit-out and maintenance costs yet to be calculated.</b></p>



<b>Criterion 2 – ‘Accessibility of the location’</b>		
<b>Sub criterion</b>	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
<b>Public transportation</b>		
1) Description of the access to air and rail transport linking the location with European capitals	<p>Air transport:</p> <p>Brussels airport is the main airport of Belgium and has excellent connections. It is located at 14 km from the city center of Brussels. It has more than 200 passenger connections, including 135 to other European cities. Direct flights to over 248 destinations are available at Brussels airport.</p> <p>Rail transport:</p> <p>High-speed trains are available linking Brussels to London, Paris, Amsterdam and Frankfurt. 60 million Europeans can reach their capital in less than two hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- London: 1h55, 5 direct connections per day</li> <li>- Paris: 1h20, 18 direct connections per day</li> <li>- Amsterdam: 1h50, 16 direct connections per day</li> <li>- Frankfurt: 3h, 5 direct connections per day</li> </ul>	<p>The application indicates that the Brussel’s airport is located at 14 km from the city centre and that it has 135 connections to European cities.</p> <p>In addition, the application indicates that high-speed trains are available linking Brussels to London, Paris, Amsterdam and Frankfurt. It also provides information on the duration and connections to those cities.</p>
2) Availability and types of public transport connections from the closest airport to the premises	Train; Bus	The application indicates the availability of train and bus connections from the premises to the closest airport.
Frequency of train connections (expressed in minutes)	12	The application indicates that the frequency of the train connection is of 12 minutes and the duration 29 minutes.
Duration of train connections (expressed in minutes)	29	
Frequency of bus connections (expressed in minutes)	15	The application indicates that the frequency of the bus connection is 15 minutes and the duration 39 minutes.
Duration of bus connections (expressed in minutes)	39	
3) Availability and types of public transport connections from the closest international/national train station to the premises	Metro; Tram; Bus	The application indicates the availability of metro, tram and bus connections from the closest international/national train station to the premises.
Frequency of metro connections (expressed in minutes)	5	The application indicates that the frequency of the metro connections is of 5 minutes and the duration 13 minutes.
Duration of metro connections (expressed in minutes)	13	
Frequency of tram connections (expressed in minutes)	6	The application indicates that the frequency of the tram connections is of 6 minutes and the duration 25 minutes.
Duration of tram connections (expressed in minutes)	25	
Frequency of bus connections (expressed in minutes)	15	The application indicates that the frequency of the bus connections is of 15 minutes and the duration 23 minutes.
Duration of bus connections (expressed in minutes)	23	
4) Other	<p>You can also easily reach the premises with the shared mobility offered in Brussels</p> <p>Bikes and electric bikes: Villo!, blue bike, Dott, Tier, Poppy, Bolt</p> <p>Electric scooters: Lime, Dott, Tier, Poppy, Pony, Bolt, Voi</p> <p>Scooters: Felyx</p> <p>Shared cars: Cambio, Poppy, Miles</p>	The application provides information on shared mobility offered in Brussels (bikes, scooters and shared cars).
<b>Accommodation facilities in the vicinity of the premises</b>		
1) Number of 3 star hotels at walking distance from the premises	15	The application indicates the presence of 15 three star hotels at a walking distance from the premises.
2) Number of 4 star hotels at walking distance from the premises	15	The application indicates the presence of 15 four star hotels at a walking distance from the premises.
3) Number of 5 star hotels at walking distance from the premises	4	The application indicates the presence of 4 five star hotels at a walking distance from the premises.
4) Number of 3 star hotels beyond walking distance in the vicinity of the premises	15	The application indicates the presence of 15 three star hotels beyond a distance of one km from the premises.

