What can be found on EUR-Lex

EUR-Lex gives you access to EU legislation, case-law and other legal documents coming mostly from the EU institutions, but also from EU Member States, European Free Trade Association (EFTA) institutions, etc., including:

- **Treaties**
- **Legal acts from EU institutions**
- **Preparatory documents** related to EU legislation
- **EU case-law**
- **International agreements**
- **EFTA documents**
- References to **national transposition measures** and also texts of national transposition measures for those Member States that agreed to provide them
- References to **national case-law** related to EU law.

EUR-Lex publishes the authentic version of the [Official Journal of the EU](https://eur-lex.europa.eu). In addition, it provides:

- The main stages of the **procedures** leading to the adoption of legal acts
- **Consolidated texts** combining the initial legal acts and all their amendments into single documents
- Over 2,000 **summaries of EU legislation** explaining EU legislation in a plain, easy-to-read and concise way.

From the start of the eighth parliamentary term (25 May 2014), parliamentary questions are no longer published in the Official Journal of the European Union or on EUR-Lex. They are now published on the [European Parliament’s website](https://www.europarl.europa.eu).

Detailed overview of the types of documents available on EUR-Lex EUR-Lex is updated daily with the publication of the Official Journal, individual documents published in the Official Journal, other documents or procedures, case-law and legal and bibliographic information (metadata).

The authentic electronic version of the Official Journal is published in PDF, together with its **electronic signature**. The HTML version is also available for information purposes, but it is not authentic.

Each document published in the Official Journal is processed for publication on EUR-Lex. On the day of publication, only the title and publication references are available with the individual act. Full **legal and bibliographic information** is published within 2 working days. This explains why there is a short time lapse between the availability of the Official Journal itself and the subsequent ability to find individual acts.
The frequency of updates of other documents varies because they come from different institutional sources. For instance, the national transposition measures are updated once a week.
Linguistic coverage

The interface of the website is available in all 24 EU official languages. For documents, the available languages depend on the EU official languages that existed when the documents were adopted. This is why linguistic coverage is greater for the 4 official languages of the EU’s founding members: Dutch, French, German and Italian. The oldest documents on EUR-Lex in particular are not available in the languages that were added when countries joined later on: English and Danish (1973); Greek (1981); Spanish and Portuguese (1986); Finnish and Swedish (1995); Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Slovak and Slovene (2004); Bulgarian and Romanian (2007); and Croatian (2013). However, when a country joins the EU, the EU legislation in force at the time is translated into the official language of this country and is compiled in the ‘Special editions of the Official Journal of the EU’.

Documents in Irish

Depending on the type of document and year of publication, not all documents are available in Irish on EUR-Lex. Legal acts currently available in Irish are:

- **key legislation** adopted jointly by the European Parliament and the Council,
- some **treaties**.

Irish became a full EU official language on 1 January 2007. However, for practical reasons and on a transitional basis, the EU institutions have been exempted from the obligation to draft all acts in Irish or translate them. This temporary derogation was introduced for a renewable period of 5 years.

**Council Regulation (EC) No 920/2005** of 13 June 2005 stated that ‘the institutions of the European Union shall not be bound by the obligation to draft all acts in Irish and to publish them in that language in the Official Journal of the European Union’, except for regulations adopted jointly by the European Parliament and the Council. The derogation has been extended twice, with the scope gradually reduced each time:

- until 31 December 2016 by **Council Regulation (EU) No 1257/2010**
- until 31 December 2021 by **Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2015/2264**.
The numbering of acts varies according to the type of act and year of publication. The Interinstitutional Style Guide contains detailed information on this.

Since 2015, each reference number has 3 parts, in this order: (domain) year/number. E.g. Regulation (EU) 2016/1627

- Domain abbreviation in brackets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(EU)</td>
<td>European Union</td>
<td></td>
<td>Regulation No 1009/67/EEC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Euratom)</td>
<td>European Atomic Energy Community</td>
<td></td>
<td>Regulation (EEC) No 1470/68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(EU, Euratom)</td>
<td>European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(CFSP)</td>
<td>Common foreign and security policy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Year of publication: 4 digits
- Sequential number

This number is assigned from a single series of the Official Journal, regardless of the domain or type of act.

Before 1 January 2015, each act had a sequential number assigned from one of the co-existing series of the Official Journal. The order of the different parts also varied according to the type of act. The numbering system – still used to refer to these acts – has changed over time, as shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1952 to 31 December 1962</td>
<td>Regulation No 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 January 1963 to 31 December 1967</td>
<td>A reference to the relevant treaty/treaties and the year were added to the number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 1 January</td>
<td>Position of the treaty reference changed.</td>
<td>Regulation (EEC) No 1470/68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Acts were numbered as follows:
abbreviation (in brackets), followed by sequential number and year

### Directives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before 1 January 2015</td>
<td>Year followed by sequential number and abbreviation</td>
<td>Council Directive 2010/24/EU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 1 January 1992 to 31 December 2014</td>
<td>Numbers assigned by the General Secretariat of the Council following adoption</td>
<td>Directive 2010/75/EU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Decisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decisions published under OJ L, section I (Legislative acts)</td>
<td>Sequential number followed by year and abbreviation</td>
<td>Decision No 477/2010/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decisions published under OJ L, section II (Non-Legislative acts)</td>
<td>Year followed by sequential number and abbreviation</td>
<td>Council Decision 2010/294/EU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Dual numbering

Some acts have two numbers:
- a number assigned by the Publications Office, e.g. (EU) 2015/299, and
- a number assigned by the author, e.g. ECB/2015/5, ATALANTA/4/2015.

For **European Central Bank** acts and instruments as well as **Political and Security Committee** decisions, the number assigned by the author appears in brackets at the end of the title, e.g.:
- Decision (EU) 2015/299 of the European Central Bank…(ECB/2015/5)
- Political and Security Committee Decision (CFSP) 2015/711…(ATALANTA/4/2015)

For some acts, the number assigned by the Publications Office does not include a domain and appears in square brackets after the title. These include:
- decisions of the various councils and committees created by international agreements
acts relating to the **European Economic Area** (EEA)

- acts relating to the **European Free Trade Association** (EFTA)
- regulations of the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe** (UNECE)

### Examples
Decision No 1/2015 of the ACP-EU Committee of Ambassadors … [2015/1909]
Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 159/2014 … [2015/94]
EFTA Surveillance Authority Decision No 30/15/COL … [2015/1813]
Regulation No 78 of the Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (UNECE) … [2015/145]

**Before 1 January 2015**, acts relating to the **European Economic Area** (EEA) or to the **European Free Trade Association** (EFTA) and regulations of the **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe** (UN/ECE) only had a number assigned by the author.

### Unnumbered acts and other texts
Some acts and other texts are not numbered, such as:

- international agreements attached to a decision
- information on the date of entry into force of an international agreement
- corrigenda.
ECLI - European Case-Law Identifier

The ECLI is a uniform identifier that enables you to identify judicial decisions more easily. It also makes it easier to access, search for, identify, cite and link EU and national case-law. The identifier consists of 5 parts in the following order, with each separated by a colon:

1. Abbreviation "ECLI"
2. Country code (2 characters)
3. Court code (1-7 characters)
4. Year of the decision (4 digits)
5. Unique identifying number (max. 25 characters, dots allowed)

Examples (Court of Justice of the European Union):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECLI</th>
<th>Document</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECLI:EU:C:1998:27</td>
<td>27th decision by the Court of Justice in 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECLI:EU:F:2010:80</td>
<td>80th decision by the Civil Service Tribunal in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECLI:EU:T:2012:426</td>
<td>426th decision by the General Court in 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 5th part of the Court of Justice of the European Union’s ECLI is a sequential number, restarted every year and specific for each court (Court of Justice, General Court, Civil Service Tribunal). It is not the CELEX number.

The ECLI was introduced further to Council Conclusions 2011/C 127/01.

The ECLI search engine on the European e-justice portal lets you search for legal decisions/judgments with an ECLI.

More information on ECLI
ELI - European Legislation Identifier

The ELI makes legislation that is officially published across Europe available online in a standardised format, so that it can be accessed, exchanged and reused across borders. ELIs use HTTP URIs (Uniform Resource Identifiers), which can be read by both humans and computers. They also propose a set of metadata elements to describe legislation and include a specific language for exchanging legislation in a machine-readable format.

At EU level, ELIs are assigned to a wide range of legislation published in the L series (regulations, directives, decisions) of the Official Journal of the European Union and to consolidated acts.

From your personal account or ‘Customise shown information’, you can set your preferences so that the ELI appears in the results. It is always displayed on the document page.

ELIs have also been deployed in a number of national legislation publishing systems (see the list). They are implemented by EU Member States on a voluntary basis.

Examples

The simplest type of ELI structure is this:

```
http://data.europa.eu/eli/{typeOfDocument}/{yearOfAdoption}/
{numberOfDocument}/oj
```


The ELI for [http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2009/496](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2009/496) provides access to the most recent consolidated version of this act. If there is no consolidated version, you access the act as it was published in the Official Journal.

