



European information: a guide to official sources

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Introduction

This book is intended as a practical guide for anyone who needs to find official information, whether printed or online, about the European institutions and their activities. For the benefit of librarians, references to series and journals include an ISSN, where it is available. Full publication details are given for books; the publisher is normally the Office for Official Publications in Luxembourg, unless stated otherwise.

References are given throughout to official documents published in the *Official Journal*, COM document series and press releases, which are mainly available online from the databases discussed. Earlier publications not available online can normally be found in the collections of European Documentation Centres. All official documents published since 2004 should normally be available online as part of the EU Bookshop. All internet links were checked in late December 2008 / early January 2009.

The text includes developments up to December 2008. The Constitutional Treaty signed in October 2004 and rejected by public referendum in France and the Netherlands was replaced by the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007. Some of the reforms originally proposed in the Constitutional Treaty were incorporated into the new Treaty, which was itself rejected in a public referendum held in Ireland. The future of this Treaty is now unclear, although it was agreed at the December 2008 European Council that Ireland will hold a second referendum before November 2009.

Patrick Overy
January 2009

1. THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

The European Union is a partnership of 27 Member States who have agreed to share their sovereign powers in certain defined areas to achieve common economic and political aims. These powers are delegated to a number of European institutions, which are either involved in the decision-making process of the Union or monitor its activities and administer law and economic policy. The brief descriptions below list their main publications and give addresses for each institution's website, which are discussed in more detail in the section on Databases and websites. Europa includes a useful [guide to EU institutions and other bodies](#).

The Council of the European Union

consilium.europa.eu

The Council of the European Union is the EU's principal decision-making body. It is generally referred to as the Council of Ministers. The composition of the Council varies according to the subjects under discussion and is made up of the appropriate ministers from each national government. The nine configurations of the Council are:

[General Affairs and External Relations](#) (GAERC): this grouping, made up of Foreign Ministers or Secretaries, also discusses matters relating to defence and security policy. In practice, Foreign Affairs are discussed in separate sessions

[Economic and Financial Affairs](#) (ECOFIN) deals with all economic policy and is responsible for adopting the Community budget, together with the European Parliament

[Justice and Home Affairs](#) (JHA) includes responsibility for implementation of the Schengen Agreement and Police and Judicial Cooperation (PJC)

[Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs](#) (EPSCO)

[Competitiveness](#) replaced three previous configurations: Internal Market, Industry, and Research

[Transport, Telecommunications and Energy](#) (TTE)

[Agriculture and Fisheries](#)

[Environment](#)

[Education, Youth and Culture](#) (EYC)

Press releases from these meetings, which include a summary of discussions and the names of those present, are available from the Council's website under 'Council' – 'Council configurations', or via the links given above.

The work of the Council is prepared and coordinated by the Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER). The administration of the Council is carried out by the Secretariat-General, which is divided into eight Directorates-General (DGs); publications are generally produced by DG F (Press, Communication, Protocol). The Council's Rules of procedure were last published in *Official Journal* (OJ) [L 285](#), 16 October 2006.

The Council co-ordinates the economic policies of the Member States and has issued annual recommendations on the Broad economic guidelines since 1998 (published as separate documents and online under *Documents (EMU)*). It also administers the so-called second and third pillars: Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Justice and Home Affairs (JHA).

The Council produces very few publicly available documents, except for policy statements, and position statements as part of the legislative process (see [chapter 7](#) below). The Council is developing a single access point to its documentation in all areas, with links to texts available in the *Official Journal*.

Regular publications include:

Annual report on human rights (ISSN 1680-9742) since 1998/99

Council recommendation on the broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and of the Community Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1992- (ISSN 1606-2795; also published in the *Official Journal*)

Review of the Council's work has been issued annually in English since 1972 (issue 20). The first 19 issues were issued in French as *Aperçu des activités du Conseil*.

Further reading

[The Council of the European Union](#), Martin Westlake and David Galloway, eds. London: John Harper

The European Council and the Presidency

The European Council is a quarterly summit of the heads of government of the Member States, which draws up general political guidelines for the Union under each six-monthly Presidency (it should not be confused with the [Council of Europe](#), a body entirely separate from the European Union). The Council was established on a regular basis in 1975, with the summit in Dublin. Since 2002, most meetings of the European Council

have taken place in the Justus Lipsius building in Brussels, which was formalised as the seat of the Council by the 22nd declaration attached to the Treaty of Nice.

The conclusions of each Presidency are published in the June and December issues of the *Bulletin of the European Community / Union* (see [chapter 9](#) below). The conclusions are also available online as follows, generally in PDF format:

Councils from 1975-1994 on the Archive of European Integration site: aei.pitt.edu

Councils since 1985 on the European Parliament's site at: www.europarl.eu/summits

Conclusions of each Presidency since 1993 are on the Council's Consilium website: consilium.europa.eu

In the United Kingdom, the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee published a useful report in 2008 (HC 86) on [The Conclusions of the European Council and the Council of Ministers](#)

The Presidency of the European Union moves from one Member State to another every six months and is the forum within which the future development of the Union is decided. Just as the place in which treaties are signed is used to identify them, the venue for past meetings of the European Council has become shorthand for the policies developed there, e.g. the Lisbon strategy for economic development, Copenhagen criteria for enlargement. A new concept of 'troika' presidencies has evolved, partly to help the large number of new Member States which have joined in recent years: policy will now be developed for 18-month periods by three consecutive presidencies, starting with the German, Portuguese and Slovenian presidencies of 2007-2008. Since 1998 each Presidency has developed a website as a means of communicating its activities to the press and public. Some of these websites are still available online via links from the Council website, while the aspects relating to research and technology are archived on Cordis (see [Databases](#) chapter).

Under the Lisbon Treaty (if adopted), the President of the Council will be selected by heads of government rather than by the presiding Member State. The post, which would still be administrative rather than executive, and will be held for a period of two and a half years, renewable once. A list of presidencies until 2020 is given in [Appendix 5](#).

European Parliament

europarl.europa.eu

The European Parliament was originally set up in 1952 as the Common Assembly, with members nominated by the national parliaments. It was later re-named the European Parliamentary Assembly and finally became the European Parliament in 1962. Direct elections did not take place until 1979; they are now held every five years. The current parliamentary term (2004-2009) is the sixth. The next EP elections will be in June 2009.

The Parliament operates from three cities: the monthly plenary sessions, attended by all MEPs, are held in Strasbourg (one week per month); parliamentary committee meetings and additional plenary sessions (two days) are held in Brussels; the administrative offices (General Secretariat) are based in Luxembourg. Although there have been frequent calls for a rationalisation of this situation, no decision has yet been made.

Committees

As in most national parliaments much of the work of the EP is carried out by committees. Current standing committees, with the acronyms by which they are usually identified, are:

[Agriculture and Rural Development](#) (AGRI)

[Budgetary Control](#) (CONT)

[Budgets](#) (BUDG)

[Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs](#) (LIBE)

[Constitutional Affairs](#) (AFCO)

[Culture and Education](#) (CULT)

[Development](#) (DEVE)

[Economic and Monetary Affairs](#) (ECON)

[Employment, Social Affairs](#) (EMPL)

[Environment, Public Health and Food Safety](#) (ENVI)

[Fisheries](#) (PECH)

[Foreign Affairs](#) (AFET) - with subcommittees on [Human Rights](#) (DROI) and [Security and Defence](#) (SEDE)

[Industry, Research and Energy](#) (ITRE)

[Internal Market and Consumer Protection](#) (IMCO)

[International Trade](#) (INTA)

[Legal Affairs](#) (JURI)

[Petitions](#) (PETI)

[Regional Development](#) (REGI)

[Transport and Tourism](#) (TRAN)

[Women's Rights and Gender Equality](#) (FEMM)

Draft legislation is initially referred by the Commission to the European Parliament, where it is scrutinised by at least one of these committees. Each committee appoints one of its members to be the 'rapporteur' or spokesman, whose role is to draw up a report on the proposed legislation, which is then debated and voted on in Parliament. To find information relating to the work of these committees use their homepages (via the links given above). The pages bring together adopted reports, prepared by the Research and Documentation Directorate, as well as agendas and other information.

Temporary committees are set up to investigate matters of current concern, such as [Climate Change](#) (CLIM). Their documents are available on their own homepages (which are also listed on the [Committees page](#)).

Plenary sessions

At each plenary session reports, statements and motions for resolutions are presented to Parliament, where they are debated and voted on. Records of the monthly sittings of the Parliament were issued as separate issues of the *Official Journal C* series until 1999, when they were transferred to the electronic version (OJ C E) (see [chapter 9](#) below). This gives the minutes of the meetings, with the names of the MEPs speaking in debates, voting details and texts adopted by the Parliament. The minutes are normally published about six months after the sitting concerned. Questions requiring a written answer are published in the same way, although with less delay. In electronic form they are searchable both on Europarl (see [Plenary](#) section) and on EUR-Lex ([Parliamentary questions](#) page - see also [chapter 10](#) below).

The texts of debates and reports were originally issued as an Annex to the *Official Journal* (with the ISSN 0378-5041). From 1986 to 1998 both series were issued on microfiche; they are now published in electronic form only, on the Europarl database ([Plenary](#) section). CD-ROMs of *Debates of the European Parliament* (ISSN 1609-1213) were issued until 2005.

Parliamentary reports

The name of the rapporteur is generally used to refer to reports debated in the Parliament. Parliamentary reports for the fifth and sixth terms (1999-2004; 2004-2009) and part of the fourth term (1996-1999) are now published online and can be found on the Europarl website under [Archives](#).

European Parliament document references

Session documents are given numbers in the following categories:

A series: Reports and recommendations

B series: Resolutions and oral questions

C series: Documents of other institutions

Questions have the codes O (Oral), E (Written) or H (Question time), followed by a serial number and the year in which the question was tabled.

Texts adopted (including resolutions) are numbered TA.

References normally include a reference to the parliamentary term, followed by a running number, e.g. A5-0273/2001.

All European Parliament documents are also given an identifying number starting PE.

The [Press service](#) part of the EP website provides press releases, background documents and other materials for following developments in Parliament.

Research studies

Useful research studies were produced in the *Working Papers* series by Parliament's DG IV (Research and Documentation) until May 2004. The abbreviations used in document references are mainly those used by the Parliamentary Committees. *Studies* and *Notes* are now produced by the European Parliament's Policy Departments. All publications since 1997 are available via the Parliament's [database of research documents](#).

Fact Sheets have been produced by the European Parliament in various forms since 1979, although they have only been publicly distributed since the 3rd edition in 1987. The 9th edition, produced in 11 languages, was only issued on CD-ROM (*Fact Sheets on the European Union*. Luxembourg: OOPEC, 2000, ISBN 9282313441). Since 2002, online versions of the [Fact Sheets](#) have been published (use left-hand menu to navigate) and they are now regularly reviewed and updated.

STOA (Science and Technology Options Assessment) produces reports on a wide range of subjects, all of which are available [online](#).

Political parties

The present Parliament has 785 members. Most MEPs belong to groups reflecting the political parties in individual countries. The groups are:

[EPP-ED](#): Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats (Conservatives) - 278 members,

[PSE](#): the Socialist Group in the European Parliament (Labour) - 217 members,

[ALDE](#): Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (Liberal Democrats) - 104 members

[GREENS / EFA](#): Group of the Greens / European Free Alliance - 42 members.

[UEN](#): Union for Europe of the Nations - 44 members

[GUE/NGL](#): Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left – 41 members

UED: Europe of Democracies and Diversities - 18 members

[ID](#): Independence / Democracy Group (Eurosceptics) - 24 members

There are also a number of [non-attached MEPs](#).

Of the political groups only the European People's Party has regularly produced publications, although all the main groups have websites with discussion forums, newsletters etc. accessible via [Political Groups on line](#).

Links with national parliaments

The [European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation](#) (ECPRD) is a network of research departments operating throughout Europe under the aegis of the European Parliament and the Council of Europe. Founded in 1977, the ECPRD has published a number of comparative studies of parliamentary procedure and also maintains the IPEX database (Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange - see [Databases](#) chapter).

[Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union](#) (usually called COSAC from the French title: Conférence des organes spécialisés dans les affaires communautaires et européennes des parlements de l'Union Européenne) is a forum in which members of the national parliaments of Member States concerned with European affairs meet. Six members of each parliament meet twice a year, generally in the country holding the EU presidency. The website has information and documents in English and French.

Further reading

[The European Parliament](#), Richard Corbett, Francis Jacobs and Michael Shackleton. London: John Harper

A series of bibliographies on the European Parliament was issued between 1970 and 1996 by the EP's Directorate-General for Research. It was updated and re-issued on CD as: *European Parliament bibliography 1970-2003*, 2004, ISBN 928231717x

Accessing European Parliament documentation, Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1996, ISBN 928230762x

Practical guide to the workings of the European Parliament and EPOQUE (European Parliament, Directorate General for Research. Documentary databases and indexes of debates series; E-6) Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1996, ISBN 928230870

A monthly staff magazine, *EP Newshound Review* (ISSN 1830-3455), is now produced in the European Parliament.

European Commission

ec.europa.eu

The Commission of the European Communities, now more generally known as the European Commission, is the civil service of the European Union. The Commission is divided into Directorates-General, equivalent to ministries or departments in national government, headed by one of 27 Commissioners (some have more than one portfolio), under the overall control of the Commission's President (currently José Manuel Barroso). Under the Lisbon Treaty the number of Commissioners would be reduced to 18 as from 2014 (representing two thirds of a Union of 27 members) with Member States taking turns to send a Commissioner, although an agreement to enable Ireland to hold a second referendum on the Treaty could see all Member States retaining a Commissioner.

Commissioners are nominated by the government of their Member State and have to be approved by the European Parliament before taking office, although Parliament cannot reject individual candidates but only the entire Commission, something which has now happened twice, in 1999 and 2004. Both the Commission and its President are appointed for a five-year term.

Reform of the Commission has led to the introduction of new staff regulations and codes of conduct. An archive of documents up to September 2004 is available (see [Reform of Europe's Public Administration](#)).

The central administration of the Commission is the Secretariat-General, which is responsible for producing general publications like the *General Report* and the *Bulletin*, as well as for relations with the other EU institutions.

The majority of official publications issued by the European Commission are actually produced within the Directorates-General, either by staff members or by outside consultants commissioned to produce specialised reports. A more detailed bibliography of publications arranged by subject follows in the [next chapter](#). Until the reforms of the Prodi Commission there were 24 Directorates-General, numbered I-XXIV; the DGs are now named, and referred to by acronyms like ECFIN (Economic and Financial Affairs). For an explanation of these abbreviations, see [Appendix 2](#).

Policy advisers

Many of the major reports most frequently referred to in European affairs are produced by groups of policy advisers, or High Level Groups of Experts, which have often been brought together purely for the purpose of a single report. In some cases these reports appear as official documents, although they often only appear online. As with most official reports they are generally referred to by the name of the chairman, although this can cause confusion where the same name appears on several reports, as with Jacques Delors and Wim Kok. A Group of Policy Advisers (GOPA) was set up under the Prodi Commission to advise the President (see GOPA [Activity Report 2004](#) and Prodi Commission [archives](#) - see 'Advisory Groups' in right-hand menu).

The Commission's Forward Studies Unit produced a sporadic series of working papers in various languages online, some of which are now available via an [archives page](#).

Further reading

[The European Commission](#), Neill Nugent, Basingstoke: Palgrave

European Economic and Social Committee

eesc.europa.eu

The EESC is a consultative body set up under the original EC Treaty to represent the views of three groups of economic and social organisations: Employers', Employees' (trade unions) and Various Interests. Its 344 members are divided into six subject-based Sections. Proposals for legislation in relevant areas are passed to the Committee for its opinion. Opinions on draft legislation are agreed during monthly sessions, mainly on matters concerning the functioning of the internal market. The Committee also issues 'own initiative opinions' which do not relate directly to proposals for legislation. Opinions are issued as separate documents (with the reference CES plus year). These appear later in final form as separate issues of the *Official Journal* (C series). The Committee also re-issues its published opinions as thematic pamphlets. As from the end of 2003 the opinions appear in the *Official Journal* electronic (C E) series. The EESC website has a searchable archive of its opinions, which are downloadable as Word documents.

Committee of the Regions

cor.europa.eu

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) was set up by the Maastricht Treaty to try and address the question of 'subsidiarity', whereby it was agreed that some forms of action were more appropriately taken at national or regional level than at EU level. It has a membership of 344 appointed from local or regional authorities in the Member States by the Council in consultation with the national government. Members are divided into six Commissions. The CoR produces opinions and resolutions on draft legislation with a direct impact on the regions (environment, regional economy, education etc.) as well as 'own initiative' opinions. The opinions are issued as separate documents (with the reference CdR plus year) and appear later in final form in the *Official Journal* (C series). As from the end of 2003 it was decided to stop publication of the opinions on paper and to publish in electronic form only. A growing number of studies, mainly relating to local government in the EU and accession states, have been published by the Committee both in printed form and online. The website has information in 11 official languages; it also gives access to the TOAD (Transfer of Administrative Documents) database, which has working documents relating to the operations of the Committee.

Regions & cities of Europe: newsletter of the Committee of the Regions (ISSN 1681-3235) has been published since 1996.

Court of Auditors

eca.europa.eu

The Court of Auditors was set up in 1975 to supervise the financial accounts of the European institutions and agencies and has been in operation since 1977. The Court publishes an [Annual Report](#) concerning the

previous financial year in the *Official Journal* (C series). These reports are also available online since 1998 (1997 report), together with a list of OJ references for all reports since 1978. Opinions and special reports on Community programmes and policies are also available in searchable lists.

Court of Justice

curia.europa.eu

The Court of Justice of the European Communities was set up in Luxembourg in 1952 under the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) Treaty to ensure the correct interpretation of European Community law, including the treaties. A detailed description is given in [chapter 8](#).

Reports of all court cases are published in the series *Reports of cases before the Court* (ISSN 0378-7591; 1959-89) usually referred to in English as ECR (European Court Reports). After the creation of the Court of First Instance in 1989 the title changed to *Reports of cases before the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance* (ISSN 1022-842X).

Each report appears in two parts: the opinion of the Advocate-General dealing with the case, and the judgment of the full court. Since the working language of the Court is French, the French text *Recueil de la jurisprudence de la Cour de Justice*, is published first. The reports appear in all official languages, but with a considerable delay (currently about two years) because of the burden of translation. To cover the gap, interested parties (including some European Documentation Centres) can arrange to receive 'stencils' - preliminary versions of the translations - which are also available on the Court's Curia website.

Since 1994, staff cases from the Court of First Instance have been issued separately as *Reports of European Community Staff Cases* (ECR-SC). These reports appear only in the language of the hearing and are issued in loose-leaf form or online. In 2006 a third court, the Civil Service Tribunal, was set up to hear all cases relating to officials of the European institutions. Its decisions are available online, both on EUR-Lex and on the Curia website.

Weekly summaries of the opinions and judgments were published in print as *Proceedings of the Court of Justice* from 1984 to 2005, and are available online from 1997.

Index A-Z: numerical and alphabetical index of cases before the Court of Justice of the European Communities since 1953 has been issued annually since 1991, although it was initially only available within the Court. It is the most comprehensive printed index of ECJ case law. The register of cases brought before the Court is published at regular intervals in the OJ C series with a summary of the points of law involved; brief summaries of judgments and opinions appear in separate issues.

Notes: références des notes de doctrine aux arrêts de la Cour de justice et du Tribunal de première instance des Communautés européennes, a comprehensive bibliography of case-notes relating to Court of Justice judgments published in legal journals throughout the world, has been issued annually since 1996 in French only. Both *Index* and *Notes* are now available online on the Curia website (see [Databases](#) chapter below).

The Court's Library has issued *Bibliographie de jurisprudence européenne*, 1965-68 and the annual *Bibliographie juridique de l'intégration européenne (Legal bibliography of European integration)* since 1986 (ISSN 1026-1125).

The annual *Synopsis of the work of the Court of Justice of the European Communities (and record of formal sittings)* 1969-1994 has been published as part of the Annual report since 1995 (ISSN 1680-8304).

Répertoire de jurisprudence communautaire (Digest of Community case-law) was published in loose-leaf form between 1982 and 1987, but is now only maintained in French as a [collection of summaries of judgments](#) on the Curia website, arranged under eight main headings: The Community legal order; The European Community; The European Coal and Steel Community; The European Atomic Energy Community; Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments (the Brussels Convention); The European Civil Service; The European Union. Although the summaries are in French, links are provided to the full text on EUR-Lex in all official languages.

Further reading

[The European Union and its Court of Justice](#), Anthony Arnall, Oxford: OUP

[The Court of Justice of the European Communities](#), L. Neville Brown and Tom Kennedy, London: Sweet & Maxwell

Administration

European Communities Personnel Selection Office

epso.europa.eu

Established in 2002, EPSO organises open competitions to select highly qualified staff for recruitment to all institutions of the European Union. The website has information (in English, French and German) on all aspects of careers with the European institutions and includes searchable lists of all current and planned competitions. Although many applications still need to be made on official forms published in the *Official Journal* (C A series), there is now a move towards online applications. The Office will also manage the new [European Administrative School](#), which will provide professional training for officials of the institutions.

Civil rights

European Ombudsman

ombudsman.europa.eu

The post of ombudsman was created by the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, but the first European Ombudsman, Jacob Söderman, only took office in 1995. The current Ombudsman, Nikiforos Diamandouros, replaced him in 2003. The ombudsman is appointed by the European Parliament for a renewable term of five years and reports to the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions on complaints received by European citizens of maladministration in European institutions.

Annual reports (since 1995) are published in the *Official Journal* (C series) and as separate documents (ISSN 1680-3787), which are also available online.

The website has information in all 23 official languages and includes decisions and recommendations of the Ombudsman (in English only). Other useful features are links to all national ombudsman sites in the EU and an extensive bibliography of books, articles and theses on the work of the European Ombudsman. A newsletter, *Ombudsmen in Europe*, started publication in 2003 (ISSN 1725-6062).

European Data Protection Supervisor

edps.europa.eu

An independent supervisory authority overseeing the correct observance of data protection legislation by the European institutions was proposed in Regulation (EC) 45/2001. The office was established in Brussels and the first supervisor appointed in December 2003, although *Annual reports on the situation regarding the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and privacy in the European Union and in third countries* have been issued since 1997. The European Commission's 'Freedom, Security and Justice' website provides more information about [data protection](#) in English, French and German, including the EDPS reports.

Financial institutions

European Investment Bank

eib.europa.eu

The EIB is an independent body set up to finance capital projects within the EU and the accession countries, as well as development aid for partner countries. It provides grant aid, rather than loans, to regions throughout the European Union to develop economically weak regions. In 1994 the European Investment Fund was established to provide venture capital for businesses in the Member States and also to provide bank guarantees for financing. The EIB has issued *Annual Reports* since its foundation in 1958. From 2000 onwards the reports cover the activities of the European Investment Bank Group and are divided into three separate volumes: *Financial Reports*, *Activity and Corporate Responsibility Reports*, and *Statistical Reports* supported by CD-ROMs containing detailed figures (ISSN 0071-2868).

EIB Information (ISSN 0250-3891) has been published since 1980. All are available online.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

www.ebrd.com

The Bank was set up in 1991 to provide investment in the countries of the former Soviet bloc to help them move towards a market economy. It is owned by 60 countries and two intergovernmental institutions, the European Community and European Investment Bank. *Annual Reports* have been issued since 1991 and are available online since 1994. The journal *Law in transition* (ISSN 1683-9161) has also been published since 1991 and is a major source of information on legal changes in Eastern Europe. All issues may be downloaded. Publications are issued in English and Russian editions.

European Monetary Institute

Based in Frankfurt-am-Main, the Institute issued an *Annual Report* (ISSN 1024-560x) from 1994-1997, when its responsibilities passed to the newly created European Central Bank.

European Central Bank

www.ecb.int

The European Central Bank is responsible for monetary policy in the euro area and is also at the centre of the European System of Central Banks, which includes those Member States which have not adopted the euro. All countries in the euro area are required to respect convergence criteria to maintain price stability. The ECB

issues an *Annual Report* (1998- ; ISSN 1561-4573) and a large number of special reports, all available online. It has also issued a substantial *Monthly Bulletin* (ISSN 1561-0136) with detailed statistics since 1999.

2. EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATES-GENERAL: PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES

Although the European Commission produces general publications and information about its policies and activities, the Directorates-General also provide their own documentation, albeit at differing levels. Since the re-launch of the Europa web server in 1999, which accompanied the re-organisation of the Commission, a more coherent policy has developed and all the official websites provide useful information, some of which is also available in printed form. All sites have news sections and are generally the best place to look for current information on particular policy areas. Because it is not always immediately obvious where to look for information on a particular subject, Europa has developed subject portals to bring together documentation from different institutions. These are listed in [chapter 10](#) below, with further details of the portal *European Union in the world* given below in this chapter under 'External policies'.

The entries below give the current name of the DG, together with any former titles and details of the main series of publications, followed by a brief description of the main features of its website, which can be accessed via the default 'Activities' menu on [Europa](#). Early official documents referred to are generally available from the [Archive of European Integration](#) (AEI).

Internal policies

Agriculture and Rural Development

DG Agriculture and Rural Policy (DG AGRI; formerly DG VI, then DG Agriculture)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

A common agricultural market was one of the aims of the original European Economic Community. Information on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has always been the main priority for the DG and a range of publications has concentrated on this theme.

Newsletter on the Common Agricultural Policy was published from 1967 to 1977. It was replaced by *Green Europe: Newsletter on the Common Agricultural Policy* (ISSN 0250-5886), published 1979 -1987 with a separate *Newsletter in brief* (ISSN 0250-5843) 1979-1984. *Green Europe* (ISSN 1012-2117) was published on themed issues from 1988-1996.

The Common Agricultural policy review (ISSN 1681-7206) has been published annually since 1998 as a summary of the main developments in agricultural policy.

An annual report, *The agricultural situation in the Community* (re-titled *The agricultural situation in the European Union* in 1994) has been published since 1976 (ISSN 1025-6660). Originally published as COM documents, these annual reports are published in conjunction with the *General Report on the Activities of the European Union*. The statistical annexes, which are one of the most valuable features of the publication, have been published separately as *Agriculture in the European Union - Statistical and economic information* since 2000 (ISSN 1683-6480).

Agricultural markets (ISSN 0250-9601) was issued between 1981 and 2002 and was originally published in two series, *Vegetable products* and *Livestock markets*.

A series of 89 research reports, *Information on agriculture*, was issued between 1976 and 1984 in various languages (ISSN 0255-3341).

More recently DG Agriculture has begun to produce material for the general public, available in all official languages, like the *Newsletter* (ISSN 1560-1862; 1998-2006, now only available online) and the useful *Factsheets* series. Other publications include a series of country reports on the *Agricultural Situation in the Candidates Countries* prior to the enlargement in 2004. All are available via the DGs [Publications](#) page.

The Agriculture website has useful sections on 'Big issues' and an extensive list of 'Focus' topics, such as food prices, bioenergy, CAP reform. The 'Services' section links to legislation, statistical sources - including the FADN (Farm Accountancy Data Network) database - and the newsletter *Agriculture News Digest*. Most recent publications are available online.

Competition

DG Competition (DG COMP; formerly DG IV)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

Although the Commission has had powers to deal with unfair competition since 1962, competition policy only assumed its present importance with the establishment of the single market, in which it plays a crucial role.

An annual *Report on Competition Policy* (ISSN 0259-3157) has been published in conjunction with the *General Report on the Activities of the European Union* since 1972 and is the major source of official information. Since 1994 the second parts of the Report, on the application of competition rules, has been published separately both as a COM document and large format pamphlet in advance of the complete Report.

Reports are online since 1995 and can be accessed via the [Documentation, Publications, Speeches and Articles](#) page.

The *Annual report on the Community's anti-dumping and anti-subsidy activities* (1983-2001) and *Survey on state aid in the European Union in the manufacturing and certain other sectors* (1989-2001) were also issued in the COM series. The early reports are available in the [Archive of European Integration](#).

The free publication *EC Competition Policy Newsletter* is a valuable research tool and has been published three times a year since 1994 (ISSN 1025-2266).

Because of problems faced by legal researchers in tracing decisions relating to competition published in the *Official Journal*, a series of collections (covering the period 1973-1998) has been compiled by the Commission and published as *Reports of Commission decisions relating to competition: Articles 85, 86 and 90 of the EEC Treaty. Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1992-1999*. A single volume collection *Reports of Commission decisions relating to state aid: Article 93, paragraph 2 (negative final decisions). 1973-1995* was published in 1996 (ISBN 9282777510). Merger decisions can be harder to find: summaries appear in the annual Report on Competition Policy, but the most complete public documents are generally press releases available via the Rapid database (see [chapter 10](#) below).

The Competition website is particularly useful for legal research, as it has extensive collections of legislation, decisions and Court judgments. The site is only intended for specialist users, however, and has little introductory material, although there are sections on specific sectors (e.g. services and sport) and on policies. The main sections of the website cover: Antitrust, Mergers, Cartels, Liberalisation, State aid, and International. Most of these sections incorporate databases of cases and decisions (see [chapter 10](#) below).

Economic and Financial Affairs

DG Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN; formerly DG II)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

This Directorate-General has always had a crucial role in providing economic analysis to encourage the harmonisation of economic policy between the Member States of the European Union.

European Economy (ISSN 0379-0991) has been the major official source of information on economic policy and statistics in the Member States since 1978. It includes annual publications, particularly the *Annual economic report* (since 1999) and *Broad economic guidelines* (since 1998).

The following series of supplements were also issued, although all are now discontinued:

Supplement A, Recent economic trends, 1979-2001

Supplement B, Economic prospects - business and consumer survey results, 1979-2007

Supplement C, Economic reform monitor, 1996-2001

Reports and studies (monograph series), 1993-2006

Virtually all issues since 1997 are archived online while a complete archive of the journal and its supplements from 1978-2002 appeared as a double CD-ROM in 2003 (ISBN 9289463457).

Results of the business survey carried out among managements in the Community (1976-1998; ISSN 0378-4479) continued the earlier publication *Report of the results of the business surveys carried out among heads of enterprises in the Community* 1967-1975.

As part of its campaign 'Information programme for the European citizen' the Commission produced the magazine *Infeuro* in all official languages to cover the practical aspects of the introduction of the single currency (22 issues 1996-2002; ISSN 1027-930x). The series *Euro papers* included studies as well as official communications. A CD-ROM containing the text of all 46 issues was published in 2002 (ISBN 9289417099). A *Quarterly report on the euro area* has been issued online since 2002.

Most official documentation relating to the introduction of the euro in 2002 has now been archived in the section [EMU: a historical documentation](#) which includes the text of major official documents, like the Werner and Delors reports.

A useful free historical survey is: [Towards Economic and Monetary Union: A Chronology of Major Decisions, Recommendations or Declarations in this Field](#) (*European economy. Occasional papers*, 13/2005)

Economic papers are a useful series of academic working papers produced by staff of the DG for Economic and Financial Affairs. Originally published by the Commission, they are now available through the Office for Official Publications (OOPEC) and are also online since 1997. The series *Enlargement papers* and *Euro papers* (discontinued in 2002) are still available online, together with more recent publications at ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications

The website of DG ECFIN was completely re-designed in 2008. It now provides easy access to online versions of its [publications](#), including a separate [archive](#) section, in addition to a number of economic

databases and indicators, which are described in [chapter 10](#) below. The left hand menu of the homepage lists separate subsites covering the euro, EU economic situation, and specific policy areas.

Education and Culture

DG Education and Culture (DG EAC; formerly DG XXII Education, Training and Youth, then DG Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism)

[DG website](#) / [topic website education](#) / [topic website culture](#)

Education was not an area of Community competence until the Maastricht Treaty, although a great deal of documentation on vocational education has been published for many years by Cedefop (the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training - see [chapter 3](#) below). A valuable study of the development of European education policy was published as *The history of European cooperation in education and training: Europe in the making, an example*. Luxembourg: OOPEC, 2006, ISBN 9289489863.

Le magazine: for education, training and youth in Europe (ISSN 1023-3725) has been published about three times a year in English, French and German versions since 1994; Italian and Spanish versions started in 2001. Issues since 2003 can be accessed via the DG [Publications](#) page.

Cultivate Interactive was published online from 2000-2003 as part of a Community project; nine issues are available at www.cultivate-int.org

Culture2000, the European Commission's monthly newsletter on the Culture 2000 programme, was published online from 2002-2006. Copies are available via the [Culture Archive](#).

[elearningeuropa.info Newsletter](#) (2007-) is an online-only publication.

The DG Education and Culture website is particularly useful for information about programmes financed by the Community. It includes separate portals on Education and Training, Youth, Culture, Citizenship, Multilingualism, and Sport, which provide extensive documentation covering involvement by all European institutions.

