



*Does diverting to other acts create a diversion?*

## Indeed, Lille has been selected, but that's no reason to workshop the EUCA...

 **Lille, home of the  
headquarters of the EUCA!**

**Here we are!** Following a vote on March 25, the European Council (heads of state and government of the Member States) and the European Parliament have chosen Lille to host the headquarters of the European Union Customs Authority.

**The competition was fierce**, as there were initially eight other candidate cities:

- Bucharest (Romania),
- The Hague (Netherlands),
- Liège (Belgium),
- Malaga (Spain),
- Porto (Portugal),
- Rome (Italy),
- Warsaw (Poland),
- Zagreb (Croatia).

**However, the selection of Lille's candidacy is not surprising:**

- **By its location:** the metropolis is well situated within the European "Blue Banana," close to North Sea ports (Antwerp, Dunkirk, Rotterdam), European institutions, and the World Customs Organization (WCO) in Brussels;
- **By its facilities:** the building intended to host the Customs Authority is ready, located in an attractive urban area that promotes both mobility and the settlement of professionals.



### **The EU Customs Authority (EUCA), what is this ??**

The European Union Customs Authority will **officially** be "responsible for coordinating and supporting the coherence of national customs authorities' activities across the Union."<sup>1</sup>

**From an IT perspective**, within the framework of the EU Customs Code reform, an EU Customs Data Hub is to be created under the supervision of the EUCA.

**Concretely**, it is about stationing European customs officers, technicians, and data scientists in Lille. This will be done step by step with the EU aiming to reach 250 full-time equivalent jobs by 2034. In the name of harmonization, customs IT will be centralized, where prerogatives such as targeting, that are now handled by national administrations, will be transferred to a supranational level. Does it mean a loss of sovereignty?



### **Cock-a-doodle-doo? In IT, don't let your guard down!**

**The establishment of the EUCA can indeed enhance** the profile of Lille's Customs and Excise Directorate, as well as the National Customs School in Tourcoing (ENDT).

**Several dozen colleagues can indeed expect to join** the future agency.

**But the planned IT «optimization» could have tremendous consequences, with at least several hundred job cuts** across Europe.

**This may be how a generalized free trade area is reinforced, but it would not contribute to an efficient, harmonious and long-term customs cooperation.**

Paris, Thursday, March 26, 2026

<sup>1</sup> Press release of the Council of the European Union, March 25, 2026.

Available here: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/03/25/lille-to-host-the-new-eu-customs-authority/>