For more information on ELI implementation at national and EU level, see the [ELI register pages](http://data.europa.eu/eli) and a summary of Council conclusions on the introduction of the ELI.
CELEX numbers

A CELEX number is a unique identifier assigned to a document. It is independent of the language of the document. Most documents on EUR-Lex are assigned a CELEX number. A CELEX number has different parts, which vary slightly depending on the type of document. The most common case is to have the following 4 parts: Sector – Year – Document type – Document number. For example, the CELEX number of the EU Water Framework Directive is 32000L0060. It consists of 4 parts:
- sector: 3 (for legal acts)
- year: 2000
- document type: L (for Directive)
- document number: 0060.

If you hover over a CELEX number on EUR-Lex you can see the full title of the document.

Sector

Documents in EUR-Lex fall into one of 12 sectors.

1. Treaties
2. International agreements
3. Legal acts
4. Complementary legislation
5. Preparatory documents
6. EU case-law
7. National transposition
8. References to national case-law concerning EU law
9. Parliamentary questions
0. Consolidated texts
C. Other documents published in the Official Journal C series
E. EFTA documents

Year
The year usually describes when the document was adopted.

**Document type**

Each document type has a **descriptor**. Descriptors can have 1 or 2 letters.

Some common descriptors:

**Sector 3 - Legal acts**
- **L** for Directives
- **R** for Regulations
- **D** for Decisions

**Sector 5 - Preparatory documents**
- **PC** for Legislative proposals by the Commission (COM documents), etc.
- **DC** for other COM documents (green and white papers, communications, reports...)
- **SC** for SWD documents (staff working documents, impact assessments...)
- **JC** for JOIN documents (adopted jointly by the Commission and the High Representative)

**Sector 6 - EU case-law**
- **CJ** for Judgments by Court of Justice
- **CC** for Opinions of the advocate-general
- **CO** for Orders of the Court of Justice

Full list of descriptors

**Document number**

Most CELEX numbers end in 4 digits. These reflect different types of information, e.g.:

- **Official number** - e.g. 32017R2394: a sequential number showing when the document was published in the Official Journal. It is assigned by the Publications Office.
- **Internal number** - e.g. 52018PC0033: assigned by the author of the document, here the Commission (PC).
- **Date of publication** - e.g. 32012A0424(01): the month and day of publication in the Official Journal. It is followed by a sequential number in brackets, as other similar CELEX numbers might have been published on the same day.

**Examples by sector**

- Treaties (sector 1)
There are 3 digits or a letter code after the descriptor. They indicate the number of an article of the Treaty.
Example: 11957E086 is the number for Article 86 of the EEC treaty (1957).

Consolidated versions of Treaties are indicated by the year of consolidation.
Example: Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union:
- 12016E – table of contents, consolidated version 2016
- 12016E/TXT – consolidated version 2016
- 12016E003 – Article 3, consolidated version 2016.

- International agreements (sector 2)

International agreements are identified by their publication date.
Example: International agreement 22006A1230(03) was published in the Official Journal on 30 December 2006.
If several agreements are published on the same day, only the number in brackets changes: e.g. 22006A1230 (01).

- Case-law (sector 6)

The year is the one in which the case entered the Court’s register.
The document number is based on the case number issued by the Court of Justice.
Example: 6 2004 TJO 201 relates to the judgment in the 201st case entered in the register in 2004. The case number is T-201/04.

- National transposition measures (sector 7)

The first 10 characters are identical to those of the CELEX number of the transposed act, with the exception of the first one, which represents the CELEX sector: 3 (‘Legal acts’) and is replaced by 7 (‘National transposition’). The following 9 characters represent the year, type and unique number of the transposed act.
After the first 10 characters, a 3-letter country code indicates the Member State that is the author of the given national transposition measure.
At the end of the CELEX number, the number following the underscore is the unique identifier from the database of the Secretariat-General of the Commission. These identifiers are of 2 types, the most recent one including a year prefix.

Examples:
- 72018L2002POL_285543
- 72013L0032AUT_202103576

Identifiers with an asterisk are used for display purposes only, when the same unique transposition measure implements more than one legal act. They are not real CELEX numbers. The asterisk replaces the part of the identifier inherited from the transposed acts.
Example: 7*EST_202103476 is displayed for a measure transposing 2 directives.
There are 2 different CELEX numbers attributed to this measure: 72013L0034EST_202103476 and 72014L0095EST_202103476

- **Corrigenda**

  Corrigenda have the same number as the document they are correcting, with R(xx) added at the end (xx being the number of the corrigendum).

  Example: 32009L0164R(01) is the first corrigendum to Directive 32009L0164.

  A corrigendum may relate to one or more language versions – or even all of them.

- **Consolidated texts (sector 0)**

  Consolidated texts have the same number as the basic act – but their sector is ‘0’.

  It is followed by the date of application of the last amendment to the act.

  Example: 02009L0156-20161018

  [More information on consolidated texts](#)

[How CELEX numbers are composed](#) (in English only)
[Infographics on CELEX numbers](#)
Directories of EU law

The directories of EU law are numerical classification tools that offer access to EU law by subject. They are available for:

- **Legal acts**
- **International agreements**
- **Preparatory documents**

The directories of EU law are divided into 20 main chapters covering the specific areas of EU activity and are further divided into several sub-chapters. The numbers in blue indicate how many acts are available for each chapter or sub-chapter. Click a number to view the results list with all the relevant specific acts.
Directory of case-law

The directory of case-law is a numerical classification tool that gives you access to the judgments and orders of the Court of Justice, General Court and Civil Service Tribunal by subject.

Following the changes brought by the Treaty of Lisbon, the classification scheme –used to analyse case-law from 1954 to 2009 – was modified. The new scheme has been applicable to case-law since 2010. It consists of 9 main chapters, further divided in several sub-chapters.

By default, EUR-Lex displays the current classification scheme. If you want to use the one that was applicable until 2009, click Classification scheme before the Lisbon Treaty (2009).

The numbers in blue indicate how many acts are available for each chapter or sub-chapter. Click a number to view the results list with all the relevant specific acts.
How to search

EUR-Lex offers several types of search:

1. **Quick search** — find documents and procedures by typing keywords or numbers in a free text field.

2. **Advanced search** — target your search better by selecting a collection and filling in specific criteria such as, for example, words in text/title, identifiers or dates. Once you select a collection, the form displays only the relevant search criteria.

3. **‘Find results by’ search boxes** — on the right-hand side of the homepage (start page) — search on document numbers and **CELEX numbers**.

4. **Expert search** — build your own search query by choosing from all of the available metadata.

You can launch a quick or an advanced search from any page of the website. Note that for launching an expert search you must be signed in.
Quick search

1. Enter a word, phrase or number in the search box. You can use wildcards:
   - * replaces any number of characters (e.g. transport* will find transportation, transporting, etc.)
   - ? replaces 1 character (e.g. ca?e will find case, care, cane, etc.).

**NB:** This tool always searches in the current language of the website. If that language is English, your search results will be in English only.
   - To start the search:
     - click on the magnifying glass icon;
     - or press the Enter key on your keyboard. Once you type a term in the search box, it stays there — so you can edit your search by editing, adding or deleting terms.

When you use the quick search, keep in mind that the search engine is looking for items that have your search term in any of the following places:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Title of the document as published in the Official Journal, in the European Court Reports or as it appears in the original document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> Directive 2010/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy-related products (Text with EEA relevance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text</td>
<td>Full text of the document as published in the Official Journal, in the European Court Reports or as it appears in the original document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CELEX number</td>
<td>The CELEX identifier is both a unique document identifier and a classification code, regardless of language. It is used as the basis for cross-referencing of documents in the database.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Example:</strong> 32014R1338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directories of legislation and case-law</td>
<td>The directory is a numerical classification tool. It offers access to EU law by subject. All directories of EU legislation have the same structure of 20 chapters with divisions into further sub-sections as necessary. Each chapter covers a specific area of European Union activity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Each descriptor is composed of eight digits corresponding to the principal chapter heading and up to three subsequent subdivisions, each represented by two digits. Documents may be indexed with up to three directory codes. There is a specific directory classification for EU case-law. Directory codes are also used for special editions of the Official Journal of the European union for indicating the number of chapter.

**Example:** 04.10.30.00 Fisheries/Common fisheries policy/Conservation of resources

| Subject matter | Subject matter is a classification tool containing an alphabetically structured list of over 200 keywords. It is based on the subdivisions of the treaties and on the areas of activity of the institutions. The descriptors are less specific than those used in the directory code but provide a general overview of the content of the document. One document can be indexed by up to three subject-matter descriptors.

**Examples:** Trans-European networks; Competition; Telecommunications |

| Author | Name of the institution, the body or the country that produced the act.

**Example:** European Parliament |

| EuroVoc descriptors | EuroVoc is a multilingual and multidisciplinary thesaurus which covers the field of activity of the European Union. It contains keywords, organised in 21 domains and 127 sub-domains, which are used to describe the content of documents in EUR-Lex. It is used as an indexing tool for the EUR-Lex documentary collection.

