The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple
The Library, Ashley Building
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European Collection

INTRODUCTION

The European Union (EU) functions at a supranational level, with power for decision making in certain areas. Alongside the EU is the Council of Europe, which is a separate organisation dedicated to the protection of human rights. Research into European law may also require consulting materials produced by individual member states of the EU or Council of Europe.

The Middle Temple library's European collection was established in 1973 with the UK's accession to the EU, and contains materials relevant both to the EU as a whole and to the individual member states.

LOCATION

Most European materials can be found on the main floor of the library in Bays 71 – 101. Irish and Human Rights materials are shelved separately on the main floor, while older materials can be found in the basement in Bays B594 – B605.

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Abraham Ortelius' map of Europe, 1603

EU LEGISLATON

The main sources of EU law are the Treaties, including: *The Treaties of Rome* 1957, *Treaty On European Union* (Maastricht) 1992, *Treaty of Amsterdam* 1997, *Treaty of Nice* 2001, and *Treaty of Lisbon* 2007.

The *Official Journal of the European Union* (OJ) contains the authoritative form of primary and secondary EU legislation, including regulations and directives. The electronic version of the OJ [eur-lex.europa.eu] became authentic and legally binding as of 1 July 2013. It is updated daily, and the library holds only selected print copies from that point on.

The Official Journal has legal value in electronic format since July 2013.

EU LEGISLATION CITATION

The Official Journal is cited: [Year] OJ Series Part/Page. For example: 2005 OJ L146/10. Prior to 1967, citations were only a year and page number.

Standard citation format for EU legislation is: (Domain) Year/Number. For example: (EU) 2015/19.

Prior to 2015 Regulations were cited by number/year. For example: 876/2005. Directives were referred to in the opposite way, by year/number. For example: 2005/48.

MEMBER STATE LEGISLATION

The Library holds copies of the legislation of several member states including: French codes in the Dalloz series, the Belgian Code in *Les Codes Larcier*, and German legislation in *Deutsche Gesetze* and *Sartorius*.

Where possible English translations of member states' civil and criminal codes are also collected. These titles include, but are not limited to: *The Civil Code of the Netherlands*, *Italian Civil Code*, *Greek Civil Code* and *The German Criminal Code*.

Many nations host legislation online, and there are a variety of internet portals that provide links to national legislation such as N-lex [eur-lex.europa.eu/n-lex/]. EUR-Lex increasingly provides links to relevant national legislation that implements EU legislation. For additional member state resources see the National Information guide available in the European Links for Lawyers section of the library website [www.middletemple.org.uk/library-and-archive/library] or ask at the enquiry desk.

Map of Europe ©European Union, 2014

COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Court of Justice of the European Union interprets EU law at the request of member states, and hears cases brought against member states for not applying EU law or cases brought against the EU itself. The primary source of authentic judgments from the court is the *Reports of Cases Before the Court of Justice and the General Court* (commonly referred to as *European Court Reports* (ECR)). These reports were published in print through 2011, but are only available electronically after that date through either the EUR-Lex or Curia databases.

There can be a considerable delay before publication of the official EU reports, even in their electronic version. A searchable database of unofficial versions of all cases heard before the Court of Justice, General Court and Civil Service Tribunal since 1954 is available online at the Court's website [curia.europa.eu]. This database includes information about ongoing and pending trials in EU courts.

LAW REPORTS

Specialist series of law reports, such as *Common Market Law Reports,* are likely to be more up to date than the ECR. They often cover cases heard in both EU and national courts.

Some reports focus on particular areas of European law, such as *International Litigation Procedure*, which covers judgments concerning transnational litigation, including the Brussels and Lugano Judgments Conventions. *European Commercial Cases*, meanwhile, covers national court cases on copyright and communications, product liability, consumer credit, professional liability, etc.

MEMBER STATE LAW REPORTS

The library holds some law reports that focus on cases from particular EU member states. Cases from the highest French domestic court, for example, are reported in the *Bulletin des Arrets de la Cour de Cassation*. For UK and Irish decisions on cases involving EU law see either the *European Law Reports of Cases in the United Kingdom and Ireland* or *All England Law Reports: European Cases*. Many countries host some freely available case law online, and a list of useful websites can be found on the library's website under European Links for Lawyers.

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was founded in 1960 and currently includes four member states: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. Three of these states (excluding Switzerland) are members of the European Economic Area along with the EU member states. The EFTA Court hears cases from the three EFTA member states that are part of the European Economic Area.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Council of Europe was founded in 1949 and is based in Strasbourg, France. It currently has 47 member states, including the UK. Although all 28 member states of the EU are also members of the Council of Europe, these are two entirely separate organisations. All members of the Council of Europe have agreed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law, by signing the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) oversees the implementation of the Convention.

