

## [Exploring the Official Journal – transcript]

The *Official Journal of the European Union*, which is often referred to as ‘the Official Journal’ or ‘the OJ’, is the official publication for EU legal acts.

It contains:

- treaties,
- EU legislation,
- international agreements,
- announcements and notices on case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union,
- a range of other texts, including information and notices.

The Official Journal is published by the Publications Office of the European Union daily from Monday to Friday in all 24 official EU languages. In urgent cases, the Official Journal is published on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. EUR-Lex contains electronic versions of all Official Journals since the first edition of 30 December 1952.

From 1 July 2013, only the electronic editions of the Official Journal are authentic and produce legal effects.

Because the Official Journal was originally a printed document, there were usually several acts in each journal, and a table of contents. Since 1 October 2023, each act is published individually as an authentic Official Journal in its PDF format as soon as it is ready for publication. We call this the Official Journal act by act.

The Official Journal currently comprises two series.

- The L series is for legislation, with mostly EU secondary law such as regulations, directives, decisions, opinions, and recommendations; and also international agreements.
- The C series is for information and notices. It contains several types of documents such as preparatory acts, announcements, summaries of judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union, annual reports of the European Court of Auditors, statements from the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions, and calls for expressions of interest for EU programmes and projects.

Over the years, some subseries were created, but they were discontinued with the publication of the Official Journal act by act.

The Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union, dedicated to European public procurement, is published on the Tenders Electronic Daily website.

Let’s see how you can access and consult the Official Journal on EUR-Lex.

On the EUR-Lex home page you can see how many acts are available for the L and C series for the day. You can access the main Official Journal page by clicking on the Official Journal link. You can also access the specific pages related to the L and the C series directly.

Let’s look at the main Official Journal page. The most recently published acts are displayed automatically. There are also several ways to search for Official Journals. You can select a date range or indicate specific references like the year of publication, the series and the document number of the Official Journal you are looking for. The results of your search are sorted by date and by series. EUR-Lex

indicates the number of Official Journals published for each series on a specific date. When you click one of the links you get the daily view of the related series.

Both the L series and the C series of the Official Journal have a dedicated page called 'daily view'. This gives an overview of the Official Journals published on a given day. You can access these pages:

- by clicking one of the two links on the home page;
- from the left-hand menu of any Official Journal page; or
- by clicking one of the 'Display acts' links on the 'Access the Official Journal' page.

The 'daily view' page gives access to the Official Journals on a specific date. You can sort the Official Journals by OJ structure. This is the default view. It mirrors the structure and the layout of the Official Journals produced prior to act by act. You can also sort by OJ number or by publishing time. To see an Official Journal, you can just click its title. By clicking the icon next to the date, you can display the daily view of a new date.

Now let's look at the 'Browse the Official Journal' page, which offers several filtering options. You can access this page from the left-hand menu of any Official Journal page. At the top of the page, two buttons let you display the Official Journals of the day or of the last 7 days.

You can also search all the Official Journals published within a specific date range. On the left-hand side of the page, you can filter the Official Journals according to a wide range of criteria. The filters on top of the list let you select Official Journals related to:

- Topics,
- Court proceedings,
- sessions of, for example, the European Parliament or the European Economic and
- Social Committee, and
- EU vacancies.

If the filters are blue, they can be selected. If they are grey, they are not relevant and cannot be selected. You can filter the Official Journals according to the author, the series (L or C) and the type of act. Those filters are always active.

In the results lists, there is a folder icon followed by a link under the title of every document that is part of a session of:

- the European Parliament,
- the European Economic and Social Committee, or
- the European Committee of the Regions.

Click this link to access a list of all the documents related to this session.

If the information systems are affected by an unexpected disruption, it may not be possible to publish the electronic edition of an Official Journal on EUR-Lex. In this case, the edition concerned is published in printed form. This printed edition is considered authentic until the systems are restored and the corresponding electronic edition is made available on EUR-Lex. From that moment on, only the electronic edition is considered authentic.