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (DG EMPL; formerly DG V, Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs, then DG Employment and Social Affairs)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

This has always been one of the best-documented areas of EU policy and the DG continues to produce valuable publications both as periodicals and as monographs on all aspects of employment, social policy and equal opportunities.

A Report on the development of the social situation in the Community was issued in conjunction with the *General Report on the Activities of the European Communities* from 1971-1978 and was continued by *Report on social developments*, 1978-1989.

The annual report *Employment in Europe* has been published since 1989. Appearing originally as COM documents, the reports were later issued as part of the series *Employment and Social Affairs* (ISSN 1016-5444) and are now available [online](#).

Other series include *Report on equality between women and men*, and *The Social Situation in the European Union*. These and others are available online via the DG's [Publications](#) website.

Social Europe, an important publication in the field, was issued between 1983 and 1996 (ISSN 0255-0776), together with supplements and special issues. It was replaced in 1997 by the mainly monographic series *Employment and Social Affairs*, which also includes various periodicals, such as: *European employment observatory review* (2001- ; ISSN 1725-5376). This co-publication of the Commission and ECOTEC continues the earlier titles *Employment Observatory SYSDEM Trends* and *MISEP Policies* (1990-1999). The review contains a *Policies* section, previously published under the title *InforMISEP Policies*. It provides updates on recent changes and innovations in labour market trends and policies on a bi-annual basis, and replaces the *Trends Bulletin* published between 1989 and 1999. Copies of current titles and of some no longer published are available online from the EEO [Document Centre](#).

MISSOC (Mutual Information System on Social Protection in the Member States) has published an annual compilation of comparative tables since 1995: *MISSOC: social protection in the Member States of the Union* (ISSN 1680-421X) which now also covers EEA countries. The tables are available online - see [MISSOC](#) page.

DG Employment and Social Affairs has a well-organised site for serious research on all aspects of employment law and policy. It includes collections of legislation and implementation reports, as well as background reports and collections of key documents. Publications are archived back to 2001. Under the heading 'Tackling discrimination', the section on 'Gender equality' includes annual reports since 1997, selected statistical reports and access to the database [Women and men in decision-making](#) (see chapter on [Databases](#)).

Energy and Transport

DG Energy and Transport (DG TREN) (formerly DG XVII Energy & DG VII Transport) The two Directorates were combined in 1999.

[DG website](#) / [topic website energy](#) / [topic website transport](#)

Energy and transport have both been crucial elements of Community policy since the original treaties. As sustainability has become a major concern throughout the world, the interdependence of the two areas is reflected in the fact that they are now equal partners in a joint DG (although a new DG Energy is to be created during 2009). Both the Energy and Transport websites provide access to relevant legislation, documents and introductory materials.

Energy in Europe was published from 1985 to 2000 (ISSN 0256-6141) with occasional supplements. The *Annual energy review*, which was originally part of the same series, was issued separately with CD-ROM attachments until 2003, when it became part of the new title *European energy and transport review* (ISSN 1683-142x)

Between 1996 and 1999, 103 volumes were published in the monographic series *Transport research*, most of which are also numbered as EUR reports.

Enterprise and Industry

DG Enterprise and Industry (DG ENTR) (formerly DG XXIII Enterprise Policy, Distributive Trades, Tourism and Cooperatives and DG III Industry).

DG Enterprise and DG Industry were combined in 2004.

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

The remit of this DG covers all the most important areas of business in the EU, as well as innovation policy, which it took over from the old DG XIII.

The annual *European competitiveness report* appears initially in the SEC series and has been re-published by OOEPEC since 2000.

Four reports on *Enterprises in Europe* were published between 1990 and 1996 (the first under the title *Enterprises in the European Community*) in cooperation with Eurostat.

Enterprise Europe: enterprise policy news and reviews (ISSN 1680-0516) continued the earlier publication *Euro-info* (1989-1999), but was itself replaced in 2008 by *Enterprise & Industry Magazine*, available both in a printed and [online version](#).

Innovation & technology transfer newsletter was originally published as a supplement to *Euro-abstracts* (see under Research) (ISSN 1013-6452)

Two useful research series, *Enterprise Papers* and *Innovation Papers*, are also issued by DG Enterprise and Industry. Most of these titles are also available online via the DG's [Publications](#) page.

The website has drop-down menus of Policy areas and Industry sectors, which provide extensive information on service industries, including electronic business and tourism, and on industrial sectors. Information on pharmaceuticals is particularly comprehensive. The Publications section includes a large number of reports and periodical titles. A recent focus on the importance of business development has brought new additions to the website: a [European Portal for SMEs](#); an [Enterprise Finance Index](#) (EFI) for business access to finance; [Second chance in business](#), which provides advice for businesses facing insolvency; and a Cosmetics database, [CosInq](#).

Environment

DG Environment (DG ENV) (formerly DG XI Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

Environmental policy only became a responsibility of the Community in 1981, when DG XI was created. Environmental protection had, however, already been a major concern since 1972 when the first environmental action programme was published:

Programme of environmental action of the European Communities (reprinted as *Bulletin of the European Communities. Supplement*, 3/73)

Subsequent action programmes appeared in 1977 (OJ C139 of 13 June 1977); 1983 (OJ C46 of 17 February 1983) and 1993 (OJ C138 of 17 May 1993)

Fifth European Community environment programme: towards sustainability (COM (1999) 543)

Sixth Environment Action Programme. Environment 2010: Our future, our choice (COM (2001) 31)

Annual environment policy review has been issued since 2003 in the COM series.

Periodicals published by DG Environment include:

Enlarging the environment (15 issues 1996-99),

Environment for Europeans (ISSN 1563-4183) 1999-

Natura 2000 1996- and

Newsletter of the Civil Protection Unit. 1996-1998

Archives of all these titles are available online via the DG's [Publications](#) page

The website has a large collection of scientific reports prepared by outside consultants for the Commission and includes extensive details of all policy areas with links to statistical and legal documents.

Health and Consumer Protection

DG Health and Consumers (DG SANCO) (formerly DG XXIV Consumer Policy and Consumer Health Protection)

[DG website](#) / [topic website consumer affairs](#) / [topic website public health](#) / [topic website food safety](#)

Although consumer protection is fairly well established as a Community policy (the first action programme was proposed in 1975) interest in public health mainly dates back to a Communication on the health strategy (COM (2000) 285), which established the first public health action programme (2001-2006). A *White paper on food safety* (COM (99) 719) set up a separate legislative programme.

Consumer voice: monthly newsletter on food safety, health and consumer policy (ISSN 1560-263X) was published from 1998-2000 and continued online only from 2001. It replaced *INFO-C: information from the Consumer Policy Service of the European Commission* (ISSN 1018-5755) 1991-1997. Since December 2004 it has been replaced by *Health and Consumer Voice Newsletter*, available online at

The website is divided into three discrete sections covering the three main policy areas: Consumer Affairs Food and Feed Safety, and Public Health. All are well designed sources of general information with useful collections of documents; each also has its own publications page: [Consumer Affairs](#), [Public Health](#), [Food Safety](#).

Information Society and Media

DG Information Society and Media (DG INFSO) (formerly DG XIII Telecommunications, Information Market and Exploitation of Research, then DG Information Society)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

The European Commission has been conscious of the importance of telecommunications and information technology since the 1980s, when it started to sponsor research and development programmes in these areas. In 1993 a High-Level Group chaired by Commissioner Martin Bangemann prepared its report for the Corfu European Council of 1994 (*Report on Europe and the Global Information Society*). Following public consultations a series of action plans led to the publication of the Commission's communication: *eEurope - an Information Society for all* (COM (99) 68) and the establishment of DG Information Society in 1999. Most of these reports are available online from the [Archive of European Integration](#).

XIII magazine (ISSN 1017-6950) was issued from 1991-1993, then replaced by *I&T magazine* (ISSN 1023-425x), which was published in co-operation with DG III (Industry) from 1993 to 1997. *I'M: information market* (ISSN 0256-5066) appeared from 1985 to 1991. There is an Information Society [Publications](#) page.

[QuickLinks](#) is a newsletter appearing every two to three weeks with links to news items about legal and regulatory aspects of internet and the information society, particularly those relating to information content, and market and technology.

Because IT has now become crucial to so many areas of European policy, the Information Society topic website has been developed as a joint thematic portal with information on social, economic, education, technical and other aspects of the eEurope action programmes and i2010 strategic policy.

Internal Market and Services

DG Internal Market and Services (DG MARKT) (formerly DG XV Internal Market and Financial Services, then DG Internal Market)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

In 1981 a *Communication from the Commission to the Council on the State of the Internal Market* (COM (81) 313) reported on the lack of progress towards achieving the true single market foreseen by the Treaty of Rome. The internal market programme launched in 1985 by the white paper *Completing the internal market* (COM (85) 310) laid out a timetable for the 'internal' or 'single' market to be completed by 1992. Progress was reported in a series of seven *Reports on the implementation of the Commission's White Paper on completing the internal market*, issued as COM documents between 1987 and 1993. Three annual reports were later issued as COM documents: *The Community internal market* (COM (94) 55), *The single market in 1994* (COM (95) 238), *The single market in 1995* (COM (96) 51). Reviews of the internal market strategy have been issued as annual reports since 2000. All of these early reports are available from the [Archive of European Integration](#).

Preliminary studies by sector were published in the 15 volume series *Research on the Cost of non-Europe: basic findings* in 1988. In 1998 *The single market review* updated this research in a 37-volume series co-published by OOEPEC and Kogan Page.

More general information is available in the two periodicals: *Commercial communications newsletter*, 1997-1999, and *Single market news* 1996- (available in separate English, French and German editions from May 2005) *Fin-Focus* (since May 2006) concentrates on financial markets. These and other materials can be accessed via the DG's [Publications](#) page.

DG Internal Market's website is an essential source of legal information on all aspects of business in the EU, including free movement, company law, copyright and financial services. Although most of the information is aimed at specialists there are sections with information for citizens and business and a link to the network of national SOLVIT centres, which aims to help resolve problems relating to internal market law between individuals and public authorities.

Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) (formerly DG XIV, then DG Fisheries (DG FISH))

[DG website](#) / [topic website fisheries](#) / [topic website maritime affairs](#)

Fishing has been a major concern of the Community since its foundation, as well as a continuing source of controversy, but relatively little has been published on the subject by the Commission. A series of 10 studies on the regional impact of the EEC's fisheries policy, *Internal information on fisheries*, was published between 1979 and 1982. *Pesca info newsletter* appeared from 1996-1998. *Fishing in Europe* (re-titled *Fisheries and aquaculture in Europe* in 2005) has been published five times a year in 11 official languages since 2000 (ISSN 1606-0822). Both titles are available online via the Fisheries [Publications](#) page.

The website is beginning to redress the balance and now provides useful factsheets on the Common Fisheries Policy, together with a collection of fisheries-related legislation.

In October 2007 *An integrated maritime policy for the European Union* (COM (2007) 575) was adopted, which took into account the need to balance the environmental and economic aspects of fishing and maritime transport. In March 2008 the former 'DG FISH' became the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and is now known as DG MARE. A separate website has now been established to provide documents and information about the new policy.

Regional policy

DG Regional Policy (DG REGIO) (formerly DG XVI Regional Policies and Cohesion)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

Regional policy became an area of Community competence in 1975 with the establishment of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The Community's progressive enlargement has given great importance to regional development and cohesion and a wealth of information has been published on regional policy in both printed and online form. Annual reports are particularly important as a source of data on programmes and expenditures.

Sixth Periodic Report on the social and economic situation and development of the regions of the European Union (issued in February 1999) was the last of a series of reports first issued in 1981.

Annual Report on the implementation of the reform of the structural funds was issued from 1989-1993.

An *Annual Report* on the Cohesion Fund has been issued since 1995 and *Reports* on economic and social cohesion since 2002. Texts are available online via the DG's [Reports](#) page (early reports are available on the [Archive of European Integration](#)).

Regional development studies (1992-) is a major series of academic research monographs on all aspects of regional policy published by the Commission.

Inforegio news (ISSN 1025-7039) is a brief monthly summary of information on regional policy programmes issued since 1994. All issues are available via an [Archives](#) page.

Inforegio-PANORAMA (ISSN 1608-389x) is a quarterly magazine published since 2000 and also available [online](#).

The website of DG Regional Policy is designed for use by the general public and provides a good introduction to regional programmes with a constant emphasis on practical examples. In addition to press releases, documents and statistics, access is provided at all levels to the Inforegio database, which gives details of all structural programmes throughout the EU (see [Databases](#) chapter).

Research

DG Research (DG RTD) (formerly DG XII Science, Research and Development & Joint Research Centre, then DG Science and Research)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

The European Community has sponsored research since its early days, always with the proviso that the results should be made as widely available as possible to justify the public expenditure. Results of Commission-funded research are usually published as EUR reports, although there is no standard format for these reports: many are co-published by commercial publishers or now appear only as online documents. Both the DG for Research and the Joint Research Centre, through its constituent institutes, publish a wide range of material, most of which is now available online through the web server Cordis (see [Databases](#) chapter) or by free subscription.

The EU's research strategies are now planned in five-year blocks referred to as 'Framework programmes for research and technological development'. The First Framework Programme ran from 1984-1987 and the Sixth (FP6) from 2002-2006.

The current programme, the [Seventh Framework Programme](#) (FP7) spans 2007-2013, and is centred on the economic benefits of research and the development of a European Research Area.

Annual reports on *Research and technological development activities of the European Union* have been issued in the COM document series since 1995.

The essential source of information on EU research programmes is [CORDIS](#) (Community Research and Development Information Service) described in more detail in the chapter on [Databases](#). *CORDIS focus* (ISSN 1022-6559) 1993-2007 (later *CORDIS focus newsletter*) gave news of items added to Cordis. It was published twice a month in English, French and German and, from October 1997, in Italian and Spanish.

RTD results supplements (ISSN 1025-4013) 1994-2007 gave more detailed descriptions of projects. Issues of *CORDIS focus* publications since 1997 are available at the [CORDIS News](#) page.

Euro abstracts: scientific and technical publications from Community-funded research and development (ISSN: 0379-8771).

Euroabstracts was published six times a year in English in themed issues combining editorials and general articles with summaries of research published not only by EUR-OP but by other international organisations, including WHO, OECD and the UN. It concentrated on research and innovation projects in the context of the Framework Programmes.

Euro abstracts was originally issued in two sections:

Section 1: Euratom and EEC R&D and demonstration projects, scientific and technical publications and patents, 1971-1997 (ISSN 0379-8771)

Section 2: Coal, steel and related social research. 1975-1997 (although publication was suspended from 1989 to 1995 (ISSN 0378-3472)

Supplements were issued to both series:

Euronet news 1976-78. The title changed to *Euronet DIANE news: direct information access network for Europe* 1978-84 ISSN 0250-5789 and was later replaced by *I'M: information market* (ISSN 0256-5066) 1985-1991

Innovation and technology transfer 1988-2005 (ISSN 02550806) was the multilingual newsletter of the Innovation Programme. Published by the European Commission (DG Information Society) six times a year, it continued the earlier title *Newsletter, new technologies and innovation policy* 1984-88. The magazine was re-launched in 2005 as *European innovation* (ISSN 1830-4338)

The contents of *Euro abstracts* and *European innovation* were available online on the European Innovation Portal. When innovation became part of the remit of DG Enterprise and Industry in 2007 the portal was dropped from Europa.

Growth in action: the Competitive and Sustainable Growth Programme magazine (ISSN 1609-655x) was published from 2000 to 2003. Although the programme is no longer active the contents of the journal are [archived](#).

RTD info 1993-2007 (ISSN 1024-0802) (also [online](#) since 1996)

This newsletter (published every three months in English, French, German and Spanish) provided updates about the Community research programmes. Each issue also contained articles on various aspects of Community research and included project results. In 2008 *RTD Info* and the *Cordis focus* titles were replaced by [Research.eu: the magazine of the European Research Area](#) (ISSN 1830-7361) which aims to reach a wider audience.

The DG Research homepage is useful for details of the current research programme. For more detailed information, however, the [CORDIS](#) database (see [Databases](#) chapter) is the essential source.

The [Joint Research Centre](#) (JRC), now designated a Directorate-General in its own right, is made up of seven specialised research institutes based in five countries. Information about their structure and activities is available from the JRC website.

An annual report has been issued since 1993 (since 2000 entitled *JRC annual report*), originally in the COM document series.

The most prolific of the institutes is the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS) in Seville, which publishes a wide range of reports available online and on request, mostly in the EUR series. The IPTS also published the excellent journal *IPTS report* (ISSN 1025-9384) from 1995 to 2004. All 85 issues are available [online](#).

A [European Research Council](#) (ERC) was first proposed in 2002 by the scientific community, which felt that scientists themselves should have more control over the direction of EU research policy. An ERC Expert Group (ERCEG) was set up under the Danish Presidency in 2002. The first official meeting took place in October 2005.

Taxation and Customs Union

DG Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD) (formerly DG XXI)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

An *Inventory of taxes in the Member States of the European Union* has been published since 1965. The last edition (18th) was only available online; it has been replaced by the Eurostat report *Taxation trends in the EU* (ISBN 978-92-79-04865-4) which can also be downloaded from the DG Taxation website.

The key: newsletter on customs and taxation was published 1998-2001.

Two series of research papers called *Taxation papers* and *Working papers* (ISSN 1725-7557) began publication in 2004 and are available online.

The DG Taxation and Customs Union website presents a comprehensive guide to EU policy and legislation on tax and customs. An extensive archive of official documents is provided, together with some useful introductory material and a database of Taxes in Europe (there is no single Publications page; materials are divided by taxation / customs and by type of document).

External policies

Although the DGs for Development and Enlargement have produced valuable information resources in printed and electronic form for many years, the former DG I, now split into DG External Relations and DG External Trade, published very little. With the establishment of the joint information portal, *The European Union in the world* ([see below](#)) this situation has changed dramatically.

Development

DG Development and DG for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) (formerly DG VIII, then DG Development (DG DEV)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

Development policy has been an important element of EU policy since the beginning, because of the responsibilities Member States have felt towards the developing world from their historical links.

The most important publication on EU involvement with the ACP (African, Caribbean, Pacific) states is *The Courier* (ISSN 1013-7335), which continues an earlier publication, *Association news*. Published in English and French since 1975 (apart from a break in publication between April 2004 and mid-2007, during which time the electronic newsletter, *eCourier* was available). Copies of the Courier since mid-1998 can be accessed via the [ACP-EU Courier](#) page.

Europe information: development (ISSN 1012-2184) 1978-1994

Although it nominally ceased publication in 2000, issues still occasionally appear.

EuroMed synopsis: weekly news bulletin on activities of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (2000-2006) is archived on the site of the [Fondazione Mediterraneo](#).

Although DG Development is one of the Directorate-Generals which contributes to the portal *European Union in the world*, its website is very useful in its own right, particularly for tracing official documents and legislation relating to EU policy and programmes in developing countries.

Enlargement

DG Enlargement (DG ELARG)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

The first enlargement of the European Community took place in 1973, when the UK, Ireland and Denmark became members. Subsequent enlargements have brought in Greece (1981), Spain and Portugal (1985)

Austria, Finland and Sweden (1995) and a further 10 countries in 2004 (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). Romania and Bulgaria joined in 2007. Reports were issued by the Commission on the readiness of these and other applicant countries to join the Community. These appeared initially as COM documents and later as Supplements to the *Bulletin*. All are available online via the [Archive of European Integration](#).

A dedicated DG was established in the European Commission in 1999 because of the enlargement process set in motion in 1993 by the European Council in Copenhagen. A vast amount of material was issued in the preparations for the fifth enlargement by which 10 new countries joined the European Union in May 2004, including the strategy plan, 'Agenda 2000'. All documents relating to those countries, including the Commission's opinion on each candidacy and the annual regular reports, have been archived, and new material is added for the countries whose application is still under consideration. There are currently three candidate countries (Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey) and five potential candidate countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia).

A magazine for the general public, *European Dialogue* was published from 1995-1999 in print and electronic versions but the archives have now been dropped.

Enlargement weekly newsletter was issued online only, 2000-2004; archives of its successor, *Enlargement newsletter*, since 2005 are on the [Enlargement](#) site.

Enlargement Newsletter, which continued an earlier online title, *Together in Europe*, was published by DG Environment online only from 1996 to 1999, when it merged with *Environment for Europeans*.

Enlargement papers and *European economy, Supplement C, Economic reform monitor* were both issued by DG Economic and Financial Affairs (see above) and are available online.

The Enlargement website is an essential source of information on the 2004 and 2007 enlargements and the future candidate states. All the regular reports issued between 1998 and 2004 on each candidate country are archived in the 'Key documents' section of the site, accessible via the [Press Corner](#).

External Relations

DG External Relations (DG RELEX) (formerly DG IA and B)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

The latest reorganisation of the Commission has given the Commissioner for External Relations overall responsibility for relations with all countries which are not members of the EU and particularly for the new European Neighbourhood Policy, which specifically relates to the former Soviet Union and Mediterranean countries. The DG is also responsible for the information relays, especially European Documentation Centres and depository libraries, in these countries.

External Trade

DG Trade (DG TRADE) (formerly DG I)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

The DG Trade website has information on all aspects of external trade policy, which can be browsed by both sectoral and horizontal issues (e.g. agriculture, intellectual property). The DGs 'iCentre' offers a searchable collection of documents as well as a [Publications](#) page, and there is a link to the Market Access Database (see [Databases](#) below).

European Union in the world

This [portal](#) was established in 1999 as a joint access point for information on economic and political relations between the EU and the rest of the world.

Financial control

Budget

DG Financial Programming and Budget (DG BUDG) (formerly DG XIX, then DG Budget)

[DG website](#) / [topic website](#)

The Budget is published annually in the *Official Journal* (L series).

The Community budget: the facts in figures was published (partly in the SEC document series) as a general introduction from 1988 to 2000.

General budget of the European Union for the financial year has been published since 1996, again based on SEC documents.

Financial Report on the budget has been published since 1987; issues since 2005 are online under the 'Accounting for the budget' section of the [Financial Year](#) page (choose relevant year)

Annual evaluation reviews are produced by DG Budget and in recent years have been issued as SEC documents (internal working papers of the Commission). These evaluate Community expenditure by sector and are available online since 2000 via the [Sound Financial Management](#) page.

A major reform programme was launched in 2006; a [Budget Review](#) section of the DG's website includes consultation documents as well as useful presentations on the history of the EU budget with timelines and examples of the uses to which EU funding is put.

European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)

ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud

In 1999 two reports exposing a lack of efficient institutional auditing were issued by a Committee of Independent Experts (*1st report on allegations regarding fraud, mismanagement and nepotism in the European Commission* and *2nd report on reform of the Commission: analysis of current practice and proposals for tackling mismanagement, irregularities and fraud*). The inquiry led to the downfall of the Santer Commission and the establishment of OLAF (an acronym based on the French title Office européen de Lutte Anti-Fraude) (OJ L136, 31 May 1999).

A series of annual reports entitled *Protecting the financial interests of the Community: the fight against fraud* (ISSN 1681-293x) has been issued by the Commission since 1989, appearing originally as SEC or COM documents and later republished as official reports. All these reports, together with those of the Committee of Independent Experts, are available on OLAF's website.

The Office co-publishes *EUcrim: the European criminal law associations' forum*, which succeeded *AGON: quarterly magazine of the Associations of lawyers for the protection of the financial interests of the European Communities* (publication ceased in 2002). Issues of both are available online via the OLAF [Journal](#) page.

3. EUROPEAN AGENCIES

Agencies

Until 1990 there were only two agencies - the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop). The Maastricht Treaty established a further six and many more have been created in the last few years. A growing number of official agencies have also been set up by the European Union to provide research or to regulate in specific subject areas.

While the research role is still important in the monitoring and development of EU policy, an increased role in regulation is envisaged for most of the agencies set up in the last few years. Responsibility for the agencies was discussed in the Commission Communication *The Operating Framework for European Regulatory Agencies* (COM (2002) 718) which aimed to promote discussion between the institutions.

The proliferation of agencies has become a subject of growing concern, not least because of the issue of financing them. There are now over 20, which fall into two main groups: regulatory and executive. All have very different objectives. [European agencies: the way forward](#) (COM (2008) 135) and the accompanying press release ([MEMO/08/159](#)) suggest ways in which the situation might be rationalised.

Each agency has - or will have - its own website and most publish periodicals, reports and monographs through the Office for Official Publications. Where available, ISSNs are given below for all serial publications. For general information and for links to all homepages see [Agencies of the EU](#) or look at the brochure *European agencies: working across Europe for you* (Luxembourg: OPOEC, 2004 ISBN 9291573833; available via the [EMCDDA website](#)).

Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) (Angers)

www.cpvo.europa.eu

The office was set up in 1995 to administer the Community scheme to protect the intellectual property rights of plant varieties. The website has information in four languages (English, French, German and Dutch), although the *Official Gazette* (ISSN 1025-4471) is published in all official languages. Annual reports have been issued since 2002 (ISSN 1680-2845)

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (OSHA) (Bilbao)

<http://osha.europa.eu>

The Agency started operation in late 1995. Its website is available in 22 languages and can be browsed by topic. It includes excellent links to sources of legislation and statistics. The main series of publications can be downloaded from the [Publications](#) page.

OSHA produces *Facts* (ISSN 1681-2123) in all official languages on different aspects of health and safety designed for display in workplaces. Other publications are:

Annual report (ISSN 1681-0155) published since 1996

Forum (ISSN 1681-4398) 2001-

Magazine (ISSN 1608-4144) 1999-

Newsletter (ISSN 1029-7022) 1998-2004; this has now been replaced by an e-mail newsletter, [OSHMail](#).

European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA) (London)

www.emea.europa.eu

The Agency publishes specialised material, which is only available in English. The website provides access to [Eudravigilance](#) (Pharmacovigilance in the European Economic Area), a system for exchanging data about new medicinal products and [EudraCT](#), a database of all clinical trials started in the EU since 2004.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) (Stockholm)

<http://ecdc.europa.eu>

The decision to set up this centre was taken in 2004 to provide scientific information about new health threats, such as SARS and bird flu. The Centre was inaugurated in May 2005 and provides a more efficient framework to coordinate the Communicable Diseases Network, which has been in operation since 1999 as an ad hoc arrangement between national agencies.

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) (Thessalonik)

<http://cedefop.europa.eu>

Cedefop was originally set up in Berlin in 1975, and moved to Thessaloniki in 1995. Its role is the promotion of lifelong learning and it publishes extensively on vocational education and occupational training systems. It also maintains a database, the [Electronic Training Village](#) from which online publications can be downloaded. *Cedefop flash* was a newsletter published from 1992-1994. It was replaced by *Cedefop info* (ISSN 1606-2787) in 1996 after the Centre left Berlin.

Vocational training (ISSN 0378-5068) has published research in English, French, German and Spanish since 1977. Issues since 1994 are available online.

Cedefop panorama series (ISSN 1562-6180) is a valuable monographic series, which has been issued since 1998.

A special issue of *Vocational training*: 'A history of vocational education and training in Europe: from divergence to convergence' was published in 2004 (no. 32, May-August)

European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) (Helsinki)

<http://echa.europa.eu>

The Chemicals Agency was proposed in 2003 to administer the controversial REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) system. ECHA started operations in 2007 when the REACH regulations finally came into force. The evaluation of dangerous chemicals will continue to be the role of the European Chemicals Bureau, part of the Joint Research Centre.

European Environment Agency (EEA) (Copenhagen)

www.eea.europa.eu

Established in 1990, the EEA started its operations in 1995. Set up to monitor environmental information, its remit covers not only the Member States of the European Union, but also Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The candidate and new accession countries have all participated since 2002. It co-operates actively with other relevant bodies and international organisations and has published annual reports since 1995 (ISSN 1681-083x, 1561-2120 since 2002)

Its first major report was *Europe's environment: the Dobri's assessment*, edited by David Stanners and Philippe Bourdeau. Luxembourg: OPOEC, 1995 ISBN 9282654095, which was followed by second and third assessments in 1998 and 2003. *Europe's environment: the fourth assessment* was published in 2007 (ISBN 97 9291679324)

The main series of research publications was *Environmental issue reports*, replaced in April 2004 by [EEA Reports](#)

The EEA website now has information in 25 languages (including Icelandic, Romanian and Turkish) and can be browsed by theme (e.g. agriculture, transport, water), and by type of product (e.g. reports, indicators, maps). Most of its publications can be downloaded. The EEA's activities are organised by thematic working groups, each of which produces annual topic reports, specialised reports and data.

The site includes a multi-lingual glossary ([Environmental Terminology and Discovery Service](#) - ETDS), which gives definitions and sources as well as links to relevant parts of the website; it also provides translations.

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) (Dublin)

www.eurofound.europa.eu

The Foundation was established in Dublin in 1975 as a research institute on all aspects of working life. It produces a wide range of monographic publications, as well as a monthly newsletter: [Eurofound News](#) (which started as *EF news*, then became *News/Bulletin from the Foundation* (ISSN 0258-1965), then *Communiqué* (ISSN 1560-814x).

The Foundation incorporates several specialised research bodies, each of which publishes reports independently:

[European Monitoring Centre on Change](#) (EMCC) publishes an online journal, *ERM quarterly*. This is based on data from the European Restructuring Monitor (ERM), which studies problems associated with industrial restructuring.

[European Industrial Relations Observatory](#) (EIRO) maintains an online database on industrial relations in Europe (see chapter on [Databases](#)), which was the basis of the *EIRObserver* bi-monthly bulletin of the European Industrial Relations Observatory, 1997-2004 (ISSN 1028-0588)

P+: *European participation monitor* was published 1991-1997 (13 issues; ISSN 1017-6713)

[European Working Conditions Observatory](#) (EWCO) also produces research reports.

European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA) (Brussels)

<http://www.gsa.europa.eu>

The new agency took over responsibility from the Galileo Joint Undertaking in 2007. It supervises the two global navigation satellite systems set by the EU to guarantee an uninterrupted service independent of US and Russian military systems: EGNOS (European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service) and Galileo.

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (Lisbon)

www.emcdda.europa.eu

The Agency was set up in Lisbon in 1993 but only became fully operational in 1995. It is a prolific publisher, issuing both research monographs for scientists and practitioners and general information. The *General report of activities* was published from 1998-2000; from 2001 it has only been published online. EMCDDA has issued an *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union* since 1998 (ISSN 1609-6150); the

2003 report was accompanied by *The state of the drugs problem in the acceding and candidate countries to the European Union*.

Two newsletters, *Drugnet Europe* (ISSN 0873-5379; 1996-) and *Drugs in focus: bimonthly briefing* (ISSN 1681-5157; 2002-) are available on paper and online.

The series *Risk assessment reports* (of new synthetic drugs), *EMCDDA monographs* and *Insights* all publish valuable scientific research.

The website includes reports on the drug situation in all Member States, together with Norway, and carries basic information in 23 languages.

See the [Databases](#) section below for details of the databases *Exchange on Drug Demand Reduction Action (EDDRA)* and *European Legal Database on Drugs (ELDD)*

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (Vienna)

www.fra.europa.eu

The FRA started life as the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), which was set up in 1997 and started operation in 1998. Annual reports were published 1999-2002 under the title *Diversity and equality for Europe* (ISSN 1725-5295) then as *Activities of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia*. The Centre also published reports on subjects like islamophobia, anti-Semitism and education. The journal *Equal voices* (ISSN 1683-1950) is available in paper and online versions.

In 2003 the European Council decided to extend the remit of the Centre and to establish it as a Fundamental Rights Agency. The draft Regulation for its establishment appeared as working document COM (2005) 280 final. The FRA became operational in March 2007. [Publications](#) appear in English, French and German.

European Training Foundation (ETF) (Turin)

www.etf.europa.eu

The ETF was set up in 1990 to help the development of education and training systems in the EU's partner countries in the Mediterranean region and the former Soviet bloc. It has been operational since 1994. The Foundation's newsletter, *ETF newsletter* (ISSN 1725-7603) first appeared in 2005 and *Live and learn: the ETF magazine* (ISSN 1725-9479) in 2004.

Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (Trade marks and Designs) (OHIM) (Alicante)

www.oami.europa.eu

The Office was set up in 1994 to register Community trade marks and designs

The website and all publications are available in five languages (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish). Annual reports have been issued since 1996 (ISSN 1681-3766). *Community trade marks bulletin* (ISSN 1562-6229) has been issued since 1997 and includes all published applications and registrations. The *Official Journal of the OHIM* (ISSN 1025-5494), which contains decisions of the Board of Appeal and all other official notices, has been published since 1995 and is online since mid-2002. The *Official Journal* and other materials, including the newsletter *Alicante News*, can be accessed via the [OHIM Publications](#) page.

Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT) (Luxembourg)

www.cdt.europa.eu

The Translation Centre was established in 1994 to meet the translation needs of the decentralised agencies and works in partnership with the other translating bodies. Information is available in English and French.

