Europe on the Internet

A selection of useful websites for information on the European Union and the wider Europe

Ian Thomson

Director, Cardiff EDC

Latest revision: January 2013

Contents

- Searching for European information
- Legislative, judicial and policy-making information
- Keeping up to date
- Information on EU policies and countries
- Grants and loans - Statistics
- Contact information
- Terminological and linguistic information

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Searching for European information

The EU's own search engine to find information from EU Institutions & Agencies published on EUROPA, the EU's portal
[EUROPA Search does not find information in EUR-Lex]

The European Journalism Centre set up this _Search Europa_ service, which uses the superior power of Google to search the EUROPA portal [Includes results from EUR-Lex]

ECLAS is a major _bibliographic_ index to help you find EU publications, academics books, journal articles, etc, on topics of interest to the EU [Hyperlinks to full text of sources if freely available]

You can search on EU Bookshop to buy printed copies or freely download electronic copies of EU _publications_
[Not all older publications are available electronically. Does not include EU documents]

EUR-Lex is the official source of EU legislative information Search for EU _documents_ New version expected in 2013

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Searching for European information

REGISTER OF DOCUMENTS

The Registers of Documents from the European Parliament, Council of the European Union and the European Commission + the Comitology Register can be used to find much 'unpublished' EU information not accessible via EUROPA

Archive Repositories

Much older EU documentation is still not available electronically from the EU itself. Try these electronic repositories from external organisations as an alternative source of older material:
1. *ArchiDok*
2. *Archive of European Integration*
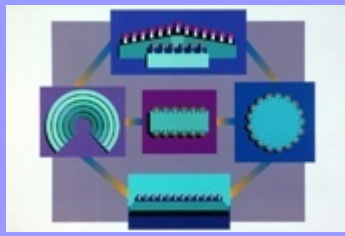3. CVCE (formerly European Navigator (ENA))

Google

Google is obviously a further tool to use to find information from and about the EU and European information generally. However, do not assume that ALL such information can be found via Google. NB: Google Scholar restricts search to more academic material
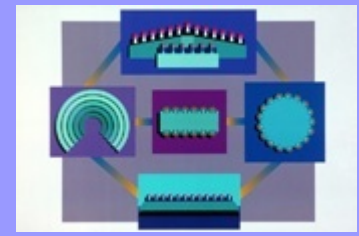
ESO European Sources Online

Search ESO for EU documentation, websites, academic books & journal articles, stakeholder information, news sources etc [Subscription service; Emphasis on English sources + a unique set of 100 Information guides to policies, institutions & countries]

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- ## Legislative Acts
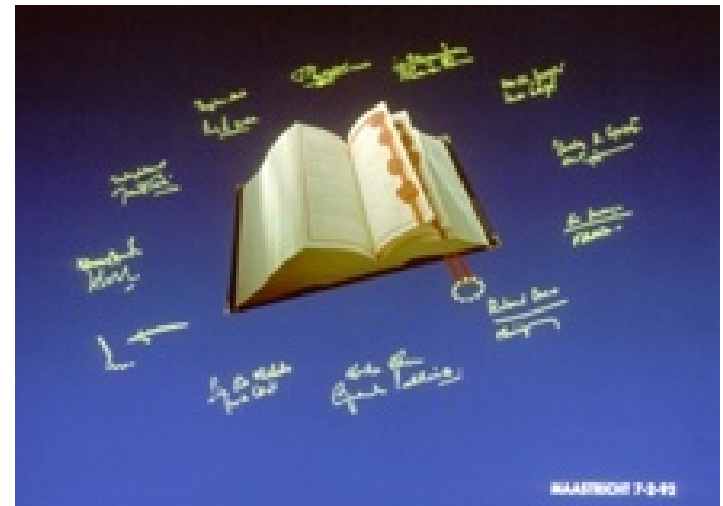 - ☐ Primary legislation
    - The Treaties
  - ☐ Secondary legislation
    - Regulations [European law]
    - Directives [European framework law]
- ## Non-Legislative Acts
  - European regulations
  - European decisions
  - Recommendations
  - Opinions

Further information

information ser**v**ices
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- **The Courts**
  - European Court of Justice (C cases)
  - General Court [formerly ECFI] (T cases)
  - Civil Service Tribunal (F cases)
- **Judicial acts**
  - Judgments
  - Opinions
  - Orders