**Examples:** astronomy; tropical plant; sugar |

| Title of the proposal of legislative procedures | Title of the proposal launching the legislative procedure.


| Interinstitutional procedure code of legislative procedures | The procedure is identified by a code and an interinstitutional number. [Read more about procedures.]

**Example:** [2016/0351/COD](#) (where 2016 is the year when the procedure was launched, 0351 is its interinstitutional number and COD is the code used for ordinary legislative procedures) |

| Alternative title for EU case-law (containing names of parties — NOM_USUEL) | Any alternative title(s) that a document might have. For documents provided by the European Court of Justice, names of parties appear in this field.

**Example:** Chemical GmbH/Commission |


**Example:** 2017/1001 |

| Name of advocate general for EU case-law | Name of the Advocate General who delivered the opinion on the court case (EU case-law).

**Examples:** Jacobs; Tizzano |

| Document type | Descriptor for the type of document.

**Examples:** R for Regulation, L for Directive, D for Decision,… |

| ECLI | |
The European case-law identifier is a 5-part identifier for a legal document, designed to make European case-law databases more usable. It has the following format: the identifier consists of five components, in the following order and each separated by a colon.

1.1 Abbreviation 'ECLI'.
1.2 Country code (2 characters).
1.3 Court code (1-7 characters).
1.4 Year of the decision (4 digits).
1.5 Unique identifying number (max. 25 characters, dots allowed).

**Example:** ECLI:EU:C:1998:27 identifies the 27th decision by the Court of Justice in 1998.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rapporteur for EU case-law</th>
<th>Name of the Judge-Rapporteur for the case.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cooke; Makarczyk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This means the search results might include documents that do not have the search term in the title or the text (but have it somewhere in the metadata). If you wish to target your search to titles and texts, use the advanced search. It offers the possibility to limit your search to titles or texts only (or both).

For a demonstration of how to search for a term, watch the following tutorial.

**Quick Search (updated)**

What are the features of the EUR-Lex Quick search form and how can I use it to find documents? Please watch the tutorial to find out more. You can also view this tutorial directly on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com). The tutorials are only available in English.
Advanced search

1. Click on the ‘advanced search’ link (under the quick-search box).
2. Select a collection. To select more than one collection, click on ‘Choose multiple collections’. Finally, tick the box in front of each collection you want to include in your search.
3. Fill in the search form according to your criteria.
4. Click on the ‘Search’ button to launch the search, or press the ‘Enter’ key.
5. To delete the criteria entered, click the ‘Clear’ button.

Tips

- The search results are displayed and you can edit or refine your search if necessary.
- You can narrow your search by using the date criteria. The date types available depend on the collection you select.
- Some of the fields have a plus sign icon on the right-hand side of the search box.
- Click on it to open a new window containing the list of available values. If the list is organised by levels (i.e. the EuroVoc Thesaurus), make sure you click on the main categories to display subcategories. Alternatively, just type the key word you are looking for in the text field and click ‘Filter’ or press the ‘Enter’ key.
- Select values by checking (ticking) the boxes in front of them.
- Then click on the ‘Select’ button. The descriptors or codes you have selected will appear in the search field.

Notes

If JavaScript is not enabled in your browser, click on ‘Update’ under the drop-down menu to update the search form.
For a demonstration of how to carry out an advanced search, watch our tutorial.

Advanced Search (updated)

What are the features of the EUR-Lex Advanced search form and how can I use it to find documents? Please watch the tutorial to find out more.
You can also view this tutorial directly on YouTube.
The tutorials are only available in English.
Expert search

Make complex searches by:
1. Signing in with your My EUR-Lex account
2. Clicking Expert Search in the top right corner of your screen.

How to perform an expert search
1. Select your Search language.
2. Enter your search parameters in the Expert query box, using the appropriate syntax, in 1 of 2 ways:
   - type your query manually in the box
   - use the system prompts:
     - click an item in Search fields and the system will add the relevant field to the query box, as well as displaying (on the right) information and the appropriate help.
     - Codes or full names:
       By default search fields are entered in the query box as a code (e.g. TI). To display search fields with their full name (e.g. Title), select the radio button Text, below the box.
       Your query can contain a mix of codes for some fields and full names for others.
       The search fields (and their explanation) are only visible if JavaScript is enabled in your browser.
   - You can also use the blue buttons in the toolbox to the right of the query box to add search operators, wildcards or field specifiers.
   See more in Syntax & search operators.
3. Click Search.

If your syntax is invalid, the system will display an error message.
You can also manually check if your syntax is valid by pressing the Check syntax button.
To empty all fields, click Clear.

Syntax & search operators

Your expert search query must contain at least the following 3 elements (in this order):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search field (metadata)</th>
<th>Field specifier</th>
<th>Search term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Title</td>
<td>~</td>
<td>Europa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can create more complex queries by using search operators, like AND.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>~</th>
<th>Europa</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>=</th>
<th>COM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search field</td>
<td>Field specifier</td>
<td>Search term</td>
<td>Search operator</td>
<td>Search field</td>
<td>Field specifier</td>
<td>Search term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Operators**

For more complex queries. Type them in manually or use the blue buttons on the right side of your screen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Finds results that contain all your search terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Finds results that contain at least one of your search terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT</td>
<td>Excludes search terms from your results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHEN</td>
<td>Searches for a subset of a larger parent group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>()</td>
<td>Groups search terms and specifies the order in which they are interpreted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAR10</td>
<td>Finds search terms within 10 words of each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAR40</td>
<td>Finds search terms within 40 words of each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Substitutes for 0 to n characters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>Substitutes for a single character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;</td>
<td>Less than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;=</td>
<td>Less than or equal to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;</td>
<td>Greater than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;=</td>
<td>Greater than or equal to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;&gt;</td>
<td>Not equal to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>=</td>
<td>Equal to; to be used only for Coded data when searching for an exact match of the search term and result</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>~</td>
<td>Contains; to be used only for Text data when searching for documents containing your search term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Searching for specific terms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

18/11/2021
By default, EUR-Lex will search for all words derived from the basic root word you enter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search Type</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All words derived from</td>
<td>Text ~ equal</td>
<td>Documents containing the term 'equal', but also e.g. 'equality' or 'equalization' in the text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the basic root word you</td>
<td></td>
<td>enter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To search only for the precise term, use quotations marks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search Type</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Precise term</td>
<td>Text ~ &quot;equal&quot;</td>
<td>Documents containing only the term 'equal' in the text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AND

Finds results that contain all your search terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search Type</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All your search terms</td>
<td>Text ~ personal AND data</td>
<td>Documents containing the words 'personal' and 'data' in the text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Title ~ &quot;equal treatment&quot; AND Text ~ fundamental</td>
<td>Documents with the words &quot;equal treatment&quot; in the title and the words &quot;fundamental&quot; in the text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Title ~ &quot;personal data&quot; AND Collection = LEGISLATION</td>
<td>Legislation containing the phrase 'personal data' in the title.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OR

Finds results that contain at least 1 of your search terms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search Type</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least 1 of your search</td>
<td>Title ~ &quot;equal treatment&quot; OR Text ~ fundamental</td>
<td>Documents that have either the words &quot;equal treatment&quot; in the title or the word &quot;fundamental&quot; in the text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>terms:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOT

Excludes search terms from your results:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search Type</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excludes search terms from</td>
<td>Title ~ &quot;equal treatment&quot; NOT Text ~ fundamental</td>
<td>Documents that have the words &quot;equal treatment&quot; in the title, but which do not have the word &quot;fundamental&quot; in the text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>your results:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Important Notes**

- **You cannot combine a full text search with a search on other Search fields (metadata) by using the OR operator.**
- **Title ~ "personal data" OR Collection = LEGISLATION is not a valid query**
- **To combine these 2 elements of your search, you would instead have to use either the AND or NOT operators.**
- **Title ~ "personal data" AND Collection = LEGISLATION is a valid query**
- **Title ~ "personal data" NOT Collection = LEGISLATION is a valid query**

**Order of precedence of AND, OR and NOT operators**

There is a fixed order of precedence between these operators. 'NOT' has precedence over 'AND', and 'AND' has precedence over 'OR'.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title ~ equal AND treatment NOT rights OR Text ~ fundamental</td>
<td>Documents whose title contains: both 'equal' AND 'treatment', but NOT 'rights' OR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To specify a different priority, use **brackets**.

**BRACKETS ( )**

You can use **brackets** to group elements in your query and specify the order in which they will be interpreted – even to change the default priority order between AND, NOT and OR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **NO BRACKETS** $Title \sim equal \text{ AND } treatment \text{ OR } rights$ | Documents whose **title** contains:  
  - both 'equal' AND 'treatment'
  - **OR**
  - only the word 'rights'
| **WITH BRACKETS ( )** $Title \sim equal \text{ AND } (treatment \text{ OR } rights)$ | Documents whose **title** contains **either**  
  - 'equal' and 'treatment'
  - **OR**
  - 'equal' and 'rights'

**WHEN**

Use this to find a **subset** of a larger parent group. WHEN functions similarly to AND, but is more restrictive.

