- Introduction
- Content and coverage
- Information retrieval
- Multilingualism
- **EU** law and national law
- **Future developments**

La editorial de la Unión Europea
Vydavatelství Evropské unie
Den Europæiske Unions Forlag
Der Verlag der Europäischen Union
Euroopa Liidu kirjastus
O εκδότης της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης
The European Union's publisher

L'édifeur de l'Union européenne
L'aditore de l'Unione europea
Eiropas Savienibas izdevniectba
Europos Sajungos leidykla
Az Európai Unió kiadója
L-istam perija tafl-Unjoni Ewropea
De uitgever voor de Europese Unie
Wydawnictwo Unii Europejskiej
A editora da União Europeia
Vydavateľstvo Európskej únie
Založnik Evropske unije



Introduction



- comprehensive system
 - 1 800 000 documents (all languages)
 - 400 000 bibliographic notices
 - oldest documents date back to 1951
- giving access to the Official Journal of the European Union
- possibility to browse through lists of documents or to search with various criteria
- quick, automated, loading procedures (OJ, case law)
- entirely free of charge
- managed by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities



Content and coverage



Official publications

- Official Journal of the European Union, L and C series (treaties, legislation, international agreements, preparatory acts, parliamentary questions, EFTA documents)
- European Court Reports (Case-law of the Court of Justice, Court of First Instance and Civil Service Tribunal)
- Documents sent to the Office for on-line dissemination
 - Communications of the Commission (proposals, reports, etc.)
 - Case-law (before publication in the European Court Reports)
- Non-official documents (for information purposes)
 - Provisional versions of secondary legislation (before publication in the Special Edition of the OJ)
 - Consolidated texts
 - References to national implementing measures of directives



Browse in collections

- Official Journal of the EU (since 1998)
- Treaties
- International agreements
- Directory of legislation in force (updated monthly)
- Recent case-law
- Recent COM documents



Publications.europa.eu

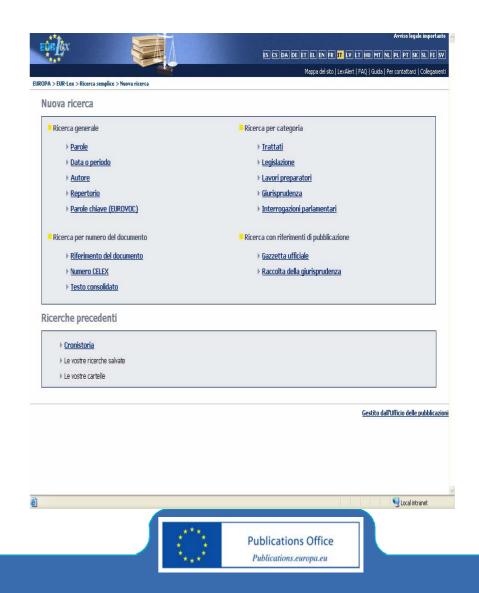
Search in database

- Simple search
- Advanced search (Expert)