5) Number of 4 star hotels beyond walking distance in the vicinity of the premises	30	The application indicates the presence of 30 four star hotels beyond a distance of one km from the premises.
6) Number of 5 star hotels beyond walking distance in the vicinity of the premises	6	The application indicates the presence of 6 five star hotels beyond a distance of one km from the premises.
7) Description of available facilities for events and conferences outside AMLA premises	More than 200 venues in a variety of locations such as historic, cultural or contemporary buildings, convention centers,...(not to mention the meeting spaces offered by Brussels' many MICE hotels) Venues more than 1000 : + 20 Venues between 500 & 1000 : +22 Venues between 250 & 500 : +36 Venues between 100 & 250 : + 80 Venues less than 100 : + 32	The application indicates the availability of more than 200 venues (in different locations and for different group sizes) in Brussels.
Summary Criterion 2		<b>The application indicates the presence of the Brussels airport at 14 km from the city centre which has more than 135 connections to European cities as well as the availability of high-speed trains to some European cities (London, Paris, Amsterdam, Frankfurt).</b> <b>The application indicates the availability of train (frequency 12 minutes, duration 29 minutes) and bus (frequency 15 minutes, duration 39 minutes) connections from the premises to the closest airport. It indicates the availability of metro, tram and bus connections (frequency 5, 6 and 15 minutes), (duration 13, 25 and 23 minutes) respectively from the closest international/national train station to the premises. In addition, the application indicates the availability of shared mobility options in the city.</b>  <b>The application indicates the presence of 15 three star, 15 four star and 4 five star hotels at a walking distance from the premises. It indicates the presence of 15 three star, 30 four star and 6 five star hotels beyond a distance of one km from the premises. It also indicates the availability of more than 200 venues for events and conferences in Brussels.</b>

<b>Criterion 3 – ‘Existence of adequate education facilities for the children of AMLA’s staff’</b>		
<b>Sub criterion</b>	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
1) Number of nurseries	117	The application indicates the presence of 117 nurseries.
2) Language options offered by nurseries	French; Dutch; English	The application indicates that Dutch; English and French are the languages offered by the nurseries.
3) Additional information concerning nurseries (names, location, language regimes offered, etc.)	To make a list of the day nurseries in Brussels, we looked at the places where most expat families live. It should be noted that this list is exhaustive and does not include all existing nurseries in Brussels.  1 Petit Envol Rue au Bois, 513 - 1150 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre French  2 Crèches de Belgique Mechelsesteenweg, 366 - 1950 Kraainem English, Dutch	The application indicates that there are 15 nurseries close to where most expat families live. It also gives information on the names, addresses and languages offered by these nurseries.

3 AC Montessori Kids  
Route de Rénipont, 4 - 1380 Lasne  
English, French

4 Babilou Belgium (14 nurseries in and around Brussels)  
Rue Colonel Bourg, 23 - 1140 Evere (Headoffice)  
Dutch is the general language of instruction within our nurseries, but we also give positive attention to the home language.

