



EUR-Lex

Alison Steed, May 2019

QG LAW027 [<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/documents/guides/qglaw027.pdf>]

What is EUR-Lex?

- EUR-Lex is the European Union's online portal to access EU Law.
- It is available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html>.
- It is managed and maintained by the Publications Office of the European Union.
- It is accessible in the 24 languages of the EU.
- It is free to use.
- It is constantly updated.

What is in EUR-Lex?

- Treaties
- International agreements
- Legislation
- Consolidated legislation
- Preparatory documents
- Case law
- European Parliament questions
- National transposition measures
- National case-law concerning EU law
- EFTA documents.

Searching in EUR-Lex

EUR-Lex can be searched in a number of ways from the Home page:

- Quick search
- Document number (e.g. Directive 2015/720)
- Celex Number: This is a unique identifier for a document used in EUR-Lex. Details of how these are created is available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/content/help/faq/intro.html#help15>.
- Advanced search.

Using the **Document number search** for Directive 2015/720 takes you to a page where, if you click on the document title, you can select the tab for:

- the text of the directive
- more information about the directive
- the procedure showing the stages from the legislative proposal to the final law
- the transposition of EU law into the national law of the individual EU countries
- a summary of the legislation.

It is possible to display the directive in up to three languages simultaneously and also check to see if the directive is available in an e-OJ with legal value.

The screenshot shows the EUR-Lex website interface for Document 32015L0720. The sidebar on the left contains a navigation menu with the following items: Text (highlighted with a red box), Document information, Procedure, National transposition, Summary of legislation, Save to My items, Permanent link, Download notice, Follow this document, and Table of contents. The main content area is divided into several sections: Title and reference (Directive (EU) 2015/720 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 amending Directive 94/62/EC as regards reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags (Text with EEA relevance)), Languages, formats and link to OJ (with a grid of language and format icons), Multilingual display (with a red box around the 'English (en)', 'Please choose', 'Please choose', and 'Display' buttons), and Text (showing '6.5.2015' and 'EN'). A red box highlights a note: 'To see if this document has been published in an e-OJ with legal value, click on the icon above (For OJs published before 1st July 2013, only the paper version has legal value).'

If registered, it is possible to set up RSS feeds and save searches. It is free to register.

Advanced Search

It is possible to do a broad subject search using the **Advanced search** option and then use the filters to narrow the search down.

- Click on the **Advanced search** link from the Home page or from the top right hand of any page.
- To cut down the number of results, tick **Exclude consolidated versions** and **Exclude corrigenda**. (Once you have the documents you need, you can link to the relevant consolidated versions or corrigenda, if necessary, by clicking on **Document Information**).
- Select the **Collection** or collections you want to search. The search screen changes depending on what you choose.
- If you are unsure what collection to search, leave **All documents** selected, then click on **Choose multiple collections** and tick all the collections you think are relevant.
- Fill in the search screen. Boolean operators can be used.
- Click on **Search**.

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced search' interface. At the top right, there are icons for help, print, and share. Below the title 'Advanced search', there are two checkboxes: 'Exclude consolidated versions' and 'Exclude corrigenda', both of which are checked and highlighted with red boxes. To the right of these checkboxes is a 'Search' button and a 'Clear' button. Below this is a 'Collection' section with a dropdown menu set to 'All documents', also highlighted with a red box. Below the dropdown is a link 'Choose multiple collections'. At the bottom, there is a 'Text search' section with a search input field containing '* Animal testing* AND cosmetics', a 'Search' button, and options for 'In title' and 'In text'. There are also search hints on the right side.

- It is then possible to refine the search by using the options on the left-hand side.

The screenshot shows the 'Search Results' page. On the left, there is a 'Refine query' sidebar, which is highlighted with a red box. It contains sections for 'You have selected:', 'By domain', 'By subdomain', and 'By year of document'. The main content area shows the search criteria: 'Domain: All, Subdomain: All documents, Exclude corrigenda: True, Results containing: * Animal testing* AND cosmetics in title and text, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated versions: True'. Below this are options to 'Edit search', 'Save to My searches', 'Create in My RSS feeds', and 'Save to My items'. The results are displayed in a list, with the first result being 'Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on cosmetic products (Text with EEA relevance)'. The second result is 'Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)'. The sidebar also shows the number of results for each category: 'All documents' (187), 'EU law and case law' (187), 'Official Journal' (125), 'All EU law' (146), 'Preparatory documents' (109), 'Parliamentary questions' (41), 'Legal acts' (26), 'Case law' (10), '2018' (17), '2017' (8), '2016' (12), '2015' (1), and '2014' (10).

