



## **The Rise of EU Quangos**

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## Key findings:

- Despite the cuts facing government agencies in most member states, the European Commission has proposed to raise the budget for EU agencies and committees to **€2.4 billion in 2011 – an increase of 8% on 2010's budget** (a €180mn increase). Of this cost, Germany is set to pay €442mn in 2011 – which is one fifth of the total.<sup>1</sup>
- This increase will be used to fund **five new agencies** plus the escalating costs of the 47 existing agencies.<sup>2</sup>
- The budget for EU agencies and committees has tripled over the past five years, rising from €764mn in 2005 to over €2.2 billion in 2010.<sup>3</sup>
- EU agencies and committees currently **employ 9,640 people**<sup>4</sup> – a number which is set to increase with the creation of new agencies.
- While the work of some agencies, for example ITER which researches fusion energy, is useful, many agencies could be abolished altogether or substantially reduced in size (see below).
- Several agencies simply duplicate the work of each other, in addition to duplicating the work of the core EU institutions and member states' organisations. Some of these bodies have no real impact on actual decisions while others deal with issues which are better handled nationally or regionally.
- There are also numerous cases of EU funds being used to fund various communications campaigns and ongoing concerns about who these bodies actually are accountable to.

## Agencies with questionable value:

- The **Economic and Social Committee** (ESoC) (2011 proposed budget: €139mn) and the **Committee of the Regions** (CoR) (2011 proposed budget: €91mn) have no impact whatsoever on actual policy decisions. Despite this, they still manage to duplicate each others' work. ESoC has a department which examines regional policy, duplicating the work of CoR, which in turn is duplicated by the EU sponsored organisation Assembly of European Regions and, of course, the Commission's very own Directorate General for Regional Policy.
- The EU's growing role in developing and funding 'culture' is contestable, particularly in times of austerity. The **Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency** (2011 proposed budget: €49.8mn) has no fewer than 404 staff members. This seems completely excessive, as the Commission's department for Education and Culture already employs 498 people.

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<sup>1</sup> Access this link for full data: <http://www.openeurope.org.uk/research/EUAgenciesbreakdown2.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Research based on the following EU agencies and committees: decentralised agencies, executive agencies, common security and defence policy agencies, joint operations, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions).

<sup>3</sup> EU agencies are funded from a range of revenue streams – with the majority coming from the EU budget and directly from member states; other revenue streams include countries outside the EU, fees levied, international organisations and companies. This research is based on costs to taxpayers (i.e. public funds - from funding both within the EU and outside).

<sup>4</sup> Access this link for full data: <http://www.openeurope.org.uk/research/euagenciesbreakdown3.pdf>

Extraordinarily, this is already more than what the Commission's department for the Internal Market employs (465 staff).

- The **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights** (2011 proposed budget: €20mn) duplicates work carried out by the Council of Europe and the European Commission itself which has its very own Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship – Viviane Reding. Many member states also have identical agencies - such as the UK's Equality and Human Rights Commission. This EU agency also duplicates work carried out by a separate EU agency, the **Institute for Gender Equality** (2011 proposed budget: €7.5mn);
- The **European Training Foundation** (2011 proposed budget: €19.9mn) and the **European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training** (2011 proposed budget: €17.8mn) both aim to help raise standards of vocational education and training;
- Meanwhile, the closely related **European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions** (2011 proposed budget: €20.4mn) and the **European Agency for Safety and Health at Work** (2011 proposed budget: €14.4mn), also have overlapping remits and similar missions, aspiring to improve working conditions and safety awareness;
- What is unclear, is why all four of these agencies operate independently from the European Commission's DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities – which has already been allocated over €11 billion for 2011.
- Meanwhile, the **European Police College** (CEPOL) (2011 proposed budget: €8.6mn), based in the UK, has for years been criticised by the European Parliament for mismanaging its accounts. Despite this, the Commission is proposing to increase CEPOL's funding by 10.8% in 2011.
- Despite charting its progress back five years, and spending €39.8mn from 2008-10, the **European Institute of Innovation and Technology** (2011 proposed budget: €64mn) has barely begun to start operating and only just moved into offices earlier this year.