5 British School - Kinder Crib  
Pater Dupierreuxlaan 1, 3080 Tervuren  
English

6 L'Ecole des Petits  
Rue Zeecrabbe, 19 - 1180 Uccle  
English, French

7 International Montessori School  
Rotselaerlaan, 1 - 3080 Tervuren  
English, French

8 Le Jardin d'Eden Europa (European area & Uccle)  
Quartier Européen  
English, French, Dutch

9 Little Sprouts  
Rue Alphonse Asselberghs, 51 - 1180 Uccle  
English, French

10 Les Maisons d'enfants ESEDRA (4 crèches)  
Place de Jamblin de Meux, 30 - 1030 Schaerbeek  
English, French

11 Nanny's Home  
rue des Cottages, 29 - 1180 Uccle.  
French

12 Petit Bouh!  
Avenue des Bécassines, 18 - 1160 Auderghem  
French

13 Sweetie Crèche  
Rue Alphonse Asselberghs, 51 - 1180 Uccle  
English, French

14 Le Val Fleuri  
Rue Gatti de Gamond 140-1180 Bruxelles  
French

15 Victoria Cerise (Woluwe St Lambert & Evere)  
Rue Frans van Cutsem, 17 - 1140 Evere  
English, French



4) Availability of European Schools or accredited European Schools	Yes	The application indicates that there are European Schools or accredited European Schools.
4.1) Language options offered by the European Schools or accredited European Schools	Bulgarian; Estonian; Irish; Portuguese; Croatian; Finnish; Italian; Romanian; Czech; French; Latvian; Slovak; Danish; German; Lithuanian; Slovenian; Dutch; Greek; Maltese; Spanish; English; Hungarian; Polish; Swedish	The application indicates that Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish and Swedish are the languages offered by the European Schools.
4.2) Additional information concerning European Schools or accredited European Schools (names, location, language regimes offered, etc.)	<p>European Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruxelles I (Uccle and Berkendael)</li> <li>• Bruxelles II (Woluwe and Evere)</li> <li>• Bruxelles III (Ixelles)</li> <li>• Bruxelles IV (Laeken)</li> <li>• École européenne de Bruxelles-Argenteuil (Waterloo)</li> <li>• Bruxelles V (project)</li> <li>• Temporary school in Evere</li> </ul> <p>About the languages: European Schools offer different languages section which, depending on the needs, can represent all the languages of the European Union. Pupils are enrolled in their mother tongue section. Throughout their scholarship, they keep it as their first language (language 1).</p>	The application indicates the presence of 7 European schools (one being a project). It also indicates that these schools offer different languages sections which depending on the needs can represent all the EU official languages.
5) Number of international schools providing primary and secondary education	28	The application indicates the presence of 28 international schools providing primary and secondary education.
6) Language options offered by the international schools	Bulgarian; Estonian; Irish; Portuguese; Croatian; Finnish; Italian; Romanian; Czech; French; Latvian; Slovak; Danish; German; Lithuanian; Slovenian; Dutch; Greek; Maltese; Spanish; English; Hungarian; Polish; Swedish	The application indicates that Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish and Swedish are the languages offered by the international schools.
7) Additional information concerning international schools (names, location, language regimes offered, etc.)	<p>In Brussels :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lycée français Jean Monnet (Uccle)</li> <li>• International School of Brussels (ISB) (Woluwe-Saint-Pierre)</li> <li>• Brussels International Catholic School (BICS) (Etterbeek)</li> <li>• Agnes School (Etterbeek)</li> <li>• Bogaerts International School (Uccle)</li> <li>• Japanese School of Brussels (Auderghem)</li> <li>• Brussels (American) Elementary High School (Zaventem)</li> <li>• Brussels English Primary School (BEPS) (Ixelles)</li> <li>• International Montessori School 'Hof ten Berg' (Woluwe-Saint-Lambert)</li> <li>• Nederlandstalige School Prinses Juliana (Brussels)</li> <li>• British Junior Academy of Brussels (Etterbeek)</li> <li>• British International School of Brussels (BISB) (Brussels)</li> <li>• École Internationale Montgomery (Woluwe-Saint-Lambert)</li> <li>• Montessori House Brussels (Woluwe-Saint-Pierre)</li> <li>• École Internationale Ace of Brussels (Auderghem)</li> <li>• Ecole Française Internationale de Bruxelles (EFI Bruxelles) (Uccle)</li> <li>• Roots and Wings School (Woluwe-Saint-Lambert)</li> </ul> <p>On the outskirts of brussels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The British School of Brussels (Tervuren)</li> <li>• Internationale Deutsche Schule Brüssel (Wezenbeek-Oppem)</li> <li>• St. John's International School (Waterloo)</li> <li>• International Montessori Schools (St. Stevens Woluwe, Tervuren, Sterrebeek, Wezenbeek-Oppem)</li> <li>• ISF Waterloo International School (Waterloo)</li> </ul>	<p>The application indicates the presence of 17 international schools in Brussels and of 11 in the outskirts of Brussels.</p> <p>It also provides information on the language system for private international schools.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scandinavian School of Brussels (Waterloo)</li> <li>• European School of Bruxelles-Argenteuil (Waterloo)</li> <li>• Montessori Kids (Lasne)</li> <li>• ISF Tervuren International School (Tervuren)</li> <li>• Montessori House Belgium Int. School (Braine-l'Alleud)</li> <li>• The Courtyard International School (Tervuren)</li> </ul> <p>As private schools, the international schools are not bound by the law of 30 July 1963 regarding the language system in education. Only official schools and state-subsidized or recognized institutions fall under the language regulation. Consequently, education in any (foreign) language can be organized by these schools.</p> <p>Education in another language or a multilingual education offering is an important commonality of international schools and it has an important appeal. Many foreign parents are multilingual themselves and see multilingual education as a great added value.</p> <p>Most international schools teach the majority of the curriculum in English, supplemented with French or another language. Dutch is also taught in a number of schools. The extensive language offering in these schools also has a great appeal to Belgian residents in the Rand. In general, there has been an increase in the number of nationalities in international schools.</p> <p>In other words, the international schools become international.</p>	
8) Number of higher education facilities (university level or equal)	34	The application indicates the presence of 34 higher education facilities (university level or equal).
9) Language options offered by higher education facilities	French; Dutch; English	The application indicates that Dutch, English and French are the languages offered by the higher education facilities.
10) Description of higher education facilities (Universities and academic disciplines)	<p>With nine universities and approximately 25 colleges, the Brussels-Capital Region offers a very wide range of courses, both in Dutch and French. Some institutions also offer courses in other languages, especially English. There are plenty of study choices: medicine, law, electronics, literature, communication, art, architecture, hotel industry, tourism, languages, etc.</p> <p>There are several types of courses in higher education in Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Graduate education: Vocational training that is situated between secondary education and a professional bachelor's degree, prepares you for a profession and for a professional bachelor's degree</li> <li>- Bachelor: Focused on professional practice: you acquire competencies that are necessary for the independent practice of 1 or more professions.</li> <li>- Academic bachelor: Broad academic (theoretical) training or training in the arts. Mainly prepares you for a master's degree.</li> <li>- Master: Advanced scientific or artistic knowledge and competencies with a master's thesis.</li> </ul> <p>A few examples of universities in Brussels:  Free University of Brussels (ULB) (Bachelor and Master)  Disciplines: Human and social sciences (160 different courses), Health (154 different courses), Sciences and technics (130 different courses), Economics and business management (28 different courses), Art (17 different courses), Legal sciences (12 different courses).  Degrees: 107 bachelor degrees and 97 master degrees</p>	The application indicates the presence of nine universities and 25 colleges in the Brussels-Capital Region. It indicates that these offer courses in Dutch and French and that some institutions also offer courses in other languages, especially English. It also provides information on the academic disciplines and the types of courses in higher education in Belgium (graduate education, bachelor, academic bachelor and master).

