



EUROPEAN UNION LAW: Selected Resources Guide

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I. Introduction & Scope

The European Union (EU), formerly known as the European Communities (EC), comprises 15 Member States united in an effort to form a strong economic and political entity. The union was originally based upon a proposal of France's foreign minister, Robert Shuman, whereby the six original Member States namely, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands entered into the Treaty of Paris in 1951, which created the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). In 1957, the Treaty of Rome established two additional communities, the European Atomic Community (EURATOM), and the European Economic Community (EEC). These three communities form the "constitution" of EU. The immediate goal of EU was to establish a customs union that will guarantee free movement of goods, services, capital, and people among the Member States. In 1986, all internal borders in the Communities were dismantled and a single market was established with the signing of the Single European Act (SEA). In 1992, the Treaty on European Union (TEU) was signed in Maastricht, which established the European Union. The TEU marked a new stage in establishing "an ever closer Union" among European nationals.¹

European Union Law or Community Law can be categorized into primary and secondary sources. The primary sources consists of the various treaties establishing the European Communities (ECSC, EURATOM, & EC), and subsequent ones expanding or amending the original Treaties, which include The Single European Act, The Treaty on European Union, and the Treaty of Amsterdam. The secondary sources consist of regulations, directives, decisions, and agreements issued by the institutions in accordance with the authority conferred upon them. The institutions include the European Parliament (EP), European Council, European Commission, European Court of Justice (ECJ), and Court of Auditors (CoA).

The purpose of this pathfinder is to assist students and other researchers in locating printed sources on European Union Law that are available at ULV Law Library and direct them to selected Internet and Online sources on the subject. This is not intended to be a comprehensive research guide but rather to provide a starting point or quick reference guide on European Union Law or Community Law.

II. Print Sources

To gain a general understanding of European Union Law, the law library has the following treatises and textbooks:

- Arnall, Anthony. *The European Union and its court of justice*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
Call No.: KJE5461 .A97 1999

¹ Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty) Art.1.

- Craig, P.P. (Paul P.). *EU law: text, cases, and materials*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
Call No.: KJE947 .C73 2003
- Cuthbert, Mike. *EU law in a nutshell*. London: Sweet & Maxwell, 2000.
Call No.: KJE947 .C87 2000
- Davies, Karen, LLP. *Understanding EU law*. London: Cavendish Pub. Limited, 2001.
Call No.: KJE947 .D38 2001
- Folsom, Ralph Haughwout. *European Union law in a nutshell*. St. Paul, Minnesota: West Group, 1999.
Call No.: KJE949 .F55 1999.
- Hartley, Trevor, C. *The foundations of European community law*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.
Call No.: KJE947 .H37 1998.
- Kole, Karen V. and Anthony D'Amato. *European Union law anthology*. Cincinnati, OH: Anderson Pub. Co. 1998.
Call No.: KJE958 .K65 1998
- Mathijssen, P.S.R.F. *A guide to European Union*. London: Sweet & Maxwell, 1999.
Call No.: KJE947 .M38 1999
- Raworth, Philip Marc. *Introduction to the legal system of the European Union*. Dobbs Ferry, NY: Oceana Publications, 2001.
Call No.: KJE947 .R39 2001
- Roney, Alex. **EC/EU fact book: a complete guide**. London: Kogan Page, 2000.
Location: Law Library Stacks
Call No.: KJE949 .R66 2000
- Wyatt, Derrick. *Rudden & Wyatt's EU treaties and legislation*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
Call No.: KJE916 .R7 2002

III. Internet Sources

- **EUROPA** <http://europa.eu.int>, is the official website of the European Union. It is an excellent starting point for online research on European law. It includes links to:
 - **EU at a Glance**, http://europa.eu.int/abc/index_en.htm, - provides a quick overview of the European Union, its history, institutions, other key facts and figures.

- **EUR-Lex**, http://europa.eu.int/documents/eur-lex/index_en.htm, - is the EU Law portal. It is an excellent source for official EU law documents. It provides links to the following:
 - Official Journal of the European Communities (OJ), a daily publication, which consists of the L Series and the C Series. The L Series (legislation) covers regulations, directives, and decisions. The C Series covers EU information, preparatory acts and notices. The supplement to the OJ (S Series) covers public tenders. The last 45 days of the L and C Series are available free of charge.
 - All the Treaties: founding treaties, accession treaties and subsequent treaties amending the basic treaties. EUR-Lex provides free access to consolidated versions² of the following treaties:

The Treaty Establishing the European Union (Official Journal C 325 of 24 Dec. 2002) http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/dat/EC_consol.html.