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Legislative information

EUR-Lex Access to European Union law

- ☐ **Official Journal** **[1952-]**
- ☐ **COM and JOIN Docs** **[1989-]**
- ☐ **SEC and SWD Docs** **[1999-]**
- ☐ **Directory of European Union Legislation**
- ☐ **Directory of European Union Legislation in preparation**
- ☐ **Simple search**
- ☐ **LexAlert**
- ☐ **Eurovoc**
- ☐ **Consolidated Legislation**

Europa
Summaries of EU legislation

RSS news feeds

EUR-Lex is the official source of EU legislative information
Electronic versions of older documents gradually being added
[New version of EUR-Lex expected 2013]

Summaries of EU Legislation can also be useful
(to be integrated into EURLEX in 2013]

Citizens Summaries:
The Commission has started issuing Citizens Summaries of major legislative proposals
[e.g. DG SANCO / DG AGRI / DG RTD]

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Judicial information

European Court of Justice: Case law

- ☐ **CURIA**: **Search page** – **Numerical Access**

- ☐ **ECJ Press Releases** RSS news feeds

- ☐ **Diary**

- ☐ **EUR-LEX:** **Search** **and** **Browse**

- ☐ **Summaries of important judgements**

ECJ case law can be found via EUR-Lex *or* the ECJ website CURIA

 European e-Justice Portal

RSS news feeds

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Policy-tracking:
Monitoring EU legislative proposals and other initiatives

Complementary databases to help you follow the progress of EU legislative proposals and other initiatives

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
The Legislative Observatory

Offers links to related pages in IPEX and PreLex [see example] and Summaries of key stages

PreLex

Offers visual timeline + multiple hyperlinks to further key sources of information

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Access to EU Member States National Legislation and Case Law

Use EUR-Lex to find details of national legislation that implements EU law and national case law concerning EU law

Use N-Lex to find sources of national legislation in most EU Member States. In some cases you can also search directly for national legislation

InterParliamentary EU information eXchange allows access to reports from national parliaments concerning EU legislative proposals and initiatives

COSAC is the Conference of the Committees of the National Parliaments of the European Union Member States

European Centre for Parliamentary Research & Documentation acts as a channel for requests for information whenever one parliament would like to know more about practice and policy in other countries

Find links to EU Member State national legislation & caselaw through e-Justice Portal

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Policy-tracking:
Registers of Documents

European Union Documents
Documents of individual institutions

- Council of the European Union [Example]
- European Parliament
- European Commission
- Comitology Committees
  - [Old Register] / [List of Committees]
  - [Annual Reports]

Despite failings, the various EU Registers of Documents can help you find EU documents not accessible elsewhere, especially draft documents and working party / committee papers

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New Transparency portal launched in June 2012 brings together information to help citizens follow the EU policy making process more easily

- **Access to legislation**
- **Your Voice in Europe – Consultations**
- **Impact assessment**
- **Register of Expert Group**
- **Comitology (Advisory Groups)**
- **Transparency Register**
- **Access to documents (Registers of documents)**
- **Recipients of EU funds**
- **Ethics for staff**

The European Commission at work

Strategic Planning and Programming Cycle

- **APS Decision** Year -1 (February)
- **Synthesis Report** Year +1 (June)
- **Preliminary draft budget** Year -1 (April)
- **Annual Activity Report** Year +1 (March)
- **Commission work Programme** Year -1 (November)
- **Budget** Year -1 (December)
- **Operational implementation** Year
- **Annual Management Plan** Year (January)

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The European Commission at work

Use this website to follow the key activities of the European Commission

- **Five year Strategic Programme**
 [not issued for the 2009-2014 period but see Pres. Barroso's Political Guidelines + Update 2011]
- **State of the Union Speech given by European Commission President launched in 2010 [Latest SotU speech given in September 2012]**
- **Legislative and Work Programme** [2013 + Annex + Roadmap + earlier LWPs]
- **Weekly Commission Meeting** [Agenda & Minutes]
- **Detailed day-by-day planning of Commission activities** [2013]
- **Websites of Commission Directorates General & Services**
- **Management plans of DGs** [Annual Management Plans / Annual Activity Reports / Synthesis Report]