**Example**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| $Legal\_basis = 32012R1151$ **WHEN** $Legal\_basis\_paragraph = 3$ | Documents:  
  - whose legal basis is the document with CELEX number 32012R1151, and  
  - which are based on paragraph 3 of that document. |

**NEAR10**

Finds terms **within 10 words** of a specified other term.

**Example**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$Text \sim &quot;transport&quot;$ **NEAR10&quot;perishable&quot;$</td>
<td>Documents containing the words 'transport' and 'perishable' within 10 words of each other (regardless of sentences and paragraphs).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEAR40
Functions as NEAR10 but **within 40 words of a specified term**.

You can only use NEAR10 and NEAR40 for **text searches**.

WILDCARDS (* and ?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td><em>Substitutes for 0 to n characters</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>expe</em> will find expert, expenditure, expectation, etc.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td><em>Substitutes for a single character</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>ca?e will find case, care, cane, etc.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wildcards **cannot be used to begin** a search term. **Text ~ *tation** is not a valid query.

RANGES

To enter a **range of values** for dates or numbers, use the following operators:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; (less than)</td>
<td>For dates, this means &quot;before&quot; e.g. <em>Date_of_publication &lt; 01/01/2015</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;= (less than or equal to)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; (greater than)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= (greater than or equal to)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;&gt; (not equal to)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EQUALS (=)

Finds results that match your search term **exactly**. The operator is automatically added to the appropriate fields when chosen from **Search fields**.

*Note: the equals operator cannot be used with text data.*

E.g. fields for **dates or numbers** will return results for that **exact** date or number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Date_of_publication = 16/11/2010</em></td>
<td><em>Documents published on 16/11/2010 only.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TILDE (~)

Finds all texts **containing** the search term you enter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Finds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Title ~ Commission</em></td>
<td><em>Documents whose title contains the word 'Commission'.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Search fields

The search fields are displayed **below the expert search box**, on the left side. These are **all the fields you can search on**, grouped into categories. By default only the top levels are shown. Click on them to display or hide the sub-levels.

**Help for the search fields**

When you click an **item** in the list of search fields, the system displays (to the right of the list) explanations, examples and tips on how to use that field:

Values (list form)

For some types of fields (e.g. **Documents** –> **Coded data** –> **Classifications** –> **Subject matter (CT)**), the system displays a list of possible values that you can select for your search (check the box in front of your desired value(s) and click the **Add to query** button).

To find a **specific value** – type it in the **Filter** box at the top of the list and click the **Filter** button.

Values (tree form)

Some values are displayed in tree form (e.g. **Documents** –> **Coded data** –> **Classifications** –> **EUROVOC_descriptor (DC)**). Click ▼ to expand an item and check the box in front of your desired value(s) to select it (you can select multiple values).

To find a **specific value** – type it in the **Filter** box at the top of the list and click the **Filter** button.

Click the **Add to query** button (multiple values will be separated by 'OR').

Search by date

Search by an **exact** date or a **range** of dates:

1. Select a date-related field (e.g. **Documents** –> **Coded data** –> **Date** – > **Date_of_publication**) and select from the dropdown on the right either:
   1.1 **Exact date**
   1.2 **Range of date**
2. Type the dates **manually** (DD/MM/YYYY) or use the **calendar** button.
3. Click the **Add to query** button.

Relationships between documents

To search for documents by relationship (e.g. find a document amended by another, or a document affected by a certain case):

1. Click **Documents** –> **Coded data** –> **Relationship between documents**.
2. Click a type of relationship, e.g. Amended_by (MD).

   On the right you will see:
   - a field for the CELEX number

3. If the CELEX number contains brackets, please put it in quotation marks (e.g. "42000A0922(02)").
   - in some cases also a dropdown for the Primary role, where you can be much more specific about the relationship.

4. Click one of the values in the results list.

5. Click the Add to query button.

*The fields for Legal Basis allow you to specify your search on a specific article, paragraph or even subparagraph.*

Comments on the relationships between documents

You can also search on the comments made to relationships between documents. Examples of fields with comments on relationships between documents include: Documents -> Coded data -> Relationship between documents -> Case_affecting (AJ); Instruments_cited (CI); or Legal_basis (LB).

To search on comments made on relationships between documents see procedure described above in "Relationships between documents".

**Personalise your search results**

At the bottom of the expert search page, you can use the Change displayed metadata button to change how your results are displayed.

**Highlighting words in your results – Text ZOOM**

To highlight – in your results list – words from any text fields you are searching with:

1. Click Text ZOOM (under Metadata to display).
2. Select the number of words to be to be displayed before/after your search terms.

To apply all these changes to your search results, click Apply.
Predefined alerts (RSS feeds)

Predefined RSS feeds retrieve a selection of the latest documents published on EUR-Lex. This is done directly, via your browser or an RSS reader. You can subscribe to the following groups of documents:

- 1 - All Parliament and Council legislation
- 2 - All case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union
- 3 - Case-law of the European Court of Justice
- 4 - Commission proposals and related documents
- 5 - OJ L Complete Edition
- 6 - OJ C Complete Edition
- 7 - Acts of the Official Journal L
- 8 - Acts of the Official Journal C
- 9 - Acts of the Official Journal CA
Results list

Each document or legislative procedure is displayed with a set of metadata. If you are a registered user, you can customise the display of the result list in your search preferences. If you are not a registered user or if you are not signed in, the following default metadata are displayed:

For documents:
- identifier (CELEX number, e.g. 31994D0295) and title
- publication reference (e.g. OJ L 130, 25/05/1994, p.43-63);
- type of act (form);
- ‘direct text access’ links in the language of the search;
- author;
- date of the document.

For legislative procedures:
- procedure reference (e.g. 2013/0259/NLE);
- title;
- initial reference (e.g.: COM (2013) 531);
- initiating document (usually a CELEX number with link, e.g. 52013PC0531);
- adopted acts – if any (usually a CELEX number with link).

Using the tools available at the top of the search result list or on the left-hand side, you can:
- refine your search query (filter) by domain, year of document, author, etc. using the clickable filters (links) on the left-hand side;
- edit your search;
- edit in expert search;
- save the criteria of your searches using ‘Save to my searches’ (registered users only; select documents by clicking the box next to the titles);
- create a feed in 'My RSS feeds' (registered users only);
- save and organise documents in folders using ‘Save to my items’ (registered users only);
- change the sort order of the list using the drop-down menus;
- export selections /export all search results (PDF, XML, Excel, TSC, CSV);
- change displayed metadata;
- go to another page of the results.

Registration on EUR-Lex
Boosted items

A list of boosted items is displayed in case of a quick search that uses specific key words related to key documents (e.g. VAT). These items are highlighted in blue. A maximum of 10 boosted items are displayed.
Refine your search

After a search, you can use the clickable filters on the left hand side to narrow your search results by domain, year of document, author, etc.

- On the left-hand side of the search results, clickable filters are displayed arranged by category. For each filter, the number of results you will get after clicking is displayed in parentheses (e.g.: Codecision procedure (COD) (9)). To display more filters, click the ‘See more’ drop-down menu. The maximum number of filters is 100. Only the filters with the most search results are displayed.

- When you click on a filter, the search results are updated to reflect the new criterion, and the criterion is added to the ‘Search criteria’ box above the search results. An overview of any filters you choose is given just above the filter list on the left, under the heading ‘You have selected’. In the results list, only those results corresponding to the new search criteria are shown. Note that if you save the search at this point, it will be saved in its refined form, taking into account the filters you selected.

- You may click more than one filter. With each filter you click, fewer and more targeted search results are displayed. To widen your search again, remove a filter in the ‘You have selected’ section in the menu on the left.

The list of filters depends both on the search form you used and on the information you entered into it. For example, if you specified an author in your advanced search form, the filter for authors will not be displayed, because all documents already correspond to the author of your choice, and therefore the search cannot be refined on this criterion. The selected author is listed in the ‘Search criteria’ box.

Some filters concern hierarchical data. In this case, only the first level of descriptors is displayed (e.g. when you click on a year under ‘Year of document’, the next level down of the hierarchy — the month — is displayed. Directory codes and EuroVoc descriptors work the same way.

For all filters with hierarchical data, this continues until you reach the lowest level of the filter — at which point the filter disappears from the left hand side. To climb back up the hierarchy, remove the corresponding filter(s) under ‘You have selected’.

Results list (updated)

Watch this video to learn about all the EUR-Lex results lists and the tools available to exploit them.

You can also view these tutorials directly on YouTube.

The tutorials are only available in English.
Edit your search

If you want to change your search, you don’t need to write it again. Different edit functions are offered based on the type of search you carried out.