Aid agencies

EuropeAid Co-operation Office (AIDCO) (Brussels)

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid>

The EuropeAid Co-operation Office was set up on 1 January 2001 to co-ordinate the external aid programmes of the European Union. EuropeAid manages all external aid funded by the European Commission and has published an *Annual report on the European Community's development policy and external assistance* (ISSN 1683-3457) since 2001, originally in the COM documents series.

Its website was re-designed in 2007 on the model of the *Europe in the world* portal and now has extensive information about aid projects throughout the world. Applications for funding are now dealt with through the PADOR database (EuropeAid's Potential Applicant Data On-line Registration service).

European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) (Thessaloniki)

www.ear.europa.eu

The Agency, based in Thessaloniki, was set up in 1990 to manage EU assistance to Kosovo following the wars in Yugoslavia. It now also manages programmes in Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Quarterly and annual reports have been issued since 2000 to the Council and the European Parliament, to whom the Agency is answerable. All are available online. The website is in English, although some information is provided in Albanian, Macedonian and Serbian.

Further information about EU involvement in South-East Europe can be found on the joint EU/World Bank website [Economic Reconstruction and Development in South East Europe](#).

European Community Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) (Brussels)

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>

The European Union and its Member States are the largest global donors of humanitarian aid. The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) was set up in 1992 to administer emergency aid and long-term programmes financed by the European Community.

Information is provided in 25 languages, including Arabic and Russian.

An [Annual report](#) has been issued by the Humanitarian Office since 1993 in the COM document series and an [Annual review](#) (ISSN 1681-1402) since 1999.

New regulatory agencies

A number of new regulatory agencies have been established since 2002, all of which have websites, although the quality of content varies considerably.

Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) (Vigo)

<http://cfca.europa.eu>

The agency was set up in 2005 to ensure compliance with the new rules under the reformed Common Fisheries Policy. Initially located in Brussels, it moved to Vigo, Spain, in 2008.

European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) (Cologne)

<http://easa.europa.eu>

The agency has been operating since 2003. Its task is to provide EU-wide certificates of airworthiness and to advise on civil aviation rules.

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) (Parma, Italy)

<http://efsa.europa.eu>

EFSA was set up in 2002 to provide independent scientific advice relating to food and food safety; the site has information in English, French, German and Italian.

European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) (Lisbon, Portugal)

<http://emsa.europa.eu>

Set up as a reaction to the Erika accident of 1999, EMSA's task is to increase maritime safety and reduce the incidence of marine pollution. The website carries information about developments and legislation on security measures onboard ships and in ports, as well as procedures for dealing with major shipping accidents and oil spillages. Documentation is currently only in English. An introductory booklet, *Safer and cleaner shipping in the European Union*, was published in 2006. ISBN 9295032047

European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) (Heraklion)

<http://enisa.europa.eu>

Established in 2004, the agency's role is to help to protect network security within the internal market. The first issue of the ENISA newsletter was issued in June 2005 ([ENISA Quarterly Review](#) from the second issue; ISSN 1830-3609). An [Evaluation](#) report was issued as COM (2007) 285. In 2007 new proposals for a single European telecoms market suggested that ENISA could become part of a European Telecom Market Authority, which would interact with national authorities.

European Railway Agency (ERA) (Valenciennes / Lille)

<http://www.era.europa.eu>

Set up between May 2004 and May 2006 the European Railway Agency's main task is to reinforce safety and interoperability of railways in Europe.

Agencies concerned with Common Foreign and Security Policy (see [CFSP](#) chapter)

European Defence Agency (Brussels)

<http://eda.europa.eu>

The role of the EDA is to improve the defence capacities of EU Member States by promoting cooperation in both research and development and purchasing of defence equipment.

European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) (Paris)

www.iss.europa.eu

Set up in 2002, the ISS is a security institute involved in expert analysis and political forecasting. Its [Publications](#) include the series *Chaillot Papers*.

European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC) (Torrejon de Ardoz, Madrid)

www.eusc.europa.eu

The Centre's mission is to 'support the decision-making of the European Union in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and in particular the European Security and Defence Policy, including European Union crisis management operations, by providing products resulting from the analysis of satellite imagery and collateral data, and related services.'

Police and judicial cooperation agencies (see also [Justice and Home Affairs](#) chapter).

Eurojust (The Hague)

www.eurojust.europa.eu

Eurojust, the EU's Judicial Cooperation Unit, is a network of judicial authorities in the EU set up in 2002 to improve cooperation between countries to combat organised crime. It has two main sections: the College of Eurojust, made up of national experts seconded from the 27 Member States, and a [European Judicial Network](#) (EJN).

European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (FRONTEX) (Warsaw)

<http://frontex.europa.eu>

The agency opened in Warsaw in June 2005 to carry out risk analyses, coordinate international measures and to train border guards.

European Police College (CEPOL) (Hook, Hampshire)

www.cepol.europa.eu

Established by a Council Decision at Tampere in December 2000, CEPOL was located temporarily in Copenhagen but has now been permanently established at Bramshill Police Training College in Hampshire, UK. The college runs training courses related to international police cooperation.

Europol (European Police Office) (The Hague)

www.europol.europa.eu

Europol was established by the Europol Convention of 2005 to improve cooperation between national police forces in combating organised crime. It was proposed that the Convention should be replaced by a Council Decision and that Europol should become an agency of the EU, which it will now do from 2010, following agreement by the Council on 18 April 2008 (see [Council Press Release](#)).

Executive agencies

The framework for the role of executive agencies in managing Community programmes was laid down in [Council Regulation 58/2003](#) (OJ L11, 16 January 2003). Three are already operational:

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu>

In January 2006, the EACEA took over responsibility for managing the programmes of DG Education and Culture (EAC) and DG Information Society and Media (INFSO) in areas of education, culture and audiovisual media (Commission Decision of 14 January 2005, OJ L24, 27 January 2005)

Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI)

<http://ec.europa.eu/eaci>

The EACI is responsible for managing Community actions in the fields of energy, entrepreneurship and innovation under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme 2007-2013, including Intelligent Energy - Europe, Marco Polo, Eco-innovation, and the Enterprise Europe Network. In May 2007, the Intelligent Energy Executive Agency (IEEA) was transformed into the EACI by [Commission Decision 2007/372/EC](#) (the IEEA had been set up in 2003 to implement DG Energy and Transport's Intelligent Energy and Europe programme).

Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC)

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc>

The Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (formerly the Public Health Executive Agency under Commission Decision 2004/858/EC) was created on 1 January 2005 and in 2008 had its mandate expanded to include actions not only in public health but also in consumer protection and training for safer food. Based in Luxembourg, the EAHC implements the EU Health Programme, the Consumer Programme and the Better Training for Safer Food initiative.

European Research Council

http://europa.eu/agencies/executive_agencies/erc

The establishment of a European Research Council was proposed as a basic element of the creation of a European Research Area under the Seventh Framework Programme. Its governing council is made up of leading scientists who decide on the broad directions for research funded by Europe.

The European Research Council Executive Agency will support the implementation of the Ideas Programme of the Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7), which supports frontier research.

The Research Executive Agency will administer the Marie Curie fellowships schemes, research for the benefit of SMEs, and parts of the Space and Security research themes

The ERC Executive Agency was formally established in December 2007 and was expected to be operational by the end of 2008.

Proposed agencies

European Institute for Gender Equality

Proposed in March 2005 (see [COM \(2005\) 81](#) and [IP/05/266](#)) to gather data on inequalities of opportunity and to inform EU policy. Established by [Regulation 1922/2006](#) of 20 December 2006, it is located in Vilnius and was expected to be operational by January 2008.

Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators

A proposal (COM (2007) 530) has been made within the framework of the Third Energy Package to establish an agency to coordinate the work of national energy regulatory bodies. As energy policy has become increasingly important the effective operation of an internal market in gas and electricity is thought to need an effective supra-national body.

Fusion for Energy

[temporary website](#)

European Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy. Set up in 2007 the Agency's task 'is to work with European industry and research organisations on the development and manufacturing of hi-tech components for the ITER fusion project.'

4. JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (JHA)

With the break-up of Communism in 1989 a new impetus was given to proposals to harmonise the European judicial system, increase police cooperation and reform asylum and migration policies in the Member States. The fifth enlargement of the European Union in 2004 gave this process added momentum. The threat of international terrorism since 2001 has also allowed European governments and the European institutions to introduce many controversial changes, often without public discussion.

The Maastricht Treaty introduced the concept of an 'institutional architecture' in which a second and third pillar would join the existing European Community law in supporting the structure of the European Union. Responsibility for these policies would be shared between the European institutions and the Member States. The third pillar was known initially as Justice and Home Affairs (JHA; see [Treaty on European Union](#) - Title VI: Provisions on cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs - Article K).

The policy was renamed 'an area of freedom, security and justice' in the Treaty of Amsterdam (in force since 1 May 1999). The text brought together the provisions of Title VI and the connected areas of Community law in a new Title IV entitled 'Visas, asylum, immigration and other policies related to the free movement of persons'. The aim is to ensure the free movement of persons while taking the necessary measures to control external borders, asylum, immigration and crime. ([Treaty on the European Communities](#), consolidated version).

The provisions on the area of freedom, security and justice were set out in Articles III-257-277 of the Constitutional Treaty of 2004.

The Treaty of Lisbon moves the provisions on JHA to Title V (now entitled Area of freedom, security and justice' in the [consolidated Treaty](#))

The foundations of the new policy were laid at the meeting of the European Council held at Tampere in Finland (15-16 October 1999). To ensure that the public should be kept informed, a 'scoreboard' was to be published listing the progress made in implementing JHA proposals. This first appeared as: *Scoreboard to review progress on the creation of an area of "Freedom, security & justice" in the EU* (COM (2000) 167) and was issued at six-monthly intervals until the advent of *The Hague Programme: strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union*, adopted in November 2004, which set out a new action plan from 2005 to 2010. The [scoreboard](#) was then published annually. A detailed guide to the five-year plan is available in [The Hague Programme: ten priorities for the next five years](#) (MEMO/05/153).

A Directorate-General for Justice and Home Affairs was established in the reformed Commission in 1999; it was re-named DG Justice, Freedom and Security in the Barroso Commission.

The Schengen Agreement

The Schengen Agreement of 1985, signed by Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in Schengen (Luxembourg), was one of the first milestones in the development of a joint policy. The agreement aimed to abolish border controls between those countries by 1990. Formalised by the Schengen Convention in 1990 (but not implemented until 1995) it now applies in all but two EU Member States, plus Iceland and Norway. Ireland and the UK have opted to remain outside the Schengen area; Switzerland has decided to join, as has Liechtenstein.

The Schengen Agreement was agreed and implemented by inter-governmental working parties outside the framework of the European Community, so many of the legal texts were not originally published in the *Official Journal*. The rules on procedures at external borders, airports, short stay visas and asylum seekers make up the 'Schengen acquis', a vast collection of largely unpublished documentation which now forms part of EU law and which has to be incorporated by all applicant states as part of the accession procedure.

To remedy the lack of documentation a 580-page collection of the Schengen acquis, including the English text of the agreement and convention, was published in *Official Journal* L239, 22 September 2000 and later re-issued as a book by EUR-OP: *The Schengen acquis integrated into the European Union*. Luxembourg: OOPEC, 2001 ISBN 92824-1776-x.

Prüm Treaty

In May 2005, the so-called Schengen III Treaty was signed at Prüm in Germany by the five original signatories, together with Austria and Spain. The Treaty extends cross-border co-operation in access to official data, such as DNA, fingerprints and vehicle registration details.

Proposals were made to integrate the Convention into European law and to step up cross-border cooperation (OJ C71, 28 March 2007). The European Parliament organised two Public hearings of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) in 2006 and 2007 to discuss the mechanisms and the legality of the proposals. In June 2007, Justice and Home Affairs Ministers reached agreement on a Decision containing provisions 'based on the essential parts of the Prüm Treaty' (see [Council Press Release](#)).

The House of Lords European Union Committee published an extensive report in 2007, [Prüm, an effective weapon against terrorism and crime?](#) (18th report of session 2006-07; HL paper 90).

Schengen Information System

The Schengen Information System is a joint database allowing police and consulates in the Member States access to information on individuals and missing or stolen property. It was supported by the SIRENE (Supplementary Information REquest at the National Entry) network based in each participating country. This network ended officially in 2001, and was replaced by a new communications system called SISNET.

A second generation information system, SIS II, is in preparation to cope with the extra demand placed by the Union's enlargement in 2004. The main unit will be located in Strasbourg with a second unit at Sankt Johann im Pongau (Austria). Title IV of the Schengen Convention has been updated to reflect the changes in the system. Progress reports on preparations for the new system and migration to it are published every six months, the latest covering January-June 2008 ([COM \(2008\) 710](#)).

Justice and Home Affairs Ministers agreed in February 2008 that testing of the central elements of SIS II should be completed by the end of 2008, with national systems migrating from SIS 1+ to SIS II in 2009 ([Council Press Release](#)).

The SIRENE Manual was published in the *Official Journal*, C38, 17 February 2003.

A Commission Decision of 4 March 2008 adopted the SIRENE Manual and other implementing measures (*Official Journal* L123, 8 May 2008). This includes the text.

Although outside the Schengen area, the UK and Ireland have decided to adopt many of the provisions of the Schengen acquis (mainly those involving the Schengen Information System). (Council Decision of 29 May 2000, *Official Journal* L131, p43-47).

More information is available from [Sirene UK](#), part of the National Criminal Intelligence Service, which operates the Police National Computer.

Schengen Joint Supervisory Authority

www.schengen-jsa.dataprotection.org

The Schengen Joint Supervisory Authority was set up in Brussels to supervise the operation of the Schengen Information System (SIS) and is an independent body made up of representatives of data protection authorities from each participating state.

The official website aims to carry information in 13 languages (including Icelandic and Norwegian) but is currently only available in English. It provides information about the operation of SIS in relation to citizens' rights and also has a collection of the major legal texts implementing Schengen and Annual activity reports 1995-1999.

The collection of legal texts includes the Schengen Agreement, Convention and Acquis as agreed by the Council of the European Union.

Border management

Although the Schengen Agreement is designed to allow free movement between the states involved, the security of the European Union's external borders has become a more problematic area. In 2003 it was decided to set up a European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (Frontex). The agency, based in Warsaw, provides help in training border guard personnel and coordinates risk assessments and international cooperation. Responsibility for the control of the borders, however, remains with the Member States concerned.

In 2008 proposals were put forward to improve border management in the EU and reduce illegal immigration by establishing entry and exit procedures:

[Preparing the next steps in border management in the European Union](#) (COM (2008) 69) and [Examining the creation of a European Border Surveillance System \(EUROSUR\)](#) (COM (2008) 68) which would protect the coastal borders. At the same time a [Report on the evaluation and future development of the FRONTEX Agency](#) (COM (2008) 67) was published, recommending ways in which the Agency could improve its cooperation with other bodies and ensure that technical equipment was available to help its work.

Asylum and immigration

Asylum policy and immigration have become two of the most controversial areas in recent years. Attempts to create a common asylum policy began soon after the Maastricht Treaty with the establishment of two information networks. CIREA (Centre for Information, Reflection and Exchange on Asylum), an international advisory group of experts on asylum was established in 1992 to gather statistical information. Reports on its activities from 1994-1996 were published in *Official Journal* C 191, 23 June 1997 p. 21-35.

CIREFI (Centre for Information, Discussion and Exchange on Immigration) has a similar role in gathering figures on legal and illegal immigration, but its findings are not publicly available.

Because migration and demographics have become crucial to European policy-making it was decided to establish a European Migration Policy Centre in the Robert Schuman Centre at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence. It was to have started operating by Autumn 2008 ([Press Release IP/08/423](#))

The Dublin Convention (*Convention determining the State responsible for examining applications for asylum lodged in one of the Member States of the European Communities*, OJ C254, 19 August 1997) forms the basis of a common European asylum system, and aims to remove the possibility of 'asylum shopping' or multiple applications in different Member States. The Convention has been extended by the so-called 'Dublin II Regulation' ([Council Regulation 343/2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national](#). OJ L50, 25 February 2003).

Eurodac Central Unit

To implement the Dublin Convention, compulsory fingerprinting of asylum applicants has been introduced to ensure that multiple applications are not made. National databases have been set up and a central unit started operations in 2003 to facilitate transmission of data between countries. Reports and statistics relating to Eurodac are available on Europa.

A Commission working document, [Towards common standards on asylum procedures](#) (SEC (1999) 271), was intended to launch an inter-institutional discussion on how to proceed with the measures required by the Treaty of Amsterdam. More recent statements of EU policy are [Towards more accessible, equitable and managed asylum systems](#) (COM (2003) 315) and the [Green Paper on the future Common European Asylum System](#) (COM (2007) 301).

Police cooperation

Police co-operation is becoming increasingly important to cope with threats from organised crime and terrorism. Although Interpol has existed since 1923 as an international police organisation it was decided that a body was needed specifically to co-ordinate police operations in Europe.

In 1975 an inter-governmental group called the TREVI Group (an acronym for 'terrorism, radicalism, extremism and violence'), was established. By 1989 separate groups had been set up to deal with terrorism, police cooperation, organised crime and free movement of persons, overseen by a Group of Senior Officials which liaised with the Council of the EU.

The problem of drug addiction and related crime has also long been a major concern in European police and social work. Because of this, a meeting of the European Council in Rome in December 1990 adopted a European action plan to combat drugs drawn up by CELAD (Comité de Lutte Anti-Drogue, or European Committee to Combat Drugs), which recommended the establishment of a Europe-wide centre for monitoring drugs.

The Lisbon-based European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), one of the decentralised European Community agencies, was set up in 1993 to provide accurate information about the problems of drug addiction in the EU and started operation in 1995 (see chapter on [Agencies](#)).

Europol

www.europol.europa.eu

In 1994, the Europol Drugs Unit (EDU) was set up to deal with drugs trafficking, but its remit quickly expanded to include trafficking in nuclear material, illegal immigration networks and money laundering.

The Luxembourg European Council of June 1991 first proposed the establishment of a permanent European Police Office (Europol), but the Europol Convention was not signed until July 1995; it entered into force on 1 October 1998 and on 1 July 1999 Europol took over from the EDU. The text of the Europol Convention and other legal documents are available on Europol's website. Protocols to the original convention have further extended Europol's range of activities, and a working party recommended that the Convention and the Protocols should be replaced by a Council Decision. *The future of Europol: an options paper* summarised the views expressed at a meeting held during the Austrian Presidency in May 2006 (the text is available from [Statewatch](#)). It has since been decided that Europol will become a full EU Agency from 2010 (see chapter on [Agencies](#)).

Annual reports have been issued since 1998; the *European Union Organised Crime Situation Report, 2000-2006*, was replaced by the *European Organised Crime Threat Assessment* (OCTA; see Europol [Publications](#) page).

European private law

Because of the existence of so many national legal systems within the European Union and its partners, conflict of laws, or private international law, has become an essential element in the management of the internal market and of international trade.

European private law is an area which has been developing since the 1960s but which has gained pace enormously in the last few years. The first steps towards creating a European judicial area were the Brussels and Lugano Conventions, both of which were concerned with jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters. These were followed by the Rome Convention on contract law in 1980.

The 'Europeanisation of private law' is now an important area of legal research. A [Study Group on a European Civil Code](#), a network of legal academics, has been working for several years on a draft code covering the principles of contract law and the law of obligations.

Brussels and Lugano Conventions (Jurisdiction)

The Brussels Convention (Convention of 27 September 1968 on jurisdiction and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters) was the first element of a European private law system. It was largely superseded by [Council Regulation 44/2001](#) of 22 December 2000 *on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters* (Official Journal L12, 16/01/01).

The Lugano Convention (Official Journal L319, 25 November 1988) extended the scope of the Brussels Convention to all Member States of EFTA, but was replaced by [Council Decision 2007/712/EC](#) of 15 October 2007.

Between them, these conventions govern the choice of law in European courts. Texts are available on the [Court of Justice](#) website together with a digest of relevant case law.

A complete multilingual edition of the texts of both conventions was published in 1997: Brussels and Lugano Conventions (multilingual edition) Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1997 ISBN 9282903389

Rome Convention (Contract law)

Convention on the law applicable to contractual obligations, opened for signature in Rome on 19 June 1980 (80/934/EEC) (Official Journal L266, 9 October 1980)

The Rome Convention of 1980 established the law applicable to contractual obligations. The text of the Convention and associated material up to 2002 are available on a dedicated website based at the [Academy of European Law](#) in Trier.

Further conventions were added on insolvency proceedings (1995), service of judicial documents (1997) and matrimonial matters (1998). Because procedural hurdles prevented their ratification it was decided to enforce them as Council Regulations 1346-1348/2000 (Official Journal L160, 30 June 2000).

An overview of proposals in this area was given in *Communication on European contract law* (COM (2001) 398). The new accessions in 2004 prompted the publication of a consolidated version of the convention and the two attached protocols (Official Journal C334, 31 December 2005).

Since the Rome Convention was the only instrument of private international law which had not been replaced by a Regulation, a Green Paper was published in 2002 discussing its replacement ([COM \(2002\) 654](#)) and in 2005 a proposal for a 'Rome I' Regulation was made (COM (2005) 650), which was adopted in June 2008 as [Regulation 593/2008](#) on the law applicable to contractual obligations (see also [Press Release IP/07/1872](#)).

The Rome regime was extended to non-contractual obligations by the so-called 'Rome II' Regulation of 11 July 2007 on the law applicable to non-contractual obligations ([Regulation 864/2007](#)).

Brussels II (Family law)

Conflict of laws in family matters is becoming increasingly important because of the number of cross-border disputes involving divorce, parental responsibility and inheritance.

'Brussels II' ([Council Regulation 2201/2003](#) of 27 November 2003 *concerning jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the matters of parental responsibility*) repealed Regulation (EC) No 1347/2000, but does not include rules on applicable law.

[Green Paper on applicable law and jurisdiction in divorce matters](#) (COM (2005) 82; inevitably referred to as Rome III) and [Green paper on conflict of laws in matters concerning matrimonial property regimes, including the question of jurisdiction and mutual recognition](#) (COM (2006) 400) are the latest consultation documents in this area.

A proposal to amend Regulation 2201/2003 was published in July 2006 as [COM \(2006\) 399](#).

Cooperation in judicial, civil and criminal matters

On 29 June 1998 the Council of the European Union adopted a Joint Action on the creation of a European Judicial Network to combat serious cross-border and organised crime. The network was officially inaugurated on 25 September 1998 under the Austrian Presidency of the Union. [Eurojust](#) started operations in 2002, although annual reports are available on its website since 2001, when the provisional unit started work. Its headquarters are in The Hague (see [Agencies](#) above).

A Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters was proposed in 2000 (COM (2000) 592) and adopted in 2001. The [European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters](#) brings together officials from the legal systems of all Member States and its website is a valuable aid to understanding their legal process. Information is provided in most official languages, although in some cases translations are not complete for some countries.

A Green paper, *Legal aid in civil matters: the problems confronting the cross-border litigant* (COM (2000) 51) presented ways of improving matters for the individual. A proposal was also put forward in 2008 for the [Creation of a Forum for discussing EU justice policies and practice](#) (COM (2008) 38; see also [Press Release IP/08/183](#)) to improve trust and understanding between users and practitioners of different judicial systems.

Cooperation in criminal investigation, extradition and mutual legal assistance is also expanding. A *Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Member States of the European Union* (OJ C 197, 12 July 2000; see [Summaries of legislation Factsheet](#)) was enacted to extend the Council of Europe Convention of 1959. *Final report on the first evaluation exercise - mutual legal assistance in criminal matters* (OJ C 216, 1 August 2001 p.14-26) summarised the legal background and the need for further action.

The [European Judicial Network](#) oversees the operation of the European Arrest Warrant, which was introduced by Council Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA to standardise procedures for extradition of suspects and criminals. Its website provides legal materials and background for all Member States.

The [European Arrest Warrant Project](#) based at the T.M.C. Asser Instituut in The Hague has an extensive database of material on the operation of the system.

The [European Judicial Training Network](#) (EJTN) was set up to provide training in EU law for judges in the Member States. Its website includes links to online training tools.

The [European Crime Prevention Network](#) (EUCPN) was set up in 2001 as a forum for the exchange of good practice in crime prevention. The network is made up of nominated national representatives from each Member State, together with experts in the field. The website includes a library of national strategy papers, together with a database of specific projects searchable by country and by theme.

Fundamental Rights

A Charter of Fundamental Rights was proposed by the European Council in Cologne in June 1999 to ensure that the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights, to which the European Community is not itself a signatory, are respected in all developments of European Union law. An Expert Group on Fundamental Rights was set up to draft a text and published its report as [Affirming fundamental rights in the European Union: time to act](#). Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1999, ISBN 92-828-6605-x. The final text was published in the *Official Journal*, C364, 18 December 2000 together with an explanatory report (ISBN 92-824-1955-x) in 2001.

A comprehensive report by the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union (session 1999-2000, 8th report, HL paper 67) was published in March 2000 (ISBN 0104067004).

The debate on the contents of the charter, particularly the references to employment rights, has been heated, while the question of its legal status (whether it should be incorporated into the Treaty or stand alone) is not yet decided. The Commission stated its position in a [Communication on the Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) (COM (2000) 559). The European Convention decided to incorporate the text of the Charter as Part II of the failed Constitutional Treaty of 2004. The 2007 Treaty of Lisbon incorporates the Charter into EU law but a protocol specifies how it will be interpreted in Poland and the United Kingdom.

The EU [Network of Independent Experts in Fundamental Rights](#) (CFR-CDF) was set up in 2002. It publishes an annual report on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU together with opinions on specific questions.

In 2003 the European Council decided to establish a Fundamental Rights Agency, which was created by extending the remit of the existing European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) in Vienna. The [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#) (FRA) became operational in March 2007 (see [Agencies](#) above).

Data protection

Data protection has become a major element in all new policies and proposals in the area of freedom, security and justice. The Commission's FSJ website has a section on [Data Protection](#), with relevant documents and links to other important sites.

European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)

The [EDPS](#) is an independent office monitoring all new proposals which affect privacy and cooperating with national authorities.

Europol Joint Supervisory Body (JSB)

The task of the [Joint Supervisory Body](#) is to ensure that Europol does not infringe individual human rights in the use or collection of data. Information and access is provided in all official languages.

Online sources

Because this policy is the joint responsibility of the three main institutions, information is divided between their resources. Very little is available in printed form from official sources since most developments have occurred since electronic publication of official documents became the norm, but the Council, Commission and Parliament have vied to produce the most comprehensive documentary sources.

Europa's Justice, freedom and security [Activities](#) page links to all the main official sites of the institutions, as well as to the main JFS [Summaries of legislation](#) page.

The European Parliament's Europarl server has a page on [AFSJ: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice](#), but it has not been updated since 2005.

The Council's web server, Consilium, has a section on [Cooperation in the fields of Justice and Home Affairs](#) (use left-hand menu).

Other organisations with relevant websites:

[Centre for European Reform](#) has published extensively on various aspects of Justice and Home Affairs.

[European Council on Refugees and Exiles](#) (ECRE) has published a number of documents on the situation of asylum-seekers in Europe and the effect of EU policy.

[Eurasylum Ltd](#) is a company set up in 2001 to provide policy and legal research to practitioners of refugee and immigration law. Its resources pages include extensive collections of EU and national legislation. Some resources are only available on subscription.

The [European Private Law](#) website provides a useful collection of documents, articles and links on the subject.

[Statewatch](#) monitors civil liberties, human rights and constitutional developments in the EU. The website and free e-mail bulletin include full text of important documents from the EU and national governments. Access to the archive service and to the Statewatch Bulletin is only available to subscribers. Statewatch has been instrumental in testing legislation on access to information from the European institutions.

Statewatch re-launched the [SEMDOC](#) website in February 2008, providing comprehensive information about EU Justice and Home Affairs policy. Although a subscription is needed for full access, basic searches are free.

Further reading

[EU justice and home affairs law](#), Steve Peers, Oxford: Oxford University Press

[EU private international law: harmonization of laws](#), Peter Stone, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

5. COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY (CFSP)

A common foreign policy for Europe is only now beginning to become a reality, although it has been a long-standing aim of the European project. In the early years foreign policy remained strictly the preserve of national governments, largely because of the different relationships which had grown up between individual Member States and the main power blocs of the time: the USA, Warsaw Pact countries and NATO. The enlargement of the European Union has led to new alliances being formed to protect world security, while the importance of maintaining good relationships with the countries of the former Soviet Union and the Mediterranean are the basis of its new Neighbourhood Policy.

The Maastricht Treaty introduced the concept of a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) as the second pillar of the new institutional architecture, which is separate from European Community law. The Treaty of Lisbon will integrate CFSP into EU law.

European Defence Community (EDC)

The first step towards the creation of a common defence policy was the European Defence Community Treaty, signed in Paris in May 1952 by the six founding states of the European Community. It was intended to set up a European army, but the project failed in 1954.

European Political Cooperation (EPC)

In the 1970s European Political Cooperation (EPC) developed as a network for communication and cooperation between governments in the area of foreign policy matters, particularly in relations between the Community and international bodies like the United Nations. It was based on the 'Davignon report', which was presented in 1970 at the Luxembourg Summit. While there was no treaty provision for the Community to act together in these areas, the Single European Act of 1986 (Title III) established that the governments of the Member States should 'endeavour jointly to formulate and implement a European foreign policy' and that EPC should be the responsibility of a secretariat within the Presidency of the Council. The end of the Cold War and the break-up of Communism in 1989 led to a growing belief that a more formalised common foreign and security policy was needed for what was now envisaged as a European Union.

Maastricht to Lisbon

One of the major advances of the Maastricht Treaty was European cooperation in defence policy, prompted in particular by the break-up of Yugoslavia. Provisions on a common foreign and security policy became unofficially the second pillar of the new institutional architecture and appear as Title V of the Treaty on European Union, establishing that 'whenever it deems it necessary, the Council shall define a common position'.

These provisions were elaborated in the Amsterdam Treaty: Articles 11 to 28 of the [consolidated Treaty on European Union](#) are now devoted specifically to the CFSP. Article 18 states that the Presidency should represent the Union in these areas and should be 'assisted by the Secretary General of the Council who shall exercise the function of High Representative for the common foreign and security policy'. At the Cologne European Council in June 1999, Javier Solana, former head of NATO, was appointed as the first High Representative (HR) for the Common Foreign and Security Policy within the EU's General Affairs Council.

The Constitutional Treaty signed in 2004 laid out in greater detail than any of its predecessors the aims and provisions of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (in Part III, Title V, headed 'The Union's external action'). The Treaty proposed that the two posts of High Representative and Commissioner for External Relations should be combined in a new post of Union Minister for Foreign Affairs (Article I-28), which would have the status of Vice-President of the Commission. He or she would permanently chair all meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council, unlike the other formations of the Council which would still be subject to the six-monthly rotating Presidency.

In the [Treaty of Lisbon](#) this new post will be called the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Importantly, the European Union will also now have a single legal personality, which will mean that the EU will be able to negotiate and act as a single body.

Common European Security and Defence Policy (CESDP)

At a meeting of the Western European Union in 1992, held at the Petersberg Hotel near Bonn, three roles were set out as appropriate for WEU forces: humanitarian and rescue operations; peace-keeping tasks; and crisis management, often related to peace-keeping. These 'Petersberg tasks' provided the basis for future developments in the Common European Security and Defence Policy (CESDP).

Concerns about the EU's capabilities for military and non-military crisis intervention led the Finnish Presidency to commission two progress reports, which were discussed by the European Council in Helsinki in December 1999. The subsequent declaration laid down the framework of the CESDP, which foresees the creation of a

rapid reaction force and the establishment of organisational structures to help the co-ordination of military and non-military actions.

The Council issued a statement in 2000 detailing the progress that had been made in establishing a European force capable of crisis management or prevention of conflict (the so-called Rapid Reaction Force). On 1 January 2007, the EU 'acquired full operational capability to conduct two rapid response operations of the size of a Battlegroup (BG) of 1500 men.'

Military capabilities commitment declaration Brussels, 20 November 2000

In January 2001, Council Decisions 2001/78/CFSP - 2001/80/CFSP were published, setting up a Political and Security Committee (PSC), a Military Committee (EUMC) and Military Staff (EUMS) of the European Union (*Official Journal* L27, 30 January 2001), the administrative elements of the Force, to be based in Brussels under the authority of the Council. The EU Force EUFOR was first deployed in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) in March 2003 in Operation Concordia. The Military Committee is made up of the defence chiefs of all Member States and directs the work of the Military Staff, which is a General Directorate within the Council's Secretariat.

A [Communication on conflict prevention](#) (COM (2001) 211) outlined how the EU aimed to implement its strategy.

In December 2004 EUFOR took over from NATO-led troops in Operation Althea, a long-term military operation aiming to bring stability to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Extensive information is available from the [EUFOR website](#). Details of other operations (nine completed and 12 ongoing, in the Western Balkans, South Caucasus, Middle East, Asia and Africa) are available via the Council's [Operations page](#).

