

SUMMARIES OF EU LEGISLATION A COMPASS TO EU LAW

Are you looking for a place where EU law is explained and ‘translated’ into reader-friendly language, with answers to basic questions, such as ‘What does this regulation do?’ and ‘From when does the regulation apply?’ The answer is the Summaries of EU Legislation (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/browse/summaries.html>), which are published on EUR-Lex.

The Summaries of EU Legislation are written for a general, non-specialised audience, so the texts are easy to read, simple, concise and free from the EU and legal jargon.

They cover 32 topics, which correspond to the activity areas of the European Union. The chapters include ‘Environment and climate change’, ‘Food safety’ or ‘Budget’.

The main page gives an overview of the recently published summaries and permits users to launch a quick or advanced search based on keywords, dates, topics, etc. One possibility is to search through a glossary of terms. You can also look for the summaries on the EUR-Lex website right next to the legal acts (if a summary exists for this act, the page will contain a special tab called Summary of Legislation).

At present over 2,500 summaries are available (plus about 1,600 archived ones), and each month around 40 summaries are added or revised. The collection of the summaries is available only online.

The summaries are also promoted on the social media platforms of the Publications Office of the European Union:

- ★ LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/publications-office-of-the-european-union>),
- ★ Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/EULawandPublications?fref=ts>),
- ★ Google+ (<https://plus.google.com/104216201351366670114/posts>),
- ★ Twitter (<https://twitter.com/EURLex>).

The idea is to receive feedback and engage with the audience. Users may comment on the summaries and propose changes to a specific summary or to the entire collection.

Publishing the Summaries of EU Legislation is an inter-institutional project of the EU institutions.

So, if you need a quick explanation of an EU legal act, it’s a good idea to have a look at the summaries first – they may become a useful tool for you.