**Edit a quick search**

Change the term(s) you searched for directly in the search box where you typed your initial query.
You can also transform your quick search into an expert search by clicking ‘Edit in expert search’ (registered users only).
[Read more on how to edit in expert search.](#)

**Edit an advanced search**

In the ‘Search criteria’ box on top of the result list, click on ‘Edit search’ to go back to the form and modify your original search criteria.
You can also transform your advanced search into an expert search by clicking ‘Edit in expert search’ (signed-in users only). This allows you to customise your search with options that are not available in the advanced search.
[Read more on how to edit in expert search.](#)

**Edit in expert search**

In the ‘Search criteria’ box on top of the results list, click on ‘Edit in expert search’ to go back to the form and modify your original search criteria. All types of searches can be edited via expert search (registered users only).
Quick or advanced searches first need to be transformed into an expert query. This is done automatically when you click ‘Edit in expert search’ at the top of your results list. An expert search form is displayed containing your search and this can be edited, using all the related possibilities.
[Read more on how to perform an expert search.](#)

**Use the suggestions**

If your search returns no results, and the system thinks that you might have misspelled the term you were searching for, it will suggest an alternative just below the ‘Search criteria’ box. Example: ‘Did you mean ombudsman?’ Click the suggested term if it is the one you meant to search for.

**Display tabs (outdated)**

Some of the tutorials are based on the previous version of EUR-Lex and are being updated.
Which document display tabs are available on EUR-Lex and what information can I find in them? Watch this tutorial to find out! We'll start with an example of the document view of a Directive from the collection Legislation.
You can also view this tutorial directly onYouTube.
The tutorials are only available in English.
Customise the results list

The results list is displayed in a pre-set format:
- if you are not signed-in;
- if you are signed in, but haven’t set a search profile.

All users can customise the display of a results list immediately after performing a search, without signing in. Registered users have to sign, if they want to set changes permanently via ‘Preferences -> Search preferences’.

Read more on setting your search preferences.

Change the displayed metadata

1. Look for ‘Change displayed metadata’ just above the first title.
2. A window opens, in which you can select the profile for your search preferences.
   2.1 If you are a registered user and you have saved one or more search profiles, pick one from the drop-down list. Once you have made your choice, the information saved in the profile is loaded and you can change it if needed.
   2.2 If you are not logged in or if you don't have any saved display profiles, the standard profile is automatically selected for you.
3. Tick the checkboxes in front of the metadata to choose them. These will also be added to the results when you print, save or export them.
   The metadata are grouped into categories. You can either select a single element within a category or tick the box in front of the name of the category to select all elements within that category. Categories can be collapsed to hide their elements by clicking on the arrow in front of the name.
   There are two selection trees, which you can switch between by clicking the corresponding tab. ‘Simple selection’ contains a selection of the most common metadata. ‘Advanced selection’ allows you to choose from all available metadata.
   Note: a small number of metadata cannot be removed from the selection, including title and Celex number.
4. You can also define the number of results shown per page in the drop-down menu.
5. Click ‘Apply’ at the bottom of the window.

Note: your changes will NOT be saved if you click Cancel or click outside the window and return to the results list.

Sort search results
When you do a quick search, sorting is done on two levels. Search results are first sorted in descending order of relevancy. This means that the results that correspond best to your query are listed on top of the result list.

On the second level, results are by default sorted by document identifier (Celex number). This means that if several results correspond equally well to your query, they will be listed in ascending order by Celex number — the document with the smallest Celex number comes first.

To change the sort order, choose sort criteria in the ‘Sort by’ drop-down menu on top of the list of search results. Specify also if you want the criteria in a descending or ascending order. The available sort criteria depend on the search type and the selected domain in the advanced search.

As a registered user, you can also modify the default settings under ‘Search preferences’ in your account. Find out more about search preferences and read more on registering.

**Go to another page of results**

When a search returns a large number of results, they will be displayed on several pages. Pagination is available above and below your results list. Use arrows to go to the next/previous page of results (, ). Use double arrows to go to the last/first page of results (, ). Jump to a specific page by modifying the page number and pressing ‘Enter’.

If you are a registered user, you can define the number of results displayed on one page in your search preferences. The minimum number of results per page is five and the maximum is 20. Read more on setting your search preferences.
Export the list of results

1. Select some search results by ticking the boxes next to them and click on ‘Export’ on top of your result list. You can export the entire list or just a selection.

2. Select your export format in the drop-down menu. Available export formats are CSV, TSV, Microsoft Excel, XML and PDF.

3. Tick the checkboxes in front of the metadata to choose them. The metadata are grouped into categories. You can either select a single element within a category or tick the box in front of the name of the category to select all elements within that category. Categories can be collapsed to hide their elements by clicking on the arrow in front of the name. There are two selection trees, which you can switch between by clicking the corresponding tab. ‘Simple selection’ contains a selection of the most common metadata. ‘Advanced selection’ allows you to choose from all available metadata.

   Note: The CELEX number, author, relevancy and direct access links will always be exported.

4. Click ‘Export’. Depending on your operating system and your browser, the file will download automatically or open. You might need to specify what you wish to do with the file on your device.
Create an account

Registration

Saving documents, saving searches, creating personalised RSS feeds and using expert search are just some of the perks of creating a user account with EUR-Lex. Registered users have a great choice of functions within the official website of EU law and other public documents of the EU. In the Help pages there are indications on how to use the options in EUR-Lex, including whether they are restricted to registered users. If no specific indication is provided, then a given option is available to both registered users and anonymous users.

Create an account

You can register and sign in to EUR-Lex with your EU Login credentials. EU Login is the European Commission’s user authentication service. It allows authorised users to access a wide range of Commission web services using a single email address and password.

Follow these steps to create a EUR-Lex account with EU Login.

1. Look for the user icon in the top right-hand corner of any EUR-Lex page and click on Register.
2. You will be taken to the EU Login page where you should click on Create an account and fill in a form.
3. Once you have submitted the form you will receive an email asking you to log in to EU Login and choose a password.
4. Once your account has been activated you can proceed straight to EUR-Lex.

Sign in

Check that you already have an EU Login email address and password (see Create an account, above).

1. Look for the user icon in the top right-hand corner of any EUR-Lex page and click on Sign in.
2. Use your EU Login email address and password and click on Sign in.
3. The EUR-Lex website will appear and your username will be displayed next to the user icon in the top right-hand corner.

Before you first sign in, make sure to read Your first sign in below for more information.

Your first sign in
When you sign in for the first time you will be asked to set some initial preferences. On the screen you will see your automatically assigned username, your first and last name and your EU Login email address. This is information retrieved from EU Login (where it can be changed if need be).

Now set the display languages and click on Save.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preferred language</th>
<th>Language used to display documents if the text is not available in the language of the website.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First alternative language</td>
<td>Language used to display documents if the text is not available in the language of the website or in the preferred language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second alternative language</td>
<td>Language used to display documents if the text is not available in the language of the website or in the preferred language or in the first alternative language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can always edit these settings in your user account preferences. You will now be able to adjust other settings or go to the homepage (click on the EUR-Lex logo in the top left-hand corner) and start your session.

**Forgot your password?**

The password is needed in order to sign in to EUR-Lex. If you forgot it, you will need to specify a new one in the EU Login system.

1. Look for the user icon in the top right-hand corner of any EUR-Lex page and click on *Sign in*.
2. Enter your EU Login email address and click on *Next*.
3. Click on *Lost your password?* under the *Password* box and follow the instructions.
4. You will receive an email with a link, which will be available for 10 minutes.
5. Follow the link and enter a new password. Once it has been validated your new password will be activated and you can sign in to EUR-Lex again.

**Change your user information**

Follow these steps if you need to change your user information (name, email address and/or password).

1. Sign in to EUR-Lex.
2. Look for the user icon in the top right-hand corner of any EUR-Lex page and click on *Preferences*.
3. Click on *EU Login* under *Update personal data*.
4. Click on the settings icon next to your name to view or change your data.
Preferences

If you are a registered user, you can customise various aspects of EUR-Lex, e.g. how the website and search results are displayed, which metadata are exported or print preferences.

To view your preferences:
1. Sign into My EUR-Lex with your EU Login username and password.
2. In the My EUR-Lex box, click Preferences. The page with your user account information from EU Login appears by default.
3. In the left menu, you can select a link to specific preferences:
   - site preferences
   - search preferences
   - export preferences
   - print preferences.

**Change your user information**

EUR-Lex gathers information from the EU Login on your name, email address and password. If you want to change any of this information:
1. Open your user account information on EUR-Lex in the preferences.
2. Click the link to EU Login at the bottom of the page.
3. Follow the instructions on the EU Login website for updating your user information.

To see your changes, you'll have to log off EUR-Lex and then log on again.