Open Europe has identified eleven agencies and committees which appear to add very little value, if these were to be scrapped, and the EU were to conduct efficiency cuts of 30% on the remaining decentralised and executive agencies, the EU could save €709mn per year.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Access this link for full data: <http://www.openeurope.org.uk/research/euagenciesbreakdown.pdf>

*“It simply cannot be that for every new problem a new EU-Agency is set up. This Agenturitis [obsession with agencies] must come to an end.”*

- German MEP Ingeborg Gräßle, member of the European Parliament’s Budget Committee <sup>6</sup>

The EU currently has at least 47 agencies and committees (otherwise known as quangos), with five more to be launched in 2011. The sector has grown substantially in recent years. The EU purports that the agencies offer “an answer to a desire for geographical devolution and the need to cope with new tasks of a legal, technical and/or scientific nature”. While some of these agencies do carry out important tasks, it is clear that there is substantial overlap between the agencies themselves and the core EU institutions, leading to a duplication of work and a confusing bureaucratic web of duties and staff. In addition, some of these agencies and committees seem to have no real impact on policy whatsoever, and remain serious concerns over accountability.

Despite the austerity measures sweeping Europe, the Commission has proposed a massive 8% increase in the 2011 budget for EU agencies and committees. This comes as Members of the European Parliament this week voted for a 5.9% increase in the EU’s overall budget.

Considerable cuts should be made to the EU agencies’ budget, and many agencies should be entirely scrapped. By simply cutting back immediately on a few of the agencies that duplicate work or which do not add any value, the EU could save €709mn in 2011.

### **Addressing the mushrooming costs**

In July 2010, a senior European Commission official stated that the EU could no longer justify its “mushrooming” institutions given the austerity measures being undertaken in the member states:

*“We should liquidate some institutions... We should also shut down the Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions.”<sup>7</sup>*

This complaint has been echoed by others. According to German daily Die Welt, the French Europe Minister Pierre Lellouche was “fuming with rage” when attending a conference at the EU’s Fundamental Rights Agency, saying:

*“What is the point of this? Is there anything that the agency adds to what we've got? ... The Council of Europe takes care of human rights, anyway.”<sup>8</sup>*

The proliferation of EU agencies seen in recent years is not just a problem of cost and inefficiency, is also a problem of ‘mission creep’. Agencies, like any organisation, have vested interests in demonstrating the need for their work and extending their scope. The communications activities/lobbying of agencies are also a serious cause for concern.

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<sup>6</sup> *Welt*, “Die verrückte Behördenschwemme in der EU”, 3 Jun 2010, <http://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article7888056/Die-verrueckte-Behoerdenschwemme-in-der-EU.html?print=true#reqdrucken>

<sup>7</sup> *EUobserver*, “Mushrooming’ EU institutions cause unease amid era of national austerity’, 16 July 2010; <http://euobserver.com/19/30495>

<sup>8</sup> *Welt*, “Die verrückte Behördenschwemme in der EU”, 3 Jun 2010, <http://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article7888056/Die-verrueckte-Behoerdenschwemme-in-der-EU.html?print=true#reqdrucken>

An easier answer to this issue is to abolish all but essential agencies. It's clear that now is the time to put the spotlight on the EU's growing and increasingly complex web of committees and quangos.

### **Proposed cuts to EU agencies<sup>9</sup>**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Annual saving*</b>
Economic and Social Committee	Abolish	€ 139,220,719
Committee of the Regions	Abolish	€ 91,067,355
Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency	Abolish	€ 49,754,160
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights	Abolish	€ 20,000,000
Institute for Gender Equality	Abolish	€ 7,530,000
European Training Foundation	Abolish	€ 19,850,000
European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training	Abolish	€ 17,722,000
European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions	Abolish	€ 20,450,000
European Agency for Safety and Health at Work	Abolish	€ 14,442,100
European Police College (CEPOL)	The annual €8.6mn fund should be frozen until auditors approve CEPOL's accounts	
European Institute of Innovation and Technology	Abolish	€ 64,000,000
European Food Safety Agency	Abolish	€ 75,610,000
Remaining decentralised and executive agencies	30% efficiency savings	€ 191,254,519
	<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 709,700,853</b>

\*All data is based on the Commission's proposed 2011 budget.

