[Overview of the search tools – transcript]

In this video we will look at the main options when running a search on EUR-Lex. You can find more details on each of these options in our dedicated videos.

[Quick search]

The quick search is the quickest and easiest way to run a search on EUR-Lex, and it is available at the top of every page.

Type a word, sentence or document number in the search box and click on the search button.

Then, select the document you are looking for in the results list.

It's as easy as that.

[Advanced search]

The advanced search is particularly useful when you want to run a search based on specific criteria.

The link to the advanced search form is available at the top of every EUR-Lex page, just under the quick search. You can also reach the advanced search form from the 'search in …' links in the left-hand menu of the collection pages.

The advanced search form offers a variety of criteria to select before launching the search.

You can limit your search to specific categories like treaties, legal acts or preparatory documents. In this case, the search form will adapt to the selected category by displaying specific search criteria for you to choose from. And when you press the search button, the system will only search documents that belong to the selected category.

You can also choose to run a search within several categories or within all the categories. In this case, EUR-Lex displays the default advanced search form.

[Find results by]

If you know the reference number of the document you are looking for, you can use the search box 'Find results by document number' on the EUR-Lex homepage.

Type the four digits of the year of the document, its number and its type and then click on the search button. You can leave some fields blank, but this may render more results.

If you know the CELEX number of a document, click 'Find results by CELEX number', type it in the search field and click on the search button.

[Expert search]

The expert search option allows expert users to build custom complex queries.

It is available for registered users only.

When you are signed in, the link to expert search page appears next to the 'advanced search' link.

To build an expert query you need to use a specific syntax and, if necessary, search operators like AND, OR, NOT and WHEN.

You can find detailed information on how to use the expert search in the EUR-Lex help pages.

[Browse by institutions and EuroVoc]

In addition to the different search functions available in EUR-Lex, there are several other ways you can browse.

Browse by EuroVoc allows you to browse documents by keywords organised into domains and subdomains.

You can also browse documents by the institutions that adopted them.

[Browse by directories]

For legal acts, international agreements, preparatory documents and case-law, you can also find documents by using directories that are organised in several domains and subdomains. Here is an example of the directory of international agreements.

[Search tools for specific categories of documents]

From the homepage you can access some pages that are dedicated to specific categories of documents. For instance, treaties, legal acts, international agreements and national transposition measures.

Some of these pages have specific search tools.

On the 'Preparatory documents' page, you can search directly for several types of European Commission preparatory documents. You can also access European Commission preparatory documents by year.

You can also use the left-hand menu to search for recent preparatory documents by category.

On the summaries of EU legislation page, you can either use the search field to run a search or browse by topic.

Via the left-hand menu, you can also run an advanced search in the summaries, look at recently published summaries and glossary entries or go straight to the glossary to search for a term.

On the 'case-law' page, there is a search tool that gives you direct access to EU case-law

A similar search tool is available on the 'Reports of cases' page.

That's all for this overview of the search options of EUR-Lex.