

BENELUX PILOT PROJECTS 2025



INTEGRAL APPROACH TO CROSS-BORDER ORGANISED CRIME

The countries intend to launch new initiatives within Benelux to promote an integral administrative approach to the complex problems of cross-border organised crime. A common strategy in this regard should help identify the most effective measures to face the specific challenges of the Benelux region. The recent Treaty on Policing in Benelux is an important building block, providing the possibility for relevant authorities to exchange information.



MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Under its priorities for 2025, the Benelux Union will continue its efforts to promote recognition of diplomas and professional qualifications, a key factor in worker mobility and adaptation to changes in the labour market.

- Benelux will continue to promote the treaty on automatic mutual recognition of the degrees of higher secondary education diplomas between the Benelux countries and the Baltic states and will facilitate the joining of other Member States of the European Higher Education Area.
- An action plan aiming to simplify and speed up recognition procedures for professional qualifications will also be implemented, using a double approach: on the one hand, a horizontal approach based on EU Directive 2005/36, aiming to facilitate and speed up recognition of professional qualifications for regulated professions; on the other hand, a vertical approach that will focus on certain unregulated professions deemed priority areas, for instance those facing a shortage of manpower or that play a strategic role in the green and digital transitions.
- A workshop on the recognition of professional qualifications will be organised to allow experts from the various Member States to discuss these issues and share concrete solutions.



COOPERATION ON ENERGY

In 2025, the pentilateral consultation on energy will celebrate its 20th anniversary. This consultation was initiated in 2005 and today includes the Benelux countries, France, Germany, Austria and Switzerland. It began as a spin-off of the Benelux cooperation on energy. 20 years later, Benelux continues to play a central role. For example, the directors-general of our three countries have always placed the progress in and new possible topics for regional cooperation in the field of energy on the agenda of their strategic consultations. The energy cooperation within Benelux thus transformed into a major consultation on the market forces, guaranteeing energy security and the common challenges towards a decarbonised energy system. In 2010, regional energy cooperation between the North Sea countries on optimising the development of offshore wind power also emerged in the framework of the Penta Forum.

For Penta's 20 years and the 15 years of cooperation in the North Sea, Benelux will showcase and reinforce its essential coordinating role in regional energy cooperation. The aims will be a) to define the strategic importance of regional cooperation for Benelux in a high-level meeting in the autumn; b) to develop initiatives to accelerate the new crucial regional topics regarding infrastructure planning, supply security and flexibility; c) to prepare a framework agreement between the Benelux countries and the Benelux Secretariat through which the Benelux will fulfill its European obligation to hold biennial regional energy crisis exercises.



TREATY ON SOCIAL FRAUD

The countries will work towards finalising negotiations on the Treaty on Social Fraud. The legal framework this treaty provides will improve the countries' efforts in joint or coordinated inspections and controls and in information exchange. This will enable fighting cross-border social fraud, unfair competition and social dumping more effectively; it will also allow better control of the observance of good and fair work conditions and of social security laws for all cross-border workers.