	<p>Free University of Brussels (VUB) (Bachelor and Master)          Disciplines: (Bio) engineering sciences (48 different courses), AI and Data Science (28 different courses), Economics, business and management (26 different courses), Education and pedagogy (54 different courses), Health and psychology (76 different courses), Art and culture (31 different courses), Law (16 different courses), Physical education (12 different courses), Social sciences (73 different courses), Philosophy and ethics (14 different courses), Sciences (70 different courses), Languages and literature (26 different courses)          Degrees: 33 bachelor degrees, 85 master degrees.</p> <p>KU Leuven - Campus Brussel (Bachelor and Master)          Disciplines: Economics and Business Sciences (9 different courses), Literature and journalism (5 different courses), Law (3 different courses), Architecture (6 different courses).          Degrees : 7 bachelor degrees, 16 master degrees</p> <p>There are plenty of universities in the city of Brussels, we give you a short list:          - ICHEC Brussels Management School (Bachelor and Master)          - IHECS Journalism and Communication (Bachelor and Master)          - University College for Sciences &amp; Arts (LUCA) (Bachelor and Master)          - Leonardo da Vinci University College (Bachelor and Master)          - Brussels Free University College - Ilya Prigogine          - Saint-Louis University – Brussels (Bachelor)          - Higher Institute of the Arts of Spectacle          - Paul-Henri Spaak University College          - La Cambre National School of Visual Arts          - EPHEC University College          - Erasmus University College Brussels (EhB) (Bachelor)          - Odisee (Bachelor)</p>	
Summary Criterion 3		<p><b>The application indicates the availability of 117 nurseries, 7 European schools, 28 international schools offering primary and secondary education, 9 universities and 25 colleges. It indicates that education in the 24 EU official languages is offered by the European schools and the international schools and that Dutch, English and French are offered for the other education facilities.</b></p>