The Treaty on European Union (Official Journal C 325 of 24 Dec. 2002) http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/dat/EU_consol.html

The Treaty of Nice (Official Journal C 80 of 10 March 2001) <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/treaties/dat/nice.html>

- Directory of Community legislation in force, provides links to all instruments adopted by EU institutions including, regulations, directives and decisions; instruments adopted under the common foreign and security policy or cooperation on justice and home affairs; statutes and rules of procedure of the EU institutions and bodies; opinions, recommendations and Council resolutions. Documents can be accessed by subject using either an alphabetical index or analytical structure (table of contents).
- Directory of Commission proposals, provides links to preparatory documents that correspond to the various stages of legislation, including Council common positions; Commission legislative proposals; legislative and budgetary resolutions and European Parliament initiatives; Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions opinions; Court of Auditors opinions and reports; and European Central Bank opinions. Documents can be accessed by subject using either an alphabetical index or analytical structure (table of contents).
- Case-law, provides links to decisions of the EU Court of Justice, Court of First Instance, and Advocates General.
- Parliamentary questions, provides a link to the EU Parliament website which contains written and oral questions asked by Members of the European Parliament to the Commission and Council.

² Consolidated versions contain the basic treaty incorporating the amendments and corrections. They are not official documents and have no legal value.

- Documents of Public Interest, provides links to the latest issues of Commission documents setting out its opinions on issues of general Community interest, including white papers, communications, reports, green papers, and working papers.
- **CELEX**, <http://europa.eu.int/celex/> is the official legal database of the European Union. It is a fee-based service that provides access to full-text documents covering a wide range of Community law, legislation, preparatory acts, references to national implementing measures, the case-law of the European Courts and parliamentary questions. It is available in the 11 official languages of the European Union.
- **OEIL**, <http://www.db.europarl.eu.int/dors/oeil/en/default.htm> is the Legislative Observatory database provided by the European Parliament. It covers the activities of the Commission, the Council and Parliament. It enables users to follow and monitor the Community decision-making process and to evaluate and monitor the workload of Parliament and its committees, the Commission's annual working program and the proposals of the different Council Presidencies.
- **PRELEX**, <http://europa.eu.int/prelex/apcnet.cfm?CL=en> is the database that follows the major stages of the decisions-making process between the Commission and the other institutions. It monitors all official Commission documents (proposals, recommendations and communications) transmitted to the Council or the Parliament. It also monitors the works of the various institutions involved in the decision-making process including the European Parliament, Council, ESC, Committee of the Regions, European Central Bank, and Court of Justice.
- **The European Union: A Guide for Americans**, <http://www.eurunion.org/infores/euguide/euguide.htm>, provides general information about the European Union, its history, governing institutions, an A to Z of EU policies, its relations with the United States and the World, and links to a variety of EU websites, publications and EU centers in the United States.
- **Best EU Law Websites**, <http://www.eurunion.org/infores/BestLawSites.htm>, provides links to gateway and major institutional websites in the United States and Europe, including EUROPA, the official EU website.
- **EU Centers in the United States**, http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/us/intro/ct.htm, provides link to a network of centers of information and education about the European Union in the United States. There are 15 universities in the U.S. who have been selected by the European Commission in 2001 to be part of this network. The network was designed to promote increased knowledge and understanding of the European Union and build stronger ties between Europe and the United States.
- **Selected Internet Research Guides:** There are a number of research guides on European Union law (official and unofficial) available on the Internet, the following are a few of the well recommended sources to begin your research:
 - Tools for Research on the EU <http://www.eurunion.org/infores/resguide.htm>

- ❑ UC Berkeley's EU Internet Resources
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/doemoff/gov_eu.html
- ❑ Duke University School of Law Library EU Research Guide
<http://www.law.duke.edu/lib/ResearchGuides/eu/euframe.html>
- ❑ Harvard Law Library Guide to EU Legal Research
http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/ref/ils_ref/eu_guide/eu_legal_research.htm
- ❑ Georgetown University Library Research Guide on European Union
<http://www.ll.georgetown.edu/intl/guides/eu/>
- ❑ Princeton University Library EU Documents Research Guide
http://www.princeton.edu/~ssrc/eurefgdpu.html#principal_institutions_eu
- ❑ LLRX's EU Law: An Integrated Guide to Electronic Resources Guide
<http://www.llrx.com/features/eulaw.htm>

III. Online Sources

▪ WESTLAW

A comprehensive coverage of EU law materials is available on Westlaw's EU-ALL database. It includes primary and secondary sources of legislation such as texts of the Official Journal L and C Series, EU Treaties, case law, preparatory acts and parliamentary questions.

