Information Guide

Europe on the Internet

A selection of useful websites, databases and documents for information on the European Union and the wider Europe

Ian Thomson
Director, Cardiff EDC
Europe on the Internet

Contents

• Searching for European information
• Legislative, judicial and policy-making information
• Keeping up-to-date
• Information on EU policies and countries
• Grants and loans – Statistics
• Contact information
• Terminological, linguistic and translation information

In addition to textual hyperlinks throughout this guide, many of the images are also hyperlinks to further information
Europe on the Internet

Searching for European Information
Searching for European information

The EU’s own search engine to find information from EU Institutions & Agencies published on EUROPA, the EU’s portal [EUROPA Search does not find information in EUR-Lex]

The European Journalism Centre set up this Search Europa service, which uses the functionality of Google to search the EUROPA portal [Includes results from EUR-Lex]

FIND-eR (Find Electronic Resources) will help you find EU publications, academic books, journal articles, etc. on topics of interest to the EU [Offers hyperlinks to full text of sources if freely available, or via use of a Link-Resolver] [Formerly known as ECLAS]

EU Law and Publications: Use the Search Centre to search for EU documents [EU law – EUR-Lex] and EU publications [EU Bookshop] + EU websites and Summaries of EU Legislation

EU Bookshop: from here you can buy printed copies or freely download electronic copies of EU publications.

[Not all older EU publications are available electronically. Subscribe to Newsletter]

EUR-Lex is the official source of EU legislative and judicial information [EU documents]

The Publications Office also manages: TED - Open Data Portal - Cordis

Europe on the Internet. © Ian Thomson, Cardiff EDC, August 2017
Searching for European information

The Registers of Documents from the European Parliament, Council of the European Union and the European Commission + the Comitology Register can be used to find some ‘unpublished’ EU information not accessible via EUROPA

Much older EU documentation is still not available electronically from the EU itself, although you can try the Historical Archives. The HAEU also plan to regularly archive EU websites. Try these electronic repositories from external organisations as an alternative source of older material:
1. ArchiDok
2. Archive of European Integration (AEI)
3. CVCE.eu by uni.lu [Digital research infrastructure on European integration]

Google is obviously a further tool to use to find information from and about the EU and European information generally. However, do not assume that ALL such information can be found via Google. NB: Google Scholar restricts search to more academic material

Search ESO for EU documentation, websites, academic books & journal articles, think tanks, stakeholder information, news sources etc. [Provides information on the EU, other international organisations in Europe and the countries of Europe - emphasis on English language sources - a unique set of 100 information guides to policies, institutions & countries]
Legislative and judicial information sources
The European Union
Legislative acts

• Legislative Acts
  • Primary legislation
    • The Treaties
    • Secondary legislation
      • Regulations [European law]
      • Directives [European framework law]

• Non-Legislative Acts
  • European regulations
  • European decisions
  • Recommendations
  • Opinions

Further information
The European Union Judicial decisions

• The Courts
  • European Court of Justice (C cases)
  • General Court [formerly ECFI] (T cases)
  • Civil Service Tribunal (F cases)

• Judicial acts
  • Judgements
  • Opinions
  • Orders

Further information
Legislative information
The new EUR-Lex

EUR-Lex is the official source of EU Legislative and Judicial Information
Use EUR-Lex to find: Adopted / Proposed legislative texts / ECJ judgments etc.
EUR-Lex now includes PreLex (now called ‘Procedures’) and Summaries of EU Legislation
Gradually full text electronic versions of older legislative texts are being added to EUR-Lex
Legislative information
The new EUR-Lex – Features to look out for...

Easy Search from Home Page or above. There is also an Advanced search option for more detailed searching.

Options for displaying information ['Procedure' comprises information formerly listed separately in PreLex]
Note: Options displayed here differ depending on the information searched for - can include ‘Summary of Legislation’ and ‘National Transposition’

Register in My EUR-Lex to save searches and to receive RSS feeds on your chosen subjects.

You can display a document in up to three language versions simultaneously.

Read of the latest EUR-Lex Developments

Europe on the Internet. © Ian Thomson, Cardiff EDC, August 2017
Legislative information
The new EUR-Lex – Features to look out for...