Once the search has been refined and the document selected, it is possible to check for any consolidated versions or corrigendum by clicking on **Document Information**. The **National Transposition** tab gives details of how the Directive has been implemented in the member states. (See below)

The screenshot shows the EUR-Lex interface for document 32010L0063. The left-hand navigation menu has two tabs highlighted with red boxes: 'Document information' and 'National transposition'. The main content area shows the title and reference of the directive, its OJ L reference (2010/63/EU), and a grid of language and format options (HTML, PDF, Official Journal) for various member states.

The Official Journal of the European Union (OJ)

The Official Journal of the European Union, often referred to as the OJ, is the official formal source of EU legislative information. It is published daily (week days) in all **official languages of the EU**.

Electronic copies of the OJ are available to read or download.

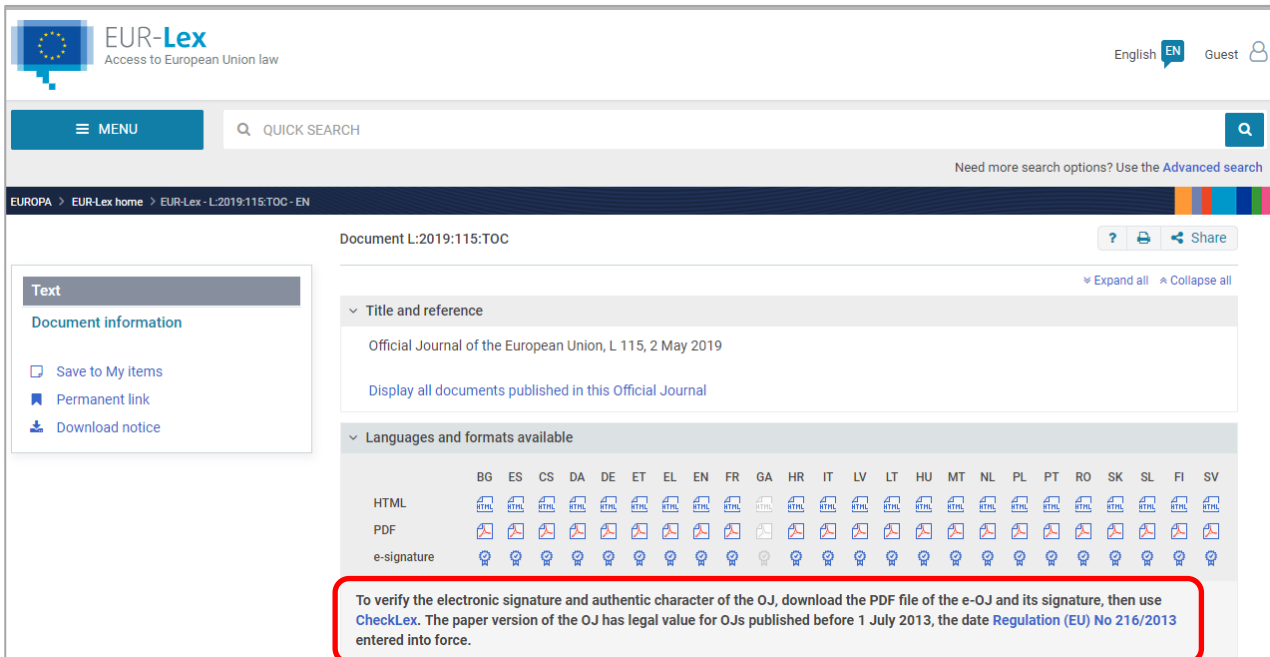
The screenshot shows the 'Access to the Official Journal' page. It includes a search filter with the following data:

Year	OJ series	Class of the OJ	Number
2019	All	All	

Below the filter is a section for 'Recent issues' with a table of results:

Date	L (Legislation)	C (Information and Notices)
02/05/2019	L115	C150
30/04/2019	L114	C149

From the 1st of July 2013 the electronic copy of the OJ is authentic and can be used for legal purposes using [CheckLex](#), the online system which verifies the certified copy.



