[Identifiers – ELI – transcript]

The European Legislation Identifier (or 'ELI') was designed to make legislation available online in a standardised format, so that it can be accessed, exchanged and reused across borders.

It consists of:

- HTTP addresses for legal information which can be read by both humans and computers;
- metadata specifying how to describe legal information; and
- a specific language for exchanging legislation in machine-readable formats.

At EU level, ELIs are assigned to a wide range of legislation published in the L series of the Official Journal and to consolidated acts.

You can set your preferences so that ELI links are shown whenever possible. Once you have logged in, click on your name in the top-right corner and then on preferences. On the left, choose 'site preferences' and go down to 'General settings'. Tick the box next to 'Use ELI links'.

When it is available, the ELI link is displayed on the document page.

Here is the simplest type of ELI structure. It shows the type of document, the year, and the document number.

[http://data.europa.eu/eli/{typeOfDocument}/{year}/{numberOfDocument}/oj]

The ELI for Decision 2009/496/EC looks like this.

[http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2009/496/oj]