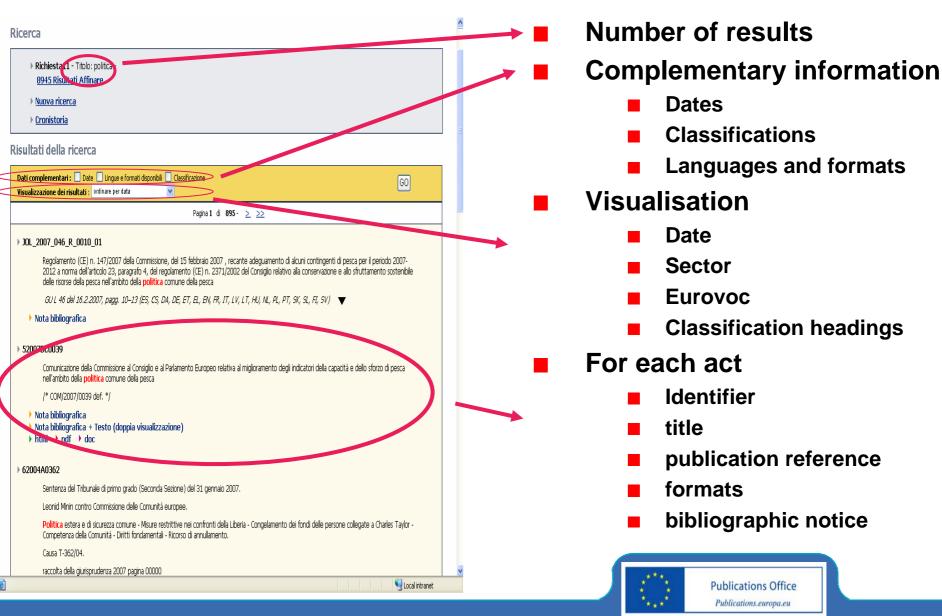


- Extensive search facilities
 - Search term
 - Date
 - Classification
 - Eurovoc
 - Classification headings
 - Subject matter
 - Number
 - Domain
 - Publication reference
- Refine
- Combine search results



2007





Broad information about a given act



- Bibliographic information
 - Title
 - Publication reference
 - Celex number
- Value added information
 - Dates
 - Descriptors
 - Cross references
 - Other information
- Textual information
 - Title
 - Text
 - Languages
 - Formats



Value added information



- Dates (adoption, publication, entry into force, end of validity, …)
- Descriptors
 - **Eurovoc (http://europa.eu/eurovoc/):** multilingual thesaurus covering the fields in which the European Communities are active
 - Directory of Community law: chapter headings of the directory, each covering a specific area of Community activity
 - ▶ Digest of case-law: collection of summaries of judgments and orders of the Court of Justice, Court of First Instance and Civil Service Tribunal
 - Subject matter
- Cross references
 - Legal basis
 - Instruments cited
 - Preparatory acts
 - Earlier and subsequent related documents
 - Amendments to/amended by
 - Case affecting/afected by case
 - National implementing measures
- Other information



Multilingualism



- Most screens in 23 languages
- Possibility to change languages from almost every screen
- The Official Journal is published daily in 21 (23) official languages
- "Enlargement" Special editions in EUR-Lex
 - <u>2004</u>: Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Slovak, Slovene)
 - **▶** 2007: Bulgarian, Romanian
- Documents available in as many languages as possible
 - Widest coverage for "older" languages
 - Some documents not available in all languages (ex: Case-law)
- Database allowing (soon) for searches in all languages
- Bilingual display



EU law and national systems



- narrow legal connection
 - regulations in EU law belong automatically to the national system
 - directives of EU law impose further obligations of Member States
 - national judges are the first interpreters of EU law
- interest of authorities of Member States to know about the law of other Member States
- interest of authorities of Member States to disseminate knowledge about their own laws
- narrow economic and human connections
- growing academic interest
- growing interest of the general public



N-Lex – Gateway to national law





- Experimental project opened in April 2006
- Allows searches in national legislative sites by a single uniform search template
- Multilingual thesaurus, Eurovoc, as search aid
- Developed at the request of the Council Working Group for Legal Data Protection
- 22 countries involved



EUR-Lex – Future developments



- LexAlert
 - Notification system by e-mail or RSS feeds
- Webservices
 - Query, retrieve and re-use EUR-Lex data
- PreLex
 - Monitoring of the decision-making process between the institutions
- Complete collections and extend coverage
 - COM and SEC documents, Case-law, Parliamentary questions
 - Documents of public interest (eg.: TARIC)
 - National case-law related to Community law
- Increase reliability, usability and user-friendliness
 - Implement recommendations from usability study





- FAQ
 - http://eur-lex.europa.eu/it/tools/faq.htm
- Simple search quick-start guide
 - http://eur-lex.europa.eu/it/tools/help_miniguide.htm
- Expert search quick-start guide
 - http://eur-lex.europa.eu/it/tools/help_advanced.pdf
- Helpdesk
 - <u>eurlex-helpdesk-online@publications.europa.eu</u>