### ***Economic and Social Committee***

- 2010 budget: €127mn
- Proposed 2011 budget: €139mn

The Economic and Social Committee (ESoC) is labelled as the "bridge between Europe and organised civil society" but its work is unknown to almost all of those outside of Brussels. It consists of 344 members who are consulted on all pieces of EU legislation but have no actual power other than to offer ESoC's opinion in an advisory capacity.

ESoC also has a department which examines the EU's regional policy, duplicating the work of numerous others including: another EU agency - Committee of the Regions (CoR) (see below), the EU sponsored organisation Assembly of European Regions<sup>10</sup> and, of course, the Commission's very own Directorate General for Regional Policy.

<sup>9</sup> All figures are based on the Commission's proposed budget 2011. Access this link for full data and sources: <http://www.openeurope.org.uk/research/euagenciesbreakdown2.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Assembly of European Regions website, "The AER and EU Cohesion policy: assessing the present and anticipating for the future", 2010, <http://www.aer.eu/main-issues/cohesion-regional-policy.html>

ESoC and the CoR also duplicate each others work in other areas such as economic and social policy, environment and 'citizenship'.

Currently, the European Commission is proposing to increase the ESoC budget by 9% for 2011.<sup>11</sup> The EU should instead abolish ESoC, bringing annual savings of €139mn from 2011.<sup>12</sup>

### **Committee of the Regions**

- Current budget: €86mn
- Proposed 2011 budget: €91mn

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) was established in 1994 in order to give regions and cities a voice in EU decision-making and close the gap between citizens and Brussels. However, the CoR, like ESoC, has no substantive power and only has a consultative role in the EU legislative process. Given the European Parliament's increased powers to change EU legislation, the CoR's envisioned role as a 'voice for the people' is no longer a valid justification for its existence.

As noted above, the CoR's work significantly overlaps with the work of ESoC, the Commission and the Assembly of the Regions (not an EU body but financed by the EU). Similar to a Russian doll, the Committee of the Regions is divided into a further six separate 'commissions', including: the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy, Commission for Economic and Social Policy and Commission for Education, Youth and Research.<sup>13</sup> The entire logic behind the CoR is also slightly peculiar, as it wants to centralise more powers in Brussels – and with itself – in order to put more emphasis on the local level in decision-making.

Currently, the European Commission is proposing to increase the CoR budget by 5.8%.<sup>14</sup> Abolishing the CoR would bring annual savings of €91mn from 2011.

### **The decentralised agencies**

The total proposed budget for the EU's 34 'decentralised' and 'executive' agencies<sup>15</sup> for 2011 is €1.3 billion. These agencies are funded by a mixture of funding streams, mainly made up by direct EU and member state funding, funding by third countries, like the EFTA, levying fees and contributions from industry.<sup>16</sup> This research examines the total cost to taxpayers, therefore excluding all payments from private sources and including payments from third countries.

Many of these agencies duplicate work undertaken by other EU institutions, member states' governments, NGOs and member states' very own agencies.

### **Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency**

- Current budget: €49.5mn

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<sup>11</sup> European Commission, "2011 EU Budget online", p3, pp 15 [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/data/DB\\_2011/EN/SEC06.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/data/DB_2011/EN/SEC06.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Unfortunately, this could probably not be done without a corresponding Treaty change, as the role of the ESoC and CoR is enshrined in the EU Treaties.