Hearings of Commissioners 2010

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Policy-tracking:
The EU Budget

Financial Programming and Budget

European Commission > Financial Programming and Budget

Use this website to find information on the EU Budget

- **The Budget Explained**
- **Multiannual Financial Framework** [**2007-13** / **2014-20**]
- **Information on the 2012 Budget** [**Summary of 2012 budget**]
- **Information on the 2013 Budget**

Texts of proposed and adopted EU Budget are also available on EUR-Lex

ECA carries out the audit of the EU's Finances
Annual Reports
Special Reports

CURIA RATIONUM
European Court of Auditors

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Policy-tracking:
European Council

- [Homepage](#)

- [Homepage of the President of the European Council](#)

- [Press Releases](#)

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- **Trio Presidency Programmes**
  - ☐ 18 month Programme of the Irish, Lithuanian and Greek Presidencies, January 2013 – June 2014
    - ▪ [Trio concept / Trio of Presidencies]

- **Presidency Programmes and Websites**
  - ☐ Ireland: EU Presidency: January-June 2013
    - ▪ Work Programme: For Stability – For Jobs – For Growth
    - ▪ Previous EU Presidency websites

- **Presidency Conclusions**
  - ▪ Presidency Conclusions
  - ▪ Conclusions of all previous EU Presidencies, 1975-

- **Council operates at two levels**
  - **Ministerial / National Officials meeting at Working Party level**
- **Ministerial**
  - Meetings of the Council at Ministerial level
  - Web-streaming of Council events and meetings
  - Agenda of future Council meetings: July-December 2012
- **National Officials meeting at Working Party level**
  - List of Council preparatory bodies [July 2012]
  - Agendas / Reports to meetings

Policy-tracking:
High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

■ High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
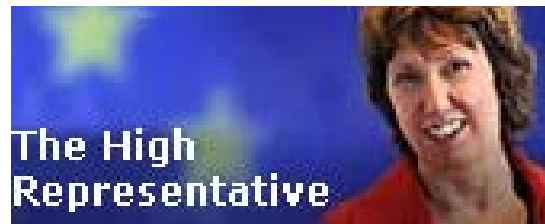
■ European External Action Service (EEAS)

☐ <u>Activities of the European Parliament</u>

☐ <u>Latest information</u>

☐ <u>Debates</u>

■ <u>Listen to debates, April 2006-</u>

■ <u>EP Live</u>

■ <u>EuroparlTV</u>

☐ <u>Minutes</u>

☐ <u>Texts adopted</u>

☐ <u>Committees</u>

TUNE INTO EUROPE

www.europarltv.europa.eu   europarl**tv**

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Keeping up-to-date:
Official EU sources: Web sources

Newsroom
Latest news and media resources

> **The entry point for the European Commission's news and media services**

Europa **Press releases RAPID**

> **The main database for EU Press Releases, Speeches & other news type sources**
> Midday Express / Top News / Latest

Europa **EU Calendar**

> **Use this website to search for details of future and past events in all the EU Institutions**

RSS news feeds

> **Find all EU RSS feeds**

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Keeping up-to-date:
Official EU sources: TV / Webstreaming

- **Europe by satellite (EbS)**

- **Europarl tv**
- **EP Live**

- **Council Live**
- **TV Newsroom**

- **European Central Bank**

- <u>General Report on the Activities of the European Union</u>

- <u>EUROPA: What's New</u>

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Keeping up-to-date: Europe Media Monitor

Europe Media Monitor

EMM

15:45 - Saturday,29 August 2009

Research and development efforts at the **Joint Research Centre** produced novel and unique software that gathers reports from news portals world-wide in 43 languages, classifies the articles, analyses the news texts by extracting information from them, aggregates the information, issues alerts and produces intuitive visual presentations of the information found.