EU Legislative and Regulatory Materials:

- ❑ EU-TREATIES database contains comprehensive coverage of EU Treaties beginning with the 1951 Treaty of Paris and 1957 Treaty of Rome (establishing the European Communities) and including accession treaties and subsequent treaties amending the basic treaties.
- ❑ EU-LEG database contains comprehensive coverage of European Communities legislation dating back from 1952 and current materials of the Official Journal L Series, including International Agreements, Secondary Legislation (regulations, decisions and directives issued by EU Institutions), and Supplementary Legislation.
- ❑ EU-ACTS database contains complete text of EU Preparatory Acts, including Commission proposals beginning with 1984; explanatory memorandums for proposals published in the OJ C Series since 1992; Parliamentary resolutions from 1974; full-text opinions of the Committee of the Regions; Committee of Auditors opinions from 1977, and Council common positions from 1985.
- ❑ EU-OJCSERIES database contains text of selected documents published in the Official Journal C Series with bibliographic coverage from 1990 and selected full-text documents or extracts from 1992.
- ❑ EU-QUESTIONS database contains questions addressed to the European Commission and Council by members of the European Parliament, and written answers as published in the Official Journal with full-text coverage from 1992.

EU Case Law and Judicial Materials:

- ❑ EU-CS-ALL database contains full text decisions of Court of Justice and Court of First Instance as reported in the European Court Reports, materials from the Law Report series published by the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales, Lloyd's Law Reports published by LLP Reference Publishing, and the Sweet & Maxwell series of law reports on Westlaw, and Orders and Judgments of the Court of Justice covered by the OJ C Series.
- ❑ EU-CS database contains the official case law reports as included in the European Court Reports, which covers decisions of the Court of Justice from 1954 and Court of First Instance from 1989. Also includes Advocate-General's opinions and orders and judgments of the Court of Justice as included in the OJ C Series with coverage from 1985.
- ❑ CML-RPTS database contains all cases covered in the Common Law Report series published by Sweet & Maxwell, which include decisions of the Court of Justice of European Communities, Court of First Instance of the European Communities, the European Free Trade Association Court, the Commission of the European Communities, and national courts and tribunals of EU members states. Coverage begins with 1963.
- ❑ EU-RPTS-ALL database contains all case reports from the United Kingdom, other European countries, the European Union and its member states, with coverage beginning from 1865.

EU News and Current Awareness

- ❑ EURONEWS database contains news and information about Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) covered in newspapers, magazines, journals, newsletters, radio and television transcripts, and wires.
- ❑ EURUPDATE database contains reports that analyze EU policy, specific EU business and legal topics, specific EU industries, trade relations between EU and various countries, and the business climate in various Eastern European countries.

▪ LEXIS

European Union Law materials are available on CELEX EU Law database on Lexis.

EU Legislation & Regulations

- ❑ ECLAW is the combined source file that includes EU Treaties, Legislation, Preparatory Acts, National Provisions Implementing Directives, Parliamentary Questions, and other documents as provided by CELEX (official EU Law database). Coverage is from 1953 through current.
- ❑ LEGIS source file contains EU legislation as covered in the Official Journal L and C Series including international agreements, regulations, directives, EEC and EURATOM decisions, recommendations, resolutions, etc. Coverage is from July 1979 through current

- ❑ NATPRV source file contains documents that cover all national measures taken by EU Member States in their implementation of Community measures as provided by the CELEX database. Coverage is from Jan.1989 through current.
- ❑ PARLQ source file contains written questions and answers, as well as references to oral questions transmitted to the Council and Commission by the Parliament, as published in the Official Journal C Series. Coverage is from Aug. 8, 1964 through current.
- ❑ PREP source file contains proposals, reports, notices, communications and opinions of the EC institutions as published in the Official Journal L and C series, COM documents, etc. Coverage is from April 5, 1972 through current.

EU Treaties and International Agreements

- ❑ TREATY source file contains EC/EU treaties including all founding treaties, accession treaties, and treaties amending or supplementing the founding treaties. Coverage is from April 15, 1951 through current.
- ❑ ECTY source file contains European Community treaties as covered in vols. 1 & 2 of Basic Documents of International Economic Law including introductions and texts of treaties, agreements and protocols.

EU Case Law

- ❑ ECJ source file contains full-text decisions of the EC Court of Justice and Court of First Instance as provided in the CELEX database. Coverage is from 1954 through current.
- ❑ CASES source file contains selected cases of the EC Court of Justice and Court of First instance as reported in the All England Law Reports (EC) and published by Butterworths. Coverage is from 1954 for European Court of Justice decisions; 1989 for Court of First Instance decisions.

EU News and Current Awareness

- ❑ ECNEWS source file contains daily press releases as provided by EU's RAPID³ service, updates on tender offers as provided by EU's TED⁴ service, and Cooper & Lybrand's legislative summaries and other news publications.

³ RAPID is a searchable database of press releases issued by various EU institutions, <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh>

⁴ TED (Tenders Electronic Daily) is a searchable database of public tenders. It provides access to the latest edition of the Official Journal and an archive of all documents covered in the Official Journal S series for the last five years, <http://ted.publications.eu.int/static/home/en/homepage.ini?&time=>