<sup>13</sup> CoR website, 2010,

<http://www.cor.europa.eu/pages/CoRAtWorkTemplate.aspx?view=folder&id=f4730b2b-a0e7-4047-b13d-1396fe1361a7>

<sup>14</sup> The 2010 CoR budget was €86m (see pp. 6 [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/data/LBL2010\\_VOL8/EN/Vol8.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/data/LBL2010_VOL8/EN/Vol8.pdf)), the proposed 2011 ESoC budget is €91m (see pp. 3 [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/data/DB\\_2011/EN/SEC07.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/data/DB_2011/EN/SEC07.pdf))

<sup>15</sup> For a full list see [http://europa.eu/agencies/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/agencies/index_en.htm)

<sup>16</sup> The decentralised agencies are part funded by the EU. See: *Preliminary draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 2010*, p76; [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/data/AP2010\\_VOL0/EN/Vol0.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/data/AP2010_VOL0/EN/Vol0.pdf)

- Proposed 2011 budget: €49.8mn

The EU's growing role in developing and funding 'culture' is contestable, particularly in times of austerity. According to the website, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency's (EACEA) "mandate covers a variety of Europe- and worldwide opportunities for organisations, professionals and individuals, at all ages and stages of life".<sup>17</sup> This includes programme of dubious worth, including the 'Youth in Action'<sup>18</sup> initiative which took German students to South Africa to play football.<sup>19</sup> The Erasmus Mundus scheme should also be moved under the Commission's remit.<sup>20</sup>

The EACEA has no fewer than 404 staff members.<sup>21</sup> This seems rather excessive, considering that the Commission's department for Education and Culture already employs 498 people. Extraordinarily, this is more than the Commission's department for the Internal Market employs (465 staff) – a core area of the EU<sup>22</sup>

### **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**

- Current budget: €20mn
- Proposed 2011 budget: €20mn

*"The FRA also informs people about their fundamental rights. In doing so, it helps to make fundamental rights a reality for everyone in the European Union."*

FRA website<sup>23</sup>

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) costs European taxpayers €20mn per year to carry out research and to promote human rights.

There are numerous international organisations which already undertake this work, most importantly the Council of Europe and the European Commission itself which has its very own Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship – Viviane Reding.

This is in addition to work undertaken by member states' own governments and agencies, for example, the UK's Equality and Human Rights Commission which has an annual budget of £52mn. Many other member states also have national organisations dedicated to human rights including Sweden, Spain, Poland and Portugal.

Concerns have continually been raised over duplication of work. In fact, in January 2008 a motion was tabled by the Council of Europe entitled "the need to avoid duplication of the work of the Council of Europe by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights"<sup>24</sup> This concern is still ongoing. A report by the Council of Europe's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights in May this year noted: "although both institutions may sometimes work on the same or similar issues, they

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<sup>17</sup> EACEA website: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/about\\_eacea\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/about/about_eacea_en.php)

<sup>18</sup> EACEA "Youth In Action" website: [http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/programme/about\\_youth\\_en.php](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/programme/about_youth_en.php)

<sup>19</sup> EU financial transparency website: [http://ec.europa.eu/beneficiaries/fts/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/beneficiaries/fts/index_en.htm)

<sup>20</sup> Mexico-Erasmus Mundus site: <http://bit.ly/9DoYo8>

<sup>21</sup> Access this link for full data and sources:

<http://www.openeurope.org.uk/research/euagenciesbreakdown3.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> European Commission, "Distribution of officials and temporary agents by Directorates General and function groups", 3 Aug 2010, [http://ec.europa.eu/civil\\_service/docs/europa\\_sp2\\_bs\\_cat-sexe\\_x\\_dg\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/civil_service/docs/europa_sp2_bs_cat-sexe_x_dg_en.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> Website: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights,

[http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/about\\_fra/about\\_fra\\_en.htm](http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/about_fra/about_fra_en.htm)

<sup>24</sup> Council of Europe, "The need to avoid duplication of the work of the Council of Europe by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights", 31 January 2008, <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc08/EDOC11521.htm>

use different tools in carrying out their respective activities,<sup>25</sup> which seems a rather vague justification for keeping FRA.

