

AN OVERVIEW OF EUROPEAN UNION LAW AVAILABLE ONLINE RESOURCES

Fast Facts

- European Union (EU) is made up of 25 Member States.
- The EU treaties are considered primary legislation.
- The European Court of Justice is the supreme court of the EU.
- The European Commission primarily handles the creation of new EU law. The legislative laws, considered secondary legislation, are found in five forms. In descending order of importance they are as follows:
 - Regulations
 - Directives
 - Decisions
 - Recommendations & Opinions

See http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/about/pap/process_and_players2.html for a definition of the five forms of EU law.

Researching EU Law Online

As part of the European Union's attempt at transparency for its citizens, it has established an official government website where it provides open access to its workings and decisions. Below is a brief guide to important links in finding EU law.

<http://europa.eu.int/> - This is your gateway to the European Union.

<http://www.eurunion.org/> - This is the European Union's website dedicated to relations and agreements between the European Union and the United States of America.

<http://www.unizar.es/euroconstitucion/Home.htm> - A comprehensive overview of the major European Union treaties is presented by the University of Zaragoza.

<http://curia.eu.int/en/content/outils/index.htm> - Database of European Union case law.

<http://curia.eu.int/en/index.htm> - Homepage of the European Court of Justice and Court of First Instance.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm - Homepage of the Commission where a variety of legislative materials and policy overviews may be accessed.

<http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html> - Major EU database of legislation, case law and important documents

http://europa.eu.int/geninfo/info/guide/index_en.htm - Official guide to various EU topics

http://www.law.arizona.edu/Library/internet/publications/library/guides_research/eulawguide.htm - Selective Annotated Pathfinder to European Union Law