Security research

In 2004 the report [Research for a secure Europe](#) was published by a Group of Personalities in the Field of Security Research, chaired by Philippe Busquin, Commissioner for Research, and Erkki Liikanen, Commissioner for Enterprise and the Information Society. The report highlighted the need to develop technology to help in combating terrorism and other non-military security threats and laid the basis of a European Security Research Programme, to be operational from 2007. The research will be coordinated by the European Security Research Advisory Board (ESRAP - [see below](#)). Information is available from DG Enterprise's [Security Research page](#).

Foreign policy

The development and operation of the CFSP is essentially the role of the Council and most public documents and information are available from the Council's own server, Consilium (see the [Foreign Policy](#) and [Security and Defence](#) sections). A feature of this site is a collection of all official Council statements relating to the CFSP since 1997.

Under the restructuring of the European Commission undertaken by Romano Prodi, a new External Relations Directorate-General replaced the old DG I. The new DG is responsible for all institutional aspects of foreign relations and consults with the Council where necessary. Its comprehensive website includes a useful [introduction to CFSP](#).

Neighbourhood policy

In preparation for the major enlargement of the European Union in 2004 the Commission presented a communication on relations with its new neighbours, [Wider Europe - Neighbourhood: a new framework for relations with our Eastern and Southern neighbours](#) (COM (2003) 104). The new policy aims to develop economic and political cooperation without necessarily offering membership. A [European Neighbourhood Policy](#) website has been established on Europa to bring together information and documents relating to the new policy. It is currently available in English, French, German and Spanish.

A report on the [Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in 2007](#) (COM (2008) 164) and reports on 12 states involved were issued in April 2008; all are available on the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) website.

Diplomatic corps and External Relations Service

All countries which have diplomatic relations with the European Union and its Member States have accredited representatives in Brussels listed in the bi-annual directory *Corps diplomatique accrédité auprès des Communautés européennes et représentations auprès de la Commission; Vade-mecum for the use of the diplomatic corps* (ISSN 0591-2156), published since 1962.

The EU itself has delegations in 123 countries and five international organisations; many of them have their own websites with useful documentation for research and business purposes (see the Commission's [External](#)

[Service](#) page). Much of the power of the EU has devolved to the delegations in third countries, particularly in the management of assistance programmes, and this process is likely to continue. The network of European Documentation Centres (EDCs) and Depository Libraries which were formerly run by DG Communication are now managed by the delegations in the host countries under the general control of DG External Relations (RELEX).

A good introduction to the history of the External Service was published in 2004: [Taking Europe to the world: 50 years of the European Commission's External Service](#).

A unified European External Action Service was proposed in the Constitutional Treaty and also in the Treaty of Lisbon. This will allow the Commission and its Delegations, the Council's Secretariat and the diplomatic missions of the Member States to be represented by a single office in each country or organisation. The Communication [Consolidation and expansion of the External Service](#) (COM (2005) 239) gave details of proposed changes, with further information provided in the Communication [Development and consolidation of the external service: 2007-2008](#) (COM (2007) 206).

Agencies and other organisations concerned with CFSP

European Defence Agency (Brussels)

The [European Defence Agency](#) was established by a Council Joint Action (2004/551/CFSP) published in *Official Journal* L245 of 17 July 2004. The agency, which is based in Brussels, is intended to promote cooperation in armaments purchasing, research and development. Its activities are based on a *Code of conduct on defence procurement* approved in November 2005. The *EDA Bulletin* is published on the website.

European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) (Vicenza)

On 17 September 2004 defence ministers from France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands signed an agreement in Noordwijk in the Netherlands to form a joint paramilitary force to be called the [European Gendarmerie Force](#) (EGF or Eurogendfor). The force, launched in Vicenza, Italy, in January 2006 was set up to be sent anywhere in the world either after conflict, as in the Balkans, or to prevent military action. The Treaty establishing the EGF was signed at Velsen in the Netherlands on 18 October 2007.

European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC) (Torrejón, near Madrid, Spain)

The [EUSC](#), an agency of the Council of the European Union in operation since 2002, provides and analyses satellite images as part of the EU's security and defence policy. It also runs training courses and conducts research.

European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) (Paris)

The European Council at Nice, December 2000, confirmed that the Institute for Security Studies, formerly an agency of the Western European Union (see below) would become an agency of the EU. The [EUISS](#) carries out research and analysis of topics related to security policy. Its website is a useful source of news and online publications, particularly the series *Chaillot Papers* and *Occasional Papers*. A detailed study of the Institute's work for the EU was published in 2007: [The European Union Institute for Security Studies. 2002-2006: five years for the EU](#).

European Security and Defence College (ESDC)

The General Affairs Council decided on 18 July 2005 to establish a college to provide training related to the CFSP for civilian and military personnel, based on a network of existing institutions and academic centres. The [ESDC](#) is based at the IHEDN (Institut des Hautes Etudes de Défense Nationale or Institute of National Higher Defence Studies) attached to the Ecole Militaire in Paris.

European Security Research Advisory Board (ESRAP)

The Advisory Board was set up in July 2005 on the recommendation of the report [Security research: the next steps](#) (COM (2004) 590). Two groups of experts (technical research and manufacturers) support the Commission in directing the European Security Research Programme as part of the wider EU research programme.

Relations with international organisations

United Nations (UN)

The [United Nations](#) was established by charter in 1945 as a successor to the League of Nations, which was set up after World War I. All the Member States of the European Union are also members of the United Nations in their own right. The EU is currently represented by the holder of the presidency but it has been proposed that the EU itself should hold a separate seat. Under the terms of the Treaty the Member States are required to present a common position in negotiations at the UN. Voting figures for the last two General Assemblies have shown a high degree of unanimity. For further information, see the page [The EU's relations with the United Nations](#) and the dedicated website [European Union @ United Nations](#).

Western European Union (WEU)

The [WEU](#) was created by the Brussels Treaty of 1948 (Treaty on Economic, Social and Cultural Collaboration and Collective Self-Defence) later amended by the Protocol signed at Paris on 23 October 1954. In the post-war period it provided a framework for joint military action in Europe, generally in cooperation with NATO. At a meeting in Marseilles of the WEU Council of Ministers on 13 November 2000, it was decided to transfer most of the competencies of the Western European Union to the EU. The WEU Parliamentary assembly remains in place as a forum for inter-governmental discussion, but the [Western European Armaments Group](#) (WEAG) closed in 2005, as 'European armaments co-operation in the future would take place within the European Union'. Documents relating to the history of the WEU are available on its website.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Set up originally to form an alliance against threats of attack from the Soviet bloc, [NATO](#) has been forced to change its role since the end of the Cold War. Its membership rose from 12 in 1949 (10 West European countries together with the USA and Canada) to 26 in 2008. NATO increasingly acts in cooperation with the EU, mainly in situations involving peace-keeping. *NATO review* (ISSN 0255-3813), issued from 1971-2001 in various languages, is now only published electronically and is an essential source of information on current issues.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The [OSCE](#) has its roots in a series of conferences within the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) which was convened between 1973 and 1975. The organisation's aims are laid out in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, available on the official website. The OSCE works with other international organisations, especially the UN, Council of Europe, NATO and the EU, towards the prevention of conflict and the protection of human rights. There are 56 member countries in Europe, Central Asia and North America; its headquarters are in Vienna. General information is provided by the *OSCE magazine*, available online in English and Russian.

Online sources

[The European Union in the world](#) is a comprehensive information portal on all aspects of foreign policy and includes links to electronic versions of documents, where available. The site is available in English, French, German and Spanish.

The Europa 'Activities' section on [Foreign and security policy](#) links to all official sources as well as to relevant [Summaries of legislation](#) factsheets.

The Council's website has the text of relevant annual reports and contains an index of all official statements and legislation with links to full texts on EUR-Lex. See [Foreign Policy](#) and [Security and Defence](#) sections. *CFSP Guide: compilation of relevant texts* is published on the Delegations' intranet site, although versions are made publicly available, the latest being for [June 2008](#).

The European Parliament's [Fact sheets on the European Union](#) give a valuable introduction to all aspects of foreign and defence policy (use left-hand menu to navigate).

[FORNET](#) (a network of research and teaching on European Foreign Policy) is a European Commission funded research network which issues working papers and a regular newsletter on its website in addition to a valuable database of official documents on foreign policy from EU Member States.

Bibliography

[Centre for Europe Reform](#) publishes extensively on both defence and security questions and foreign policy.

[Chaillot Papers](#), online publications of the European Union Institute for Security Studies, include *European defence: core documents*, currently in eight volumes.

Challenge Europe, one of a number of European Policy Centre [Publications](#), regularly carries articles on aspects of foreign and security policy by major figures.

COPRI working papers from the Copenhagen Peace Research Institute (now part of the Danish Institute for International Studies) are archived as part of Columbia University's [Ciaonet](#) service.

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European Foreign Policy Bulletin 1993- (ISSN 1029-1075), previously entitled *European political cooperation documentation bulletin* (ISSN 0259-2290), contained all foreign policy declarations made by the European institutions since 1985. An initiative of the European University Institute in Florence, it was published as annual volumes until 1994 and made available as a free database, but has now been withdrawn.

The [House of Lords European Union Select Committee](#) reports at regular intervals on recent developments in European defence and security policy, and has produced several reports on specific topics.

Studies from the European Parliament's Directorate-General for Research and more recent papers from the Policy departments provide research material in all aspects of EU policy. They are all available online via a searchable [archive](#).

[Partners and neighbours: a CFSP for a wider Europe](#), Judy Batt et al (*Chaillot Paper* 64)

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6. EUROPEAN TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS

The European Union is a unique body, mixing some of the attributes of a nation state with those of an international organisation. It has its basis in the three European Communities established by treaty in the 1950s.

Although there have been a succession of treaties since 1951, European Community law is based on the authority of a single dynamic text which is changed to incorporate the amendments of each new treaty. Reference should usually be made to the relevant section of the Treaty, which normally refers to the consolidated version of the Treaty of Rome or - since Maastricht - the Treaty on European Union, in force at the time of writing.

The **European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)** was established by the ECSC Treaty or Treaty of Paris 1951, which entered into force on 23 July 1952 and expired on 23 July 2002.

The **European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom or EAEC)** and the **European Economic Community (EEC)** were established by the Euratom Treaty and the Treaty establishing the European Community, both of which were signed in Rome on 25 March 1957, and entered into force on 1 January 1958. The two treaties are referred to jointly as the 'Treaties of Rome', although 'Treaty of Rome' applies only to the EEC Treaty.

The **Merger Treaty**, signed in Brussels on 8 April 1965 and in force since 1 July 1967, merged the executives of all three communities.

The **Single European Act (SEA)** signed in Luxembourg and The Hague, which entered into force on 1 July 1987, established the rules necessary for the running of the single market.

The **Treaty on European Union (TEU or Maastricht Treaty)**, which was signed in Maastricht on 7 February 1992, and entered into force on 1 November 1993, renamed the three communities **European Community (EC)**. This Treaty introduced the concept of a European Union based on a structure of three institutional pillars in which the first pillar is the existing European Community, the second pillar is common foreign and security policy and the third 'police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters'. Under both the second and third pillars, decisions are taken by the Council alone.

The **Treaty of Amsterdam**, signed on 2 October 1997, entered into force on 1 May 1999. Its purpose was to strengthen the security policy of the EU, to improve free movement between Member States and to reform the European institutions in preparation for the largest enlargement of the European Union.

Although the Treaty of Amsterdam included statements on respect for human rights to be shown by the European institutions, the European Council held in Cologne in June 1999 deemed it necessary to establish a separate statement of fundamental rights implicit in European law. **The Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union** (*Official Journal*, C364, 18 December 2000) has, as yet, no legal force.

The **Treaty of Nice**, signed on 26 February 2001, entered into force on 1 February 2003. It was required to make more detailed changes to the composition and powers of the European institutions and also to improve cooperation between them.

In 2003 the European Convention issued a text for a Draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe. The **Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe**, which incorporates the text of the Charter of fundamental rights, was signed on 29 October 2004. While 15 Member States intended to ratify the Treaty through parliamentary procedures, 10 decided to hold a national referendum. 10 Member States had already ratified the treaty by May 2005, when both France and the Netherlands rejected it in national referenda and effectively stalled the ratification process.

The stalemate was broken on 13 December 2007 with the signing of the **Treaty of Lisbon** (also known as the Reform Treaty). It will amend both the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community, which will be renamed **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**, officially abbreviated to **TFEU**.

The Treaty of Lisbon [text](#) was published in *Official Journal*, C306, 17 December 2007 and an official consolidated text ([Consolidated versions of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#)) was published in *Official Journal*, C115, 9 May 2008. An English text was also published by the British Government as [Consolidated texts of the EU Treaties as amended by the Treaty of Lisbon](#) (Cm. 7310) in January 2008.

The Treaty of Lisbon abandoned the aims of establishing a Constitution for Europe, but includes all the main changes proposed by the Constitutional Treaty designed to improve the efficiency of the institutions and of EU policy-making.

Although treaties are primary legislation in European law, the texts were not initially published in the *Official Journal* until the Maastricht Treaty, as the documents are officially inter-governmental rather than institutional. All subsequent texts have appeared in the C series. Collections of all the major texts have been published in the two-volume collection [Selected instruments taken from the Treaties](#). Texts of all treaties, including the Constitutional Treaty, are available on Europa in its [EU at a glance](#) section, and texts of treaties since 1988 are also available on [EUR-Lex](#) (see [Databases](#) chapter).

Inter-governmental conferences (IGCs)

The treaties, which are the primary legislation and constitutional basis of the European Union, are the product of inter-governmental conferences involving representatives of parliaments, ministries and heads of government from each country involved.

The first of these was the 1950-1951 Intergovernmental Conference between France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux countries under the chairmanship of Jean Monnet. Negotiations were based on the Schuman Plan to organise Franco-German coal and steel production and led to the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community.

The next conference took place at Messina in Sicily in 1955 between the foreign ministers of the Six under the chairmanship of Paul-Henri Spaak. Observers from other countries, including the UK, were also present. The Spaak report (*Rapport des chefs de délégation aux Ministres des Affaires étrangères: Comité intergouvernemental créé par la Conférence de Messine*. Brussels: The Secretariat, 1956) recommended both the creation of a common market for goods and services and a union in the field of nuclear energy. This resulted in the treaties of Rome of 1957, which created both the European Atomic Energy Community and the European Economic Community.

The Single European Act of 1987 was the subject of wide debate throughout Europe, particularly at the time of its ratification. A four-volume compilation of all official documents produced within the Member States was published in 1993 by the Library of the Court of Justice to help researchers study the historical background of this process (*Ratification of the Single European Act: preparatory studies*, Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1993, set ISBN 9282902285).

The Maastricht Treaty aroused even more debate at the time. A 15-volume compilation collecting official responses from all Member States appeared as *Ratification of the Treaty on European Union: preparatory studies*, Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1996, set ISBN 9282902994).

The next IGC, in 1996, was the first to make use of online services, as it began shortly after the launch of the Europa server. A retrospective database of all important contributions to the debate, including the draft treaty presented by the Irish Presidency (*The European Union today and tomorrow*), is available online on the Council's Consilium website in the section on the [Treaty of Lisbon](#), together with documents from the IGCs of 2000, 2004 and 2007.

A meeting of the European Council held in Cologne in June 1999 called for a Charter to be drawn up bringing together the fundamental rights implicit in decisions of the Court of Justice, European legislation and other statements. An ad hoc body called the 'Convention' was set up specifically to establish a text (see [Charter site](#)). The Convention included representatives of the governments and parliaments of the Member States, as well as representatives of the European institutions and invited experts.

The European Parliament has produced a detailed commentary on the Charter, which cross-refers to relevant national and international law, particularly the European Convention on Human Rights (see EP [Charter](#) page).

In 1999 the European Council in Cologne called for a new IGC to make further changes to the Treaty in preparation for the major enlargement of the European Union designed to bring in countries from the former Eastern bloc as well as Cyprus and Malta. Documents relating to the Treaty of Nice and the 2000 IGC are also [archived](#) online.

As the fifth enlargement approached it was realised that the Community institutions and procedures still needed reform to ensure their smooth operation. The European Council at Laeken called for another IGC, but broke with tradition by setting up instead a second European Convention under the chairmanship of the former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing to identify the key issues which still needed to be resolved. The membership included representatives from the governments and parliaments of all Member States and candidate states. The Convention met between February 2002 and July 2003, and decided to submit its

recommendations in the form of a Draft Constitutional Treaty in July 2003. A multilingual [website](#) archives all contributions to the debate, including the draft text.

Although this is the first official text of a constitution for Europe, earlier attempts had been made to codify the text of the treaties, notably by a group of academics at the European University Institute. See *A unified and simplified model of the European Communities treaties and the Treaty on European Union in just one treaty* and other materials on the EUI [Reorganisation of the European Treaties](#) page.

The European Constitutional Law Network is an academic forum for debate on the constitutionalisation of Europe. The [ECLN](#) website links to the full-text of national constitutions (in the original, and in English where available), and links to select national court decisions on European constitutional law. The database also includes the text of other draft European constitutions and papers from a series of conferences dating back to 2001.

Accession treaties

The European Economic Community established by the Treaty of Rome had six members: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands.

Before each subsequent enlargement, accession treaties had to be negotiated and signed.

In 1973 Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom became members (*Official Journal* L 73 of 27 March 1972, *Official Journal* L 2 of 1 January 1973);

Greece joined in 1981 (*Official Journal* L 291 of 19 November 1979);

Spain and Portugal in 1986 (*Official Journal* L 302 of 15 November 1985);

Austria, Finland and Sweden in 1995 (*Official Journal* L 1 of 1 January 1995).

Norway remained a candidate throughout this period, although successive referenda have always rejected EU membership.

The fifth enlargement in 2004 brought in Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia (*Official Journal* L 236 of 23 September 2003).

Bulgaria and Romania became members in January 2007 (*Official Journal* L157 of 21 June 2005).

There are currently three candidate countries for EU membership (Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey) and five potential candidates (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia).

Relations with other countries

Development cooperation

ACP (African, Caribbean, Pacific) countries, which were formerly territories of Member States of the European Union, have a special relationship. Conditions covering development aid and special trade agreements are laid down in Title XX (Articles 177-181) of the Treaty, and in a series of conventions:

The first convention, signed at Yaoundé, Cameroon, in 1963 (*Yaoundé I Convention between EAMA (Associated African and Malgache Countries) and EEC 1963*) was an agreement on trade and aid with 18 former French and Belgian colonies, and was renegotiated in 1969 (*Yaoundé II Convention between EAMA and EEC 1969*).

The accession of the UK brought most members of the British Commonwealth into the ACP states and a new convention was signed in 1975 with 71 states (excluding South Africa, which had a separate agreement) at Lomé, capital of Togo (*Lomé Convention 1975*).

The latest agreement was signed at Cotonou, Benin by 92 signatories (*Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000; Official Journal* L 317 of 15 December 2000). Under the terms of this agreement, a five-yearly revision is foreseen. A revised text appeared in *Official Journal* L 209 of 11 August 2005. Implementation is monitored by various groups under the [ACP Secretariat](#) in Brussels.

Association Agreements

Association Agreements are the basis for economic and political relations between the European Community and individual states, often as a first step towards membership. These include the agreements made with Cyprus, Malta and Turkey in the sixties and early seventies.

Europe Agreements, or pre-accession agreements, were made with the 10 candidate countries from Central and Eastern Europe between 1991 and 1996.

Cooperation Agreements were concluded in the 1970s between the European Community and most countries in the Mediterranean area. These were replaced by **Euro-Mediterranean Association**

Agreements, concluded between 1998 and 2005 with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Partnership and co-operation Agreements are in force with nine states from the former USSR: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Stabilisation and Association Agreements were negotiated with countries in the Western Balkans following the wars which broke up the former Yugoslavia: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia (including Kosovo).

Relations with international organisations

Council of Europe (CoE)

The [Council of Europe](#) was founded in 1949 and currently has 47 members. It is a political organisation, whose main interests are culture, education, parliamentary democracy and, most importantly, human rights. It is the parent body of the European Court of Human Rights, which adjudicates on cases concerning the European Convention on Human Rights. Although all EU Member States are signatories to the Convention, the European Community itself is not, as it has no legal personality, a subject of debate over the years. In 1994 the Court was asked to decide whether the Community could become a signatory. Its decision was that the Treaty had no provisions to allow this ([Opinion of the Court of 28 March 1996. Accession by the Communities to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms](#). Opinion 2/94. *European Court Reports* 1996 I-1759).

Under the Treaty of Lisbon the European Union will be given legal personality and will be allowed to sign the Convention in its own right.

Although there is no direct link between the two organisations, all the EU's Member States were already members of the Council of Europe and the two bodies cooperate fully at various levels. The flag and anthem of the EU both originated with the CoE. The Council of Europe establishes treaties and conventions, which are signed and ratified by its Member States (but not by the European Union). A full list of these treaties, which appear in the European Treaty series (ETS), renamed the Council of Europe Treaty series (CETS) in 1994, is [available online](#) together with the texts and details of ratification.

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

[EFTA](#) was set up in 1960 to promote free trade among its members, of which there are now four. Of the original members only Norway and Switzerland remain, as the others are now members of the European Union. Iceland joined EFTA in 1970 and Liechtenstein in 1991. The EFTA Secretariat, based in Geneva, publishes an annual report and a monthly publication, *EFTA Bulletin*.

European Economic Area (EEA Agreement)

The Agreement creating the European Economic Area was negotiated with seven member countries of EFTA in May 1992. Three of those members have now joined the European Union, while Switzerland decided not to participate. The EEA effectively extends the internal market to Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein without the full privileges and responsibilities of EU membership. The agreement entered into force on 1 January 1994. For updated texts and related protocols go to the EFTA Secretariat site. EFTA publishes a series of [EEA Factsheets](#).

The [EFTA Surveillance Authority](#), located in Brussels, is responsible for ensuring that the rules of the EEA Agreement are correctly applied in the EFTA states. Its annual report and other publications are available from the website. Most documents of the Surveillance Authority and Joint Committee are published in the *Official Journal* L series, which also highlights any European legislation where appropriate as 'Text with EEA relevance'.

The [EFTA Court](#) interprets the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) within the EFTA system.

A comprehensive study by Carl Baudenbacher, President of the Court: [The EFTA Court: legal framework and case law](#) is available from the site.

Although Switzerland is not part of the EEA an EU-Swiss Joint Committee takes decisions on the implementation of EU law in Switzerland. Decisions are published in the *Official Journal* (L series), while the full text of all bilateral agreements is available in four languages (English, French, German and Italian) from the web site of the [Swiss Integration Office](#) (see especially [Swiss policy on the European Union](#)).

A referendum on 5 June 2005 showed a majority of Swiss citizens were in favour of applying the Schengen and Dublin Conventions as well as participating in EU research and cultural programmes, while in its [Europe](#)

[Report 2006](#), the Swiss Federal Council 'made clear its view that both Switzerland's material and ideological interests could for the time being at least be optimally assured by continuing the bilateral approach.'

World Trade Organization (WTO)

The [World Trade Organization](#) was established in 1995 in Geneva to deal with international trade rules and is the successor to the GATT (General Agreement on Trades and Tariffs). As with the UN, all Member States of the EU are members of the WTO, but co-ordinate their positions in Brussels and Geneva. The European Commission speaks for the EU at almost all WTO meetings. While the EU's trade policy is decided by a specialist committee in accordance with Article 133 of the EC Treaty, international policy is decided in rounds of talks, the latest of which was inaugurated at Doha in Qatar (the 'Doha Round'). Trade disputes between members are handled by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body. A searchable database of decisions organised by the subject of the dispute and in chronological order can be found on the WTO website under Trade topics. The current Director General of the WTO, Pascal Lamy, was formerly EU Trade Commissioner.

Where to find agreements

The Commission's DG External Relations Treaties Office published an Annotated summary of agreements linking the Communities with non-member countries, listing all current agreements by country. The last edition appeared in 2001.

The web portal [The European Union in the World](#) is the easiest and most comprehensive source, as it is searchable by country or area (select 'Where'), topic (select 'How') and has links to online versions of most official texts. It is available in four languages.

The Council's Agreements Office maintains a fully searchable database of agreements concluded with third countries (Council website under Policies), as does the Commission's Treaties Office. EUR-Lex links to both in its [International agreements](#) collection, which also has a search function.

The multi-volume [Encyclopedia of European Union law](#) edited by Neville March Hunnings, London: Sweet & Maxwell, is an invaluable reference work on all the treaties and agreements made by the European Union.

7. THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IN EUROPEAN LAW

Although the legislative process in European law is largely similar to the process in the UK and other Member States there are several major differences. Terminology can often be unfamiliar, as concepts have been borrowed from various different political and legal cultures in Europe; while Green and White papers, for instance, are familiar to British users, Directives are not. The multilingual aspect is very important; while all stages of documentation are theoretically available in all official languages, in practice some knowledge of other languages, particularly French, can be useful, as translation is a lengthy process and many documents are never translated beyond the three main working languages (English, French and German).

As with the English legislative process, it is necessary to know which documents reflect which stage and what abbreviations mean. It is now possible to find nearly all the documentation associated with the process through online sources, although in some cases this can mean downloading large quantities of paperwork. For documents produced before 2001, however, it may be necessary to use specialist collections, like European Documentation Centres or Depository Libraries, although some important earlier material is now available online, notably via the [Archive of European Integration](#) at the University of Pittsburgh).

Three main groups of user will find it particularly important to be aware of the legislative process:

- Legal practitioners, to ensure their legal advice is up to date
- Legal researchers, to establish the reason for new legislation and what discussions have taken place
- Anyone involved as a personal or professional lobbyist who may wish to intervene in the process to affect the proposed legislation

Strategy and planning

When a new Commission is appointed, a five-year strategy document is prepared, which establishes the priorities for its term of office. The latest document, issued at the start of the Barroso Commission, is [Strategic objectives 2005-2009](#) (COM (2005) 12). Within this framework annual policy strategies are decided jointly by the College of Commissioners; the latest is [Annual policy strategy for 2009](#) (COM (2008) 72). Commission legislative and work programmes are also issued annually, which give more precise details of legislative proposals or amendments planned for the coming year. Relevant documents can be found on the [European Commission at work](#) page.

Legislative process - European institutions

Three major European institutions are involved in the legislative process:

The **European Commission** is the civil service of the European Union. The Commission is the only institution which can propose legislation (although legislation relating to the so-called second and third pillars is proposed by the Council or by Member States). It acts as the guardian of the Treaties and is responsible for administering the budget and programmes of the Community; it also represents the Member States in international negotiations.

The **European Parliament** is a democratically elected body, which scrutinises new draft legislation, approves the budget and monitors the executive.

The **Council of the European Union**, also known as the Council of Ministers, is made up of the cabinet ministers of the Member States' national governments and decides, in consultation with the European Parliament, whether or not legislation should be adopted.

Where legislation is proposed in a range of areas, including employment, transport, education and the internal market, the institutions are required to consult two advisory Committees: the **European Economic and Social Committee** (EESC) whose members are drawn from a range of groups representing workers, employers and other interests and the **Committee of the Regions** (CoR). Set up by the Maastricht Treaty to protect the principle of subsidiarity, its members are drawn equally from local and regional government in the Member States.

Legislative procedures

The basic procedures for legislation are:

Consultation procedure (CNS), provided for in the original EEC Treaty. This allows for one reading by the Council after it has received the opinion of the Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and now the Committee of the Regions, although it is not obliged to take account of any proposed amendments. Both the Commission and the Council can make amendments before the legislation is adopted.

Cooperation procedure (SYN) requires two readings by the Parliament, giving it the opportunity to amend the proposal. The Commission indicates which amendments it accepts before forwarding its proposal to the

Council. This results in a 'common position' of the Council. Under the Amsterdam Treaty revisions, this procedure is only used for acts concerning Economic and Monetary Union.

Co-decision (COD). Co-decision has become the standard procedure and allows the Parliament an equal role with the Council. If Parliament and Council agree at the first reading, the legislation is adopted as a joint Council / Parliament act. If they disagree and no compromise is reached through a 'conciliation committee', Parliament can reject the proposal if it has an absolute majority. The Commission has no powers to offer amended texts in the legislative process.

Assent procedure (ASV) requires the European Parliament's assent to certain major decisions, such as new accessions and amendments to rules of procedure. In these cases the Parliament may accept or reject a proposal, but not make any amendments.

Stage one: Commission documents

The Commission issues large numbers of working documents every year with the reference COM in numerical sequence (e.g. COM (2009) 123). The types of documents issued in this series are:

Policy documents These include Green and White papers, a term adopted from UK parliamentary practice, where they refer to the colour of paper used for these publications (in other language versions these are translated as green and white books). The terms were first used in European legislation in 1983.

Green Papers concern specific policy areas and are generally used to launch a consultation process with interested individuals and organisations.

White Papers are documents containing proposals for Community action and are generally used for consultation before specific proposals for legislation are made. A full set of Green and White papers from 1983 to 2001 with associated documents is available online in the [Archive of European Integration](#).

Communications and reports Most European policy programmes are legally required to present an official report to the institutions after the end of the financial term of the programme. Communications are statements of EU policy on given subjects.

Draft legislation 'Proposals' for legislation are equivalent to bills in the UK. Until 2001, these also appeared in the C series of the *Official Journal*, but omitted the explanatory memorandum; in this form they are available online in the OJ C E (Electronic) series on EUR-Lex (see [Databases](#) chapter). They now appear online only as COM documents on EUR-Lex in the section [Preparatory acts](#).

References are normally given as: COM (year) (number) final; only the finalised version of each draft is released publicly after a period of consultation.

Some documents may have a reference C or SEC (Secretariat-General). These are internal documents of the Commission, many of which were not publicly available, but all are now added to the EUR-Lex [Preparatory acts](#) section as they are issued. Most of the background material which was previously included in the explanatory memorandum is now published separately in the SEC series as 'Commission staff working documents'.

In 2002 the Commission revised the way draft legislation is presented. The European Councils in Göteborg and Laeken had decided in 2001 that assessments should be made of the economic, social and environmental effects of all new legislation proposed by the Commission. As these assessments are published in the SEC series they have often been hard to track down. The Secretariat General of the Commission has launched a website on [Impact Assessment](#).

Stage two: European Parliament

All draft legislation is first presented to the European Parliament, where it is scrutinised by the appropriate Committee. At this point an MEP from that Committee is appointed as 'rapporteur', or spokesman for the Committee. Reports are now only published online. Until 1989 they appeared on paper; from 1989-1999 they were published on microfiche. Since 1999 they have only been available online via Europarl (see [Databases](#) chapter) under [Plenary sessions](#). Europarl also has [texts adopted](#), which may include amendments.

Stage three: Council of Ministers (Council of the European Union)

The final stage of the legislative process is the consideration by the Council of Ministers, which is in many respects the least open. If the Council agrees to the text proposed by the Commission and to any amendments proposed by the European Parliament, the legislation can be adopted.

Common positions

If there are still points of disagreement, a 'common position' may be adopted by a qualified majority in the Council, which will be sent back to the European Parliament for a second reading. Although these are an indication of the final form a piece of legislation may take this is not necessarily the case. Common positions

have appeared in the C series of the *Official Journal* since 1994. A list of common positions referred to the Parliament by the Council since 1999 is available on Europarl via the [Common positions](#) page, and will eventually be available on EUR-Lex (under 'Preparatory acts').

It should be pointed out that the term 'common position' is also, confusingly, used for agreements on foreign policy between Member States under the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

European Economic and Social Committee

Opinions on draft legislation are agreed during monthly sessions, mainly on matters concerning the functioning of the internal market. The Committee also issues 'own initiative' Opinions which do not relate directly to proposals for legislation. Opinions are issued as separate documents (reference CES + year), which later appear in special issues of the *Official Journal* (C series). At the end of 2003 it was decided to abandon paper publication of individual Opinions and to publish in the electronic versions of the *Official Journal* only. From 2004 [Opinions](#) also appear on the EESC website.

Committee of the Regions

The CoR produces Opinions and Resolutions on draft legislation with a direct impact on the regions (environment, regional economy, education etc.) as well as own initiative Opinions. Opinions are issued as separate documents (reference CdR + year) and appear later in separate issues of the *Official Journal* (C series). They are now also available [online](#).

Other official bodies which produce Opinions depending on the subject matter of the legislation, include the **European Central Bank**, the **European Ombudsman** and the **European Data Protection Supervisor**.

Online sources

To find out what stage a proposed piece of legislation has reached, two databases have been set up: OEIL (Legislative Observatory) on the European Parliament site and PreLex on the Commission site. Links are directly available from [Europa](#) (from the 'Documents' tab).

[OEIL](#) (Legislative Observatory) is part of the European Parliament's server, Europarl, and is a good source of information on the background and progress of negotiations; it also links to the full text of all relevant EP reports, where available online. The text of the analysis is only available in French or English, sometimes in a mixture of the two.