NewsBrief	**NewsExplorer**	**MedISys**	**EMM-Labs**
Breaking News and Live News of the Last Few Minutes and Hours	Daily News Summary	Real-Time News Analysis for Medical and Health-Related Topics	Adding Value to News through Graphical Analysis
News classified according to subjects	Analysis Across Languages and Over Time	Early Warning Alerts per Category and Country	Social Networks, Trends
	Information About People and Organisations		Latest Research Developments
Click here for more	Click here for more	Click here for more	Click here for more

User-driven Multilingual News Gathering and Aggregation

The European Commission's **Joint Research Centre** (JRC) has developed a number of news aggregation and analysis systems to support EU institutions and Member State organisations. The three **Web Portals** NewsBrief, NewsExplorer and MedISys are publicly accessible and attract up to 1,2 Million hits per day. The system was initially developed as an in-house application for the European Commission's Directorate General Communication (DG COMM) to replace their tedious and expensive manual media monitoring and press cutting services. Since then, EMM has become a crucial instrument in the daily work of almost all Commission services and many other public organisations. EMM is the news gathering engine behind a number of applications. EMM monitors the live web, i.e. the part of the web that has ever changing content, such as news sites, discussion sites and publications. All applications are developed, maintained and run by the JRC.

Keeping up-to-date
Non-Official Sources

- Web-based news sources
  - EUObserver
  - EurActiv   **EurActiv Newsletter**
  - The Parliament.COM / EUBusiness
- Newspapers
  - PressEurop
  - EUFeeds
  - Financial Times: European stories
- European broadcasters (EBU)
  - Euronews
  - European News from: BBC / DW / France24
  - Euranet [**European radio network but reduced in coverage from 2013 after withdrawal of** Commission financial support]
  - EUX.TV

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Keeping up-to-date:
Selection of news sources

euobserver.com

European **Voice**

presseurop

EurActiv.com

KATHIMERINI
English Edition

FT.com
FINANCIAL TIMES

euronews

FRANCE 24

RT
RUSSIA TODAY

SPIEGEL ONLINE INTERNATIONAL

CORRIERE DELLA SERA.it

The Local
SWEDEN'S NEWS IN ENGLISH

BBC

DEUTSCHE WELLE
DW

DutchNews.nl

POLITIKEN.DK

EL PAÍS.com

EMM NewsBrief
Europe Media Monitor

IRISHTIMES.COM

swissinfo.ch

POLSKIE RADIO
DLA ZAGRANICY

All offering European news in English

HELSINGIN SANOMAT
INTERNATIONAL EDITION

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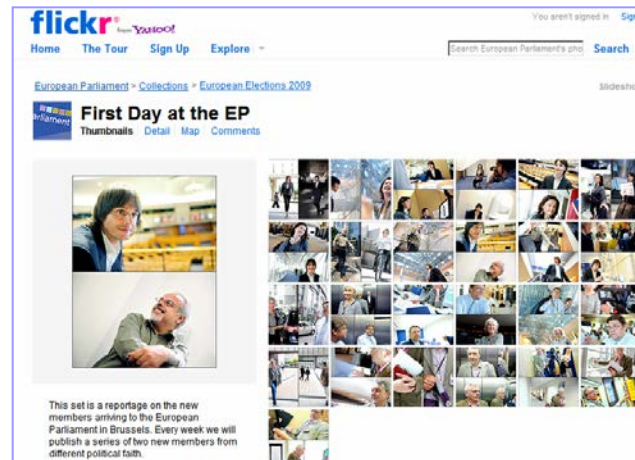
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THE **INFLUENCE** INDEX
Political blogging and
social media in Brussels
Launch Event July 14th

ideas on europe

Blogactiv .eu
Europeans Challenge Europe

bloggingportal.eu

RSS news feeds

RSS news feeds

RSS news feeds

Blog Aggregators bring together a selection of Europe focused blogs

A sample of blogs offering a range of insights on Europe
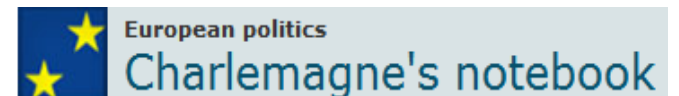
OpenMedicine.EU

the BRUSSELS JUNGLE
No trees...Lots of monkeys

openeurope blog

The European Citizen
Thoughts on the state(s) of the Old Continent.

