

[Finding summaries – transcript]

Summaries of EU legislation are short, easy-to-understand explanations of the main legal acts passed by the EU. They are aimed at a non-specialist audience and contain a wealth of useful information and links to help you understand the documents they describe.

Most summaries of EU legislation cover the main types of legislation passed by the EU, such as directives, regulations and decisions. But some cover other documents, such as international agreements.

In some cases, no summaries are available, for example for acts that are short and clear enough on their own, or for acts that are only aimed at a specialist audience.

Let's have a look at the different ways you can find summaries.

On the EUR-Lex home page, click on 'Summaries of EU legislation' in the main menu. On the main summaries page, you will see a quick search field followed by a series of topics.

You can browse the summaries by clicking on the topic you are interested in. Within each topic you can read a short introduction and navigate the subcategories to reach the summaries. At the bottom of the page, you can find links to other related categories.

You can also navigate to a different category using the left-hand panel. Via the left-hand menu, you can access the advanced search page. The advanced search gives you lots of options, such as looking for certain words in the text or the title, or both, using the identifier of the document you are interested in, or searching by date. You can also restrict your search to a certain topic, or search for a term in the EuroVoc thesaurus.

Back on the main summaries page, other options in the left-hand menu include recently published summaries, which you can then filter using the left-hand panel, and the glossary of summaries.

You can also access a summary when you are on a document page. Click on 'Document summary' in the left menu and you will be redirected to a page with the text of the summary and information about it.

Looking at the 'recently published' page or running a search will lead you to a list of results. Let's have a look at how you can work with this results list.

We'll start by running a quick search from the main summaries page. Type 'founding treaties' in the search field and hit enter or click on the magnifying glass to the right. For each result you can see the title of the summary, the date it was last reviewed, and links to the document or documents summarised. If you hover over the links, you can see the titles of those documents.