

Resources for EU law

This guide will help you find and use EU law resources. It explains the different categories of EU law materials and where to find them. You may need to find and use printed items in Oxford Brookes libraries, items available online via Oxford Brookes library subscriptions, and items freely available online.

This guide will help you to find items you have references for (e.g. on a reading list) and to research topics for which you do not have any references.

Finally, there is useful advice on referencing EU materials and getting help from the library

You can find more support for EU law, including useful videos at

<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/law#eu>

1. Useful sources of EU law

These three sources contain a wealth of EU materials and will be referred to throughout this guide. All three sources are updated every day. EUR-Lex is freely available online. The library has paid for access to the other two.

Lexis+	Westlaw	EUR-Lex
The library subscribes to Lexis+	The library subscribes to . Westlaw .	EUR-Lex is an online service provided by the EU.
Access via the link above or the library website and put in your Oxford Brookes username and password when prompted.	Access via the link above or the library website and put in your Oxford Brookes username and password when prompted.	You do not need to sign in to use this. However, if you create a free account you can access additional features such as saving documents and queries.
Agree to the terms and conditions when prompted.	The first time you access Westlaw you'll be prompted for your name and email address.	

2. Primary legislation (treaties)

The TEU (Treaty on the European Union), TFEU (Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) and other EU treaties can all be found in the treaties section of EUR-Lex:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties/treaties-force.html>

[Westlaw](#) also contains EU treaties. Select *EU* in the top bar. Tick the box marked ‘treaties’ then use the ‘parties or title’ box at the top to search by a treaty’s name.

[Lexis+](#) also allows you to explore EU treaties. From the homepage, click ‘Content’ then ‘Legislation’, then ‘EU legislation’ then ‘EU treaties’

3. Secondary legislation (regulations, directives and decisions – plus recommendations and opinions)

You can search for [all types of secondary legislation on EUR-Lex](#).

Tip: Look at the end of this section of the guide to see how to identify a document number. You can then put that number in the EUR-Lex ‘quick search’ box.

[Westlaw](#) also contains secondary legislation. Select ‘EU’ in the top bar. Tick the box labelled ‘legislation’ then use the ‘parties or title’ box to search by name. You can also search by document number, or use the ‘free text’ box to search for a word or phrase that you’re interested in.

You can also access secondary legislation using [Lexis+](#). From the homepage, click ‘Content’ then ‘Legislation’, then ‘EU legislation’.







You can choose to search across all types of secondary legislation or just a selection.

Home > Legislation > EU Legislation

EU Legislation

Enter search terms

☒ Search all sources on this page ☐ Select sources to search

EU Legislation: Decisions 	EU Legislation: Regulations 
EU Legislation: Directives 	EU Materials 
EU Legislation: Historical Versions 	EU Treaties 

This image shows the EU legislation search page from Westlaw

Secondary legislation is officially published in the legislation volume (L) of the *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJ). If you see a reference to EU legislation on your reading list or in a textbook footnote, it will include a running number and the year, separated by a forward slash. At the end of the reference, you’ll see a volume and page number from the OJ.

Here are some examples of references to secondary legislation:

Council Regulation 2037/2000 of 29 June 2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer [2000] OJ L244/1
Council Directive 2008/104/EC of 19 November 2008 on temporary agency work [2008] OJ L327/9
Council Decision (EU) 2016/954 of 9 June 2016 authorising enhanced cooperation in the area of jurisdiction, applicable law and the recognition and enforcement of decisions on the property regimes of international couples, covering both matters of matrimonial property regimes and the property consequences of registered partnerships [2016] OJ L159/16
Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on freedom of movement for workers within the Union Text with EEA relevance [2011] OJ L141/1
Directive (EU) 2016/800 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings [2016] OJ L132/1




The simplest way to find these documents is to search for the number/year (e.g. 2037/2000 or 2016/800).

Because they often have long titles, textbooks etc. may shorten them. Therefore, searching for a document by its title may not work.

4. Case law and law reports

EU case law from the Court of Justice and General Court can be found on Curia (<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/recherche.jsf?language=en>) or on EUR-Lex (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eulaw/eu-case-law.html>).

As you can see below, the Curia search screen allows you to search by case number or names of the parties. It also gives you lots of other search boxes – you don't need to use them all!

Case status	 <input checked="" type="radio"/> All cases <input type="radio"/> Cases closed <input type="radio"/> Cases pending
Court	 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Court of Justice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Court <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Service Tribunal
Case number	 <input type="text"/> (ex: C-17/05; 17/05)
Name of the parties	 <input type="text"/>

The most authoritative source of EU case law is the *European Court Reports (ECR)*. As well as using Curia or EUR-Lex to read case reports in the ECR, you can also find them on Westlaw. Select 'EU' in the top bar. Tick the box labelled 'cases' before using one or more of the search boxes.

The *Common Market Law Reports* and *All England Law Reports (European Cases)* also publish full reports of some ECJ cases. The [Common Market Law Reports](#) can be found on Westlaw. The *All England Law Reports (European Cases)* can be found on Lexis+, but note that publication ceased in 2015.

5. European Human Rights Law

A good source of case law from the European Court of Human Rights is the European Human Rights Reports (EHRR). This can be found on [Westlaw](#).

[HUDOC](#) is the official site, containing full judgments from the court, which can be accessed freely online. You can also see [a selection of the most significant judgments and decisions](#), compiled by the court.

You can find the text of the European Convention on Human Rights at https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf.

6. Searching EUR-Lex



A guide to searching EUR-Lex can be found at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/content/help/search/intro.html#help1>.

EUR-Lex has a **controlled vocabulary** or **thesaurus tool** called EUROVOC (<https://eurlex.europa.eu/browse/eurovoc.html>). Because there are lots of different ways of describing the same thing, many databases (including EUR-Lex) use a hierarchy of index words or tags documents on the same topic. This can be helpful if you aren't sure what words to use in the search box. EUROVOC fulfils a similar function to the lists of keywords and subjects you can choose from in Lexis+ and Westlaw.

Try finding a useful topic in EUROVOC. You can use the hierarchy to make the topic as precise as you want. Just click 'search' next to the term you want to search for. You can then refine your results list by date, document type etc. using the options to the left of your results.

You can also access the EUROVOC list from the EUR-Lex search screen by clicking on advanced search then looking for the search box labelled 'theme'.

7. Useful journals

In common with all areas of law, journal articles are a crucial resource in EU law. Because journal articles are shorter than books, they are often focused on a more specific topic. Using journals is a good way of finding out about current or recent research, as they are published periodically throughout the year. [Learn more about using journals and journal articles in law](#).

Some journals you may find useful for EU law include:

Common Market Law Review	The library buys this journal in printed format, not digital format. Watch this video to learn how to get volumes of this journal from the library store . The journal is indexed on Westlaw, so you can find references to useful articles there, but you will only be able to read the full text of the articles in the print journal.
European Law Journal	Available online
European Law Review	Available online
Journal of Common Market Studies	Available online

8. Referencing EU materials

Just as with English law, you need to use OSCOLA when referring to EU law resources in your assignments. The definitive guide is the [OSCOLA handbook](#), which is freely available online as a PDF. Some other useful OSCOLA resources are available on the library website at <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/law#oscola>

Sections of the OSCOLA handbook you may wish to consult include:

- 2.6 European Union legal sources
- 3.2 Books
- 3.3 Articles
- 3.4 Other secondary sources

Getting help and finding out more

More information and support can be found on the law page of the library website:
<https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/law>