Note the availability of **Summary of legislation**
New from July 2015: Greater highlighting of National Implementing Measures (**NIM**)
Legislative information
Key sections of EUR-Lex

- Simple Search / Advanced Search
- Official Journal [1952-]
- Treaties
- Legislation [NB. Consolidated Legislation]
- Preparatory Acts [COM / JOIN / SWD / SEC documents]
- Summaries of EU legislation
- Procedures [the former PreLex]
- Directories of Legislation / Proposed Legislation / Consolidated Legislation / Case Law /
  International Agreements
- A-Z of EUR-Lex / EUROVOC / Site-map / NIMs / N-Lex / EEA-Lex

Also see: Citizens Summaries:
Some Commission DGs issue Citizens Summaries of major legislative proposals
[e.g. DG SANTE / DG AGRI / DG RTD]

Consolidation / Codification / Recasting
[More information]

Authoritative versions: OJ / Case-Law

European Legislation Identifier [ELI]

Harmonising the numbering of EU Legal Acts
New system from January 2015

Making NIMs directly accessible in EUR-Lex
ECJ case law can be found via [EUR-Lex](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/) or the ECJ website [CURIA](https://curia.europa.eu/).

Use these sources to find Judgments of the ECJ and also Opinions of the Advocate General.

**CURIA**
- Search page
- Numerical Access
- ECJ Press Releases
- Diary
- Find academic analysis of ECJ caselaw
  - [Annotation of Judgments](https://curia.europa.eu/en/judgments/)

**EUR-Lex**
- Search
- Browse
- Directory of Case Law
  - [Note distinction between cases before and after 2010](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/)

- New rules of procedure of [General Court](https://ecj.europa.eu/curia/en/)
  - from 1 July 2015

- Summaries of important ECJ judgments 2005-2011

- European Case Law Identifier / [ECLI](https://ecli.europa.eu/en) / ECJ and ECLI

- DG Competition of the European Commission maintains a database of Competition cases

- [European e-Justice Portal](https://e-justice.europa.eu/)
  - offers information on the legal system and procedures in each EU Member State
Access to EU Member State National Legislation and Case Law

Use EUR-Lex to find details of national legislation that implements EU law [NIMs] and national case law concerning EU law.

Use N-Lex to find sources of national legislation in most EU Member States. For some countries you can search directly for national legislation.

InterParliamentary EU information eXchange allows access to reports from national parliaments concerning EU legislative proposals and initiatives.

COSAC is the Conference of the Committees of the National Parliaments of the European Union Member States.

DEC.NAT – National Decisions is a database of the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union. This allows access to a collection of the case law of national courts concerning EU law.

Find links to EU Member State national legislation & case law through e-Justice Portal.

Europe on the Internet. © Ian Thomson, Cardiff EDC, August 2017
Policy Monitoring
Policy-tracking:
Monitoring EU legislative proposals and other initiatives

Methods to help you follow the progress of EU legislative proposals and other initiatives and trace associated documents

Legislative history of European Commission proposals with hyperlinks to key documents + links to related pages in IPEX and the Legislative Procedures page in EUR-Lex [see example] and Summaries of key stages
See also: EU Legislation in Progress – highlighting progress of current important legislative proposals

The Legislative procedures (LP) section of the new EUR-Lex allows you to monitor the progress of European Commission legislative proposals and other initiatives*

* However, LP no longer covers non-legislative Commission documents such as Communications and Reports

Europe on the Internet. © Ian Thomson, Cardiff EDC, August 2017
Despite failings, the various EU Registers of Documents can help you find EU documents not accessible elsewhere, especially draft documents, working party / committee papers and latest versions of adopted legislation before official publication.
New Transparency portal launched in June 2012 brings together information to help citizens follow the EU policy making process more easily:

- Access to legislation
- Your Voice in Europe – Consultations
- Impact assessment / Roadmaps
- Register of Expert Groups
- Comitology (Advisory Groups)
- Transparency Register
- Access to documents (Registers of documents)
- Recipients of EU funds
- Ethics for staff
- Open Data Portal
Policy-tracking:
European Commission

Strategic Planning and Programming Cycle

- **Synthesis Report**
  Year +1 (June)

- **APS Decision**
  Year -1 (February)

- **Annual Activity Report**
  Year +1 (March)

- **Commission work Programme**
  Year -1 (November)

- **Operational implementation**
  Year

- **Annual Management Plan**
  Year (January)

- **Preliminary draft budget**
  Year -1 (April)