**Update your website preferences**

You can use your website preferences to set your preferred languages and customise other display features:
1. Sign in with your EU Login username and password.
2. In the My EUR-Lex box, click Preferences.
3. In the left menu, click Site preferences.
4. You can change the information in the fields explained in the table below.
5. When you have finished, click Save (bottom of screen) Your new preferences are now applied to all pages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preferred language</th>
<th>Default display language (if available) for items.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alternative language</td>
<td>Alternative display language (if available) for any item not available in your preferred language.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Update your search preferences

These are used to customise how your search results are displayed (number of results per page, metadata displayed, etc.):

1. Sign in with your EU Login username and password.
2. In the My EUR-Lex box, click Preferences.
3. In the left menu with the different categories of preferences, click Search preferences.
4. Click an existing profile name from the list to update it or click Add new profile to create a new profile. In both cases, a page opens where you can specify your search preferences.
5. You can change information in the following fields:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profile name</th>
<th>Must be unique (not used for any other profile).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of results per page</td>
<td>5, 10 or 20 results per page.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Default sort criteria</td>
<td>How search results are ordered by default (You can always change this directly in the search results themselves). You can sort ascending or descending by item identifier, title or date, CELEX sector, type of act or author.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metadata to display</td>
<td>Metadata displayed in your search results. You can choose metadata either individually (checkbox next to each element) or by group (checkbox next to the group name). You can hide the individual elements in a group by clicking ▼ next to the group name.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Simple selection tree contains a small number of common metadata. Under Advanced selection, you can choose from all available metadata.

Some metadata are not clickable: they are displayed automatically and cannot be deselected.

6 Click Save to create or update your search profile.

Set another profile as default

Your preferences for printing, exporting and searching all have a default profile. You can change this:

1 Click Print, Search or Export preferences.
2 The default profile is marked ✓.
3 Click Set as default next to the profile you want to use for printing, exporting or search results.
4 The ✓ sign appears next to this profile.

Delete profiles

To make space for new print, search or export profiles, you may need to delete old profiles:

1 Click Print, export or search preferences.
2 Mark profiles for deletion delete using the checkboxes or Select all.
3 Click Delete selected.
4 Click Delete in the confirmation window that appears.

You cannot delete the default profile. If you wish to do this, you'll first have to set another profile as default.

If JavaScript is not enabled in your browser, you won't be able to delete multiple profiles using checkboxes (you'll have to delete each individually by clicking Delete selected and confirming every time).

The tutorials are only available in English.
You can also view this tutorial directly on YouTube.
My items

My items provides fast, easy access to your saved items:

1. In the My EUR-Lex box on the righthand side of the page, click on My items. The number in brackets shows how many saved items you have.
2. Click on the name of a folder.
3. In this list, you have several choices:
   - Display an item
   - Export and print items
   - Go back to the folder list by clicking on Back to folders list.

Delete items from the list or send them by e-mail.

Add an item to My EUR-Lex

You can add items to My EUR-Lex either from the list of search results or from the item itself. As a registered user, you can also specify the exact folder in My items where the item should be added. Not registered? Click here.

Saving from the search results

1. Select one or more items in the search results, by ticking the box to the left of the item's title.
2. Click (Save to My Items) in the box under Search criteria at the top of the page (NOTE: you may have to scroll up to see the disk icon).
3. A window opens asking in what folder you wish to save the item. You can choose between:
   - Add new folder (name cannot match that of an existing folder). You can enter a comment in the corresponding field.
   - The default folder.
   - An existing folder.
4. Click on Save to confirm.

Saving while viewing an item

1. While viewing an item, click (Save to My Items).
2. A window opens asking in what folder you wish to save the item. You can choose between:
   - Add new folder (name cannot match that of an existing folder). You can enter a comment in the corresponding field.
   - the default folder.
How to view your items.

**Delete items and folders**

You can save up to 100 items to My EUR Lex. This means that sometimes you'll need to delete old items to make space for new ones.

**Deleting items**

1. Open a list of items in a folder and select one or more by:
   - ticking the box to the left of the item's title or
     - clicking Select all in the upper righthand corner of the item list.
2. Click Delete selected in the upper lefthand corner of the list.
3. A window opens asking whether you wish to delete the selected item(s). Click Delete to confirm.

**Deleting a folder and its contents**

1. Open the list of folders and select one or more by:
   - ticking the box on the far right, opposite the folder name or
     - clicking Select all in the upper righthand corner of the item list.
2. Click Delete selected.
3. A window opens asking whether you wish to delete the selected item(s). Click Delete to confirm.

*If JavaScript is not enabled in your browser, you won't be able to delete multiple items or folders using checkboxes (you'll have to delete each individually by clicking Delete and confirming every time). Read how to enable JavaScript.*

**Send items by e-mail**

You can email links to items in your folders.

1. Open the list of items in a folder and select one or more by:
   - ticking the box to the left of the item's title or
     - clicking Select all in the upper righthand corner of the item list.
2. Click Send selected by e-mail in the upper lefthand corner of the list.
3. A new e-mail opens: the subject field is filled in automatically, and a link to the item filled with a default subject and links to items in its body text. You can change any of this information before sending the e-mail.

**Print items**

For any saved item, you can print the text and metadata.

1. Go to the saved items within a specific folder.
2. Click next to the items you want to print. A window opens asking you to select the metadata you wish to have displayed in your printout.
If you have saved your preferences in a print profile, you can load one of the saved profiles from the dropdown menu. The default profile in your preferences is selected by default here as well. Once you have chosen a profile, it is loaded and if needed you can change the saved information.

If you don't have any saved print preferences, you can directly choose the information you need.

3. You can change the information of the following fields:
   - Print format: Format of the printed version.
   - Metadata to display: The metadata you choose in this section are displayed in addition to the text of the item.

4. You can choose a type of metadata by ticking the box to its left. Metadata are grouped into different categories. You can either select a single element in a group or tick the box next to the group title to automatically select all elements within.
   To collapse a group so that its elements are not displayed, click on the icon next to the title. The Simple selection tree contains a small number of common metadata. Under Advanced selection, you can choose from all available metadata. Note that some metadata are not clickable: they are displayed automatically and cannot be deselected.

5. Click on the Print button to confirm your choices.

6. A print-ready text is displayed which you can then print (launch the printing in your browser's menu).

Create a search from your items

You can create a search for any of your My items folders. In a next step, you can even create personalised RSS feeds to stay informed about any changes that occur in those items.

1. Open My Items via the My EUR-Lex menu.

2. Find the row containing the folder(s) you wish to create a search for.

3. Click the Create search for folder icon.

4. Specify a unique name (compulsory) and a comment (optional) for the search.

5. Click on Save and a new search is added to the list in My Searches/My saved searches.

6. If you want to create an RSS feed for your saved search, consult the help page on this topic.

This search will return the current contents of the folder only: If you add items to the folder at a later time, this search will only be able to find the original items.

*Note: The number of searches you can save to My EUR-Lex is limited to 50. When you reach this limit, you will need to delete some searches to make space for new ones.

Edit folder information

You can edit the name and comment of your folders:

1. Click the icon Edit Folder Information next to the folder you want to edit.

2. Type any changes in the Name and/or Comment fields and click Save.
My searches

The right-hand menu gives you quick access to your recent searches and - if you are a registered user - to your saved searches. From saved searches, you can perform a series of actions such as creating personalised RSS feeds based on a saved search or re-run saved searches.

**My recent searches**
The number in brackets, on the right-hand menu, shows the number of your recent searches. Click *My recent searches*. A page opens listing your recent searches plus the date of your last search, number of results, search scope and language used. From this page you can perform the same search and adding it into my saved searches list. Your recent searches are remembered during the whole session of your visit.

**How to access My saved searches (for registered users)**
1. Click *My saved searches* in the *My EUR-Lex* box. The number in brackets shows the number of saved searches.
2. A page opens listing your saved and recent searches (plus the date of your last search, number of results, search scope and language used).

From this page, you can do the following:
- view searches
- perform, edit or delete searches
- set searches as RSS feeds
- save a recent search
- combine searches.

**Save your search (for registered users)**

You can save searches into *My EUR-Lex* from either the search results or *My recent searches*:

**Saving from the search results page**
1. Click *(Save to My saved searches)* at the top of the results page.
2. In the window that opens, type a unique name for your search (compulsory) and any comment (optional).
3. Click Save to confirm.
4. The search is saved, together with information on its scope, number of hits, date and language used. You will be able to view it at any time from *My EUR-Lex*.

**Saving from My recent searches (for registered users)**
1. Under *My recent searches*, find the search you wish to save and click [Save to My saved searches](#) (Save to My saved searches – far right of the screen, opposite the search name).

2. In the window that opens, type a unique name for the search (compulsory) and any comment (optional).

3. Click *Save* to confirm.

4. The search is saved and appears in *My saved searches*.

### Delete your search

The number of searches you can save to *My EUR-Lex* is limited to 50. Sometimes you'll need to delete old searches to make space for new ones:

1. Click *My searches* to open your list of saved searches. Mark a search for deletion by ticking the checkbox (far right of the screen, opposite the search name) or *Select all* (upper righthand corner).

2. Click *Deleted selected* (upper lefthand corner).

3. Click *Delete* in the window that opens.

JavaScript is not enabled in your browser, you won't be able to delete multiple items or folders using checkboxes (you'll have to delete each individually by clicking *Delete* and confirming every time).

### Edit your search

If you want to change a recent or saved search, you can use the *Edit search* option.