<b>Criterion 4 – ‘Appropriate access to the labour market, social security and medical care for both children and spouses’</b>		
<b>Sub criterion</b>	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
1) Number of hospitals available in the vicinity of the premises	23	The application indicates the presence of 23 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.)	<p>Belgium provides an efficient health system. EU staff have access to the Belgian healthcare system, which is affordable, reliable and world-renowned. Moreover, Brussels has almost 5 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants speaking French or Dutch, and English.</p> <p>Belgium has the fourth best healthcare system in Europe and is the 2nd largest exporter of (bio)pharmaceutical products per capita in the EU (2018). Access to medicines is available 24h/7 thanks to rotating pharmacies.</p> <p>In terms of geographical accessibility to maternities, in Brussels, 100% of women aged 15 to 49 have access to one or more maternities within 15 minutes.</p>	The application indicates that EU staff have access to the Belgian healthcare system. It also indicates that Brussels has almost 5 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants, speaking Dutch, English or French. It gives information on access to medicines and maternities.

<p>3) Description of access to medical care and social security for AMLA children and spouses not covered by the EU Staff Regulations (benefits, conditions, assistance, etc.)</p>	<p>Medical services and social security provisions are mindful of the specific needs of the numerous expats living on its territory. EU staff enjoy access to Belgium’s affordable, reliable and world-renowned healthcare system.</p> <p>A vast social security system exists in Belgium, a public system financed by the State and by contributions from Belgian citizens. Basic access to the system depends on a number of administrative obligations, the payment of financial contributions and/or – for expatriates – the existence of international agreements with your country of origin. This access covers health care, unemployment, retirement and childhood. Mutual health insurance and compulsory health insurance are typically Belgian and constitute an important condition for obtaining reimbursement of medical expenses.</p>	<p>The application provides information on the Belgian social security system (public system financed by the State and by contributions from Belgian citizens) and on the mutual and compulsory health insurance. It indicates that basic access to the system depends on a number of administrative obligations, the payment of financial contributions and/or – for expatriates – the existence of international agreements with the country of origin.</p>
<p>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 AMLA staff</p>	<p>Belgium has a vibrant labour market with ample opportunities for accompanying partners. Belgium is one of the most internationally oriented economies in Europe, with expats making up more than 10% of the workforce. More than 140,000 European nationals are currently working in Brussels. The city, home to numerous international institutions, advocacy groups, lobbying groups, law firms and others, can offer scores of challenging employment opportunities for the family members of staff of the AMLA.</p>	<p>The application indicates that the Belgian labour market has expats making up more than 10% of the workforce (more than 140,000 European nationals are currently working in Brussels). It provides information on the presence of international institutions, advocacy groups, lobbying groups, law firms and others which can offer employment opportunities for AMLA family members. In addition, the application indicates the presence of NATO, 8 related agencies and centres, 25 United Nations programmes and agencies and 32 other intergovernmental organisations. It lastly indicates that 2,400 head offices of international associations and 1,500 international associations have European headquarters or sales subsidiaries in Brussels (<b>see above Member State application to the introductory text</b>).</p>
<p>5) Availability of services assisting expatriates and foreign nationals in seeking jobs</p>	<p>To employ a non-European national in Belgium, an authorisation to work must usually be applied for. If the application is approved, the foreign worker will receive either a work permit (valid for a maximum of 90 days) or a combined permit. A combined permit (to be applied for via the "Working in Belgium" digital counter) confirms the right to stay and work in Belgium for more than 90 days.</p> <p>Several organisations help orientate you in the job market.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expat Welcome desk</li> <li>• Actiris, the Brussels employment agency, helps you shape your vocational project and actively guides you in your job search.</li> <li>• There are three Dutch-speaking workplace shops in Brussels and nine French-speaking 'missions' locales' (FR) that support you in your job search.</li> <li>• For young people, there are the French-language Centres Psycho-Médico-Sociaux (PMS) (FR) and the Dutch-language Centres voor Leerlingenbegeleiding (CLB), which help pupils with their study and career choices.</li> <li>• If you prefer to meet your potential future employer in person, you can register for relevant job fairs organised by various institutions. For example, The “Service d'Information sur les Etudes et les Professions (SIEP)” specializes in orienting young people and adults in professional life (FR).</li> <li>• You can apply for career guidance. Together with your career counsellor, you will explore the perfect job and draw up a step-by-step plan to move forward.</li> </ul>	<p>The application provides information on non-European nationals' conditions to work in Belgium. In addition, the application indicates public/private bodies available for assisting (in Dutch and French) expatriates and foreign nationals in seeking jobs. It indicates the presence of three Dutch-speaking workplace shops in Brussels and nine French-speaking local missions that support in the job search. Lastly, it provides information for assistance to young people.</p>
<p>Summary Criterion 4</p>		<p><b>The application indicates the availability of 23 hospitals in the vicinity of the premises. It also indicates that Brussels has almost 5 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants, speaking Dutch, English or French. In addition, it provides information on the Belgian social security system and on the mutual and compulsory health insurance.</b></p> <p><b>The application indicates the presence of over 140,000 European nationals working in Brussels. It provides information on employment opportunities</b></p>