[Pre-Lex](#) (Monitoring the decision-making process) is part of the Commission's Europa server, and is maintained by the Secretariat-General. It gives a far more comprehensive set of references, including details of Committee of Regions and ESC opinions. Earlier documents are not available in full text online, but bibliographic references are given to official publications, including the *Bulletin* and the *General Report*.

Access to documents and Registers of the institutions

As part of the Maastricht Treaty's drive towards more openness and transparency in governance *Regulation 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents* was introduced in 2001, requiring the establishment of public registers of all documents submitted to the European institutions. These are a valuable source of information, although not all documents are available in full text. Each institution is required either to supply documents requested by individuals or to offer a reason why they are unable to make them public.

The three Registers can be accessed via the Commission's [Document registers](#) page. [Access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents: a user's guide](#) explains how to apply for access to documents not available on the Registers.

The [European Parliament](#) Register is easiest to use, as most EP documents are available online, generally in various languages, direct from Europarl (see [Databases](#) chapter).

The [Commission](#) Register is probably the most heavily used and allows for searches by keyword and by service or Directorate-General responsible.

The [Council](#) Register, launched in 2000 but only fully operational since 2001, allows simple and advanced searches and has lists of the latest documents available in full text, although many are little more than cover pages. PDF versions are provided for available documents; some are marked P/A (partially available) where extracts have been classified for commercial or security reasons. The register includes monthly Summaries of Council Acts with brief details of voting and the agendas of Council meetings. All documents passed to the Council for consideration are listed, such as C and SEC documents, as well as draft legislation. Please note,

however, that all documents receive a separate reference number and cover page, making searching more complicated.

Relations with national governments

Although the national press in the UK routinely talks of government having no say over legislation 'from Brussels', all European draft legislation is considered by the parliament of each Member State. Any objections to the text or implications of proposals should be passed on to government ministers or secretaries of state, who sit on the Council and have the final say as to whether legislation is passed. Both the Constitutional Treaty and the Treaty of Lisbon include protocols on the role of national parliaments in the European Union and on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality which emphasise the importance of cooperation between national and European institutions.

To make communication between the European Parliament and national parliaments easier the [IPEX](#) (Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange) database was set up and now includes all Commission documents since 2006, together with 'Dossiers' cataloguing the scrutiny process in the parliament of each Member State.

United Kingdom

In the UK all Commission documents, including draft legislation, are received by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and passed to Parliament. Within 10 days an explanatory memorandum is prepared by the appropriate Whitehall department, which details the history of the proposal and its impact on UK law. Over 1,000 documents are dealt with annually.

The House of Commons [European Scrutiny Committee](#) is responsible for deciding which documents are debated in Parliament and for overseeing developments in European law and policy. A full description of procedures is available in [The European Scrutiny system in the House of Commons: a short guide for members of Parliament by the staff of the European Scrutiny Committee](#), 2005.

The House of Commons Library researches major developments, published as [Research Papers](#), available online since 1998.

The House of Lords [European Union Select Committee](#) also scrutinises EU legislative proposals and the Government's response to them. The Committee has seven sub-committees dealing with specific policy areas, and produces a number of substantial reports each year, which are an important aid to research.

The British Government has responded recently to charges that it has 'gold-plated' European legislation (adding requirements not in the original Directive when drafting the regulations needed to implement it) by issuing guidelines: [Transposition guide: how to implement European directives effectively](#).

The Nordic countries have a well-deserved reputation for openness in the relationship between governing institutions and citizens. This is shown by the attitude of the Danish Parliament, or Folketing, which has an excellent [EU Information Centre](#) providing information online, mostly in Danish but with some English translations. The Folketing has now introduced a radically different system for monitoring new legislative proposals whereby documentation is examined by the appropriate committee rather than by a general European Affairs Committee (see [Report on reforming the Folketing's treatment of EU issues](#)).

Documentation is also available in other Member States in different languages. Noteworthy are the French Senate's studies of comparative legislation ([Etudes de législation comparée](#)) available in French only since 1995.

Public consultations

Since the introduction of Green and White papers in the late 1980s the Commission has aimed to seek responses from interested parties as part of the legislative process. In the UK, government departments such as the Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform have regularly distributed draft legislation in areas like company law to a wide audience.

The avowed aim of the European Union to increase 'openness and transparency' in the work of the European institutions has now led to the development of online consultations which are becoming a routine part of any new legislative proposal. The website [Your voice in Europe](#) acts as a directory of current consultations and an archive for previous results.

Lobbying

Rules were laid out in 2002 to regulate the behaviour of the increasing number of special interest organisations operating in Brussels ([General principles and minimum standards for consultation of interested parties by the Commission](#); COM (2002) 704). On 3 May 2006, the [Green Paper: European Transparency Initiative](#) (COM (2006) 194) was published, followed by proposals for a code of conduct and a voluntary

register to replace the online directory of organisations, CONECCS. These were published on 27 May 2008 as [A Framework for relations with interest representatives](#) (COM (2008) 323). The text of the paper and related documents are available on the Commission's [Transparency](#) website; more details are also available on the Commission's [Civil Society](#) site.

See also: [Lobbying in the European Union: current rules and practices](#), Wilhelm Lehmann, European Parliament, Constitutional affairs series, Luxembourg: European Parliament

Comitology

Although legislation is passed jointly by the Council and the Parliament, the Commission has powers to produce implementing legislation, in the same way as the civil service in the UK drafts Statutory Instruments to implement statutes.

Committees have been set up in each Directorate-General which allow members of national governments to discuss proposals for legislation before publication. These committees are regulated by the 'Comitology Decision' (1999/468/EC) establishing three categories of committee: Advisory, Management and Regulatory; a fourth category, 'Regulatory with scrutiny', was added by a 2006 amendment to allow the European Parliament some opportunity to object to legislation. The lack of transparency in this arrangement has been a constant source of criticism for many years and led in 2001 to the establishment of a web-based [Comitology Register](#). The Register gives lists of all Committees established within each DG and allows for searches in the same way as the other institutional Registers, as well as a form for requesting documents which have not been made public. The Register was greatly improved in April 2008, although access to earlier documents is still through the old version.

Soft law and Alternative Regulatory Models (ARM)

The development of the internal market has led to a high degree of harmonisation in the laws of the Member States and a corresponding increase in criticism of the centralising powers of the European Union. When the Maastricht Treaty introduced the concept of subsidiarity into European legislation a movement towards 'softer' regulation of the market began to take shape. Representatives of all sides of industry demonstrated that regulation from those involved rather than from government or European institutions was more likely to be successful. This has produced 'soft law' in the form of framework agreements on parental leave, teleworking and various other employment issues signed by representatives of European trade unions (ETUC) and employers (UNICE). These will be implemented by their members, rather than through European legislation. A similar approach has been taken in the area of standards where regulation has been left to the main standards organisations CEN, CENELEC and ETSI.

In 2000 a Committee of Wise Men under the chairmanship of Baron Lamfalussy reported on the regulation of the securities market. Following the group's recommendations a [Committee of European Securities Regulators](#) (CESR) was set up in June 2001 to advise the Commission and to improve communication between national regulators.

In the same year a High Level Consultative Group on Better Regulation was established to take forward two Community initiatives: [SLIM](#) (designed to improve regulation in the internal market) and [BEST](#) (Business Environment Simplification Task Force). Its recommendations were published in the [Mandelkern](#) report on better regulation in 2001.

In its [White Paper on European Governance](#) (2001) the European Commission stated that it intended to 'bring greater flexibility into how Community legislation can be implemented in a way that takes account of regional and local conditions.'

The 'open method of co-ordination'

At the meeting of the European Council held in Lisbon in March 2000, the EU established a new procedure for achieving common policy results: 'a new open method of co-ordination', based on benchmarking good practice and establishing scoreboards to measure progress. Originally applied in the fields of employment and social policy, this approach is now being applied to more general areas of EU policy. Broad economic policy guidelines were first established by the Council of the European Union in cooperation with the Member States in 1999 and are decided annually. Scoreboards have also now been instituted in a number of areas, including justice and home affairs (freedom, security and justice), the internal market, state aid and innovation.

Further reading

European Commission: [Communication ... on streamlining the annual economic and employment policy co-ordination cycles](#) (COM (2002) 487)

[Better regulation and the improvement of EU regulatory environment: institutional and legal implications of the use of 'soft law' instruments](#), Denis Batta, European Parliament, Background note PE 378.920 (available via University of Mannheim)

Initial report of the Committee of Wise Men on the Regulation of the European Securities Markets ([Lamfalussy report](#))

[Harmonised Standards](#)

[The "open method" of co-ordination: innovation or talking shop?](#), Kirsty Hughes (CER Bulletin, 15)

[The open method of coordination: a new governance architecture for the European Union?](#), Claudio Radaelli, Stockholm: Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies

[The open method of coordination: a supranational form of governance?](#), Sabrina Regent, Geneva: International Institute for Labour Studies

8. THE EUROPEAN LEGAL SYSTEM

All European law is based on the 'acquis communautaire', a term which refers to the whole body of European law, including primary and secondary legislation, decisions of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) and other documents. European law is not separate from the national law of the Member States, but has become an integral part of it. Although the ECJ in Luxembourg is the final arbiter in the application of European law, it normally only hears cases referred to it by national courts.

An ECJ decision in 1963 established that 'The European Economic Community constitutes a new legal order of international law for the benefit of which the states have limited their sovereign rights, albeit within limited fields' *Case 26/62 Van Gend & Loos (1963) ECR 1*

As European law is now embedded in the legal systems of each Member State it has developed as a hybrid of common law and civil law and has provoked tensions between the different legal traditions. Areas like the codification of law and the 'Europeanisation' of private law systems are a recurrent subject of academic interest. The development of European private law or 'conflict of laws' is covered in the chapter above on [Justice and Home Affairs](#).

Primary EU legislation: Treaties

All European legislation is based on the 1957 Treaty of Rome, generally referred to now as the EC Treaty ('European Community Treaty') or TEC ('Treaty establishing the European Community'). The text incorporates all changes made by subsequent treaties, especially the 1992 Treaty of Maastricht (also referred to as the Treaty on European Union or TEU), and the treaties of Amsterdam (1997) and Nice (2001).

The treaties are essentially the constitution of the European Union. This was made explicit by the revised text prepared by the Convention on the Future of Europe with the title *Treaty establishing a constitution for Europe*, signed in October 2004 but not ratified. After the failure of that Constitutional Treaty the proposals to reform the institutions to cope with the strains of enlargement were re-drafted after a long period of debate. The Treaty of Lisbon (also known as the Reform Treaty) was signed on 13 December 2007. It will amend both the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community, which will be renamed Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

All secondary legislation refers in its preamble to the relevant article of the treaty enabling legislation to be enacted. Because the Treaty of Maastricht introduced a large number of changes all articles were re-numbered with effect from 1999. To avoid confusion in references to the treaties, the Court of Justice established guidelines to legal citation:

References to the treaties before 1 May 1999 should include the short form of the title, e.g. 'Article 85 of the EC Treaty'.

References to the Treaty as it stands after 1999 should read 'Article 234 EC'.

When referring to an article of the Treaty as it stood before 1 May 1999, the revised numbering should be given in brackets, e.g. 'Article 85 of the EC Treaty (now Article 81 EC)'.

The Constitutional Treaty proposed a complete re-organisation of the existing treaty articles, re-drafted in many cases and incorporating a range of major changes, the most comprehensive being the incorporation of the text of the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*, 2000. The text was rejected by public referendum in France and the Netherlands and was replaced by the Treaty of Lisbon, which will again involve a re-organisation of the text and re-numbering of the articles.

Secondary EU legislation

All European legislation is published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* (Legislation series), which is available online ([see below](#)). There are three categories of secondary legislation:

Regulations apply directly in the Member States. Most apply to trade or agriculture but some apply general principles in areas like competition law.

Regulations are now being used increasingly to enforce international conventions, starting with the Convention on Insolvency, and now include many private law measures (see chapter on [Justice and Home Affairs](#)). References to Regulations begin with the institution responsible for the legislation (Council, Parliament, Commission, etc.), followed by a running number and year, e.g. *Council Regulation (EC) No 1435/2003 of 22 July 2003 on the Statute for a European Cooperative Society (SCE) OJ L 207, 18.08.2003 p.0001-0024*

Directives are not directly applicable in national law but are implemented in different ways in each national legal system (in the UK usually by Statutory Instrument). References to Directives reverse the above order of year and running number,

eg. *Directive 2003/88/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 November 2003 concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time* OJ L 299, 18.11.2003, p.9–19

Decisions are addressed to specific organisations (as in merger decisions) or to Member States.
e.g. 93/9/EEC: *Commission Decision of 30 September 1992 declaring the compatibility of a concentration with the common market (Case No IV/M214 - Du Pont/ICI)* OJ L 007, 13.01.1993 p.13

Consolidation and codification

Changes in legislation frequently require amendments to existing Directives and Regulations, which can complicate legal research. Although the publication of the Directory of Community legislation in force has made it considerably easier to locate amending legislation, it is still inconvenient and time-consuming to compare different sections of a piece of legislation and check where the text has changed.

A project to produce consolidated versions of legislation which has been amended several times has been underway for some years at the Office for Official Publications (OOPEC). These consolidated versions are accessible via EUR-Lex (see [Databases](#) chapter), although the texts are accompanied by a disclaimer stating that they are only intended as an aid to legal research, not as a replacement for the original individual texts. The process is now carried out automatically where a new piece of legislation amends an existing act. To make Community law more user-friendly, the Commission decided in 1987 (COM (87) 868) that any legislation which had been amended a maximum of 10 times should be codified to reduce the need to consult amendments, although it was stressed that this was a minimum requirement. This was confirmed at the Edinburgh European Council in December 1992 (see [Implementation of the Birmingham Declaration](#)). A campaign was launched in 2001 to codify European legislation with the aim of improving accessibility and reducing translation costs: see [Codification of the acquis communautaire](#) (COM (2001) 645). Where a new text is based entirely on the consolidated version of an existing legal instrument, recast to improve legibility, it has been proposed that a fast-track procedure should be adopted to speed up the process. An increasing number of recent legislative proposals which include the description '(codified version)' fall into this category.

Better law-making

Improving the quality of European legislation has been the stated aim of the Commission since 1992, when a report was published on [The principle of subsidiarity](#) (SEC (92) 1990). This was followed by annual [Better lawmaking reports](#). The progress in the campaign to make Community law more accessible was reported in [Updating and simplifying the Community acquis](#) (COM (2003) 71 & the follow-up [COM \(2003\) 623](#)). These and other documents are available on the [Better Regulation website](#). Reports up to 1998 are available from the [Archive of European Integration](#); later documents are archived on the Commission's [Governance website](#).

EUR-Lex links to an online version of the [Joint practical guide of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission for persons involved in the drafting of legislation within the Community institutions](#).

Proposed changes to legislative instruments

The Constitutional Treaty (Article I-33) laid out six new legal instruments to be used by the European Union: European laws, European framework laws, European Regulations, European Decisions, Recommendations and Opinions. The intention was to bring legislation made under the second and third pillars into the same framework as Community legislation. It also distinguished between legislative and non-legislative acts. These proposals were dropped in the Treaty of Lisbon.

Application of Community law

The Secretariat General of the Commission published Annual reports on monitoring the application of Community law, originally as COM documents and later in the *Official Journal* (C series) from 1983 to 2002. These are a useful source of statistics on infringements of Community law by Member States, failure to implement Directives in national law and state aid decisions. The reports still appear as COM documents with extensive statistical annexes published as SEC documents. Reports since 1998 (16th annual report) are available via the [How EU law is applied](#) page, which also contains excellent explanations of EU legal terms and procedures.

Implementation of European law in Member States

While Regulations and Decisions apply directly in Member States, Directives must be implemented in whichever way is appropriate in each national legal system. Although Member States are required to supply details of the implementing legislation to the Commission, it is notoriously difficult to find this information. Some details are available via EUR-Lex in the full bibliographic notice for each Directive (under 'Relationship between documents') but OOPEC is unable to guarantee that these records are either complete or up to date. An alternative has been sought in the experimental database [N-Lex](#), linked to the homepage of EUR-Lex, which makes use of standardised search terms from the Eurovoc thesaurus to access free full text national legal databases, like OPSI in the UK. However, coverage is very restricted: while some areas, like the Internal Market, have provided exemplary tables (see for example the [Financial services legislation transposition](#)

pages) legal research generally has to resort to personal contacts with EU Representations, with Directorates-General in the appropriate area or with national legal databases or publications like the Butterworths EC Legislation Citator and its equivalents.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities

The Court of Justice (usually referred to as the European Court of Justice or ECJ) was set up by the ECSC Treaty to ensure 'that in the interpretation and application of this Treaty the law is observed' (Article 164 of the EC Treaty (now Article 220 EC)). The constitutional role promised under the Constitutional Treaty (Articles III-353-381) has now been shelved, but under the Treaty of Lisbon the Court will have limited control over the areas of Justice, Freedom and Security, including anti-terrorism measures. The Court will also be re-named Court of Justice of the European Union.

The Court is currently made up of 27 Judges and eight Advocates-General. Cases are either direct actions, often by the Commission against a Member State, or referrals from national courts. As each case is added to the Court's register, one of the Advocates-General delivers a reasoned opinion on the points of law involved. The opinion is influential but does not guarantee the final judgment in a case, which is delivered at a later date by a panel of judges. Where several cases involve the same point of law they are often combined in a single hearing ('joined cases'). The working language of the Court is French and some documents are not available in other languages.

By the mid-1980s the workload of the court had increased to the point that a new court was required. **The Court of First Instance (CFI)** was established in 1989 by the Single European Act to deal with actions brought by Community officials, competition cases and actions for damages. Its remit has now been extended to include actions by individuals against the Community institutions and trademark cases. Like the Court of Justice it has 27 Judges but it has no Advocates-General and consequently issues only judgments and orders. Cases may, however, be appealed on points of law to the ECJ. The Treaty of Lisbon will change its name to the General Court.

The Treaty of Lisbon refers to 'judicial panels', or specialised tribunals, which would extend the powers of the Court of Justice. The Council proposed (Decision 2004/752/EC) that a new tribunal should be set up to hear disputes between European institutions and their staff. In December 2005 the **European Union Civil Service Tribunal** took over all pending staff cases from the CFI. The Court's seven judges held their first hearing on 28 March 2006. A [Draft Agreement on the European Union Patent Judiciary](#) (Document 9124/08 issued by the Slovenian EU Presidency) is currently under discussion within the Council. This would establish a European Patent Court, although opposition from Member States concerned to protect their own courts may block the proposal.

Case law

Reports of cases before the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance, usually referred to in English as **European Court Reports (ECR)**, are the official texts of ECJ opinions and judgments. Because the reports are legal documents, they are published in all official languages of the Union. This is a major logistical problem for the Office for Official Publications, especially as all language editions were assured the same pagination (until the addition of new languages in 2004). Since the language of the Court is usually French, references are often given to the French language edition as Rec. ('Recueil'). Only the language in which the case is heard is considered the 'authentic' version, however.

Until 1993 each Report consisted of separate reports for the Hearing, Opinion of the Advocate General, and Judgment of the Court. From 1994 only the Opinion and Judgment have been published to speed up the translation process, although a summary of the report is included in the judgment.

Because of the time taken to produce approved translations, the official reports appear up to two years after the judgment is given. Preliminary texts of Opinions and Judgments (or 'stencils') are available from the ECJ a few days after they are delivered, however, and are also published on the Court's Curia website ([see below](#)).

Since 1994, staff cases from the CFI have been issued separately as **Reports of European Community Staff Cases (ECR-SC)**. These reports appear only in the language of the hearing and are issued in loose-leaf form or online.

Citing ECJ cases

A full citation must always include the following elements:

Case C-91/92 Faccini Dori v Recreb (1994) ECR I-3325

1. The case number (C-91/92) shows when the case was added to the Court's register (1992 in this example), not the date of judgment
2. The names of the parties involved (Faccini Dori v Recreb)

3. The year in which the case was judged (1994)
 4. ECR = European Court Reports (the official series of reports)
 5. Since 1989 Section I refers to the Court of Justice, Section II to the Court of First Instance
 6. Page number at which the report starts. The page reference is the same for all language versions of the reports, excluding post-2004 accession countries.
- Case numbers followed by P are appeals heard in the Court of Justice against judgments from the Court of First Instance.

Cases from the Court of First Instance are cited in the same way, except that the case number has the prefix T (Tribunal de Première Instance) and the report appears in Section II of the reports.

e.g. *Case T-83/91 Tetra Pak v Commission (1994) ECR II-755.*

Cases from before 1989 have no prefix letter.

Cases from the European Union Civil Service Tribunal have the prefix F (Tribunal de la fonction publique), e.g. *Case F-16/05 Falcione v Commission*

Legal data processing

A Working Party on Legal Data Processing attached to COREPER (the Council's Committee of Permanent Representatives) has been involved with developments in online provision of national and EU legal materials for many years. The reports, available online in the Council register, give details of the progress made in public access to legal information online. The EU was at the forefront of legal data processing with the establishment of Celex, originally a subscription database but now freely available as part of EUR-Lex. Descriptions of both these services are given below. The chapter on Databases includes a practical guide to using [EUR-Lex](#). Because most European countries have now established free services providing legislation, *Official Journals*, and some case law in electronic versions, several new projects are underway which are designed to offer common search interfaces. These include N-Lex, which allows users of EUR-Lex to search existing national legal databases via standard search vocabulary using the Eurovoc thesaurus, and EULEX, which aims to create links to the texts of national measures implementing Directives. The major new project is the development of e-justice, which would allow the networking of services like insolvency and land registers, as well as lists of missing children. The Working Party's documents are only occasionally made available through the Council register.

Curia

The Court of Justice launched its own website, [Curia](#), in 1996 and it is now established as an invaluable legal research tool. It gives free access to all language versions of the Proceedings (since late 1996), opinions and judgments of the Court (since June 1997) and recent press releases. The recent case law section is searchable by name, date and case number. The site also incorporates several useful databases: a Digest of Community case-law, summarising judgments by subject matter; an Alphabetical index of subject-matter; Documentation concerning the Brussels and Lugano Conventions and the online version of the Annotations of judgments (some sections are in French only).

EUR-Lex

[EUR-Lex](#) was launched by the European Commission in 1998 although not officially opened until 28 June 2001 (see *All European law on the internet*, Marcelino Oreja, *Frontier-free Europe* January 1998, p.1, ISSN 1021-2353, and *The EUR-Lex portal, a 'one-stop site' for EU law, goes live*, *EUR-OP News*, 2001/2, ISSN 1021-1675). It is a single portal for European legal information for use both by professionals and the general public. Its creation was prompted both by the emphasis placed on openness and transparency in the Maastricht Treaty and by the move to electronic publication of official documents, especially the *Official Journal*.

Developed by the Office for Official Publications (EUR-OP), it provides free access to European legal materials in the 23 official languages of the European Union of 27 Member States. Material in the languages of the countries which have joined most recently is gradually being added to the new version of the database. Documents are available in a variety of formats, depending on their original source; archive texts in TIFF format are only supplied on request.

EUR-Lex Mark 1 contained seven sections in its final version: *Official Journal*, Treaties, Legislation in preparation, Case law, Parliamentary questions, and Documents of public interest. Extensive coverage was achieved by links to existing databases, particularly Celex and the Court of Justice's Curia website. This version is still available, although the content has not been updated since December 2004.

Other useful links were available as extra features in a section titled 'About EU law: Process and players' explaining how the different European institutions work together to produce legislation; 'ABC', an online version of The ABC of Community law, a detailed introduction to European law by Dr Klaus-Dieter Borchardt;

and a 'Glossary' explaining many of the terms used in European documents. Only 'Process and players' was transferred to the new version.

In late 2004 the Celex and EUR-Lex databases were combined in a new public access database which retained the name EUR-Lex. While the contents follow the layout of its predecessor (a single access point to the contents of the *Official Journal* and separate collections of Treaties, International agreements, Legislation in force, Preparatory acts, Case law and Parliamentary questions) it has adapted the simple and advanced search functions developed for the web version of Celex, which allow for cross-file searching. (The chapter on Databases includes a section on [EUR-Lex](#)).

9. OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

All official publications of the European institutions and agencies are published by the [Publications Office](#), which is abbreviated variously as EUR-OP, OOPEC and OPOCE.

'Although the Office was not formally set up as an independent body until 1969, its origins go back to the Publications Service of the European Coal and Steel Community, which published the *Official Journal of the European Coal and Steel Community* from 1952 onwards. The archives managed by the Office thus contain 50 years' worth of publishing output' (quote from EUR-OP website). Since 1 May 2004 the Office produces documentation in 23 official languages.

The Office is legally obliged to publish versions of the *Official Journal*, the *General Report* and other documents relating to the legislative process in all the official languages. In practice, English, French and German texts are generally produced ahead of the other languages. The Office also acts as the official publisher for general publications of the European institutions and agencies, including material in other formats, such as CD-ROM, online and video. For the distribution of all publications EUR-OP works in cooperation with national publishers of official publications, e.g. The Stationery Office in the UK. More specialised titles, especially scientific reports, are increasingly produced in cooperation with commercial publishers, while large numbers of reports and other documents (so-called 'grey literature') are produced within the institutions and not widely distributed. For these categories of publication check [Docurama](#), the Commission Library's directory of institutional publications pages. EUR-OP has now set up the [EU Bookshop](#), making it possible to identify material which has been produced in printed or electronic format and to order it directly online, regardless of the producing institution. The Bookshop is intended to act as a permanent archive for electronic versions of publications produced by EUR-OP since 2004.

Bibliographic control

All publications from EUR-OP, whether monographs or serial parts, include a catalogue number, which is generally used for references in official EU bibliographies and catalogues, rather than the ISBN preferred by most libraries, although many monographs have both.

The abandonment of paper versions of the COM series has led EUR-OP to standardise its treatment of annual reports, many of which formerly appeared both in the COM series and as commercial publications. Most are now allocated International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSNs) and published in a more permanent format on paper as well as online.

Printed catalogues from the Publications Office include the following:

[Key publications of the European Union](#) (ISSN 1608-8522), published annually since 1999 in all the official languages with the exception of Greek, contains a selection of the most recent and important EU titles. The *General Catalogue of Publications* (ISSN 0256-7121) was an annual cumulative catalogue of publications issued in all 11 official languages from 1985-2001. It was indexed by title and subject and included free publications and periodicals as well as monographs; it also indicated where alternative language versions had been published. The *European Union Database Directory* was published annually in German, English and French, offering information on databases managed by the EU institutions and agencies.

A newsletter, *EUR-OP news: information from the Publications Office* (ISSN 1021-1675), was published from 1992-2001 and continued by the twice-yearly print and online [Newsletter](#) (ISSN 1725-4612).

Official publications

The Official Journal

The most important publication is the *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJ), which records the activities of the three main institutions (Council, Commission and Parliament), together with those of the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors and the European Ombudsman. Until 2004 it appeared in the 11 official languages of the European Community, colour-coded by language. When publication was extended to include the official languages of the new Member States in 2004 colour-coding was abandoned. The journal has been published in the original four official languages (Dutch, French, German and Italian) since 1958. When the UK and Ireland were preparing to join the then European Economic Community (EEC) in 1972, a *Special edition* was issued, with a supplement in 1974, containing official English translations of all legislation in force at that date. Similar collections have been produced in the appropriate languages for each subsequent enlargement of the Community. Collections of European legislation in the nine new official languages are being produced after the enlargement of the EU in 2004. Texts are now published simultaneously in electronic form on EUR-Lex (see [Databases](#) chapter). Since the Treaty of Nice came into force on 1 February 2003, the title changed from *Official Journal of the European Communities* to the *Official Journal of the European Union* (see note in *Official Journal* C20, 28.01.03).

The *Official Journal* appears in two series:

L (Legislation) series

This series contains the texts of all secondary legislation. The first section of each issue consists of 'acts whose publication is obligatory. These are Regulations, which apply directly in the Member States. References to these begin with the Community concerned (EEC, ECSC or Euratom), followed by a running number and year, e.g. (EEC) 1951/93. Since the Maastricht Treaty all refer to a single community, EC.

Titles printed in light type relate to 'day-to-day management of agricultural matters and are generally valid for a limited period.' While the bulk of Regulations apply to specific sectors an increasing number are of wider application, e.g.

Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Official Journal L8, 12/01/2001 p.1- 22

Regulations are also increasingly being used to implement international conventions, like the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction. The final article of the text always gives the date of entry into force of a regulation.

The second section contains 'acts whose publication is not obligatory: Decisions and Directives. Decisions (and Recommendations) of the Council and the Commission are generally addressed to a specific country, area or trade sector and apply directly to them. Directives do not apply directly, but are implemented through national law. The last articles of the text (excluding annexes) always include the final date by which Member States must introduce the necessary legislation or regulations to do this (sometimes headed 'Transposition'). References to Decisions and Directives reverse the order of reference given above, e.g.

Directive 2003/88/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 November 2003 concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time Official Journal L 299, 18/11/2003 P.9-19

As there are two identical numerical sequences, references must specify Directive or Decision.

Following the Agreement establishing the European Economic Area, decisions of the EEA Joint Committee are also published in this section, and some pieces of (mainly single market) legislation are now followed by the reference 'Text with EEA relevance'.

Since the Maastricht Treaty, new headings have been introduced for *Acts adopted pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on European Union*, which relate to the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP, the so-called second pillar) e.g.

Council Joint Action 2003/92/CFSP of 27 January 2003 on the European Union military operation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia OJ L34, 11/02/2003 p.26

and *Acts adopted pursuant to Title VI of the Treaty on European Union*, which relate to Justice and Home Affairs (JHA, the third pillar) e.g.

Council Framework Decision 2003/80/JHA of 27 January 2003 on the protection of the environment through criminal law OJ L29, 5/02/2003 p.55

C (Information and notices) series (C from the French title *Communications et Notices*)

Each issue is divided into three sections:

'Information' about current activities of the institutions; this may include questions and answers in the European Parliament and the minutes of its monthly sessions and brief details of actions before the Court of Justice, as well as exchange rates for the euro.

This section also includes reports of the European Ombudsman and the Court of Auditors as well as the *Annual report to the European Parliament on Commission monitoring of the application of Community law*. Since the Maastricht Treaty, the texts of amending treaties have also been published in the C series; the earlier treaties were originally only published as separate documents. Rules of procedure of the main European institutions are also officially published here, as well as minutes of the meetings of the Joint ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly.

'Preparatory Acts' formerly contained draft legislation as well as opinions of the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. These documents also appear as individual publications: draft legislation as COM documents (where they include an explanatory memorandum not reprinted in the OJ), and opinions as CES and CdR documents respectively. Draft legislation moved to the electronic version of the OJ

(see 'OJ C E' below) in 1999; in 2001 it was decided to stop publishing draft legislation in this format since COM documents were already available online.

'Notices' carries announcements about the European institutions or agencies, including vacancies and details of calls for proposals regarding new action programmes.

A separately numbered 'A' sequence (e.g. C155A) carries details and application forms for staff recruitment competitions. Although the forms are available in electronic format, only the paper version is currently accepted by the recruitment office. A separate subscription is available for the **CA series**.

This arrangement for the C series has now been extended to include five sections:

- I: Resolutions, recommendations and opinions
- II: Information
- III: Preparatory acts
- IV: Notices
- V: Announcements

OJ C E (Electronic series)

In 1999 it was decided to reduce the size of the printed version by transferring the bulk of the documentation in the C series to an electronic version. These are available online, via EUR-Lex (see [Databases](#) chapter), and in the CD-ROM collections issued monthly and annually. Draft legislation moved to the digital versions of the OJ in 1999; publication ceased in 2003 when COM documents also became online publications only. From 2002 onwards both the minutes of the sessions of the European Parliament and the written questions and answers have also been transferred to this format, as have the Council's Common positions on legislation.

An *Index to the Official Journal* is issued in two parts: *Alphabetical and Methodological*. The index appears in monthly issues, cumulated into annual volumes. The Alphabetical index uses the Eurovoc thesaurus to index the Legislation series; only the European Court Opinions and Judgments from the Information series are indexed. Although it has been improved in response to a survey of readers sent out in 1998, the index is of very limited use, especially since the delay in publication is so considerable (it is currently over a year late). The Methodological table gives complete chronological listings of all Regulations, Directives and Decisions for a particular year, together with lists of cases added to the Court of Justice's register and judgments made in that year, as published in the Information series.

To make access to the official printed text of Community legislation easier a *Directory of Community legislation in force and other acts of the Community institutions* (ISSN 1608-4551) began publication in 1980 as an annual (under the title *Register of current Community legal instruments*), then moved to publication twice a year (in June and December) in two parts. The *Analytical register* is a classified list of all legislation in force; the *Chronological / Alphabetical index* gives page references to all legislation arranged in Celex number order and indexes the classified structure of the first volume. The [Directory of Community legislation in force](#) is now available online as part of EUR-Lex, where it includes hyperlinks to full texts of legislation. The printed version ceased publication in 2004.

