

International Organizations

The Hague claims to be home to more than 150 legal organizations and more than 30 international organizations in the strict sense of the word.

Some of the largest and most known ones are (next to the EPO of course) the following:

The International Court of Justice (ICJ)

The ICJ, which is located at the famous Peace Palace, along with the PCA, can take binding decisions in disputes between states.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

Founded in 1899, the PCA was the world's first permanent dispute settlement body and is composed of a number of arbitrators.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

Created by a Security Council Resolution in 1993, the ICTY is meant to prosecute those persons suspected of having committed serious offences in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991, such as war crimes or crimes against humanity.

The International Criminal Court (ICC)

Founded by the Treaty of Rome, which was signed in 1998 and entered into force after the ratification by 60 countries in 2002, the ICC is meant to prosecute perpetrators of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, in those cases where national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The OPCW was set up to monitor the implementation of the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, which aims at eliminating the use and production of chemical weapons.

The Iran-US Claims Tribunal

This tribunal was created to deal with claims arising out of the Tehran hostage crisis in 1979 and the consequent freezing of Iranian assets by the US.

Europol

Europol was set up in 1992 to assist the member states of the EU in their fight against organized crime.

Eurojust

Eurojust is a rather recent organization meant to stimulate and coordinate cooperation between the investigating and prosecuting authorities in the different EU member states.

Next to these, there are a number of less well known institutions with a principal seat in The Hague, such as:

The Hague Conference on Private International Law

The High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE

The Hague Academy of International Law

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and 93 foreign embassies, staffed by some 5000 to 6000 diplomats.

Main Political Parties

Current Government Parties

CDA – Christen Democratisch Appèl – *Christian Democratic Appeal* – Major conservative-Christian democratic party (44*)

VVD -Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie – *People's Party for Freedom and Democracy* – Major conservative-liberal party (27)

Current Opposition Parties

PvdA – Partij van de Arbeid – *Labour Party* – Major social-democratic party (42)

GroenLinks – *GreenLeft* – Ecologist and social-oriented party (8)

SP - Socialistische Partij – *Socialist Party* – Former Maoist, now very leftist party (8)

D66 – *Democrats 66* – Progressive party focusing on government reform (6)

List Pim Fortuyn – Populist, rightist party named after its founder (who was murdered in 2002) (6)

CU – ChristenUnie - *Christian Union* – Orthodox Calvinist party (3)

SGP – Staatkundig Gereformeerde Partij – *Political Reformed Party* - Ultra-orthodox Calvinist Party (2)

And then there's a number of one-man parties in Parliament, such as:

Group Wilders (former VVD MP, very right-winged)

Group Nawijn (former LPF MP, very right winged)

Group Lazrak, Group van Schijndel....

*The current representation of each party in the House of Commons is indicated between brackets.