Document L:2019:115:TOC

Text

Document information

- Save to My Items
- Permanent link
- Download notice

Title and reference

Official Journal of the European Union, L 115, 2 May 2019

Display all documents published in this Official Journal

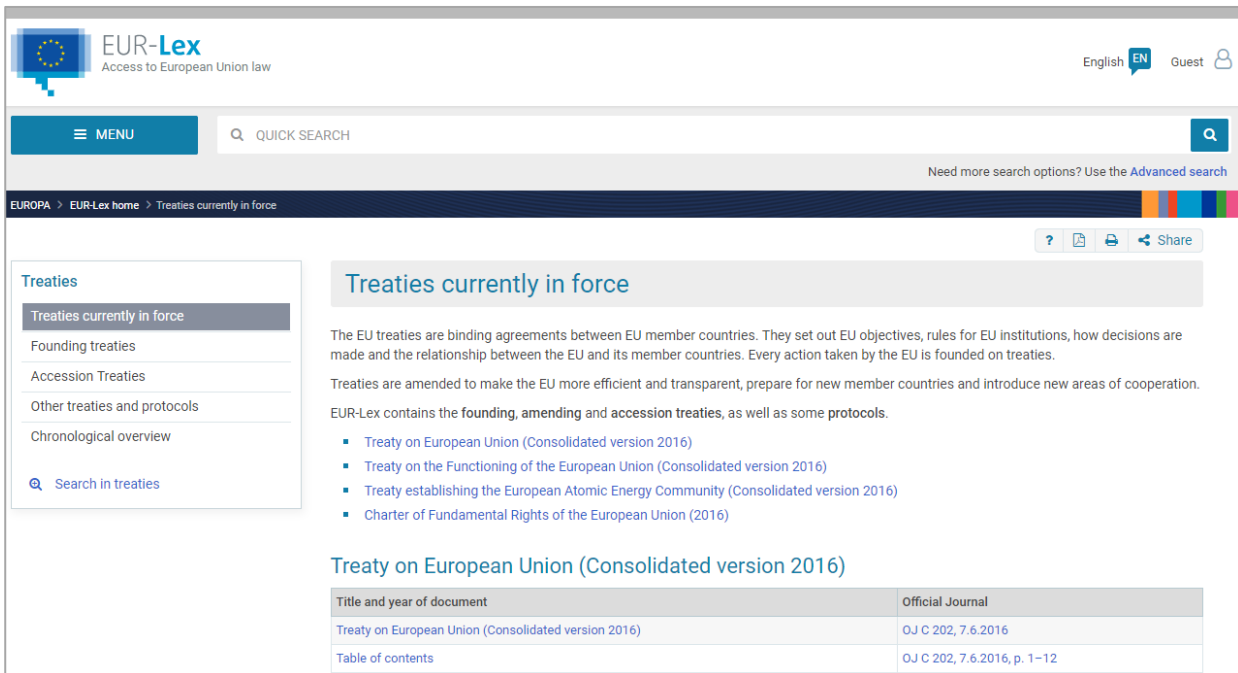
Languages and formats available

	BG	ES	CS	DA	DE	ET	EL	EN	FR	GA	HR	IT	LV	LT	HU	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SK	SL	FI	SV
HTML																								
PDF																								
e-signature																								

To verify the electronic signature and authentic character of the OJ, download the PDF file of the e-OJ and its signature, then use [CheckLex](#). The paper version of the OJ has legal value for OJs published before 1 July 2013, the date [Regulation \(EU\) No 216/2013](#) entered into force.

EU Treaties

EU Treaties can be accessed from the Home Page. As a treaty based organisation, the actions taken by the EU are founded on treaties. EUR-Lex has the founding, amending and accession treaties.



Treaties

- Treaties currently in force
- Founding treaties
- Accession Treaties
- Other treaties and protocols
- Chronological overview
- Search in treaties

Treaties currently in force

The EU treaties are binding agreements between EU member countries. They set out EU objectives, rules for EU institutions, how decisions are made and the relationship between the EU and its member countries. Every action taken by the EU is founded on treaties.

Treaties are amended to make the EU more efficient and transparent, prepare for new member countries and introduce new areas of cooperation.

EUR-Lex contains the **founding, amending and accession treaties**, as well as some protocols.

- Treaty on European Union (Consolidated version 2016)
- Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Consolidated version 2016)
- Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (Consolidated version 2016)
- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2016)

Treaty on European Union (Consolidated version 2016)

Title and year of document	Official Journal
Treaty on European Union (Consolidated version 2016)	OJ C 202, 7.6.2016
Table of contents	OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 1–12

Summaries of EU Legislation

Summaries by topic can be accessed from the Home page. These give short overviews of European legislation, policies and activities and are a useful place to start to research a topic.

Summaries of EU Legislation
















- Advanced search in summaries
- Recently published
- Glossary of summaries

Summaries of EU Legislation

The Summaries of EU legislation inform on the [main aspects of the European legislation, policies and activities](#) in a clear, easy-to-read and concise way. These Summaries are intended for a general, non-specialized audience and cover 32 topics corresponding to the activities of the European Union.

Search in summaries

Summaries by topic

 Agriculture	 Audiovisual and media	 Budget
 Competition	 Consumers	 Culture
 Customs	 Development	 Economic and monetary affairs
 Education, training, youth, sport	 Employment and social policy	 Energy
 Enlargement	 Enterprise	 Environment and climate change

Help

This guide has only covered some of what is available in EUR-Lex. If you have any problems in using this database or require further assistance in finding relevant documents, please contact the **European Documentation Centre** in Taylor Library.

European Documentation Centre (EDC)

Telephone: 01224 273334

E-mail: edc@abdn.ac.uk

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