### **EU Institute for Gender Equality**

- Current budget: €6.9mn
- Proposed 2011 budget: €7.5mn

*"Its tasks are to collect and analyse comparable data on gender issues, to develop methodological tools, in particular for the integration of the gender dimension in all policy areas, to facilitate the exchange of best practices and dialogue among stakeholders, and to raise awareness among EU citizens."*

Institute for Gender Equality website<sup>26</sup>

The FRA also duplicates the work of another EU agency - the Institute for Gender Equality, established in 2006. This is demonstrated by a simple search on the FRA's website using the words "gender equality". At least 36 reports can be found on the website including "Gender Inclusive" and "Women, Islam and international law", both from 2009.<sup>27</sup>

The Institute for Gender Equality was established despite protests from some, notably the UK, who wanted gender issues come under the FRA's remit. In a House of Lords debate in 2006, doubts were raised over the need for this agency noting:

*"we regret the proliferation of EU agencies and the loss of the economies of scale that would result from one body rather than two...the case for a separate European Institute for Gender Equality has not been demonstrated"*

House of Lords debates, 8 June 2006<sup>28</sup>

### **European Training Foundation**

- Current budget: €19.5mn
- Proposed 2011 budget: €19.9mn

The European Training Foundation's (ETF) annual budget of €19mn aims to "help transition and developing countries [neighbouring countries] to harness the potential of their human capital through the reform of education, training and labour market systems in the context of the EU's external relations policy". It is questionable as to why an EU agency is necessary, in addition to the Commission's DG Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy and DG Development.

On the ETF website a publication entitled "A new brand...brand new",<sup>29</sup> is revealing of the time and money spent on communications initiatives rather than on meeting its stated objectives. The publication explains the "extensive consultation process" undertaken by a design company including "in-depth research, workshops, questionnaires and interviews with hundreds of ETF stakeholders, contractors and staff" in order to create a new logo for the ETF.

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<sup>25</sup> Council of Europe, "The need to avoid duplication of the work of the Council of Europe by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights", 31 May 2010, <http://assembly.coe.int/Main.asp?link=/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc10/EDOC12272.htm>

<sup>26</sup> Website: European Institute for Gender Equality, 2010, <http://www.eige.europa.eu/about>

<sup>27</sup> Search on website: European Institute for Gender Equality, Oct 2010, <http://infoportal.fra.europa.eu/InfoPortal/publicationsFrontEndAccess.do?idhight=17&description=Equality%20/%20Gender%20equality%20/%20International%20/%20European%20level&idDato=715&valueTable=2&udf=0>

<sup>28</sup> House of Lords debates, 8 June 2006, <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/lords/?id=2006-06-08b.1468.0>

<sup>29</sup> ETF, "A new brand... brand new", February 2010, [http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/opennews/2DAD5156684A5B5FC12576BA004A571D\\_EN?OpenDocument](http://www.etf.europa.eu/web.nsf/opennews/2DAD5156684A5B5FC12576BA004A571D_EN?OpenDocument)

### **European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training**

- Current budget: €17.4mn
- Proposed 2011 budget: €17.8mn

*“Cedefop works to promote a European area of lifelong learning throughout an enlarged EU. It does this by providing information on and analyses of vocational education and training systems, policies, research and practice”*  
Cedefop website<sup>30</sup>

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) also carries out vocational training, but with a different geographical remit working within the EU. The question also remains whether this agency really adds any value to vocational training, given that vocational development is a competency of member states.

### **European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions**

- Current budget: €20.4mn
- Proposed 2011 budget: €20.4mn

CEDEFOP provide services which overlap with the competencies of a third EU agency, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND). EUROFOUND's central mission is: To provide information, advice and expertise – on living and working conditions, industrial relations and managing change in Europe – for key actors in the field of EU social policy on the basis of comparative information, research and analysis.<sup>31</sup> CEDEFOP also notes in its 2010 'Work Programme' its “excellent working relationship” with EUROFOUND.

### **European Agency for Safety and Health at Work**

- 2010 budget: €14.8mn
- Proposed 2011 budget: €14.4mn

EUROFOUND's work also overlaps with the EU European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (OSHA), which, according to the OSHA website, is the “main EU reference point for safety and health at work”.<sup>32</sup> However, EUROFOUND's 'European Working Conditions Observatory' also undertakes research about a variety of topics including health and safety in the workplace.<sup>33</sup>

Another activity undertaken by OSHA is raising awareness of “Healthy Workplaces campaigns”. For example, the 2006 “Safe Start” funded outreach programmes in the workplace, schools, colleges, universities and training establishments to “empower” and “inform” young people ahead of their first day of work.<sup>34</sup> The need for an EU agency to carry out such tasks seems far from obvious.

