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Research Note 64

The expansion of the EU quangocracy

There are longstanding concerns at the growth of quangos in Britain. The TaxPayers' Alliance report *ACA-to-YJB: A Guide to the UK Semi-Autonomous Public Bodies* showed that there are 1,148 national arms length bodies in Britain, costing over £90 billion. But British taxpayers do not only support quangos in the UK; while EU quangos have not yet reached the same scale they are growing rapidly.

A review of the Court of Auditors 2008 reports on the annual accounts of EU institutions and bodies shows that the EU quangos have bigger budgets and more staff:

- The **number of staff** employed at EU quangos has grown sharply, up **23 per cent** in a single year with an increase of 899.5 jobs for total employment in 2008 of 4,729 in EU quangos.
- Their **budget is up by over €250 million** (over £200 million), to **€1.2 billion in 2008** (over £1 billion).
- Those figures are in addition to the budget and staff at the EU Commission.
- Full details, broken down by quango are shown in Table 1: Staff and spending at EU quangos.

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Table 1: Staff and spending at EU quangos

Agency	Budget in 2007 (€million)	Budget in 2008 (€million)	Staff in 2007	Staff in 2008	Staff increase	
					#	%
Community Fisheries Control Agency	5	9.5	25	48	23	92
European Fundamental Rights Agency	14.2	15	57	72	15	26
European Network and Information Security Agency	8.3	8.4	56	58	2	2
European Aviation Safety Agency	72	102	362	442*	80	22
European Medicines Agency	163.1	182.9	518	587	69	13
European Chemicals Agency	Est.	66.4	Est.	244	244	100
European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States	42.2	71.2	132	185	53	40
European Agency for Safety and Health at Work	14.9	14.9	63	64	1	1
European Maritime Safety Agency	48.2	50.2	179	211	32	18
European Environment Agency	35.1	37.1	116	123	7	6
Educational, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency	36	38.2	301	362	61	20
Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency	Est.	5.2	Est.	67**	67	100
Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation	6.9	11.5	69	131	62	90
Executive Agency for Health and Consumers	4.1	4.4	28	42	14	50
European Railway Agency	16.6	18	99	113	14	14
European Food Safety Authority	52.2	66.4	310	395	85	27
European GNSS Supervisory Authority	***	***	49	52	3	6
Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union	The budget this year increased from €46.1 million to €59.9 million. Staff increased from 176 to 189 (233 posts in total planned but not filled). As the majority of these are translators, contracted out in turn to EU institutions, we do not include them in the sum total.					

Agency	Budget in 2007 (€million)	Budget in 2008 (€million)	Staff in 2007	Staff in 2008	Staff increase	
					#	%
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	28.9	40.6	122	154	32	26
European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training	17.4	18.3	128	128	0	0
European Police College	6.5	8.7	21	27	6	29
Eurojust	18.9	24.8	179	222	43	24
European Training Foundation	21.1	22.4	131	124	- 7	- 6
European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions	20.2	21	95	87	- 8	- 8
European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction	14.4	15.1	98	104	6	6
Community Plant Variety Office	13.4	12.5	44.5	44	- 0.5	- 1
Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market	275.6	318.4	647	643	-3	0
Total	914.2	1,183.1	3,829.5	4,729	899.5	23

Source: Court of Auditors' annual reports for 2008; 2009/C 304/01 to 29. Statistics are not available for manning levels for agencies administratively merged directly into the European Commission over the period in question.

* Excluding consequences of high personnel turnover and an error on a staffing contract that overran the budget by a factor of six.

** The intended target figure was 99 people on staff.

*** Administrative costs can only be disaggregated with difficulty owing to a transfer of assets and programme running costs to the Commission, itself complicated by delays.

