



City of Maastricht



Maastricht  
University

provincie  
limburg



## EU AGENCIES IN THE FUTURE EUROPE

### Debate on the role of EU agencies in the Future Europe

Maastricht, Thursday 7 December 2017

Venue: Bonbonnière, Achter de Comedie 1, 6211 GZ Maastricht

**12:45-13:15**

**Registration**

13.15-13.30

**Welcome**

by Annemarie Penn-te Strake, the Mayor of Maastricht

13:30-13:45

***EU agencies on the move: The position of EU Agencies in the EU institutional landscape*** by Ellen Vos, Professor of EU law, Maastricht University

13:45-14:45

***EU Agencies: Mission, Tasks and Future***

*Chair: Thomas Christiansen, Prof. of European Institutional Politics, Maastricht University*

- **Luis de Eusebio Ramos**, Deputy Executive Director Capabilities, Europol
- **Adam Farkas**, Executive Director, European Banking Authority
- **Alberto Spagnoli**, Head of the Executive Office Unit, European Food Safety Authority
- **James Calleja**, Director, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

**14:45-15:15**

**Coffee break**

**15:15-17:00**

**EU Agencies: Challenges ahead**

(moderator: Ellen Vos, Professor of EU Law, Maastricht University)

*Round Table Discussion* with directors of EU agencies and audience;  
*introduced by:*

- **Graham Smith**, Member of Cabinet, European Ombudsman
- **Monique Goyens**, Director General, European Consumer Organisation, BEUC
- **Minas Konstantinidis**, Legal Service, European Commission
- **Deirdre Curtin**, Professor of EU law, European University Institute

**17:00-18:00**

**Closing by Rianne Letschert, the Rector of Maastricht University,  
followed by a reception**

*In 2017 the City of Maastricht, the Province of Limburg and Maastricht University commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Maastricht Treaty by means of a series of events under the heading Europe Calling. The debate on the role of EU agencies in the future Europe takes place within the framework of the Europe Calling programme.*



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of EU Executive Governance



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European  
Research  
in Maastricht

## **EU AGENCIES**

The European Union cannot be imagined without EU agencies; it simply cannot function without them. European agencies perform a key role in the European integration process. These agencies, denoted recently by the Council, Commission and Parliament as *decentralized* agencies, deal with complex technical and scientific issues by providing expertise, they introduce more, and more flexible, administrative capacity and efficiency. They facilitate, coordinate and strengthen cooperation between national authorities, (re)gain trust and credibility, improve implementation, supervision and increase networking and participation of more actors, such as stakeholders and citizens.

EU agencies adopt important legally binding decisions for both the European economy and its citizens, deciding about the registration of European trademarks, plant varieties and certain chemical substances as well as about the airworthiness of airplanes. And, where they do not have legally binding decision-making powers, they do influence EU decision making to a great extent, for example with their scientific opinions on the safety of foods and medicines, chemicals, most of which are followed by the European Commission. Even agencies that merely collect data play a key role, as this data gathering guides the EU in its policy and decision making.

EU agencies thus are critical for European integration, for the EU's economy and the wellbeing of its citizen. With the mushrooming of EU agencies, and the agencification of EU executive governance, queries arise as regards the position of EU agencies within the EU institutional structure and their relation with the Member States; as well as their accountability, control and institutional co-ordination; all this against the background of the upcoming reform of the EU in the aftermath of Brexit.