*You cannot edit a search performed using the Quick search box in the upper righthand corner of the screen.*

1. Click on *My searches*.

2. Click *(Edit search for advanced searches)* or *(Edit search for expert searches)* next to the saved or recent search you want to edit.

3. Make the necessary changes in the search screen that appears with your original search criteria.

4. Run the search again by clicking *Search*.

5. If you want to save the edited search under a new name, click *(Save search)* in your search result.

### Re-run saved or past searches

You can re-run a saved or recent search with just one click.

1. Click *My searches*.

2. Click *(Perform Search)* next to the search you wish to run.

3. The search results are displayed.

Because EUR-Lex is updated with new items every day, when you rerun a search, the results may differ from earlier identical searches.

### Combine searches

In *My searches*, you can also combine your saved and past searches to create a new search.
1. In the Combined search field (bottom of the page), create a search by combining multiple search identifiers ("Id" in the first column of My searches) with one of the three operators AND, OR or NOT (see example below for details).

2. To see if your new search will work, click Check syntax. If the syntax is correct, The query is valid. is displayed. If the system detects a problem, it displays an error message prompting you to make the necessary changes.

3. Click Search and the results will be displayed.

More on displaying search results.

Once you run a combined search, it is considered an expert search – if you want to edit your combined search later, the expert search page is opened.

Example

(1 AND 2)NOT 3

If you use more than one operator, AND is evaluated first, then OR. You can change this order of precedence using parentheses.

Edit saved search information

You can edit the name and comment of your saved search:

1. Click Edit search information icon next to the search you want to edit the name and comment for.

2. Edit the name and the comment in the window that appears.

3. Click Save.
My alerts (RSS feeds)

You can use RSS feeds to stay informed about changes in the results of your saved searches, reading them in your favourite RSS reader. To access your saved RSS feeds:

1. In the My EUR-Lex box in the right menu, click My RSS feeds (the number in brackets shows how many feeds you have).
2. For each feed, you will see information on its name (the same as its related saved search) and search scope, and a View search link you can use to see the search summary.
3. You have the following options:
   - Delete a feed
   - View a feed
4. To view a feed, click its name.

Create RSS feeds from the list of search results

If you're signed in, you can create personalised RSS feeds directly from a search result list:

1. Click (Create in My RSS feeds) at the top of the search results.
2. In the window that opens, enter the name of the feed (compulsory) and a comment (optional).
3. Click Save to create the feed.

For each RSS feed you create, a saved search flagged with is added to your My EUR-Lex space. You can view them via My searches in the My EUR-Lex box.

You can only add new RSS feeds if you have not reached the maximum allowed number of saved searches.

Create RSS feeds from saved searches

If you're signed in, you can create RSS feeds from your list of saved searches in My EUR-Lex:

1. Go to Saved searches
2. Select one or more searches using the checkboxes in the right column under My searches.
3. Click Set selected as RSS feed (upper lefthand corner).
4. All searches now linked to an RSS feed will be flagged with .

You can view all your created RSS feeds in My EUR-Lex by clicking My RSS feeds.

Create RSS feeds from Procedures
If you are signed in, you can create RSS feeds to follow a specific procedure directly from the page of the selected procedure.

1. Click **Follow this procedure** (at the top of the procedure description).
2. In the window that opens, enter the name of the feed (compulsory) and a comment (optional).
3. Click Save to create the feed.
4. A saved search flagged with [ ] is added to your My EUR Lex space where you can view them via *My RSS feeds* and *My saved searches*.

To subscribe to the RSS feed, click the icon [ ], then follow the instructions of your browser.

**Delete an RSS feed**

You can delete your saved RSS feeds at any time:

1. Go to *My RSS feeds*.
2. Select one or more searches using the checkboxes (far right of the screen, opposite the name.)
3. Click *Delete selected* (upper left-hand corner) and confirm by clicking *Delete* in the window that appears.

The tutorials are only available in English.
You can also view this tutorial directly on YouTube.
About the Official Journal

The Official Journal of the European Union (OJ) is published daily (from Monday to Friday regularly, on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays only in urgent cases) in all of the official languages of the EU. Since 1 July 2013 only the electronic edition of the OJ is authentic and produces legal effects.

The Official Journal box on the homepage (start page) contains links to the latest published editions of the OJ. Clicking on ‘More’ or on ‘Official Journal’ inside the box takes you to the ‘Direct access’ page, where you can search for issues by number, series or date.

From the ‘Direct access’ page you can also reach the list of legally binding print editions and the page of special editions of the OJ.

Once you navigate away from the homepage, you can access the OJ pages from the main menu, which is tucked into a ‘Menu’ button just below the logo. To access it, click on the ‘Menu’ button.

Direct access page

On the ‘Direct access to the Official Journal’ page you can:
- search or browse for an issue of the OJ;
- read about the OJ;
- navigate to sub-pages by using the menu on the left;
- consult recent issues.

If you are a registered user, you can define in your site preferences how many issues are listed under the ‘Recent issues’ section. Read more about configuring the site preferences.

Search for an Official Journal

The section ‘Direct access to the Official Journal’ lets you use drop-down menus to look for specific OJ issues.

1. Use the following fields of the search form to specify your search.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Publication year of the OJ you are searching for (mandatory).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OJ series</td>
<td>Series of the OJ, depending on the year chosen. Since January 1968 it has been published as two separate series: L series — Legislation; C series — Information and Notices. Initially the OJ was published as a single series: the A series (1952–58), followed by the P series (April 1958–67).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of the OJ</td>
<td>The drop-down menu contains the available sub-series, depending on the year and series chosen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. After defining your search criteria, click on the magnifying glass to launch the search. Two outcomes are possible.
   - If only one OJ is found, when you click on the corresponding link the table of contents of the OJ issue found is displayed.
   - If more than one OJ is found, a list of OJ issues meeting your search criteria is displayed.

Browse the Official Journal by year

In the section ‘Access by year’ (collapsed, click on the row to expand), you can browse for OJs.

1. The current year is always selected. Click on a month to access the OJs published in that month or click on ‘All’ to view all OJs published in the current year.

2. If you select a different year using the drop-down menu, a list appears containing all issues from that year. If you click on a month, the list is narrowed accordingly. Use pagination to navigate through pages of results.
Series and subseries

The **Official Journal of the European Union (OJ)** is the main source of EUR-Lex content. It appears in the official EU languages.

There are 2 series:

- **L** – Legislation
- **C** - Information and notices (C stands for French ‘communications’).

Within these series, there are 3 subseries:

- **A** - an OJ that is an annex to another OJ
- **I** – a one-off (isolated) OJ
- **M** - a special edition in Maltese, or an edition that is part of a backlog in a given language.

Find out more about OJ L and C series

An OJ number comprises:

- the letter denoting the series – L or C
- followed by up to 3 digits
- in some cases, followed by the letter denoting the subseries.

See the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series L</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>Contains EU legislation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Legislation) (i.e. OJ L 067)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subseries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LI</td>
<td>A subseries introduced to make the planning and numbering of OJ more flexible. First used on 16 January 2016 (L 011I).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Isolated) (i.e. OJ L 011I)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LM</td>
<td>The M subseries has so far been used only to publish the backlog of Maltese-language material as, by derogation, not all acts were published in Maltese initially, after Malta joined the EU in 2004.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i.e. OJ L 118M)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series C</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Other official documents from the EU institutions, bodies and agencies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information and notices (i.e. OJ C 100)

Subseries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CA (Annex) (i.e. OJ C 019A)</td>
<td>Contains vacancy notices and calls for expressions of interest. Can be published in one, several or all official languages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CI (Isolated) (i.e. OJ C 015I)</td>
<td>A subseries introduced to make the planning and numbering of OJ more flexible. First used on 16 January 2016 (C 015I).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Historical series
- **A** and **P** - for legislative acts published before 1967.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historical series</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong> (1952-1958) (i.e. OJ A 038)</td>
<td>'A' stands for French 'antérieur', i.e. before the European Communities were set up. It covers legislative acts dating from 1952 to April 1958.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong> (1958 - 1967) (i.e. OJ P 050)</td>
<td>'P' stands for French 'postérieur', i.e. after the European Communities were set up. It covers legislative acts dating from May 1958 to 1967.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subseries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subseries</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **CE** (Electronic) (i.e. OJ C 296E) | For electronic versions only. Published between 31 August 1999 and 31 March 2014, originally at the Commission's request, for COM documents. Later, the subseries was also used by:  
  - the Council - to publish common positions  
  - the European Parliament - for various document types (minutes of plenary sittings, adopted texts, written questions).  
Documents which would once have been published in this subseries are now part of the C series. |

Special editions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special editions</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Special edition</strong></td>
<td>There is also a <strong>Special edition</strong>. This contains all the translated secondary legislation adopted before a country joins the EU, which is thus in force on the date of its accession. The process of translating and publishing acts starts before accession and is usually completed shortly after. Special editions comprise 20 chapters following the Directory of EU legislation in force. Each contains one or more volumes. Once a country has joined, the acts published in the special edition can also be found in EUR-Lex. You can browse through the special editions from the dedicated page.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18/11/2021
Special editions

When a country joins the EU, EU legislation in force at that time (the acquis) is translated into the country’s official language and published in special editions of the Official Journal.

