

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

*Organization.* The operation of the free trade area among the EFTA states is the responsibility of the EFTA Council which meets regularly at ambassadorial level in Geneva. The Council is assisted by a Secretariat and standing committees. Each EFTA country holds the chairmanship of the Council for six months. For EEA matters there is a separate committee structure.

*Brussels Office* (EEA matters, press and information): 74 rue de Trèves, B-1040 Brussels.

*Headquarters:* 9–11 rue de Varembe, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland.

*Website:* <http://www.efta.int>

*e-mail:* [efta-mailbox@secrbu.efta.be](mailto:efta-mailbox@secrbu.efta.be)

*Secretary-General:* William Rossier (Switzerland).

*Deputy Secretary-General, Brussels:* Per Mannes (Norway).

*Publications.* *Convention Establishing the European Free Trade Association; EFTA Annual Report; EFTA Fact Sheets; Information Papers on Aspects of the EEA; EFTA Bulletin.*

## EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY (ESA)

*History.* Established in 1975, replacing the European Space Research Organization (ESRO) and the European Launcher Development Organization (ELDO).

*Members.* Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom. Canada takes part in some projects under a co-operation agreement.

*Activities.* ESA is the intergovernmental agency in Europe responsible for the exploitation of space science, research and technology for exclusively peaceful purposes. Its aim is to define and put into effect a long-term European space policy that allows Europe to remain competitive in the field of space technology. It has a policy of co-operation with various partners on the basis that pooling resources and sharing work will boost the effectiveness of its programmes. Its space plan covers the fields of science, Earth observation, telecommunications, navigation, space segment technologies, ground infrastructures, space transport systems and microgravity research.

*Headquarters:* 8–10 rue Mario Nikis, 75738 Paris Cedex 15, France.

*Website:* <http://www.esa.int>

*Director-General:* Antonio Rodotà (Italy).

## CERN – THE EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH

Founded in 1954, CERN is the world's leading particle physics research centre. By studying the behaviour of nature's fundamental particles, CERN aims to find out what our Universe is made of and how it works. CERN's biggest accelerator, the Large Electron Positron Collider (LEP), recreates conditions at the birth of the Universe. A yet more powerful accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), is scheduled for completion in 2005. One of the beneficial byproducts of CERN activity is the Worldwide Web, developed at CERN to give particle physicists easy access to shared data. One of Europe's first joint ventures, CERN now has a membership of 20 member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom. Some 6,500 scientists, half of the world's particle physicists, use CERN's facilities.