- **Budget**
  Year -1 (December)
Policy-tracking:
European Commission

- Follow the key activities: **Strategy: Decision making**
- **Political Guidelines** for new European Commission President Juncker, July 2014
- **State of the Union Speech** given in **September 2011-2013** (not in 2014), **2015, 2016**
- Legislative and Work Programme [**2017** + earlier LWPs]
- **Get involved with Commission initiatives** [roadmaps / consultations etc]
- **Weekly Commission Meeting**  [Agenda & Minutes]
- **Websites** of Commission Directorates General & Services
- Management plans of DGs
  - **Strategic Plans** [Latest: 2016-2020] and **Management Plans** for each DG [Latest: 2017]
  - **Annual Activity Reports** [Latest: 2016]

**Hearings** of Commissioners in the European Parliament, September-October 2014

**10 Priorities** of the European Commission 2014-2019
Use this website to find information on the EU Budget

- **The Budget Explained**
- **Multiannual Financial Framework** [2007-13 / 2014-20]
- **Information** on the 2016 Budget
- **Information** on the 2017 Budget

Texts of proposed & adopted EU Budget are also available on EUR-Lex

ECA carries out the audit of the EU’s Finances

[Booklet: EU Budget At a Glance]

Europe on the Internet. © Ian Thomson, Cardiff EDC, August 2017
Donald Tusk is the European Council President
1\textsuperscript{st} Term: 2014-2017  2\textsuperscript{nd} Term: 2017-2019 [elected March 2017]
Policy-tracking: EU Presidency

• Trio Presidency Programmes
  – 18 month Programme of the Estonian, Bulgarian and Austrian EU Presidencies – July 2017 – December 2018

• Presidency Programmes and Website
  – Estonia: EU Presidency, July – December 2017
  – Work Programme / Priorities

  Information of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

  Next Presidency
  Bulgaria
  Jan-June 2018
Policy-tracking: Council of the European Union

• Council operates at two levels
  • Ministerial / National Officials meeting at Working Party level

• Ministerial
  • Meetings of the Council at Ministerial level
  • Web-streaming of Council events and meetings
  • Agenda of future Council meetings

• National Officials meeting at Working Party level
  • List of Council preparatory bodies
  • Agendas / COREPER

Agendas, Minutes, Outcomes and Summary Records of Council meetings and of COREPER, SCA and other Council preparatory bodies can also be accessed through the Register of Council Documents
Policy-tracking:
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

- High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

- European External Action Service (EEAS)

**EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy**
to guide the European Union's global actions in the future launched in June 2016
• Activities of the European Parliament
• Newsroom
• Debates
  • Watch current and previous debates
  • EP Live
  • EuroparlTV
• Minutes
• Texts adopted
• Committees

Find information on the European Parliament Elections, May 2014 via ESO

European Parliamentary Research Service
• Studies / In-Depth Analysis / Fact Sheets / Topical Digests
• EPRS Briefings / EPRS Publications / What Think Tanks Are Thinking / Key sources

Europe on the Internet. © Ian Thomson, Cardiff EDC, August 2017
Citizens can play a part in EU policy making
Consultations – Citizens Dialogues – Suggest a new EU law
Keeping up-to-date: EU sources
Keeping up-to-date:
EU sources: Web sources

The main entry point for EU news and media services

The main database for EU* Press Releases, Speeches & other news type sources
Midday Express / Latest / Upcoming events
* Since 2014 RAPID focuses on European Commission sources

Use this website to search for details of future and past events in all the EU Institutions

Find all EU RSS feeds
[+ mailing lists / podcasts]

News sources from other EU Institutions:
Council / European Parliament / ECJ / EEAS / Others
Keeping up-to-date:
EU sources: TV / Webstreaming / Videos

- **EU: Newsroom: Audiovisual**
- **Europe by satellite (EbS)**
- **Europarl tv**
- **EPTV**
- **Council Live**
- **TV Newsroom**
- **European Central Bank**
Keeping up-to-date: EU sources: For the Citizen

• **General Report on the Activities of the European Union**

• **EUROPA**: Entry point for EU information on the web
Europe Media Monitor (EMM) is a news aggregation and analysis system to support EU institutions and Member State organisations. The three Web Portals NewsBrief, NewsExplorer and MedISys are publicly accessible.
Keeping up-to-date: Non-EU sources
Keeping up-to-date: Non-Official Sources

- Web-based news sources
  - EUObserver
  - EurActiv
  - Politico.EU
  - The Parliament Magazine
  - EUBusiness
  - Agence Europe

- Newspapers / Newsletters
  - European newspapers
  - EuroTopics
  - Vox Europ
  - EUFeeds
  - French language sources:

Many newspapers / newsletters listed here are available in both paper and electronic formats.
Keeping up-to-date: Non-Official Sources

- European broadcasters
  - Members of the European Broadcasting Union
    - Euronews
    - European News from: BBC / DW / France24 etc
    - Euranet [European radio network reduced in coverage from 2013 after withdrawal of EU financial support]
    - EurActiv
    - viEUws
Keeping up-to-date:
Selection of news sources

All these sources offer European news in English
Keeping up-to-date:
Social media

The EU Institutions are increasingly using social media to reach new audiences.
Keeping up-to-date: Social media: Blogs

Blog Aggregators bring together a selection of Europe focused blogs

A sample of blogs offering a range of insights on Europe
Who are the key players in the EU-twitterosphere? TweetLevel evaluates tweets.

Many EU Institutions, officials, MEPs, Stakeholders and news sources are using Twitter – although some question its value.

Tweet Aggregators: attempts to bring together EU tweets.

Europe on the Internet. © Ian Thomson, Cardiff EDC, August 2017
Facebook is also being used by the European Union Institutions (and by other European stakeholders)
Flickr is also being used by the European Union Institutions (and by other European stakeholders)
Eurostat Statistics are available electronically and free of charge:

- Database
- Statistics by Theme
- Statistics A-Z
- Statistics explained
- Eurostat Yearbook

To use enhanced functionalities on the Eurostat website you are recommended to register at EU Login
Additional sources of European statistics can be found from the following organisations and sources:

- ENERGY
- MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT
- European Commission

- OECD StatExtracts
- Complete databases available via SourceOECD, OECD's iLibrary

- UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
- Statistical Database

- World Health Organization

- EFTA

- ESO Information Guide: European Statistical Data
Information on EU grants and loans

Funding, Tenders

Find open and upcoming calls for funding proposals, get background information on funding processes and programmes, and apply online. Learn about the tendering process and opportunities for doing business with the European Commission.

ESO European Sources Online

Information Guide

Funding

Access to finance

Website for businesses and entrepreneurs to access EU funds

Europe on the Internet. © Ian Thomson, Cardiff EDC, August 2017
Information on beneficiaries of EU grants and loans

EU grants & loans managed by the EU Institutions

EU grants & loans managed by the Member States

Europe on the Internet. © Ian Thomson, Cardiff EDC, August 2017
Contacting the EU

- EU Institutions
- EU Agencies
- Contact the European Union
- EU: WhoisWho

A print version of Who Is Who is published annually.
Contacting the EU

• Contact MEPs

Contact details for MEPs for the period 2014-2019
Contacting the EU

• **Information sources: Whom to contact**

  - **Europe Direct**
    - Europe Direct Information Centres (EDICs)
    - European Documentation Centres (EDCs)
    - Contact Centre, Brussels

  - **The EU in your country**
    - EDICs, EDCs and Team Europe members in your country
    - [Representations](#) / [EP Offices](#) / [Enterprise Europe Network](#) in your country

• **EU information & assistance services**
Contacting the EU

Find details of organisations that seek to influence (‘lobby’) the EU. Currently, the Register is a voluntary requirement. Transparency Register was new in 2011 and combined the functions of the old European Commission Register of Interest Representatives and European Parliament Register of Lobbyists.

Details of the people / representatives appointed to Expert Groups to advise the European Commission.

Search the two registers above + TED & Financial Transparency System in one search.
Terminological information

- Aids for translators
- IATE: InterActive Terminology for Europe
- Acronyms and abbreviations
- Google Translate
- Patent Translate
- MT@EC
- JRC: Language Technology Resources
- EuroVoc
There are many think tanks discussing issues relating to the EU and the Wider Europe – find out from these links...

**THINK TANK REVIEW**

The Library of the Council of the European Union issues a monthly review summarising new think tank reports with hyperlinks to the full text.

**EPRS**

Each week the European Parliamentary Research Service issues a compilation of recent think tank reports on an issue currently in the news.

**Panorama des think tanks**

The Permanent Representation of France to the EU issues a review twice a year summarising new think tank reports with hyperlinks to the full text [main text in French].

**TTCSP**

Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania issues an annual list of Think Tanks in the world, including in Europe.

You can find many reports and other publications of think tanks through ESO, AEI, ERPA and EPIN.
The Cardiff EDC provides a professional and neutral information service on the European Union and the wider Europe

Enquiry service – Publication of European Sources Online – Events

http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/european-documentation-centre