The *Supplement to the Official Journal* (S series) was published on paper until 1997. It originally contained details of all public supply and works contracts for tender in the European Community as required by the public procurement rules. It was expanded subsequently to include countries in the European Economic Area and contracts required by General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) provisions in the United States and Japan. To cope with the vast increase in size the Supplement is now available only in electronic form, either in CD-ROM format or as the free access database [TED - Tenders Electronic Daily](#) database.

The OJ is available in European Documentation Centres (EDCs) and many large public libraries. Complete issues back to 1998 are available free on the web via EUR-Lex.

The General Report and the Bulletin

General reports have been issued in English by the different Communities since their foundation, even though neither the UK nor Ireland was a member at that time.

General report on the activities of the Community / European Atomic Energy Community, European Economic Community, 1958-1967

A joint report has been issued under varying titles since 1968: *General report on the activities of the Communities (1968-1973)*

General report on the activities of the European Communities (1974-1999)

General report on the activities of the European Union (2000- ; ISSN 1608 7321)

The [General Report](#) currently appears in 22 official languages and has been available online since 1997.

The 2004 *Report* was published in two parts: a summary, available in all official languages, and a more detailed technical annex, only available in English, French and German; however, the experiment was not continued and subsequent *Reports* have consisted of a single text.

The *Bulletin of the European Communities* (ISSN 1025-4005) started publication in 1968 in the four official languages, together with English and Spanish. The title changed to [Bulletin of the European Union](#) in 1994. The Bulletin is a monthly summary of the activities of the European institutions and is an essential guide to all official publications. Each issue is arranged thematically and these are the basis for the *General Report*, which is issued annually. Supplements to both titles were published until 2000. Major policy statements appear in the *Bulletin* and the conclusions of the European Councils are published in the June and December issues of the appropriate year. Paper copies ceased in 2005; the text of the *Bulletin* since 1996 is available online.

Since 2005 the online version has only been available in English, French and German, but is updated several times a month, and provisional texts are also made available prior to the final version being published.

Working documents of the Commission (COM docs)

The Commission issues working documents ('COM docs') in three main categories:

Draft legislation (this also appeared in the C series of the *Official Journal* until 1999, but without the explanatory memorandum, which is crucial for research). These documents are equivalent to Bills in the UK Parliament;

Policy documents, including:

Communications (documents with no legal effect transmitted by the Commission to other European institutions introducing new programmes and policies)

Green papers (documents published by the Commission aiming to launch consultation at Community level on a particular issue)

White papers (proposals for a Community action in a specific field)

Commission working documents (documents aiming to stimulate discussion in a specific field of public interest);

Reports on the implementation of policy (documents published by the Commission relating to the implementation of Community measures and policies, similar to Command Papers in the UK).

Many are reprinted as separate documents by the Office for Official Publications (such as annual reports on employment policy) or appeared as Supplements to the *Bulletin*; since 2001 they are all available online from *EUR-Lex* under the heading [Preparatory acts](#) ('Documents of public interest' in the old version).

Because of the switch to electronic publication, EUR-OP has now begun to rationalise the production of many official documents. Most annual reports appear as straightforward serial publications, with ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) identification as well as individual catalogue numbers.

Although COM documents are essential research material, no comprehensive official listing is available for the early years. *Index to the Com Docs* was produced by the Centre for European Agricultural Studies at Wye College in Kent from 1976 to 1980 and *Index to documents of the Commission of the European Communities* was produced from 1981-1986 by Eurofi under the editorship of Giancarlo Pau of the Commission's London Office.

An annual catalogue of COM documents published in English was issued from 1983-1984 by EUR-OP with parallel versions for the other official languages. In 1987 a more comprehensive catalogue with the title *Documents* was inaugurated (ISSN 0256-0976). Published as a monthly series cumulated in annual volumes, this indexed the COM series, the reports of the European Parliament (EP A2-), the Opinions and Reports of the Economic and Social Committee (CES) and later of the Committee of the Regions (CdR) in a classified sequence with an alphabetical index. This catalogue ceased publication in 2000.

COM documents since 1999 are available in full text on EUR-Lex (see [Databases](#) chapter), together with the version published in the *Official Journal*, C series, from 1998 to 2002. Bibliographic details of all documents published in the *Official Journal* since 1958 are available (in French only for the early years). To search, choose [Simple search](#) and select the file category 'Preparatory acts'. COM documents normally appear on EUR-Lex within two or three days of their adoption by the Commission.

As from 2003 COM documents are no longer published in the OJ and are only available electronically via EUR-Lex. A compilation of *Legislative proposals and other COM documents* for 2003 was issued on CD-ROM in 2005 (ISBN 9278402907), the first of a promised multilingual archive of texts which has failed to materialise. New guidelines have been issued which aim to reduce the length of COM documents, both to improve readability and to minimise translating costs (see [Press Release IP/04/679](#)). As a result much of the

statistical and other background information is now published separately as Commission staff working documents, or SEC documents, which are normally only available in English, French and German.

Staff working documents (SEC docs)

SEC documents (Secretariat-General) are internal working documents of the Commission and have not until recently been generally available to the public, except when re-issued in a different form, either in the COM series or as separate publications. Since the establishment of institutional registers under the post-Maastricht access to documents regulations, more SEC documents have become available in full text, particularly on the Council register, although it is fairly laborious to search for them. A searchable list of available documents up to 2004 has been compiled by the EDC Mannheim for its [Virtual Fulltext Library](#). In 2008, however, the Commission started adding SEC docs to EUR-Lex in the same way as COM documents are added. The [Preparatory acts](#) section now includes both current SEC docs and an archive back to 1999.

All proposals for major legislation are now required to be presented with impact assessments, which are issued as SEC documents. These often appear on the websites of the DG responsible for the legislation proposed and can also now be traced via EUR-Lex, as above.

'C' documents are often preliminary versions of COM documents, which have not been subsequently issued in final versions.

Each Directorate-General also issues documents, which vary from short pamphlets and periodicals to detailed research reports. Many are only circulated internally or on request and are generally identified by the acronym for the DG (e.g. ECFIN) or, for documents issued before the reorganisation of the Commission in 1999, by DG number I-XXIII (see [Appendix 3](#)). For further details of 'grey' literature and of non-official publications see the section on [Commission DGs](#).

EUR documents

EUR documents are reports of scientific research funded by the EC; not all are published by EUR-OP, however, and they may only be available from copyright deposit libraries. Many of them are publications of the institutes of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and can often be traced by title, rather than EUR reference, through [ECLAS](#) or [COPAC](#) (a union catalogue of the UK's leading academic libraries).

Access to documents and document Registers

A Regulation was passed in 2001 guaranteeing public access to all institutional documents which were not restricted due to commercial or security reasons. It was also finally accepted that a record of all documents presented at official meetings of the institutions should be openly available, even where this only consisted of an agenda. Online registers have been set up for the three main institutions and can be accessed via the Commission's [Document registers](#) page. The page includes an online version of [Access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents: a user's guide](#), which explains how to apply for access to documents not available on the Registers.

Although the European Parliament has published most of its documentation online since the launch of its Europarl server, the Commission and the Council have been less open. While the [Commission Register](#) receives the most requests from the public, this is largely because of delays in making the full text of documents available on the Europa server, even when they have been discussed publicly in the press. Ironically the [Council Register](#) is often the most useful in tracing documents, particularly draft legislation and Commission working papers in the COM and SEC series which have been passed to the Council as part of the legislative process. All three Registers offer a 'simple search' (keyword search) and a more sophisticated 'advanced search' option, which requires a detailed knowledge of institutional procedures. Only the Council register has a list of 'Latest public documents' available in full text, which is a useful updating tool. Symbols indicate availability: PDF for full text (although this is often only a single page agenda, or cover note); P/A for partial availability. Because all documents received by the Council are allocated a separate internal document reference it is only possible to identify COM or SEC documents by putting the original reference in the 'Text' box on the 'Simple search' screen.

A major programme has been undertaken by the University of Pittsburgh to provide online access to early official European documents. These have been mainly scanned in either from the original paper COM or SEC documents or from the *Bulletin of the European Communities* with the help of the European Commission's office in Washington, D.C. and can be downloaded in PDF format from the [Archive of European Integration](#). EUR-OP is also reported to be planning a retrospective digitisation programme.

Translation and Interpretation

Because of the multilingual character of the European institutions translation has always been a major concern and has become an even greater burden since the Union expanded to 27 members with 23 official languages in January 2007 (Irish became the 21st official language in 2007 but only a small number of

documents have been translated). More information about the work of the translators and interpreters is available from the web pages of the [Directorate-General for Translation](#) (DGT; previously Translation Service of the European Commission, SdT, upgraded to the status of a DG in 2003) and the [Directorate-General for Interpretation](#) (DG Interpretation; formerly known as the Joint Interpreting and Conference Service, or Service Commun Interprétation-Conférences, from which the acronym SCIC was taken).

The Translation Service has pioneered the use of data processing to speed up the process of translation and to reduce the duplication of effort where standard phrases are constantly used (see [Databases](#) chapter). A full description of the technology used is given in the booklet [Translation tools and workflow](#).

A separate service was established in 1994 to translate documents from the other institutions, the [Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union](#).

The Translation Service has produced various journals and newsletters at different times. The multilingual *Terminologie et traduction = Terminology and translation*: a journal of the language services of the European institutions (1985-2002; ISSN 0256-7873) was an extremely useful forum for the technical and linguistic problems faced by the translation services. Articles appeared in all official languages with abstracts in English or French. The editorial to the final issue included a brief history of the Translation Service. The following single language newsletters are available online on the Translation Service website:

Libraries and Archives

Central Library of the European Commission

The [Central Library of the European Commission](#) published annual lists of *Recent Publications on the European Union Received by the Library* until 1997, and *SCAD Bulletin* (Service Central Archives Documentation), a detailed bibliography of official EU documents and articles relating to EU issues which was discontinued in print form in 1999. The SCAD archive was integrated into the Central Library's online catalogue [ECLAS](#) and replaced the database previously available to subscribers via Eurobases. SCADPlus, a valuable collection of factsheets on EU activities, is now maintained separately by DG Press as part of Europa, under the title [Summaries of legislation](#). The Central Library also issued various series under the general title *Biblio*, reprinting extracts of articles on EU policy from journals in all Community languages. Publication on paper ceased in 2001, although the service is still available online on the Commission's intranet. External access is not available because of copyright problems. The Central Library has issued an annual *Activity report* (ISSN 1681-0678) since 1997.

European Community and Associated Institutions Library Co-operation Group (EUROLIB)

All the institutional libraries co-operate in an organisation called [Eurolib](#) which formalises an informal agreement in operation since 1988. It was established on the initiative of the Secretary-General of the European Parliament and met for the first time in June 1988. It met regularly until its 13th General Assembly in Dublin in April 1997 as a loose grouping focussed on broad objectives addressing the promotion of comprehensive bibliographic control and library and document delivery services in the field of European integration. The website gives access to the online catalogues of each library.

RéseauBib is the network of libraries of the European Commission's Directorates General and departments. It maintains an online directory, [Docurama](#), accessible from the Central Library's homepage.

Historical Archives of the European Communities

The [Historical Archives of the European Union](#) are held by the European University Institute in Florence. The collection was established in 1986 in the Villa il Poggiolo on the outskirts of Florence. The core of the collection is made up of documents transferred by all the main European institutions, except the Court of Justice, under a 30-year rule similar to that operating in national archives. Although the original documents may be consulted under certain conditions, microfilm copies are also available for study, both at the EUI and at the offices of the originating institutions in Brussels and Luxembourg. The collection has been supplemented over the years by the acquisition of the papers of individuals and societies active in the promotion of European integration. The holdings of the collection are fully searchable through the [Eurhistar](#) database (see [Databases](#) chapter).

The [Historical Archives](#) service of the European Commission in Brussels stores archives of files from the administrative services of the Commission held under the 30-year rule. Inventories of their holdings published so far are:

Inventory of the historical archives. Vol. 1: Records of the High Authority of the ECSC 1952. Speeches 1952-67, French and English versions; Vol. 2: Records of the High Authority of the ECSC 1953, (French version). Luxembourg: Office for official publications of the European Communities, 1985-7

Inventaire structuré de la Haute Autorité de la CECA (1952 – 1967). 4 vols. Luxembourg: Office for official publications of the European Communities, 1997-2002

These are also searchable online via the database Archisplus. The website includes information about INSAR and DLM-Forum, both of which are important initiatives for those responsible for national and international archives.

INSAR: information summary on archives: European Archives news 1996- is published in English, French and German language versions. The proceedings of the annual DLM-Forum (Données lisibles par machine) are published as supplements to INSAR.

General services

Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)

The Statistical Office (Eurostat) was established in 1953. Now a Directorate-General of the Commission, [Eurostat](#) collects and publishes statistics from Member States, other states and international agencies for the information of EU institutions and to monitor the effects of policies. All Eurostat publications appear in nine thematic collections, which were originally colour-coded for ease of use:

- Theme 1: General statistics (lilac)
- Theme 2: Economy and finance (purple)
- Theme 3: Population and social conditions (yellow)
- Theme 4: Industry, trade & services (blue)
- Theme 5: Agriculture and fisheries (green)
- Theme 6: External trade (red)
- Theme 7: Transport (brown)
- Theme 8: Environment and energy (emerald)
- Theme 9: Science & technology (brown)

Publications within these themes range from detailed tables to current data on specialised topics. The series *Statistics in focus* (originally entitled *Rapid reports*) and *Data in focus* are now only published online. General series of statistics, including yearbooks on subjects like tourism, were published under the overall title *Panorama of the European Union* until 2006. A more recent introduction has been the small format *Pocketbooks* on a wide variety of subjects.

Eurostat publications have been available in electronic versions for several years as part of a subscription service; in 2003 it was decided to make all PDF files of its publications free to download. The website is updated daily and provides the most complete access to statistical information from all the Member States and many other countries (see [Databases](#) chapter).

Further reading

[Memoirs of Eurostat: fifty years serving Europe](#), Alberto De Michelis and Alain Chantraine, Luxembourg: OPEC, 2003 is an excellent detailed history of Eurostat published in several language versions.

Press and Communication

DG Press and Communication (DG PRESS) (formerly DG X Audiovisual, Information, Communication and Culture and the Press Office)

The services of the Press Office (originally the Spokesman's Service) were integrated with the former DG X in 1999.

Press releases

Press releases are often the only timely source of official information on new legislative proposals, funding programmes etc. Press releases and briefings were issued by the Spokesman's Service from 1958 until the reorganisation of the Commission in 1999. The [RAPID](#) database (see [Databases](#) chapter) was launched in 1985, originally as one of the services run by Eurobases, to provide wider access to official press releases. It is now freely available to all, via the website of DG PRESS and contains all the press releases of the Commission since 1985, most of them in at least two languages, generally French or English. It also includes press releases from most European institutions, except the European Parliament.

Codes for the major categories of document on RAPID are:

IP (Information presse) - short summaries of events, proposals for new legislation, and decisions (such as merger decisions).

SPEECH - speeches by Commissioners are released before delivery, so the text may sometimes differ from that reported in the press.

MEMO - background information on events, foreign relations, policy and legislation; often longer summaries of new proposals, meetings, etc; sometimes presented in the form of a 'FAQ' or 'Q&A'
DOC (Presidency documents - include the conclusions issued by the Presidency after each meeting of the European Council
PRES (Council press releases) - summaries of the decisions and discussions of Council meetings.

General information

The old DG X (Audiovisual, Information, Communication and Culture) published a wide range of introductory booklets for students in various series, especially:

European file (issued from 1979-1992) and the more detailed *European documentation* (from 1975 to 1995); many of these are still available via the [Archive of European Integration](#). When the Press Office and DG X were amalgamated as the new DG Press and Communication both titles were subsumed into the existing series *Europe on the move*. These general introductory pamphlets are very useful to students and the general public and are available free from the information networks. They are published in all official languages. Most recent titles are also available online via the [Easy Reading Corner](#) on Europa.

Public opinion

DG PRESS and its predecessor have produced *Eurobarometer* (ISSN 1012-2249) since 1974. The standard surveys appear roughly every six months and consist of a uniform set of questions put to a comparable sample of interviewees in each Member State. Special surveys on different topics have also been carried out since 1971 and a companion series, *Central and Eastern Eurobarometer*, was published from 1990 to 1998. This was replaced by the series *Candidate countries Eurobarometer* (ISSN 1683-5042), which issues general and special reports. Because of its importance as a research tool, the entire archive is now available online at the Commission's [Public Opinion](#) website.

Representations

DG Press and Communications is responsible for the administration of all the public information relays or networks, including the [Representations](#) in the Member States. These offices have the dual function of representing the Commission in each country and of monitoring public and government opinion on the European Union for the Commission.

Each national office has a dedicated website providing different levels of information. All contain factsheets on European subjects while some also publish regular periodicals.

The [Representation in the United Kingdom](#) published a useful series of *Background reports* on EU topics from 1976 to 1996; they were continued online only as *Background briefings*, but are no longer available. The [Representation in Austria](#) published a monthly newsletter *EU direkt: das Magazin für österreichische Europäer* and a more substantial quarterly journal *Die Union: Vierteljahreszeitschrift für Integrationsfragen*.

It is also worth remembering that most of the European Commission's offices throughout the world have websites with valuable information regarding EU activities in specific regions. One of the most active has always been the [United States Delegation](#) in Washington, whose *Europe: magazine of the European Union* (ISSN 0191-4545) started publication as a small newsletter in 1954 and developed into a commercially-produced magazine for general readers in the US. The last issue (no. 422) was published in January 2003. The External relations website has a list of [Delegations and offices](#).

10. EUROPEAN DATABASES, WEBSITES AND PORTALS

Until the arrival of the internet, a variety of official European databases were administered by the European Communities Host Organisation (ECHO). This was set up in 1980 as a non-commercial service to encourage the development of information services in the European Community, and provided access to more than 20 specialist databases, including Celex, RAPID, SCAD, Cordis, Eurodicautom, TED and EPOQUE. Many of these databases were originally produced for the internal use of the Commission and were not widely used elsewhere except by specialists in European information. Since the launch of the Europa server, free web versions of these databases have been developed for a wider public and ECHO has disappeared, although confusingly the acronym has been reused for the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office.

An annual directory of databases was published for several years by EUR-OP.

The last edition, for 1997, described the content of 33 online services, 13 offline services and six internet sites. *European Union database directory: a guide to electronic information services. Luxembourg: OOEPEC, 1996. ISBN 9282783057*

The situation has now changed radically, as the most important of these databases have moved to the internet and been absorbed into Europa.

Europa has a comprehensive list of Commission [databases in alphabetical order](#).

What follows is an annotated list of databases, arranged by subject. The list includes some commercial databases holding a substantial amount of official material and is followed by fuller descriptions of the most important resources.

Databases - Listing by subject

Agriculture

[FADN](#) (Farm Accountancy Data network)

Database covering detailed statistics of farm holdings from 1989 to 2006. The French acronym is RICA, the German is INLB. (English, French and German)

Bibliographical and archives

ADAM (Système Administratif et Documentaire des Achats et Marchés)

This database contains details and summaries of market studies carried out on behalf of the Commission by outside consultants. The site has not been updated since the end of 2001 and is no longer publicly available. (French only)

[Archisplus](#) (Historical Archives of the European Commission)

Contains references to official documents in the archives of the European Coal and Steel Community (CECA), European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and European Economic Community (EEC) as well as the current European Community. (English, French and German)

[AEI](#) (Archive of European Integration)

The AEI is based at the University of Pittsburgh and was started initially to complement the collection of research papers on European integration maintained by Michael Nentwich (see 'ERPA' below). Its remit has been widened to provide electronic versions of early official EU documents, mainly PDF versions provided through the US Delegation of the European Commission in Washington, D.C.

[ECLAS](#)

The online catalogue of the European Commission Library. Its bibliographic database contains over 500,000 records for books, journals and articles on European affairs, and incorporates the contents of the old SCAD bibliographic database. Electronic publications (currently about 12,000 entries) are also now included in the catalogue with hyperlinks to the full text. About 25 DGs manage and catalogue their departmental collections in ECLAS. (Searchable in French and English)

[EU Bookshop](#)

The EU Bookshop provides an online catalogue and archive of all EUR-OP publications since 2004. Publications may either be ordered online (some titles are priced, although many are free), or downloaded free of charge. The catalogue can be searched by keyword, subject area, corporate author and by language.

[ERPA](#) (European Research Papers Archive)

The archive was started by Michael Nentwich at the University of Vienna and currently holds the full text of working papers in 12 series produced by research institutes and universities.

[EURHISTAR](#) (Historical Archives of the European Union)

The database contains descriptions of the documents and collections held by the Archives at the European University Institute in Florence. It is searchable in English and French.

[RSCAS](#) (Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies)

The RSCAS at the European University Institute produces working papers and policy papers on all aspects of EU law and policy which have been archived online for over 10 years.

SCAD (Service Central Automatisé de Documentation) was a bibliographical database accessible via ECHO. The database indexed European legislation, official publications and articles from periodicals dealing with European affairs in all Community languages, together with opinions from both sides of industry (employers and trade unions). The entries for journal articles from 1983 to 2001 have now been transferred to the Commission Library's database, ECLAS ([see above](#)) with some content made available as 'SCADPlus', since renamed [Summaries of legislation](#).

Committees

[Register of Expert Groups](#)

'An expert group is set up by the Commission to assist it in proposing EU legislation'. The Commission's register of advisory bodies is searchable by subect area, by DG and alphabetically.

[Register of Comitology](#)

'A comitology committee is set up by the legislator (Council alone or Council and European Parliament) to assist the Commission in the implementation of EU legislation.' This site is a register and repository of documents relating to the work of the committees (agendas and records of committee meetings, draft implementing measures, voting records) and is available in 24 languages. The site was re-designed in 2008 and only includes documents deposited after 1 April 2008.

Competition

[Antitrust cases](#) is based on all public data issued since 1999 concerning antitrust cases handled by the Commission, although some older documents are being added selectively. The database is searchable by company name, case number and date. A database of judgments handed down in national courts since 2004 is also available, searchable by country.

[Merger cases](#) contains Commission decisions since 1990 and is searchable by company name, case number and date. Cases usually have the prefix M for mergers, JV for joint ventures, or ECSC.

[State Aid cases](#) contains all official decisions on state aid since 1993 and is searchable by case number or type, country and other criteria. State aid cases normally have the prefix N or NN. Where the Commission calls for a formal investigation the case is often renumbered C (Contradictoire). The register includes a reference to the original decision under related procedures.

Chronological collections of press releases relating to cases involving [Cartels](#) and [Liberalisation](#) are also available but these are not searchable.

Consumer policy

[EU Consumer Law Acquis Database](#)

This database provides information about the eight main consumer law Directives, including the text of national law implementing them, and includes case-law, bibliography and a comparative study.

Directories

[Commission Directory](#) (pilot website available in English, French and German)

CONECCS - see 'Register of interest representatives' below

[Contact the European Union](#)

Contact e-mail addresses for all European institutions (previously called Mailbox)

[Docurama](#)

Contact details for all institutional libraries

[EUWhoiswho](#)

This replaces the former IDEA (Interinstitutional Directory of the European Union) database and is searchable by name, office or institution, and hierarchy.

[Register of interest representatives](#)

A voluntary list replacing CONECCS (Consultation, the European Commission and Civil Society), a directory of lobbying organisations in Brussels, which closed in March 2007.

Economics

The DG ECFIN website has an [Economic databases and indicators](#) page giving access to a range of sources:

[AMECO](#) (Annual Macro-economic database)

A sophisticated database used by DG Economic and Financial Affairs for its reports and analyses. (English only)

[BACH](#) (Bank for the Accounts of Companies Harmonised)

Registration required.

[Business and consumer surveys](#)

Data and related documents from the regular surveys are available as downloads.

[CCEQ](#) (Candidate and Pre-Accession Countries' Economies Quarterly)

Published quarterly since 2005.

[euro-indicators](#)

Part of the Eurostat website, this database is designed to give specialised access to short-term economic information in areas like balance of payments, consumer prices, etc.

Summaries are also available on DG ECFIN's site as [Key indicators for the euro area](#).

[Euro-area GDP growth projection](#)

Ceased November 2007.

[European business](#)

Part of the Eurostat website, designed to give specialised access to short-term economic information in areas like balance of payments, consumer prices etc. [Short-term business statistics](#) is a separate dedicated section with similar layout

[General Government Data](#)

By government and by series, available since 2002 as six-monthly tables.

[LABREF](#) (Labour market reforms database)

Launched in December 2005, LABREF 'systematically records, on an annual basis, information on reforms that are likely to have an impact on labour market performance.'

[MCI](#) (Monetary Conditions Index)

'an index number calculated from a linear combination of the short-run interest rate and the exchange rate. As a rule, the weights reflect the relative effects of the respective MCI component on aggregate demand (or in some cases on inflation).'

[MFIs and eligible assets](#)

Part of the European Central Bank website, the MFIs ('Monetary financial institutions') database holds details of banks and their assets covering all EU Member States.

[MICREF](#) (Database on microeconomic reforms)

Developed by DG ECFIN to track reforms under the Lisbon Agenda.

[Price and Cost Competitiveness](#)

'presents recent changes in the nominal and real effective exchange rates of the euro area, of the 27 individual EU Member States and several non-EU countries'.

[Structural indicators](#)

This database is designed to give specialised access to the research presented to the European Council's strategic planning meetings.

Education and training

[Electronic Training Village](#)

The Electronic Training Village (ETV; hosted by Cedefop) is both an online research community on all aspects of educational and vocational training and a searchable database of news and publications. Free registration is required for access to some information areas.

[Eurybase](#)

The information database on education systems in Europe has detailed information about the education systems of all members of the Eurydice information network and is searchable in English, French and German. Documents are available in all Community languages.

[INCA](#) (International Review of Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks Internet Archive)

INCA provides useful summaries of the education systems of 20 countries, nine from the EU, searchable by country or subject. The database is managed by the Eurydice Unit in the UK and funded by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.

[Label](#)

Label is the project database of the European Label for innovative projects in language teaching and learning (access database from link on right of page).

[PLOTEUS](#) (Portal on Learning Opportunities throughout the European Space)

PLOTEUS is designed to help students, teachers and job seekers find information about grants, education systems and opportunities in other European countries. It operates in coordination with EURES ([see below](#)).

[VET-Bib](#)

Cedefop's website incorporates three databases relating to Vocational and educational training: VET-Bib, a bibliographical database, VET-eLib, a digital library and VET-iR, for internet resources. All are searchable by keyword in English, although documents are available in most European languages.

Employment

[EIROnline](#) (European Industrial Relations Observatory Online)

Documents, information and events relating to industrial relations; the database is browsable by country, sector and date.

[EMIRE](#)

The EMIRE database is the online version of the European Employment and Industrial Relations Glossaries published from 1996 to 1999. It covers the 15 Member States up to 2004 and is not updated.

[EURES](#) (European employment services)

EURES, the European job mobility portal, is designed to help people find jobs or learning opportunities in other EU countries and Switzerland. As well as details of specific jobs it includes national regulations for those seeking employment. The site is available in 25 languages.

[Europass](#)

Europass has been set up by Cedefop to coordinate mobility of students and workers by providing standardised documents for CVs, applications and language passports. It is available in 26 languages.

[European industrial relations dictionary](#)

Online dictionary of some 300 terms relating to employment and industrial relations in EU Member States

[ERM](#) (European Restructuring Monitor)

This database from Eurofound provides information about company restructuring in the EU and its effect on employment.

[LABREF](#) (Labour market reforms database)

This database tracks reforms in employment conditions in all EU Member States. Available via the website of the DG for Economic and Financial Affairs.

[PECS](#) (Pacts for employment and competitiveness)

Database of online case studies and national reports compiled for Eurofound by national correspondents.

[Social dialogue texts database](#)

A database of reports and agreements made between different sectors of industry in areas relating to employment and industrial relations.

Environment

CORINE (Co-ordination of Information on the Environment in Europe)

This project was started by the Commission in 1985 and is continued by the European Environment Agency. Databases on biotopes and land cover are accessible via the EEA [Data service](#) page.

[EPER](#) (European Pollutant Emission Register)

A European-wide register of industrial emissions into air and water hosted by the European Environment Agency, it is searchable by pollutant, activity (sector), air and water (direct or via a sewerage system) or by country. The database received the EIA award for best new electronic information resource in 2005. The register will be extended in 2009 to comply with the requirements of the UN-ECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) under the Aarhus Convention

[ETDS](#) (Environmental Terminology and Discovery Service)

An expanded version of the 'EEA Glossary' database, the service has a search function option and an alphabetical browsing option.

[EUNIS](#) (European Nature Information System)

This EEA database contains data arranged by species, habitat and sites collected under the Habitats Directive and aims to help reporting.

[EIPPCB](#) (European Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Bureau)

Based at the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies in Seville, the Bureau acts as a central point for collating best practice and creating reference documents on pollution caused by a wide range of industrial processes. The database is searchable by industry area, and reference documents (with reference BREF) may be downloaded, sometimes in a choice of languages. These documents are generally large PDF files.

[GISCO](#) (Geographic Information System of the European Commission)

GISCO, the geographic reference database of the EU, contains data sets, maps and reports on a variety of subjects, including administrative regions (NUTS), land use, water resources and industry. The site includes a detailed reference manual, guidelines and a desktop mapping guide.

[INSPIRE](#) (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe)

The EU Portal for Geographic Information is hosted by the Institute for Environment and Sustainability in Ispra (part of the Joint Research Centre). The database provides access to geographic information provided by government and commercial organisations and includes a map client.

[LIFE](#) (L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement / Financial Instrument for the Environment)

The [LIFE project database](#) includes details of all projects financed through LIFE.

[NEDIES](#) (Natural and Environmental Disaster Information Exchange System)

Based at the Joint Research Centre in Italy, the database carries information categorised by type of disaster (e.g. drought, flood). Part of the site is password protected.

[OECD/EEA database on instruments used for environmental policy and natural resources management](#)

A database of economic instruments introduced to implement environmental policy (last updated in 2007) this resource was the joint responsibility of the EU and the OECD. It is searchable by policy area, by country and by type of scheme.

[SERIS](#) (State of the Environment Reporting Information System)

Hosted by the EEA this is an inventory of all national reports published on environmental conditions in Europe. Relevant chapters from the EEA's own reports from the Dobris assessment onwards can be downloaded. The database is searchable by country and by year.

External relations

[International agreements](#)

This section of EUR-Lex is searchable by subject matter or by a classified list. It includes a link to the Council's Agreements Database, and to the Commission's Treaties Office Database.

European Foreign Policy Bulletin (European University Institute)

European Foreign Policy Bulletin 1993- (ISSN 1029-1075), previously entitled *European political cooperation documentation bulletin* (ISSN 0259-2290), contained all foreign policy declarations made by the European

institutions since 1985. An initiative of the European University Institute in Florence, it was published as annual volumes until 1994 and made available as a free database, but has now been withdrawn.

[Treaties Office Database](#)

The database is fully searchable by country, subject and organisation and includes all agreements between the EU and other countries (bilateral agreements) and international conventions (multilateral agreements). An extensive glossary and help guide are available on the site, which does not include the founding treaties of the EU.

Health and safety

[HASTE](#)

European health and safety database; research is conducted by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions and the database is hosted by the Finnish Institute for Occupational Health.

Human rights

[European Ombudsman Decisions Index](#)

A database of decisions since 1998, searchable by case number, institution concerned etc. (English only, plus language of the complainant)

[HUDOC](#)

Case law of the European Convention on Human Rights. Although not concerned directly with EU law, ECHR judgments are of great importance in legal research.

[MIRIS](#) (Minority Rights Information System)

A database of legal texts relating to minority groups in European countries from the University of Bolzen / Bolzano (Italy). (Texts in English and original language)

Industry and energy

[AGORES](#) (A Global Overview of Renewable Energy Sources)

This Greek-based database is searchable by name, topic and sector.

[CosIng](#) (Cosmetics Ingredients and Substances)

This database contains details of all substances included in the Cosmetics Directive and is searchable by free text and by CAS, ELINCS and EINECS numbers.

[ESIS](#) (European chemical Substances Information System)

The responsibility of the Joint Research Centre's Consumer Products Safety & Quality (CPS&Q) Unit, formerly known as the European Chemicals Bureau (ECB), ESIS provides information on:

BPD (Biocidal Products Directive)

C&L (Classification and Labelling)

EDEXIM (European Database Export Import of Dangerous Chemicals)

EINECS (European Inventory of Existing Chemical Substances),

ELINCS (European List of Notified Chemical Substances),

Export and Import of Dangerous Chemicals listed in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 689/2008,

HPVCs (High Production Volume Chemicals) and LPVCs (Low Production Volume Chemicals)

IUCLID Chemical Data Sheets, IUCLID Export Files, OECD-IUCLID Export Files, EUSES Export Files,

NLP (No-Longer Polymers),

PBT (Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic) or vPvB (very Persistent and very Bioaccumulative)

All are accessible via the [Unit's website](#).