Andris Piebalgs' **blog**

NOSEMONKEY'S EUTOPIA IN SEARCH OF A EUROPEAN IDENTITY

Michael Berendt's **Blog**

European politics
Charlemagne's notebook

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Google blogs

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Keeping up-to-date: Social media: Twitter

Many EU Institutions, officials, MEPs, Stakeholders and news sources are using Twitter – although some question its value

Tweet Aggregators: attempts to bring together EU tweets

Europatweets
WHAT IS EUROPE DOING?

Connect with EU on social networks

Who are the key players in the EU-twittersphere? TweetLevel evaluates tweets

VOICES FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
EP NEWSHUB

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Keeping up-to-date:
Social media: Facebook

Facebook is also being used by the European Union Institutions (and by other European stakeholders)
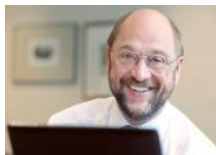
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Keeping up-to-date:
Social media: Flickr

Flickr is also being used by the European Union Institutions (and by other European stakeholders)

Connect with EU on social networks

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Information on European Union policies and countries

- **EUROPA: European Union: Policies**
- European Parliament: Factsheets
- European Commission: Directorates-General
- 2013: European Year of Citizens
- A-Z Index of European Union websites
- Your Europe – Citizens
- European Sources Online: Information guides
  - □ Policies / Countries

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Information on European Statistics

- [Eurostat]

- Useful statistical information at a European level can also be found from DG [Energy] and [Mobility and Transport], [Eurobarometer], [ECHO], [UN:ECE], [OECD], [WHO Global Health Observatory] and the UN's [InfoNation] website

Information on EU grants and loans

Grants of the European Union

ESO European Sources Online

ESO Information Guide
Funding

Beginners' Guide
to EU Funding

Overview of the financial rules and
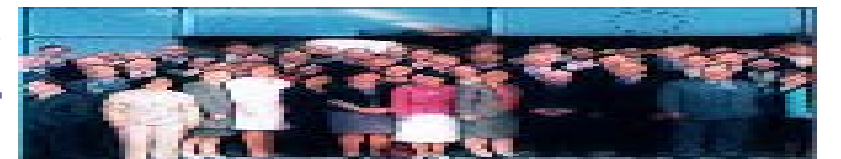funding opportunities
2007–13

2012 Edition

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Information on beneficiaries of EU grants and loans

Beneficiaries of EU funds

EU grants & loans managed by the EU Institutions

EU grants & loans managed by the Member States

Contacting the EU

- **EU Institutions**

- **EU Agencies**

- **Contact the European Union**

- **EU: WhoisWho**

- **Commission Directory**

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Contacting the EU

- **Contact MEPs**

Contacting the EU

- Information sources: Whom to contact

- Europe Direct

- The EU in your country
[Europe Direct Centres in your country]

Contacting the EU
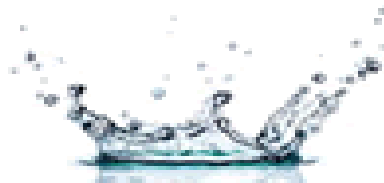
Transparency Register

Find details of organisations that seek to influence ('lobby') the EU
Currently, the Register is a voluntary requirement. Transparency Register is new in 2011 and will combine the functions of the old European Commission Register of Interest Representatives and European Parliament Register of Lobbyists

Register of Expert Groups

Details of the people / representatives appointed to Expert Groups to advise the European Commission

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Terminological information

- [Aids for translators](#)
- [IATE: Interinstitutional terminology database](#)
- [Glossary of terms](#)
- [Eurojargon](#)
- [Acronyms and abbreviations](#)
- [Google Translate](#)
- [Altavista Translation with SYSTRANS](#)

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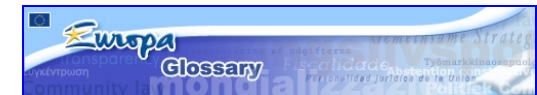
For further information and help...

- **Visit us:**

  Cardiff EDC, Guest Building, Colum Drive, Cardiff, CF10 3EU
  Opening hours: Monday - Friday, 09:00 - 17:00

- **Contact us:**

  Cardiff EDC, Information Services, Cardiff
  University, PO Box 430, Cardiff, CF24 ODE, Wales
  Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4262 Email: edc@cardiff.ac.uk

- **Website:**

  http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/insrv/edc/index.html

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