		<b>for AMLA family members and lists public/private bodies available for assisting (in Dutch and French) expatriates and foreign nationals in seeking jobs.</b>
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<b>Criterion 5 – ‘Geographical balance’</b>		
<b>Sub criterion</b>	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
Description	<p>The establishment of AMLA in Brussels would be in line with the desired geographical spread set out in paragraph 6 of the 2012 Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission on decentralised agencies.</p> <p>Belgium currently hosts only one of the 35 decentralised agencies: the Single Resolution Board. If AMLA would be based in Brussels, this would not disrupt the geographical balance.</p>	<p>The application indicates the presence of the Single Resolution Board in Brussels.</p> <p>The application refers to paragraph 6 of the 2012 Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission on decentralised agencies.</p>
Summary Criterion 5		<b>The application indicates the presence of the Single Resolution Board in Brussels. The application refers to paragraph 6 of the 2012 Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission on decentralised agencies.</b>

<b>Additional privileges to Protocol 7</b>		
<b>Sub criterion</b>	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
1) Does the applicant Member State offer additional privileges?	Yes	The application indicates that Belgium offers additional privileges to those in Protocol 7.
1.1) If yes, which ones?	<p>Belgium applies Article 11 d) and e) of the Protocol as the right for officials of AMLA to import or purchase, during a period of twelve months following their first taking up their duties in Belgium, furniture and a motor vehicle for their personal use in Belgium in exemption of import duties and value added tax (VAT).</p> <p>As Protocol 7 will be applicable (article 74 of the regulation creating AMLA) a Headquarters Agreement is not necessary; the Authority and its staff will enjoy the same privileges and immunities as the European Institutions and their personnel.</p>	The application indicates that Belgium applies Article 11 d) and e) of Protocol 7 as the right for officials of AMLA to import or purchase, during a period of twelve months following their first taking up their duties in Belgium, furniture and a motor vehicle for their personal use in Belgium in exemption of import duties and value added tax (VAT).

<b>Headquarters Agreement</b>		
<b>Sub criterion</b>	<b>Member State application</b>	<b>Commission assessment</b>
Applicant Member State's commitment to confirming the conditions included in the application in a headquarters agreement with AMLA	Yes	The application indicates that Belgium commits to confirm the conditions included in the application in a headquarters agreement with AMLA.