[Global Renewable Energy Policies and Measures Database](#)

This database of national information is hosted by the International Energy Agency and contains information from 100 countries, including EU Member States. It is searchable by country (targets and policy measures) and by technology.

Intellectual property

[CTM-ONLINE](#) (Community Trade Mark Consultation Service)

One of a number of databases hosted by [OHIM](#), the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks).

espac@net

Espacenet is the European Patent Office database and gateway, which currently contains over 60 million patent applications from around the world. It can be accessed via each of Europe's national patent offices and includes articles and a discussion forum. Information is available in English, French and German..

Internal Market

[Harmonised standards](#)

This Commission website contains all Directives and details of standards relating to them as published in the *Official Journal*.

[Nando](#) (New Approach Notified and Designated Organisations) Information System

Nando lists all the bodies approved to carry out conformity assessment of industrial products within the EU and throughout the world. It is searchable by country, by Directive and by organisation.

[New Approach Standardisation in the Internal Market](#)

Searchable database of European standards from three main organisations (CEN, CENELEC and ETSI) with information on how to obtain them; it also includes links to relevant European legislation.

[Self- and Co-Regulation Website](#)

The Self- and Co-Regulation Website is managed by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). Originally set up in 1994 as PRISM (Progress Report on Initiatives in the Single Market) the database is a useful source of information on national and EU initiatives to improve regulation.

[Transposition of Financial Services Action Plan Directives](#)

This exemplary database was established by DG Internal Market to track the national measures used to implement financial services Directives in each Member State. Full texts are provided in the original language together with links to relevant national websites.

[TRIS](#) (Technical Regulations Information System)

Commission database of national technical regulations under Directive 98/34. (All official languages)

Justice and Home Affairs

[European Arrest Warrant](#)

This database of commentary and documents on the European Arrest Warrant, introduced in 2004, is compiled by the TMC Asser Instituut at The Hague.

[PRADO](#) (Public Register of Authentic Identity and Travel Documents Online)

Gives examples of authentic documents and detailed descriptions.

Legal

[Brussels and Lugano Conventions on Jurisdiction](#)

Part of Curia (see below); includes a database of recent judgments (1997-2007) together with online versions of the treaties in which relevant case-law is linked to the appropriate article of the treaty.

[Curia](#)

The website of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, Curia includes a database of all ECJ judgments ([see below](#) for details).

[EUR-Lex](#)

The official single portal for European legal information (legislation, case law, treaties, *Official Journal*) is available in all official languages ([see below](#) for details).

[European Judicial Network in Civil and Commercial Matters](#)

This database contains detailed information about civil and commercial procedures in all Member States and is searchable by topic and by country. All the topic pages are available in a range of languages.

[N-Lex](#)

N-Lex has been developed as an access point to national law as a way of tracking how EU Directives are implemented in national law. Full text of national legislation is provided by links to free legal services set up in 23 Member States (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary and Romania are not currently included because of access problems). Although coverage varies from country to country, N-Lex uses search masks which allow a standard approach and which explain where certain material is not available in a particular system. Although

searching is only possible in the language of the database, the Eurovoc thesaurus can be used to find translations of English terms.

[OEIL](#) (Legislative Observatory)

A European Parliament database monitoring the progress of all legislative procedures started since 1994. The database is searchable by keyword (under 'Procedures'), by subject and by procedure number. A précis is given of each stage of the discussions in Parliament with links to online versions of reports. Both 'Simple' and 'Advanced' search forms are available, which allow for very detailed interrogation. Use 'Topical subjects' for a structured subject approach. Links under 'Activities of the institutions' allow searches by broad subject area of both Parliamentary and Council sessions. Although a good grasp of Parliamentary procedure is essential to make the best use of the database 'Help' pages are available to provide details of coverage of particular series of documents while 'FAQ' pages explain the terms used. Register on 'Observatory tracker' to receive updates on new legislative procedures. The site was re-designed in March 2005 and is available in French and English.

[Pre-Lex](#) (Monitoring of the decision-making process between institutions)

This database has a similar function to OEIL in monitoring the progress of legislation from initial proposals as COM documents to the reports and opinions of all institutions involved in the legislative process. As it is maintained by the Secretariat General of the Commission it has a different emphasis in its information. Where available, links are made to electronic versions of texts involved, including press releases and summaries in the *Bulletin of the European Union*. It is searchable by procedure number, words in title etc.

[Rome Convention](#)

This database on the Convention on the Law Applicable to Contractual Obligations (Rome 1980) was the result of a project run by the Academy of European Law until 2002 and is no longer updated. It includes the text of the convention and protocols, reports, bibliography and a searchable database of cases.

Parliament

[IPEX](#) (Interparliamentary EU Information Exchange)

This database allows national parliaments to exchange documents relating to the scrutiny of new EU legislation. The site, available in English and French, includes calendars of inter-parliamentary meetings.

Press releases

[RAPID](#)

The database holds all press releases of the Commission since 1985, together with press releases from other institutions. It is searchable in English or French and holds documents in all Community languages.

Public procurement contracts

[SIMAP](#) (Système d'Information pour les Marchés Publics / Information system for European public procurement)

SIMAP is an information service on public procurement in the single market, with useful links to the text of legislation and international agreements. Since March 2005 tenders may only be submitted electronically using forms available from this site, which also includes information about the Common Procurement Vocabulary and other codes. Information is available in all official languages.

[TED](#) (Tenders Electronic Daily)

TED is a free service from the European Commission providing a searchable database of calls for tender for public service contracts advertised in the Supplement to the *Official Journal*. Information and search forms are available in all 23 official languages. Tenders can be found by publication reference, contract number, place, NUTS (region) code and CPV (Common Procurement Vocabulary) code.

[Tenders Direct](#)

Tenders Direct is a subscription service which allows free searches by subject area and provides a useful introduction to the tendering process, especially for UK users.

Regional policy

[Inforegio - programme summaries](#)

The database contains summaries of most Community programmes and is searchable by country, region, type of programme and theme. Information is available in English, French and German and in the language(s) of the countries concerned (see also Eurostat's [European regional and urban statistics: reference guide](#)).

[Portrait of the Regions](#)

Based on the series of country surveys published by Eurostat until 2002; text has been selectively updated.

[Regio](#)

Part of Eurostat, the Regio domain holds statistics for all European regions using the NUTS classification system (Nomenclature of Statistical Territorial Units; see Eurostat's classification server [RAMON](#) for details). Regional data is available in 15 thematic groupings or collections (see [Metadata](#) file).

[TOAD](#) (Transfer of Administrative Documents)

The Committee of the Regions database containing working papers, agendas and meeting dates of the CoR.

Research

[CORDIS](#) (Community Research and Development Information Service)

CORDIS is a free site for researchers and businesses on all aspects of Community-funded research, particularly the Framework Programmes. The site includes information on most EU-funded projects and research results. One very useful aspect of the site is its document library, which maintains an online collection of official documents back to 1994. (English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Spanish).

[COST](#) (Coopération européenne dans le domaine de la recherche scientifique et technique / European cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research)

COST is a framework for joint research in Europe founded in 1971. It is administered by the Council of the European Union, although the research actions are funded nationally. The database contains details of all current research and includes links to websites and reports where available. Information is only available in English.

[EBP](#) (European Biometrics Portal)

The portal has been set up by the European Commission as a forum for the exchange of information and data on biometric technology. Access and membership are free. The extensive database of resources is the result of voluntary contributions from interested authors.

[ERGO](#) (European Research Gateways On-Line)

An awareness-raising initiative to promote R&D, the ERGO was discontinued after its pilot phase.

[EUREKA](#)

Established in 1985, EUREKA is a pan-European initiative sponsoring innovative projects in European industries. The website includes a searchable database of projects.

[EURAXESS](#)

Subtitled 'Researchers in motion', this site offers information and practical assistance for researchers under four headings: 'Jobs', 'Services', 'Rights', 'Links'. Jobs are searchable by subject, country, organisation, and by current vacancies.

Social policy

[Daphne Toolkit](#)

A database of over 450 current projects (2004-2008) searchable by country and keyword. Created as part of the [Daphne II](#) programme concerned with the prevention of violence against women, young people and children.

Drugs

The [European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#) (EMCDDA) in Lisbon maintains three specialist databases:

[EDDDA](#) (Exchange on Drug Demand Reduction Action) - a searchable database of information on projects to reduce drug demand across Europe.

[EIB](#) (Evaluation Instrument Bank) - a collection of documents with information for the evaluation of both prevention and treatment programmes.

[ELDD](#) (European Legal Database on Drugs) - database of European drugs-related legislation, searchable by country (EU-25 and Norway) and by subject; texts are provided in the original language with some translations into English.

[ECDB](#) (EQUAL Common Database)

Provides information about all development projects financed by the EU to promote equality under the EQUAL programme. The database can be searched by country, theme or keyword and available in all official languages.

[Eulisses](#) (EU Links & Information on Social Security)

Eulisses provides information on pensions and social security rights for people who move from country to country. It includes FAQ files and links to official sources in all European countries.

[EurLIFE](#)

The European Foundation's interactive database of statistics relating to living conditions and quality of life. It covers 27 EU Member States and two candidate countries - Croatia and Turkey.

[Women and men in decision-making](#)

The database shows the percentage of women and men in decision-making positions in public life in the EU.

Statistics

[Eurostat](#)

(See [below](#) for a more detailed description.)

[RAMON](#)

Eurostat's metadata server, with information about European and international classification systems used by Eurostat. It now incorporates the CODED (Concepts and definitions) database and is fully searchable. (English, French and German).

Taxation and Customs Union

The DG Taxation and Customs Union has an [Electronic Databases](#) page giving access to the following databases:

[AEO](#) (Authorised Economic Operators)

[Customs Offices](#)

Transit Customs Offices

[EBTI](#) (European Binding Tariff Information)

Database for those involved in implementing the Common Customs Tariff.

[ECICS](#) (European Customs Inventory of Chemical Substances)

[EXPORT](#) (Export MRN Follow-up)

[QUOTA](#)

Details of tariff quotas applicable to certain categories of imports or imports from certain areas.

[SEED](#) (System for the Exchange of Excise Data)

[SURVEILLANCE](#)

[SUSPENSIONS](#)

Autonomous Tariff Suspensions

[TARIC](#) (Tarif intégré de la Communauté / Integrated Tariff of the Community)

Lists preferential duty rates using TARIC codes, which are obligatory in customs declaration forms.

[Taxes in Europe](#)

Covers the main taxes in force in the Member States of the EU. It has information on the legal basis, rates and application of about 600 taxes.

[TRANSIT](#)

Transit MRN Follow-up.

[VIES](#) (VAT Information Exchange System)

A database maintained by the Commission for traders needing to verify customers' VAT identification numbers.

Terminology

Eurodicautom (Europe dictionnaire automatisé)

Automated translation tool for words and phrases in all Community languages plus Latin. The service was replaced in 2007 by IATE (see below).

[Europa glossary](#)

Europa has provided a useful glossary of about 220 terms relating to European integration in 11 languages.

[Eurovoc thesaurus](#)

Eurovoc is a multilingual thesaurus of terms used in European law and policy. The current version (4.2) is available in 21 official languages. It is used to provide subject terms for the EUR-Lex database and is also used by other European and national institutions.

[IATE](#) (Interactive Terminology for Europe)

IATE has extended the linguistic range of Eurodicautom and TIS to cover 24 official languages. It is possible to search by terms, abbreviations or phrases. Help screens are provided.

TIS (Terminological Information System)

TIS on the Web was a simplified version of the terminological database used by terminologists and translators working in the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union. It has now been absorbed into IATE (see above).

Trade

[COMEXT](#) (Commerce extérieur / External trade)

External trade statistics cover trade within the EU and with the rest of the world. The database is searchable by product code and by country codes. Figures are available both for the EU as a whole and for individual Member States.

[Market access database](#)

This important database contains details of import formalities, tariffs, trade barriers and statistics for importers and exporters.

[TBT](#) (Technical Barriers to Trade)

Information on the notification procedure set up under the TBT Agreement.

[WTO Dispute Settlement](#)

This section of the DG Trade site links to databases of cases launched by the EC and complaints against the EC.

Transport

[CARE](#) (Community Road Accident database)

Community database on road accidents resulting in death or injury (no statistics on damage - only accidents)

[ELTIS](#) (European Local Transport Information System)

A database of best practice in local transport across the EU; search by country, form of transport; available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Czech, Hungarian, Polish.

Websites, portals and gateways

The structure and content of all the official European websites has changed dramatically since they were first introduced. Where initially they were merely a useful access point they are now an essential source of information. Because of this the question of archiving has become a major concern for information specialists as there is no guarantee that documents which have only been issued in electronic form will continue to be accessible indefinitely.

[Europa](#) (European Commission and interinstitutional server)

Since the Maastricht Treaty, the European institutions have committed themselves to increased openness and transparency in their dealings with citizens. Europa was launched in 1995 at a meeting of the G7 on the information society to demonstrate the European Commission's commitment to these aims and it originally held only information produced by the Commission. As part of the reform of the Commission initiated by Romano Prodi it was re-launched as a gateway to official sources of information on the European Union. It has now grown to be one of the largest presences on the web, with over one million pages in 23 languages, excluding the contents of databases on the site. While information coverage was initially quite uneven, material is now available for all major policy areas, although only a limited amount is translated beyond the three core languages (English, French and German). Each of the Commission DGs has its own website containing mission statements, staff directory and information about policies and initiatives. House style rules have been established in the [Information Providers Guide](#) (available in English only).

The style and content of the Europa server is constantly changing: the latest format change, launched on 23 January 2004, is the fourth. It is still possible to view the earlier versions on the [Wayback machine](#) which forms part of the Internet Archive, a collaborative endeavour to preserve historical aspects of the internet's development (the old URL for Europa is <http://europa.eu.int>).

Until the latest re-design of Europa, users frequently complained about the inadequacy of the search facility and the absence of an A-Z listing of individual sites and pages. Although the latest (2004) version of Europa has a vastly improved search facility, the [A-Z index of European Union websites](#) provided by the

Commission's US Delegation in Washington, D.C. is still a valuable guide and has now been joined by the Commission's own [A-Z](#).

Major changes were proposed to the structure of Europa to allow easier access by a wider audience and to reinforce its interactive element. These proposals were laid out in the Communication [Towards the e-Commission: Europa 2nd generation: advanced web services to citizens, business and other professional users](#) (D(2000), 06/07/01).

Subject portals and gateways

One of the major changes since Europa was first launched has been the introduction of subject 'portals' to make searching more straightforward and to allow the integration of information from several institutional sources. The first of these was *EUR-Lex*, the legal information service originally set up in 1998. This was followed by the *European Union in the world*, a joint access point for the six Directorates-General involved in external affairs, and *Dialogue with business*. In 2004 the Information Society portal was launched as a pilot project for the 2nd generation Europa. Although primarily managed by DG Information Society, it incorporates information from the 10 Directorates-General whose policies are involved. A more recent innovation was *Your Europe*, a site providing practical information about rights and opportunities for citizens and businesses in individual Member States of the EU; this was created from the amalgamation of two existing services, *Dialogue with business* and *Dialogue with citizens*. Examples of portals include:

[Culture](#)

[European Portal for SMEs](#)

[European Union in the world](#)

[Health-EU](#)

[Information society](#)

[Languages](#)

[Sport](#)

[Sustainable development](#)

[Your Europe](#)

[Youth](#)

Using Europa:

Europa's homepage is available in 23 official languages, but more detailed documentation and information is only available in English, French and German. The four main areas of the database are accessed via drop-down menus at the bottom of the home page:

Activities has 32 subject areas covering the main policies of the EU. Each of the headings links to relevant official EU websites. Legal texts and 'Summaries of legislation' are given, as well as official documents and press releases (under the heading 'Documentation').

Institutions links directly to the websites of the European institutions and agencies. For an online guide to the institutions and their function click on 'How the European Union works'.

The **Documents** menu links to the legal database EUR-Lex and to catalogues of official publications, as well as to titles which are available online, like the *General Report* and the *Bulletin*. A useful 'Glossary' of EU terms can also be found here.

Services brings together directories and contact points for all the European institutions. It also includes information about funding, careers, opinion polls ('Eurobarometer') and has links to Eurostat, the European Statistical Office.

The EU day by day carries the day's headlines. Clicking on **All the news** takes you to a comprehensive set of links to the archive of press releases and press packs on items of current interest. It also gives access to the **RAPID** database. Clicking on **What's new?** on the top toolbar calls up a (selective) list of documents added to the Europa site on a daily basis.

More general information is available in the three sections accessible from the left-hand toolbar:

Discover the EU includes a general introduction to the EU called 'The EU at a glance', a link to the European Youth portal ('Europe and Young People'), online booklets about the EU ('Easy Reading Corner') and information about Europe's languages.

Living in the EU provides practical information for citizens travelling, studying and working in other countries as well as business information.

Interact with the EU has directories of MEPs, official information sources and contact details for the European Ombudsman.

Search facilities have been greatly improved in the latest version of Europa: in addition to a [Simple search](#) option, an [advanced search](#) form now allows language, format (HTML or PDF), date and subject area to be specified.

Further reading

[Closing the information gap](#), Lindsay Armstrong, *Public service review*, Autumn 2002

Eurostat (Statistical Office of the European Communities)

Eurostat publications have been available in electronic versions for several years as part of a subscription service. In addition to printed publications Eurostat has built up huge statistical databases, including Comext (external trade data) and Regio (for regional data), all of which are essential research tools requiring specialist training to use. As a result of rising costs in production and distribution of printed publications, Eurostat began to move to electronic publication in the mid-1990s. Because of the problems of keeping its complete archive available, web archives were issued on CD-ROM from 2001, which provided off-line versions of the Eurostat website at given dates. These were produced on a monthly basis with annual cumulations as the *Eurostat electronic library* (ISSN 1608-7097) until 2006. In late 2004 it was suddenly decided to give free access firstly to all electronic publications (only a selection had previously been free), then to all the specialist databases via the Eurostat website.

Most information is available in English, French and German, although introductory material is sometimes also translated into other languages. The website is updated daily and provides the most complete access to statistical information from all the Member States and many other countries.

Eurostat's homepage allows access to its data and publications by a variety of routes. The central panel provides the latest press releases and issues of *Statistics in focus*, a series of short statistical summaries on specialised topics. Four sections in the centre of the main screen ('Tables', 'Data', 'Methodology', 'Publications') provide access by category of material. On the left of the screen is a choice of 'Special Topics', including 'Structural indicators', 'Euro indicators' and 'Yearbook'. Below appears a list of the Eurostat's nine standard 'Themes', displaying statistical information available either as publications, datasets or tables.

Themes offer the best way to browse for available material by subject. Each of the sections has a list of available documents and - where available - gives direct access to specialist databases in the chosen field. Some sections also include links to predefined tables on subjects like economy, population, etc.

- General and regional statistics
- Economy and finance
- Population & social conditions
- Industry, trade and services
- Agriculture and fisheries
- External trade
- Transport
- Environment and energy
- Science and technology

Tables in most areas of social and economic interest are adequate for general research purposes. At the time of writing, the Tables are being reorganised, with most tables now presented according to the nine Eurostat Themes.

Data provides access to detailed statistical datasets in all the Themes. Click on the entry you require and follow the 'tree' until you reach the level of detail needed. In most cases it is necessary to specify sets of variables (time, geographical entity, etc.) before downloading data.

Methodology has information about the methods, guidelines and legal requirements behind Eurostat. Important features are RAMON, the classification server, which can be searched for explanations of the product and geographical codes needed for precise searching, and CODED, a glossary of terms and definitions (see [Database list](#) for further details).

Publications gives access to full texts, including *Panorama of the EU*, *Pocketbooks* and *Statistics in focus* all of which are thematic collections of statistics designed for the general reader. Searches can be refined by

choosing from the drop-down menu of Themes as given above. Longer documents, like the *Eurostat yearbook* are usually available both as a single file and as individual chapters.

Special topics - 'Euro-indicators' and 'Structural indicators' are specialised databases for statistics on social, economic and financial aspects of the EU. The *Eurostat yearbook* is an annual collection of statistics on all aspects of life in the EU. The complete work or individual chapters can be downloaded in PDF format. Sustainable development is a new feature, incorporating a library of official documents and indicators.

EUR-Lex

EUR-Lex is made up of six collections of documents, which can either be searched separately (except for the *Official Journal*, for publication details are required) or together. For details of the older databases, including the structure of Celex, see the chapter [The European legal system](#).

Official Journal The two series of the *Official Journal* of the European Communities (**C - Information & Notices**, and **L - Legislation**) are available in full text from 1998 in PDF format. The contents of earlier issues are also now online in HTML format and can be retrieved by using 'Simple search' and selecting 'Search by publication reference'. The electronic-only version of the C series (**C-E**) includes written questions and answers and the proceedings of the European Parliament as well as Common Positions adopted by the Council. These have only appeared in the electronic version of the OJ since 1999 (2002 for the European Parliament documents).

Treaties The texts of the treaties published in the OJ since 1987 can be downloaded complete, and are searchable by keyword. The texts of earlier treaties are only available in TIFF format and can be ordered for delivery by e-mail.

International agreements This section contains agreements between the European Union and international bodies or third countries. It is searchable by the classified headings used in the *Directory of legislation in force* and by subject headings. It can also be searched by using 'Simple search' in the category 'Legislation'.

Legislation in force is based on an online version of the 'Directory of Community legislation in force', which is classified by subject and includes the full text of all legislation in force, together with details of any amendments that may have been made. In many cases consolidated versions are also available, which incorporate all amendments into a single text for convenience. Details of the original publication in the *Official Journal* are also included. If you know the year and reference number of a Directive, Regulation or Decision use 'Simple search' and search by 'Natural number' to go to the text. HTML versions are available for all legislation, PDF only for acts since 1998. To search by keyword use 'Search by file category' and select 'Legislation'. Using this approach, once a Directive has been located, you can find how it has been implemented in a Member State, by selecting 'Bibliographic record', scrolling down to 'Display the national execution measures' then clicking 'MNE'.

Preparatory acts contains the text of all COM documents (Commission working documents) since 1999, and no longer differentiates between draft legislation and other documents (the earlier version of EUR-Lex had separate sections for 'Legislation in preparation' and 'Documents of public interest'). 'Latest documents made available' lists the reference numbers of documents issued in the last five working days. A search form at the foot of the page allows 'Direct access to PDF documents' by document number. Recent documents are available in PDF format and as Microsoft Word ('doc') files, but the archive is in PDF only. 'Access by year' provides lists of all documents issued month by month since 1999; these documents are available in HTML and PDF format. Click on 'Search in preparatory acts' to call up a detailed search form which also provides access to other categories of preparatory material.

A 'Directory of Community legislation in preparation' was added to the site in late 2008. Split into the same 20 sections as the 'Directory of Community legislation in force', it gives access to COM documents which are proposals for legislation (as opposed to other types of COMs, which - together with legislative proposals - are listed under the 'Preparatory acts' section).

This section of EUR-Lex now also provides access to SEC (Secretariat-General) documents, internal working documents of the Commission which have not until recently been generally available to the public, but in 2008 the Commission started adding them to EUR-Lex in the same way as COM documents are added. The 'Preparatory acts' section now includes current SEC documents and an archive back to 1999.

Case-law All case law since 1958 is available via links to the EUR-Lex database and can be searched using the 'Simple search' option and selecting 'Search by file category' - 'Case-law'. To find case law on a particular subject use either keyword search in 'Search terms' or use 'Classification headings' for a list of available topics. To find reports by case number use 'Search by' and either 'Natural number' or 'CELEX number'; to find reports by citation use 'Search by publication reference' - 'European Court Reports'. To search by party,

enter the name as a search term in 'General search'. As the earlier version used links to Curia, the Court's website, to supply recent judgments it may be necessary to use both for the most complete coverage.

Parliamentary questions contains the written questions and answers to the European Parliament as published in the *Official Journal C* series. Since 2002 they have only been available in electronic format in the OJ C E series. This section is searchable by subject, using keyword or EUROVOC search terms, by date, by political party and by author. Searching covers all parliamentary terms, although only bibliographic details are available for earlier questions; these are in French only prior to 1973. The text of later questions is available in HTML format.

Quick links on the left-hand frame provides access to additional materials, including documents relating to the Budget of the EU and to the institutions' document Registers. An experimental site, **N-Lex**, has been set up to link directly to the full text of national law where it is available without subscription. Click on the link in the right-hand panel.

About EU law links to two informative dossiers: **Process and players** explains the legislative process in great detail; **Legislative drafting** is an official guide produced by the institutions. **SCADPLUS** links to the 'Summaries of legislation' site.

The greatly improved search interface developed for Celex has been transferred to the new version of EUR-Lex. The 'Simple search' option allows cross-file searching by keyword, by author and by classification headings. Specialised search forms are provided for each of the collections (excluding the *Official Journal*) - choose the appropriate option under 'Search by file category'. Legislation, European Court judgments and COM documents can also be searched by document number or by CELEX number. It is also possible to search by references in the *Official Journal* and the *European Court Reports*. An 'Advanced search' facility is now functional, which allows users to save searches and set up e-mail alerts to new material in chosen areas.

Europarl (European Parliament)

Following the success of the Commission's Europa server, the Parliament decided to launch its own website in 1997. The service initially carried only basic information about the Parliament and its activities, but it now incorporates the content of the old EPOQUE database of EP documentation in a new web version. Europarl was the first institutional server to become available in 20 official languages after the fifth enlargement in May 2004 (22 since 2007). Most of the content is accessible via extensive links within Europa, but it is a major information source in its own right. The layout of the homepage was originally split into three main sections with the headings *ABC* (a directory of MEPs), *References* (the publications section) and *Activities* (documentation relating to parliamentary sessions).

Europarl was re-launched in September 2005 with a completely new layout. There are now five main sections accessible from the toolbar at the top of the screen: *News*, *Parliament*, *Your MEPs*, *Activities*, and *EP Live*.

News is the default page and can be searched by a list of subjects given on the left of the screen.

Parliament gives general information about the powers and organisation of the institution together with details of petitions, access to documents, recruitment and contacts in Member States. Click on 'In detail' for information about the President of the EP, 'Rules of procedure', 'Fact sheets', cooperation with national parliaments and lobbying. Click on 'Archives' for documentation produced by the EP on various subjects.

Your MEPs is an online directory, searchable by country / region, and name.

Activities gives access to documents of the plenary sessions and committee meetings of the current (sixth) parliamentary term. Links on the right are provided to live coverage of parliamentary sessions, to EuroparlTV, and to OEIL (The Legislative Observatory). Click on 'Parliamentary business' for details of current agendas and reports under discussion. Click on 'Archives' for documents from the fifth parliamentary term (1999-2004) and part of the fourth term (1994-1999); links from this page include the 'Register of documents', Committee meeting documents and ECPRD (European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation).

EP Live is a major innovation, providing live coverage of Parliamentary sessions via audio, video and webstreaming services.

Consilium (Council of the European Union)

The Council's server was launched in 1998 after the ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam. The launch version carried details of the work of the Council but within a year coverage had been extended to include sections on Justice and Home Affairs, the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the work of the European Council.

The 'Council' section gives details of the work of each configuration (Environment etc.) and of the European Council (linking both to archived websites of each Presidency and to their conclusions back to 1993). The 'Policies' section has collections of documents and information on foreign and security policy as well as separate databases on COST and Agreements (see [Databases](#)). The 'Documents' section is concerned with information on access to Council documents.

Curia (European Court of Justice)

The Court of Justice launched its own website, Curia, in 1996 and it is now established as an invaluable legal research tool. Although certain sections of the site are only available in French, the working language of the Court, a large proportion of the content has been translated into all the official languages. The site gives free access to all language versions of the *Proceedings* (weekly summaries of judgments and opinions) since September 1996, and the full text of Opinions and Judgments of the Court (since June 1997). The text of earlier Opinions and Judgments is provided via links to the EUR-Lex database. Although EUR-Lex now normally loads documents within a week of delivery, the Curia database can be more current. It is important to remember, however, that the text is still subject to amendment and may not be identical to that published in the *European Court Reports*. Texts relating to the procedure of the Court are also available.

The case law section gives various search options: 'Numerical access' is a listing arranged by case number of all ECJ judgments with hyperlinks to the text, where available, on EUR-Lex or in Curia, including notices in the *Official Journal*. Explanatory notes are given where a case has been removed from the register, referred from the Court of First Instance to the Court of Justice or judged as part of a joint case. The 'Search form' allows access by name, date, case number, keyword, etc. 'Digest of case-law' is a useful online collection of case-law classified by subject: it is only available in French, however, as are online versions of the 'Annotation of judgments' and 'Alphabetical table of subject-matter'.

A separate section on 'European Union law in Europe' incorporates a useful database of documentation concerning the Brussels and Lugano Conventions, as well as links to official Institutional and legal internet sites for all Member States.

11. THINK TANKS AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH

A large number of 'think tanks' now exist throughout Europe, engaged in observing European policy and often hoping to influence it. Their research provides an essential commentary to the documentation and information produced by the European institutions. Many of them, notably Statewatch, have been enormously influential in forcing the institutions to be more open in their dealings with the citizens of Europe. The study by Notre Europe mentioned below identified 149 think tanks whose research interests are wholly or partly concerned with European policies. Several major new think tanks are currently being established in Brussels. Researchers on European subjects will find the working papers and newsletters issued by these bodies a useful complement to official viewpoints and a helpful way to keep updated on current affairs in specific areas.

[Centre d'etudes prospectives et d'informations internationales](#) (founded in 1978; based in Paris)

CEPII is the leading French research institute on international economics and publishes papers on enlargement and world trade in French and English.

[Centre for European Policy Studies](#) (founded in 1983; based in Brussels)

CEPS newsletters are free online. Many of its research publications may be downloaded free, although print versions are priced. Research areas: economic, financial and security policy.

[Centre for European Reform](#) (based in London)

Most of CER's articles and research papers are available as free downloads although print versions are priced.

[European Network of Economic Policy Research Institutes](#)

ENEPRI brings together 24 research institutes and publishes online series of working papers, occasional papers and research reports.

[European Policy Centre](#) (based in Brussels)

The EPC carries out research on all aspects of economic and social policy and publishes a useful online journal, Challenge Europe.

[European Policy Institutes Network](#)

A network of about 30 think tanks which publishes its own series of working papers online and highlights selected working papers from its members.

[The Federal Trust](#) (founded in 1945 on the initiative of Sir William Beveridge; based in London)

Concentrates specifically on relations between national, European and global levels of government. Essays and policy briefs are available free online; books and more substantial publications are for sale.

[Notre Europe](#) (founded by Jacques Delors in 1996; based in Paris)

Free documentation is available online in French and English.

[Robert Schuman Foundation](#) (founded in 1991; located in Paris)

Mainly concerned with the external activities of the EU and constitutional affairs. Its fortnightly newsletter is a particularly useful guide to discussions in Europe's press. The website is available in French, English, German, Polish and Spanish.

Further reading

[Europe and its think tanks: a promise to be fulfilled; an analysis of think tanks specialised in European policy issues in the enlarged European Union](#), Stephen Boucher, Notre Europe, 2004

Academic research

European studies have grown steadily in popularity in academic circles throughout the world in recent years and a wide range of courses, including law, economics and politics, now include a 'European dimension'. Several international institutions are important centres of research and training.

The [College d'Europe](#), the first postgraduate University Institute of postgraduate studies and training in European affairs, was established in Bruges in 1948 and set up a second campus at the Palace of Natolin in Warsaw in 1992 after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The College publishes online working papers and an academic journal, Collegium.

Probably the most prestigious institution dedicated to European research is the [European University Institute](#) (EUI) founded in 1972 in the medieval abbey of San Domenico di Fiesole, near Florence. It caters mainly for students completing doctoral research. The Institute's Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and

other departments have published hundreds of working papers in law, economics and politics. These are no longer published in paper but may be downloaded from the EUI website. Recent titles are also archived in the European Research Papers Archive. The Academy of European Law within the EUI also publishes extensively, particularly the *European Foreign Policy Bulletin* (published as annual volumes until 1994 and made available as a free database, but now withdrawn) and the *Collected courses*, now published as separate monographs by Oxford University Press. The Historical Archives of the EU are also held in Fiesole and may be used for research (contents are listed on the EurHistar database - see chapter on [Databases](#)).

The [European Institute of Public Administration](#) (EIPA) was established in 1981 in Maastricht, Netherlands, to carry out training and research on public administration and European policies. Its research papers and the publication EIPASCOPE are free online; books and conference reports are for sale.

The [Academy of European Law](#) (ERA) in Trier (Germany) was set up in 1992 on the initiative of the European Parliament to provide training in European law. It has published a quarterly academic journal, *ERA-Forum*, since 2000.