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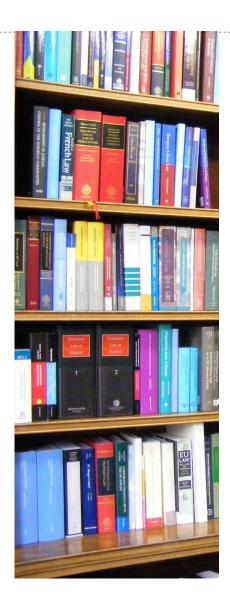*The European Union has 28 member states, while the Council of Europe has 47.*

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The ECtHR hears cases brought by individuals who have exhausted all possibility of appeal in their own member state.

The library holds the official printed version of the *Reports of Judgments and Decisions* of the ECtHR. Additional titles, such as *European Human Rights Reports* and *Human Rights Law Reports: UK Cases*, also cover European human rights cases. Human Rights decisions are summarised in the *Yearbook of the European Convention of Human Rights*.

The ECtHR website hosts the particularly useful HUDOC database [hudoc.echr.coe.int] of judgments, decisions, and reports of cases heard before the Court. The official reports are notoriously slow in being printed, so the HUDOC database offers conveniently current and comprehensive access to the unofficial text of recent cases.

TEXTBOOKS & ENCYCLOPEDIAS

The library holds a wide selection of textbooks relating to both the EU and member states. Loose-leaf works such as the *Law of the European Union* and the *Encyclopedia of European Union Law: Constitutional Texts* provide up-to-date coverage of a range of European law.

Gray's Inn Library specialises in International law, and they hold many encyclopaedias that include sections on the law of various EU member states. Please see their catalogue for specific titles and jurisdictions.

Many European resources are freely available online, and several databases subscribed to by the library provide additional materials.

SEARCHING EUR-LEX

EUR-Lex integrates the former Pre-lex and aims to integrate national law, although this is still under construction.

There is an advanced search option for specific types of documents: case law, legislation, EFTA documents, preparatory acts, etc .

* is the truncation symbol.

Access the 'More' tab to view directories of law by subject, browse documents by institution, or access the EuroVoc thesaurus to filter a search for relevant and/or preferred terms .

JOURNALS & DIGESTS

Journal series are held in several languages, including French and German. Examples of titles held in English include: *European Intellectual Property Review* and *European Competition Law Review*. Many European journals are also available online through library subscription databases such as HeinOnline, Westlaw, and Lexis.

European Current Law is particularly useful, as it provides an overview of recent developments in EU case law, legislation, and member state law. Important developments in other European countries are also addressed, and the volumes are easily searchable by subject.

G. Fessy © CJUE

Main Courtroom of the Court of Justice of the European Union

SUBSCRIPTION DATABASES

Westlaw's Case Law database covers cases from the Court of Justice, General Court, Civil Service Tribunal, and EFTA Court. It can by browsed by court name or judgment date. EU legislation hosted on Westlaw includes a variety of primary materials, international agreements, secondary legislation, and supplementary legislation from 1952 onward.

LexisLibrary covers cases from the Court of Justice from 1954 onward, from the General Court from 1989 onward, and from the ECHR from 1960 onward.

Other subscription databases provide additional search specialisms. Lawtel provides a dedicated Human Rights search with updates, case law and news. JustCite indexes cases from the Court of Justice. HeinOnline provides full text access to many European journals.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Archive of European Integration (AEI) - Access to EC & EU official documents relating to integration & unification. Managed by the University of Pittsburgh. aei.pitt.edu

CURIA - Court of Justice's searchable database of all cases reported in the ECR from 1954 on, including all current cases. Links to the electronic ECR. curia.europa.eu

EFTA Court - Searchable database of cases. www.eftacourt.int/home/

EUR-Lex - Incorporates former CELEX & PreLex. Searchable database of the electronic OJ & ECR. Documents include: treaties, legislation, preparatory acts, case law & international agreements. eur-lex.europa.eu

EUROPA - Portal to all EU departments. Information on many topics including: integration, EU institutions, policies, official publications & contacts. europa.eu

IALS Library Research Guides - Introductory guides to legal sources for many international jurisdictions, including the EU & some member states. ials.sas.ac.uk/library/guides/research_guides.htm

LAW.gov: Library of Congress - Links to online sources of constitutions, court information & other legal materials from nations around the world. www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/nations.php

N-Lex - Portal providing access to legislation, official journals & national databases of EU member states. eur-lex.europa.eu/n-lex/

Oxford LibGuides: EU Law - Background on the EU, links & information for finding legislation, case law & commentary. libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/law-eu

Oxford LibGuides: Jurisdictions - Background information on legal systems of many EU member states. Links & information about sources of national legislation, case law & commentary. www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/law/guides

WorldLII (World Legal Information Institute) - Decisions from the EU Commission, Court of Justice & ECHR. Searchable databases of legislation & cases from member states. www.worldlii.org