1. Go to the ‘Direct access’ page of the Official Journal and select ‘Special edition’ in the left hand menu.
2. On this page, choose the language of the accession country.
3. A classification tree is displayed, with the year the country joined on top. The first level of the tree follows the chapters of the directory of legislation in force. On the second level you can find the volumes of the special edition. When you click on a specific volume, the table of contents is displayed.
Verify the authenticity of an e-OJ

As of 1 July 2013 only the electronic edition of the OJ (e-OJ) is authentic and produces legal effects, pursuant to Council Regulation (EU) No 216/2013. The e-OJ bears an electronic signature, which ensures the authenticity, integrity and inalterability of the electronic edition. You can verify the electronic signature and authentic character of the e-OJ using the CheckLex application. Read more on the verification process in the FAQ or about CheckLex page.

Find out more about the signature policy used by the Publications Office for the e-OJ and about the qualified certificates that the e-signatures are based on.

Legally binding print editions

Though, since 1 July 2013, the paper versions of the Official Journal no longer have any legal value, there are exceptions where — due to an unforeseen and exceptional disruption of the Publications Office’s IT systems — the electronic edition of the OJ cannot be published. For these exceptional cases, the ‘Legally binding print editions’ page provides the following:

1. **Direct access to print editions with legal effect.** The search pattern is identical to the one described in Section 1.1.

2. **Access by year.** The search pattern is identical to the one described in Section 1.2.
Reuse EUR-Lex database contents

Can I reuse the entire contents of the EUR-Lex database? How?
Yes, you can re-use EUR-Lex data, free of charge, subject to copyright conditions. There are different ways to search for content and retrieve it.

Webservices
If you are a registered user, you can search EUR-Lex databases directly using Webservices. The search options are similar to those in 'expert search'. They supply data in XML format. For a simpler way to stay up-to-date, use RSS feeds – predefined or customised. More on how to use webservices.

Direct access to the database
To process data in a more sophisticated way, you can request:
1. Notifications via database RSS feeds – to notify you of every single change.

*These feeds may return very large numbers of notifications (millions a day).*

- Direct access to your selection of content and metadata in the database, via the REST interface.

Are you interested in direct access? Then contact us and we can send you additional documentation.
*Note that given its complexity, you will need to involve experts.*

Bulk download of the OJ
Official Journals (from 2004 onward) in XML format are available for bulk download via the EU Open Data Portal. It can be downloaded by language and by year.
EUR-Lex webservice

Webservices are a way for registered users to query EUR-Lex directly, without having to use a search form on the website. They offer query options similar to the ones you find in the expert search, and deliver the data in XML format. If you need a simpler way to stay up to date, you can use RSS feeds – predefined or customised.

Web service registration

How to use the webservice?

**Registration**

How to register for a webservice:

1. Click **Webservice registration** in the right menu.
2. Click **Register** if you don't already have an EU Login account. Once you have registered an account, click **Sign in**. Read more on how to register on EUR-Lex.
3. Click **Register** and fill out the registration form (**see table below**).
4. Click **Save** to send us the form.
5. If your form checks out, we will send you an e-mail specifying your access rights.

**Information to put in the form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Used data</th>
<th>Data you want to get from the webservice, for further use.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final use of data</td>
<td>What you intend to do with the data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calling application</td>
<td>Name of the application you intend to use to query EUR-Lex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days of use</td>
<td>Day of the week when you will use the webservice. One check box per day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call frequency</td>
<td>Number of calls per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Additional comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Username</td>
<td>Your user name (prefilled - in &quot;read-only&quot; mode).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First name</td>
<td>Your first name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last name</td>
<td>Your last name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone number</td>
<td>Your phone number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Using the webservice

You can use your webservice as soon as we send you the email granting you access:
1. Click **Webservice registration** in the right menu.
2. The information you will see includes a link to the WSDL of the webservice - you will need to provide the URL of the WSDL to the application you are using to query EURLex.
3. Call the webservice, using the username and password we emailed to you. You need to specify:
   - your query, written as an expert query. It can contain a SELECT clause, to choose the metadata to be displayed, and an ORDER BY clause, to define the sorting order. You can also use the webservice template.
   - the language
   - the page number
   - the number of results per page
4. The results list will contain the metadata you selected, for each document. If you did not select any metadata here, the display profile defined in your search preferences is used.

Get the webservice template

If you are approved to use the webservice, you can get a special XML template to use for every query you make:
1. Sign in and run a search (quick, advanced or expert).
2. Click the webservice template icon at the top of the search results.
3. A new window will open with the query written in a structured way and instructions on how to use it in your webservice call. You can copy this template and use it for all subsequent webservice calls.

Change your webservice limits

The maximum daily number of calls to the webservice is limited. To change these limits, go to the webservices page and click the link to change the limits. We will inform you by email about your new limits (if any).

Unsubscribe

To unsubscribe from webservices, go to the webservices page and click the link to unsubscribe.
Give your reasons for doing so, and then click **Unsubscribe**. Your webservice access will be revoked and your password deactivated.

**Some technical information about webservices (in English only)**

2. Data Extraction using Web Services
3. Web Services query metadata
Stable linking to documents and notices

You can create links to EUR-Lex, as long as you respect its copyright notice. To ensure these links are stable, follow the guidelines below.

Language versions

EUR-Lex is available in 24 languages.

To link to a page in a specific language version, define this language by changing, in the link, the code after `locale=`.

The codes are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Code</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>pt</td>
<td>POR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Official Journals (OJs)

Direct access to the OJ (overview)

Direct access in English: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/oj/direct-access.html?locale=en

OJs by year – chronological list


OJs by month - chronological list


Table of contents of an OJ

Guidelines

Formatting

- year: 4 digits (yyyy)
- OJ number: 3 digits (xxx)
- OJ series with a capital letter, e.g. L or C

Examples:

1. Table of contents of OJ C 326/2015:

2. Table of contents of an OJ series C:

Documents: by OJ publication reference, by CELEX number or by other types of identifiers

18/11/2021
Guidelines

Formatting
- year: 4 digits (yyyy)
- OJ number: 3 digits (xxx)
- OJ series with a capital letter, e.g. L or C

Link to specific tabs (wherever it exists) in the documents view
- Text: TXT
- Document information: ALL
- Procedure: HIS
- Internal procedures: PIN
- National transposition: NIM
- Summary of legislation: LSU
- Summary: SUM

Language version, see [table at the start of this FAQ](#)

Examples:
   - tab

2. By CELEX number
   - To find out how to construct a CELEX number, see: [More about CELEX numbers](#)
   - Note: for recently published documents, it can take up to two days before a CELEX number is available.

3. Other types of identifiers
   - The links of some legal documents or procedures are based on identifiers that, unlike the CELEX number assigned by the Publications Office, are attributed by the originating institution. As a result, while it is always possible to build a pattern for their links, the sequence and the logic of the reference numbers cannot be predicted in advance.
   - Indicative cases are:
     - COM documents
     - Upon their publication, the links of the preparatory acts (COM/JOIN documents) are based on the number of the act itself. In the days following their publication, a
CELEX identifier is assigned but these documents will also remain accessible with the links based on the number of the act.

- **Documents from the Council**
  The link is based on the number assigned by the Council and it can differ according to the type of document
  - Council documents sent for signature by the European Parliament and the Council
  - Council documents sent during the life cycle of the procedure: a voting result in this example

4 **Interinstitutional procedure**
   The interinstitutional procedure’s links are built on the basis of the reference of the procedure (Year and number), after the language code.

5 **Documents related to an internal procedure**

6 **External links**
   To access certain documents, you can find links to other EU websites, for which EUR-Lex has no control.

7 **By the ECLI identifier**
   The European Case Law Identifier is a 5-part identifier for case-law, designed to ease access to judicial decisions. It has been developed ‘to facilitate the correct and unequivocal citation of judgments from European and national courts’. Read more about how to construct an ECLI identifier.

   **How to create an ECLI link to EUR-Lex?**
   The URL syntax is similar to other links to EUR-Lex.

8 **By the ELI identifier**
   The European Legislation Identifier is a system to make legislation available online in a standardised format, so that it can be accessed, exchanged and reused across borders. It can be used for EU as well as for national legislation. Read more about ELI.

   **How to create an ELI link to EUR-Lex?**
   The basic URI template is the following:
Types of documents {typedoc}:

- Directives: dir or dir_impl or dir_del
- Regulations: reg or reg_impl or reg_del
- Decisions: typedoc either dec or dec_impl or dec_del

Examples:

http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2009/496 (provides access to the most recent consolidated version of this act, if it exists)

Please note that the despite the data.europa.eu domain, the returned page will be a EUR-Lex document or search result.
ELI offers many more templates, including the option to create links to lists of documents which meet selected criteria.

Detailed information on URIs of EU legislation using ELI

Language version, see table at the start of this FAQ.