In 1990 the European Commission decided to help the development of research in European integration by creating the [Jean Monnet Programme](#) to sponsor teaching posts (Jean Monnet Chairs) and European Centres of Excellence (100 have been set up so far).

European research associations to promote European studies have been set up in 52 countries under the overall control of the [European Union Studies Association](#) (EUSA; previously the European Communities Studies Association - ECSA).

The UK association is the [University Association for Contemporary European Studies](#) (UACES), which publishes the *Journal of Common Market studies* (ISSN 0021-9886), the series *Contemporary European Studies* and other titles.

Electronic archives

Working papers are vital material for researchers but are often difficult to trace and ephemeral. As they are now primarily published only in electronic form there is no guarantee of permanent access.

The first attempt to archive this material was the [European Research Papers Archive](#) (ERPA) set up in 1998 by Michael Nentwich of the University of Vienna. This searchable archive currently holds nine series of working papers from respected institutions including the European University Institute (EUI) and now contains over 1200 papers.

In 2003 the University of Pittsburgh's European Union Center decided to establish a virtual library to complement the collection of ERPA. The [Archive of European Integration](#) (AEI) is an online archive for research materials on the topic of European integration which aims to collect materials such as working and policy papers and journals. The AEI is also uploading a large number of official European Union documents, primarily historic documents which are not easily accessible or online elsewhere, like the Spaak report. Simultaneous searching of both AEI and ERPA has now been enabled. In December 2008, the archive contained nearly 8000 documents.

[ArchiDok](#) is a repository of official EU documents launched as a joint project by the EDC at Mannheim University.

The [History of European Integration](#) site at the University of Leiden contains a wide range of historical documents in full text and links to all the major international organisations involved in Europe

[European Navigator](#) (ENA) is a valuable multi-media collection of historical material covering post-war European history and politics with sections on the main European organisations. Published by the Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l'Europe.

It was suggested early in 2008 that the Office for Official Publications will itself embark on a major project to digitise official documents retrospectively, although this has not been confirmed publicly.

12. INFORMATION POLICY AND INFORMATION RELAYS

Information policy

Although the European Commission has been committed to providing information about the European institutions, law and policy since the early days of the European Community it is only since the Maastricht Treaty that an explicit public information policy has been established. Responsibility for information has changed over the years but has always been shared between different bodies at European level. The former Directorate-General X (Information, Communication, Culture, Audiovisual) was responsible for providing general information about the EU to citizens (see the chapter on [Official publications](#)), while the Spokesman's Service produced press releases. Responsibility for informing the public about European matters at national level has largely been taken by the Commission's Representations, although it has always been argued that national governments should be more directly involved. A number of information networks or 'relays' have been established at a European level to help specific target audiences.

One of the first attempts to remedy the perceived lack of openness in the European institutions came from João de Deus Pinheiro, Commissioner in the Santer Commission, in a document laying out the basis of a new policy on public access to information, *Information, communication, openness*.

The Commission realised that there was a need to integrate communication plans into all areas of policy and to ensure that Member States and European institutions worked together to ensure the public were aware of all new developments. Details of the SEC documents which preceded these proposals and the Pinheiro report are given in the [Bibliography](#).

In the Prodi Commission a joint Directorate was set up to deal with Press and Communication, and an integrated information policy was set out in three strategy papers:

The first of these, Communication [on a new framework for co-operation on activities concerning the information and communication policy of the European Union](#) (COM (2001) 354) concentrated on the networks providing information to the general public.

A second Communication [An information and communication strategy for the European Union](#) (COM (2002) 350) led to a major overhaul of the information relays and stressed the importance of customising the information provided by Europe to matters of current importance and to the needs of different countries.

A third strategy paper in 2004, [On implementing the information and communication strategy for the European Union](#) (COM (2004) 196), concentrated on the financial resources available.

Impressed by the success of the Europe Direct service, the Commission has adopted it as the new 'brand' for the second-generation information relays envisaged in the 2002 consultation paper. The Commission's policy is to de-centralise the provision of European information to the Member States and to rationalise the number of networks, a move already necessitated by the more stringent financial controls introduced in 2003. The first step in this policy was the withdrawal of both the IPE and Carrefours relays in preparation for a new network.

Although the Commission has only sporadically concerned itself with providing training for EU information specialists, it set up a help desk for the relays in Brussels in 2001, managed by the European Association for Information on Local Development (AEIDL). This was succeeded by a second help desk, TECIS, run by the Brussels firm Intrasoft International. Both bodies provided a discussion forum and support material of various kinds as well as organising some training. Their contract expired early in 2005 and a replacement help desk, managed by a team at the College d'Europe in Bruges, was set up in 2006 to support the Europe Direct networks.

In July 2005, DG Press and Communication issued an [Action plan to improve communicating Europe by the Commission](#) as a preliminary draft of a White Paper on Communication. It emphasises the role of the Representations and recognises the problems caused by a lack of coordination in information provision within the Commission. This was followed by [The Commission's contribution to the period of reflection and beyond: Plan-D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate](#) (COM (2005) 494). Although the Commission specifically stated that this was not intended to be a rescue plan for the Constitution, which had just been rejected in two national referenda, the emphasis on getting European citizens involved with the European political process was certainly prompted by this obvious lack of public support. A [White Paper on a European Communication Policy](#) (COM (2006) 35) was finally published in February 2006 and a public consultation was launched online. [Communicating Europe in Partnership](#) (COM (2007) 568) and a [Proposal for an Inter-Institutional Agreement on Communicating Europe in Partnership](#) (COM (2007) 569) resulted from the consultation.

See also [Communicating Europe: the role of organised civil society](#), Elizabeth Monaghan, *Journal of Contemporary European Research*, 2008

Information relays

Although the European institutions have only recently developed an explicit information policy a number of information networks, or 'relays', have been established over the years to provide access to official documents and to information for specific sectors and the wider public.

The oldest of these are [European Documentation Centres](#), (EDCs) a worldwide network based in universities and research institutes specialising in the study of European law and integration. First established by the European Commission in 1963, EDCs were set up to provide reliable information about the law and policies of the European institutions, primarily to students and researchers in higher education. The network was originally administered by DG X (Audiovisual Media, Information, Communication and Culture) under Directorate C (Relations with Higher Education Establishments and Research Institutes). The educational role of the EDC network was briefly recognised when responsibility passed to the newly established Directorate-General for Education and Culture in the reformed Commission in 1999. However, in 2000, responsibility was transferred again, to the Press and Communications Service, now Directorate-General Press and Communication.

The network, which now forms part of the Europe Direct service, currently has some 700 members around the world, 43 of which are in the UK.

In 2006 it was decided that EDCs based outside the EU could no longer be funded by DG Communication and responsibility for them would be taken over by DG External Relations. A new network has now been established called EUi (EU Info Corners) which currently includes 103 centres in 30 countries, the most active being in Russia, USA and Japan. Under the new arrangements an agreement will be signed by the Commission with the Delegation in the country and the centre's work will be integrated with the official communication strategy.

The terms of the original agreement between each EDC and the Commission promised free supply of the main official publications of the different European institutions, together with privileged access to Community databases. In return the host institution agreed to provide the necessary staff and premises to maintain and promote the collection. Although the collections include all the major publications relating to European law and institutions, particularly the *Official Journal* and the reports of the European Court of Justice, they also cover most other areas of European policy.

Over the last 30 years EDCs have had to adapt to considerable changes, both in their relationship with the European Commission and in the ways in which documentation has been delivered. Since the arrival of the Europa webserver the situation has changed significantly: EDCs now receive only a fraction of the printed material that was formerly supplied because so many publications have gone online, while most of the databases are now available in free internet versions.

Over the years, individual EDCs have built up a great deal of expertise, which was difficult to share before the advent of electronic communications. Various networking initiatives among EDC librarians in the UK and elsewhere led to the establishment of the European Information Association as the professional organisation for European documentation specialists worldwide. A fascinating article by Anne Ramsay, one of the EIA's founders, [From little acorns ... the origins of the European Information Association](#), details the development of the EIA from its origins in the Association of EDC Librarians.

A separate network of [Depository Libraries](#) (DEPs) was set up at the same time as the EDCs, mainly in national libraries, to provide comprehensive collections. The documentation they receive also includes scientific publications (EUR series), which are not normally sent to EDCs. There is normally only one DEP per country; there are currently 24 in Europe and 73 in the rest of the world, most of which are in the United States.

European Information Centres

After the Maastricht Treaty four large scale information centres were established in Berlin, Lisbon, Paris and Rome to provide information to the general public.

The Europäisches Informationszentrum Berlin, founded in 1996, is now part of the Europe Direct network; the Jacques Delors Information Centre in Lisbon has been taken over by the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Sources d'Europe opened in 1992 in the prestigious Arche de La Défense in Paris but has since transferred to joint premises with the offices of the European Commission and European Parliament, where it provides the website [Toute l'Europe](#); its library was transferred to La Documentation Française. CIDE (Centro nazionale di informazione e documentazione europea) is still operating from the same building as the offices of the European Commission and European Parliament in Rome.

In 1998, the Court of Auditors reported on the effectiveness of these centres and other public information relays and decided that the Commission's offices in the Member States should play a greater role in

communicating the aims of the European Union ([Special Report No 23/98 concerning the Information and Communication measures managed by the Commission](#)).

Business information

Because these networks were intended primarily to serve the academic community, DG XXIII for Enterprises, Distributive Commerce, Tourism and Co-operatives (now DG Enterprise and Industry) decided to create a separate network to help the business community. A pilot project of 39 Euro Info Centres (EICs) was set up in 1987 specifically to provide business information relating to EU policies and programmes to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Having proved successful, a further 187 centres were added to the network in 1989. In preparation for the fifth enlargement of the EU in 2004, Correspondence Centres were set up in candidate countries in 1998 and 1999. By 2006 there were 21 EICs in the UK and 320 throughout Europe and the Mediterranean, together with relays and Correspondence Centres.

Innovation Relay Centres (IRCs) were set up to support innovation and to advise on knowledge transfer between companies. First established in 1995, the IRC network was administered by DG Enterprise and Industry and supported by 236 regional offices throughout the world. Most IRCs were based in regional development agencies, chambers of commerce or university technology centres.

In 2001 a conference was organised with the aim of setting up a new, coordinated network. Businesses were often confused by the overlapping responsibilities of the different networks and local cooperation was seen initially as the best way of improving the public service. An initiative called the *b2europe* (Business to Europe) alliance proposed a binding agreement between the EICs, IRCs and other organisations to work together to re-direct enquiries where necessary (sometimes referred to as a 'one-stop shop' approach). However, negotiations to set up a new Competitiveness & Innovation Programme in 2006 led instead to a decision to develop a new integrated network.

[Enterprise Europe](#) was launched in February 2008 to replace both the Euro Info Centres and Innovation Relay Centres. More than 500 contact points are now available to provide expertise and advice for businesses of all kinds.

Other networks have been established to serve more specialised areas. These include:

[Business and Innovation Centres](#) (BICs) were launched in 1984 by the European Commission to support innovation in business at a regional level. It is now run as a non-profit-making association, with its headquarters in Brussels.

The [European Employment Services](#) (EURES) network was established by DG Employment and Social Affairs to promote job mobility between EU countries. Some 700 specialist advisers based in the national employment services of each country provide information on placements and permanent jobs. The database allows both jobseekers and employers to search for vacancies.

The [European Consumer Centres Network](#) (ECC-Net) comprises national centres providing consumer information to the public. They combine two previous networks, Euroguichets and the European Extra-Judicial Network (EEJ-Net), which helped to provide solutions through mediation.

Europe Direct and public libraries

Regular surveys undertaken by the Commission have consistently shown that the general public feels uninformed about the activities and powers of the European institutions. Various attempts have been made to address this problem, especially since the Maastricht Treaty sought to emphasise the 'openness and transparency' of those institutions. In 1991 a network of information centres was launched under the name Info-Points Europe (IPE) to bring the European message more directly to the public. Mainly located in city centres, there were 140 IPEs in 14 Member States before the 2004 enlargement. The UK never participated in this scheme, preferring to use the public library network as the best way to deliver information about Europe.

A network called Eurolibraries was started in public libraries in Denmark, Spain and the UK but this was also later discontinued. The Commission's UK Representation launched its own network, European Public Information Centres (EPICs - originally Public Information Relays) in 1994. Based in the main public libraries, EPICs provide core reference collections of European information for the general public as well as free copies of leaflets from series like *Europe on the move*. At the same time a network of EU information providers was started to increase cooperation between the different relays. The website [Europe in the UK](#) provides an online public directory of information providers, news items, and a selection of EU-related blogs.

The last official printed directory of EU networks appeared as *Europe info: Directory of networks and other European Union information sources*, Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1995, ISBN 9282749509

A complete directory of all networks supported by the Commission and the European Parliament is available on Europa as [The EU in your country](#).

[Europe Direct](#) is the Commission's own public information service for citizens. In 1996 an e-mail enquiry service was set up for the general public at the same time as the *Citizens first* initiative, which used a free-phone telephone number for individuals to order information leaflets on aspects of the internal market. This developed into a fully-fledged call centre, launched in May 2000 as Europe Direct and managed by outside contractors.

New financial regulations led to the withdrawal of two networks in 2004: Carrefours, which provided information to rural areas, and Info Points Europe, which dealt with general public enquiries.

Because of the perceived success of the 'brand name' Europe Direct, a new network of public information points was launched in May 2005. It is based in a variety of local organisations throughout the Member States and includes the EDC network. Although the UK did not initially participate in Europe Direct, the network was launched in the UK by the European Commission's London office in 2006.

Organisations concerned with European information

The [European Information Association](#) (EIA) is an international body of information specialists whose aim is to develop, co-ordinate and improve access to EU information. The EIA's website is a useful resource for anyone needing to find out more about the EU. The Association also produces publications which assist information specialists and the public in exploring EU information. In addition to running conferences and training courses, the EIA is responsible for the mail list Eurotalk.

The [European Union Databases User Group](#) (EUDUG) was set up to provide a support network to users of databases covering the EU and its activities. The EUDUG website includes details of commercial and free official databases

Mail lists

Mail lists have become a valuable aid to information specialists both at a national and international level.

[Eurodoc](#), a list for EDC librarians, was started in 1993 in Durham at the initiative of the late Richard Caddel, who was then chairman of the UK EDCs. It now covers all UK EDCs, and many others from the EU and beyond, and is still growing. Most of the messages are in English, although some appear in other languages. The list is closed and restricted to managers of EDCs or other official relays. The archive is publicly accessible and searchable.

Similar lists have been set up in most of the Member States to cater for speakers of other languages.

The EIA's mail list, [Eurotalk](#), acts as both a discussion forum and a bulletin board for EIA members.

13. BIBLIOGRAPHY: ONLINE AND PRINTED SOURCES

1. Official documents and reports

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The Commission's Information and Communication Policy: the practical implementation of the information plans (SEC (93) 1248/3) proposed that information plans should be drawn up for all new policies

The Commission's information and communication policy: external information (SEC (94) 82/4) established the role of Delegation Offices in third countries

The Offices in the Community: the next steps (SEC (94) 80/4) discussed the role of the Commission's offices in Member States. These documents are available online from the [Archive of European Integration](#)

(SEC (94) 488) discussed the role of information networks

Information, communication, openness (Pinheiro report)

Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1994, ISBN 9282676536

[Special Report No 23/98 concerning the Information and Communication measures managed by the Commission](#) (OJ C393, 16 December 1998)

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[Communicating Europe in Partnership](#) (COM (2007) 568) and a [Proposal for an Inter-Institutional Agreement on Communicating Europe in Partnership](#) (COM (2007) 569)

2. Books about the EU

The Penguin companion to European Union, Timothy Bainbridge, 3rd ed, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2002 ISBN 0141007699 (A 4th edition by Anthony Teasdale is due to be published in Spring 2009)

[The ABC of Community law](#), Klaus-Dieter Borchardt, 5th ed, Luxembourg: OOPEC, 2000

[Encyclopedia of the European Union](#), Desmond Dinan ed, Basingstoke: Macmillan, 2000

[Europe in 12 lessons](#), Pascal Fontaine, Luxembourg: OOPEC, 2006

[How the European Union works](#), Luxembourg: OOPEC, 2007

[A dictionary of the European Union](#), David Phinnemore and Lee McGowan, 4th ed, London: Routledge, 2008

[Europe from A to Z: guide to European integration](#), Werner Weidenfeld and Wolfgang Wessels, Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1997 (new edition published in German in 2007 by Nomos Verlag, ISBN 3832913785)

[European Union](#), Wikipedia (free online encyclopedia, with extensive articles about the EU, its institutions and policies)

3. Bibliography of EU information

Basic sources of European Union information, Freda Carroll and Barbara Zolynski, Manchester: European Information Association, 1996, ISBN 0948272430

[A bibliographic guide to the EU](#), Osvaldo Croci, 3rd ed, 2001

[Guide to European Union information](#), Veerle Deckmyn, 4th ed, Maastricht: European Institute of Public Administration, 2003

Eurojargon: a dictionary of European Union acronyms, abbreviations and terminology; Eric Davies ed, 7th ed, Manchester: European Information Association, 2004, ISBN 0948272937

European Communities information: its use and users, Michael Hopkins ed, London: Mansell, 1985, ISBN 0720117011

Sources of information on the European Communities, Doris M.Palmer ed, London: Mansell, 1979 ISBN 0720107245

The documentation of the European Communities: a guide, Ian Thomson, London: Mansell, 1989, ISBN 0720120225

Tools for research on the EU: accessing European Union information, European Commission, US Delegation; online guide, latest edition June 2004; the guide is no longer available on the Commission site but via the Wayback Machine, a [February 2004 version](#) is available as a PDF file.

The [European Information Association](#) also has a series of publications providing practical guidance on specific topics, including funding and statistics.

4. Journals about EU information

European Access, Cambridge: Cambridge: Chadwyck-Healey, 1985-2002, ISSN 0264-7362 (originally subtitled 'a bi-monthly guide to the policies and activities of the European Union', it has now been absorbed into [European Sources Online](#))

European Information, Manchester: European Information Association, 1998-2002, ISSN 1461-5428

Focus, Manchester: European Information Association, 2003-, ISSN 1479-5450 (replaced *European Information*; available online to EIA Members)

5. Guides to publications of the institutions

Accessing European Parliament documentation, European Parliament, Directorate General for Research. Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1996, ISBN 928230762X

Practical guide to the workings of the European Parliament and EPOQUE, European Parliament, Directorate General for Research, Luxembourg: OOPEC, 1996, ISBN 9282308790

Reports of the European Communities, 1952-1977: an index to authors and chairmen, June Neilson, London: Mansell, 1981, ISBN 0720115922

6. Directories of European institutions

[Eurosource](#), Dod's Parliamentary Communications / Le Trombinoscope

[Who's who in the European Union](#) (the electronic directory of the European institutions), Luxembourg: OOPEC, 2004

7. Online sources

[European Sources Online](#) (formerly KnowEurope) is a full-text database providing up-to-date information on the European institutions and on the politics and economy of countries in the European Union and the wider Europe. It contains three types of information: full-text articles from commercial sources (*Financial Times* and *European Voice*); information from free official sources (e.g. European Commission press releases and documents) and a weekly bulletin, topic guides and directory of web resources produced by the in-house team of experts.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: European Parliament Committee abbreviations

AFCO	Constitutional Affairs
AGRI	Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Development
BUDG	Budgetary Affairs
CITO	People's Europe
DEVE	Development
ECON	Economic Affairs
EDUC	Education and Culture
ENER	Energy and Research
ENVI	Environment
FEMM	Women's rights
FISH	Fisheries
INDU	Industry
JURI	Legal Affairs
LIBE	Civil Liberties
PANA	National Parliaments
POLI	Political
REGI	Regional Policy
REXT	External Economic Relations
SACO	Public Health and Consumer Protection
SOCI	Social Affairs
STAT	Statistics
STOA	Scientific and Technological Options Assessment
TRAN	Transport

Appendix 2: European Commission: Acronyms for Directorates-General and Services, post-1999

ADMIN	Personnel and Administration
AGRI	Agriculture (ex-DGVI)
AUDIT	Financial Control (ex-DGXX)
BUDG	Budget (ex-DGXIX)
COMP	Competition (ex-DGIV)
DEV	Development (ex-DGVIII)
EAC	Education and Culture (ex-DGXXII)
ECFIN	Economic and Financial Affairs (ex-DGII)
ECHO	Humanitarian Aid Office
ELARG	Enlargement
EMPL	Employment and Social Affairs (ex-DGV)
ENER	Energy (ex-DGXVII)
ENTR	Enterprise (ex-DGXXIII)
ENV	Environment (ex-DGX I)
ESTAT	Eurostat
FISH	Fisheries (ex-DGXIV)
IGS	Inspectorate General
INFO	Information Society (ex-DGXXIII)
JAI	Justice and Home Affairs
JRC	Joint Research Centre
MARKT	Internal Market (ex-DGXV)
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
OPOCE	Publications Office
PRESS	Press and Communication
REGIO	Regional Policy (ex-DGXVI)
RELEX	External Relations (ex-DGI)
RTD	Research (ex-DGXII)
SANCO	Health and Consumer Protection (ex-DGXXIV)
SCIC	Joint Interpreting and Conference Service
SCR	Common Service for External Relations
SDT	Translation Service
SG	Secretariat General
SJ	Legal Service
TAXUD	Taxation and Customs Union (ex-DGXXI)

TRADE	Trade (ex-DGI)
TRANS	Transport (ex-DGVII)

Appendix 3: Directorates-General and Services of the European Commission, 1999

DG I	External Relations: Commercial Policy and Relations with North America, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand
DG IA	External Relations: Europe and the New Independent States, Common Foreign and Security Policy and External Missions
DG IB	External Relations: Southern Mediterranean, Middle and Near East, Latin America, South and South-East Asia and North-South Cooperation
DG II	Economic and Financial Affairs
DG III	Industry
DG IV	Competition
DG V	Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs
DG VI	Agriculture
DG VII	Transport
DG VIII	Development
SCR	Joint Service for the management of Community Aid to Non-Member Countries
DG IX	Personnel and Administration
DG X	Information, Communication, Culture, Audiovisual
DG XI	Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection
DG XII	Science, Research and Development - Joint Research Centre
DG XIII	Telecommunications, Information Market and Exploitation of Research
DG XIV	Fisheries
DG XV	Internal Market and Financial Services
DG XVI	Regional Policies and Cohesion
DG XVII	Energy
DG XIX	Budgets
DG XXI	Taxation and Customs Union
DG XXII	Education, Training and Youth
DG XXIII	Enterprise Policy, Distributive Trades, Tourism and Cooperatives
DG XXIV	Consumer Policy and Consumer Health Protection

European Community Humanitarian Office
Task Force for the Accession Negotiations (TFAN)
Euratom Supply Agency
Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

Appendix 4: Abbreviations for major series of EU documents

CES	Economic and Social Committee
COM	Commission documents
COR	Committee of the Regions
ECR	European Court Reports
EUR	European scientific reports
IP	Spokesman's Service press release (Information presse)
OJ	<i>Official Journal</i> of the European Communities
PE	European Parliament
SEC	Secretariat-General of the European Communities

Appendix 5: Calendar of EU presidencies

At its meeting on 13 December, the General Affairs Council adopted the following calendar of Presidencies, spanning January 2007 to June 2020:

Year	January-June	July-December
2007	Germany	Portugal
2008	Slovenia	France
2009	Czech Republic	Sweden
2010	Spain	Belgium
2011	Hungary	Poland

2012	Denmark	Cyprus
2013	Ireland	Lithuania
2014	Greece	Italy
2015	Latvia	Luxembourg
2016	Netherlands	Slovakia
2017	Malta	United Kingdom
2018	Estonia	Bulgaria
2019	Austria	Romania
2020	Finland	(calendar ends)

Appendix 6: Presidents of the European Commission

1958-1967	Walter Hallstein
1967-1970	Jean Ray
1970-1972	Franco Maria Malfatti
1972	Sicco L. Mansholt
1973-1977	Francois-Xavier Ortoli
1977-1981	Roy Jenkins
1981-1985	Gaston Edmont Thorn
1985-1995	Jacques Delors
1995-1999	Jacques Santer
1999-2004	Romano Prodi
2004-	José Manuel Durão Barroso

Appendix 7: Official languages and abbreviations

BG	Bulgarian (Balgarski)
CS	Czech (Čeština)
DA	Danish (Dansk)
DE	German (Deutsch)
EL	Greek (Elinika)
EN	English
ES	Spanish (Español)
ET	Estonian (Eesti keel)
FI	Finnish (Suomi)
FR	French (Français)
GA	Gaelic (Gaeilge)
HU	Hungarian (Magyar)
IT	Italian (Italiano)
LT	Lithuanian (Lietuvių kalba)
LV	Latvian (Latviesu valoda)
MT	Maltese (Malti)
ML	Dutch (Nederlands)
PL	Polish (Polski)
PT	Portuguese (Português)
RO	Romanian (Romana)
SK	Slovak (Slovenčina)
SV	Swedish (Svenska)
SL	Slovene (Slovenščina)

Appendix 8: Official abbreviations for Member States and candidate countries

Additional information, including official country names, is given in the [Interinstitutional style guide](#)

<u>Short name</u>	<u>Country code</u>
Belgium	BE
Bulgaria	BG
Czech Republic	CZ
Denmark	DK
Germany	DE
Estonia	EE

Ireland	IE
Greece	EL
Spain	ES
France	FR
Italy	IT
Cyprus	CY
Latvia	LV
Lithuania	LT
Luxembourg	LU
Hungary	HU
Malta	MT
Netherlands	NL
Austria	AT
Poland	PL
Portugal	PT
Romania	RO
Slovenia	SI
Slovakia	SK
Finland	FI
Sweden	SE
United Kingdom	UK
Croatia	HR
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	MK (although the Interinstitutional style guide says 'to be defined')
Turkey	TR

Appendix 9: Celex

Because the European Union is a relatively recent creation, most of its legal documents were available within the institutions in electronic form from the earliest days of data processing. In the 1960s it was decided to conduct a feasibility study to make the databases more widely available and a contract was eventually awarded to the French computer firm Bull. As the different databases containing the documentation had grown independently of each other it was difficult to develop a common user interface.

Celex (Communitatis Europaeis Lex) was created in 1969 using a specially designed, but very unwieldy, command language known as Mistral. Within a structure based on 10 distinct 'sectors' (some of which were not publicly searchable) all documents were given a unique 'Celex number'. Each article of the treaties was treated as a separate item, as were Judgments and Opinions from the Court of Justice. The contents of the database were also accessible via other commercial legal databases, notably Justis, LexisNexis and Westlaw.

A user-friendly web version was launched in 1997 and changes to the structure of the database allowed stable links to be created to Celex documents from other websites, most importantly EUR-Lex. Following a European Parliament Resolution of 19 December 2002, it was decided that access to Celex should be made free. The change took effect on 1 July 2004. In late 2004 Celex and EUR-Lex were combined to create a single free access database. Celex was completely phased out in December 2006.

In 2007 OOPEC published papers from a conference held to celebrate [25 years of European law online](#).

Celex contained some 200,000 items in each of the 11 official languages and was updated on a weekly basis until December 2004. Although the database is now closed, it is still useful to be aware of the structure of Celex. Every document in the database can be located individually by using its 'Celex number', a 10-digit location code constructed as shown in each section below. This facility is still available in the new EUR-Lex service (see chapter on [Databases](#)). Only the most frequently used letter codes are given below; more comprehensive details may be found in the *Celex quick reference guide*. Luxembourg: OOPEC, 2005 ISBN 9282691063. Remember that numbers must be rounded up to 10 digits using extra zeros.

Treaties (Sector 1)

All the treaties concluded between the Member States are available in EUR-Lex, including the accession treaties. Accompanying articles, protocols, annexes and declarations are stored as separate documents. This is a complete collection of the primary legislation of the Communities.

Celex numbers: sector (1), year, E (EC Treaty), Article number (rounded up to 3 digits with zeros); e.g. 12002E220

Treaty establishing the European Community (Nice consolidated version)
Part Five: Institutions of the Community
Title I: Provisions governing the institutions
Chapter 1: The institutions
Section 4: The Court of Justice
Article 220

International agreements (Sector 2)

This sector includes all international agreements concluded between the Member States and third countries or international organisations (such as the Lomé Convention and the Agreement on the European Economic Area).

Celex numbers: sector (2), year, A (Agreements with non-Member States), number (rounded up to 4 digits with zeros);

e.g. 22000A1215

2000/483/EC: Partnership agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000

Secondary legislation (Sector 3)

All secondary legislation is available, regardless of whether or not it is still in force. This includes Regulations, Decisions, Directives and 'soft law' (general guidelines with no binding legal effect). The sector also includes the rules of procedure of the European institutions and joint positions adopted by the Council under the second and third pillars (Common Foreign and Security Policy and Justice and Home Affairs).

Celex numbers: sector (3), year, L (Directive) R (Regulation) or D (Decision), number (rounded up to 4 digits with zeros);

e.g. 32004R0805

Regulation (EC) No 805/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 creating a European Enforcement Order for uncontested claims

Supplementary legislation (Sector 4)

Supplementary acts are based on agreements concluded between the Member States, such as the Rome Convention on Contractual Obligations and the European Patent Convention, and as such are instruments of international law rather than Community law.

Celex numbers: sector (4), year, A (Agreements between Member States), number (rounded up to 4 digits with zeros);

e.g. 41968A0927(01)

1968 Brussels Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters

Preparatory documents (Sector 5)

Draft legislation is available in full text since 1995 in the form published in the *Official Journal* C series (i.e. without the explanatory memorandum). Earlier documents are indexed, but only bibliographic information is given. It also includes the opinions of the consultative bodies involved in the legislative process: the European Parliament (since 1974); the Economic and Social Committee; the Committee of the Regions; the Court of Auditors and common positions of the Council of Ministers. COM documents are included in this section.

Celex numbers: sector (5), year, PC (Commission proposals), DC (Other COM documents), SC (SEC documents);

e.g. COM (2004) 334 final = 52004DC0334

Green paper on the approximation, mutual recognition and enforcement of criminal sanctions in the European Union

Case law (Sector 6)

All ECJ and CFI case law, including staff cases, is available in full text on Celex. The earliest texts, however, are only loaded in upper case, which can be difficult to read. Judgments, opinions of the Advocates-General and orders are loaded as separate documents.

Celex numbers: sector (6), year, J (Judgment) or C (Opinion), A (Court of First Instance), register number

e.g. Case C-409/95 = 61995J0409 or 61995C0409

Judgment of the Court of 11 November 1997.

Hellmut Marschall v Land Nordrhein-Westfalen.

European Court Reports 1997 Page I-06363

National measures implementing EC legislation (Sector 7)

Although this information is of particular interest to legal practitioners in the Member States, the sector is not complete. Details are updated at the end of each month but a disclaimer is displayed warning that the information is not reliable. Searches in the legislation file will include this information: just click on *Display the national implementing measures*. Celex numbers: sector (7), year, L (Directive), register number

e.g. 72003L0088

Directive 2003/88/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 November 2003 concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time

Decisions of national courts relating to Community law (Sector 8)

(This sector is not searchable)

Although the Court is required to collect relevant decisions of national law under a Council resolution of 1978 the collection was maintained by the Association of Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union.

The Publications Office decided in 2007 to make these decisions publicly available and added them to EUR-Lex in 2008 (access via 'European Union law in Europe'; select 'National and international case law'). The database was last updated in June 2007.

Parliamentary questions (Sector 9)

All written questions addressed by the members of the European Parliament to the Commission and Council are loaded in Celex once they have been answered by the institution concerned. Bibliographic details are given for oral questions or questions raised at question time, but the full text until 2001 is only published in the Debates of the European Parliament, which are available either online from the Europarl server or on CD-ROM. From 2002 the text is available in PDF format from the OJ file. Celex numbers: sector (9), year, E (written questions), H (Questions at question time), O (Oral questions) register number;

e.g. 92002E0967

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0967/02 by Eurig Wyn (Verts/ALE) to the Commission. The capturing and killing of dolphins in Devon and Cornwall

Published works on Community law from a legal perspective (Sector 10)

Although this sector is not directly searchable, bibliographic references for studies of particular cases are displayed by clicking on *Bibliographic notice* and *Doctrine* (French legal term for case studies) when searching in 'Case law'.

Two additional sectors have been introduced to cope with later changes:

EFTA documents (EFTA Court & EFTA Surveillance Authority) (Sector E)

Non-legal documents published in the C series of the *Official Journal* (Sector C)

The major advantage of using Celex was its flexibility. The web version introduced a straightforward menu search option allowing cross-file searching, searching within specific document files (legislation, case-law, preparatory acts and parliamentary questions), searching by document number (using either natural or Celex numbers) and by publication reference (in the *Official Journal* or the *European Court Reports*). This search function formed the basis of the new EUR-Lex service.