It is unclear what advantage there is to keep all four organisations operating independently from the European Commission's DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities – which has already been allocated over €11 billion for 2011.<sup>35</sup>

### **European Police College**

- 2010 budget: €7.8mn
- Proposed 2011 budget: €8.6mn

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<sup>30</sup> CEDEFOP website, 2010, <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/about-cedefop.aspx>

<sup>31</sup> EUROFOUND website, 2010, <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/about/index.htm>

<sup>32</sup> OSHA website, 2010, <http://osha.europa.eu/en/about/index.html>

<sup>33</sup> EUROFOUND, “Health and safety at work in SMEs: Strategies for employee information and consultation”, Sept 2010, <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ewco/studies/tn0911028s/index.htm>

<sup>34</sup> OSHA, “Discover Safe Start”, 2006, <http://osha.europa.eu/en/campaigns/ew2006/risq/index.html>

<sup>35</sup> EU budget online 2011, Pp. 165 [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/data/DB\\_2011/EN/SEC03.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/data/DB_2011/EN/SEC03.pdf)

The UK based European Police College (CEPOL), has for years been criticised by the European Parliament for mismanaging its accounts. Despite this, the Commission is proposing to increase CEPOL's funding by 10.8% in 2011. CEPOL's budget should be frozen until auditors approve the agency's accounts.

### **European Institute of Innovation and Technology**

- 2010 budget: €30.2mn
- Proposed 2011 budget: €62.8

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) aspires "to be a key driver of sustainable European growth and competitiveness" through various methods including the "creation of highly integrated Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)" (KICs are basically groups fostering partnership between education, technology, research, business and entrepreneurs).<sup>36</sup>

However, an analysis of EIT itself reveals that it's an agency weighed down by bureaucracy. This is exemplified by the 30 "EIT Milestones" noted on the website,<sup>37</sup> which date back to February 2005 and chart the 'progress' of the agency, rather than the *results* generated by the agency. In fact, it appears that to date the EIT has done little to further its cited 'mission'. In fact, EIT only moved into its offices in April this year and launched its first three KICs in December 2009.<sup>38</sup> The total budget spent by the EIT from 2008-2010 is €39.8mn; next year a dramatic budget increase has been proposed, bringing the annual cost up to €62.8mn.

In its first year in 2008, EIT had a budget of €2.9mn yet the only milestones noted for 2008 are: 30.07.08 - The EIT's first Governing Board is officially appointed; 15.09.08 - first meeting of the Governing Board; 17.10.08 - The Governing Board elects the four members of the Executive Committee; and 02.12.08 - Launch of the selection procedure for the EIT Director. Clearly this is not good value for taxpayers' money.

### **European Food Safety Agency**

- 2010 budget: €73.5mn
- Proposed 2011 budget: €75.6mn

*"EFSA was created as part of a comprehensive programme to improve EU food safety, ensure a high level of consumer protection and restore and maintain confidence in the EU food supply."*

EFSA website.<sup>39</sup>

The European Food Safety Agency's (EFSA) mission and work overlaps with another EU agency, the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC). EAHC was created in 2005, then in 2008 its "mandate was prolonged and expanded to include actions in consumer protection and training for safer food."<sup>40</sup>

Its central initiative is the 'Better Training for Safer Food' drive, which aims to develop "strategy in the areas of food law, feed law, animal health and animal welfare rules, as well as plant health rules."<sup>41</sup> It is unclear why both agencies are separate entities.

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<sup>36</sup> EIT website: <http://eit.europa.eu/about-eit/at-a-glance/eit-mission.html>

<sup>37</sup> EIT, "EIT Milestones", 2010, <http://eit.europa.eu/about-eit/at-a-glance/milestones.html>

<sup>38</sup> EIT, "EIT Milestones", 2010, <http://eit.europa.eu/about-eit/at-a-glance/milestones.html>

<sup>39</sup> EFSA website: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/aboutefsa.htm>

<sup>40</sup> EAHC website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/about/about.html>

<sup>41</sup> EAHC website: <http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/food/index.html>