Challenges of the digital age: better access to legal information for EU citizens

Event organised by
the Publications Office of the European Union

17-18 May 2017
Brussels
AREA 42 Conference Centre

Workshop Report
Challenges of the digital age: better access to legal information for EU citizens

Event organized by the Publications Office of the European Union

Brussels, 17- 18 May 2017

The event brought together providers of legal information across Europe in view of sharing practices, challenges and solutions.

This document contains the opening speech, the closing remarks and the highlights of each presentation. The choice of these elements and the drafting of the summaries are the entire responsibility of the Publications Office. Readers are invited to consult the original presentations for more details.

Some elements for future reflexion are outlined hereafter:

1. Should common tools be developed and used at European level? For example, XML editors for drafting, processing and publishing legal documents or Link extractors. Who would be best placed to promote and develop these tools?

2. Is there a need for common standards and common rules? For example, drafting rules for quotations inside documents to be used by all stakeholders in the legislative process. Who could lead the way?

3. Tools such as the common authority tables or common vocabularies exist already in 24 language versions. Are they of interest to a wider audience?

4. Is there a need for counsel and assistance to developments? Could the Publications Office play a role in this regard?

5. How can the relations between national law and EU law be better exploited and easier to find for EU citizens?

6. What are the best ways to use consolidated texts to provide user-friendly access to legal information?

7. Would it be useful to organise workshops for sharing best practices on a regular basis?
Agenda

Wednesday, 17 May 2017

Morning

8.45am – 9.15am  Registration and welcome coffee

9.15am – 9.30am  Welcome and introduction by Rudolf Strohmeier, Director-General of the Publications Office of the EU

9.30am – 11.00am  Plenary session on legislation and consolidation
Moderator: Cécilia Charlier, Webmaster-Editor, EUR-Lex, Publications Office of the EU

Towards a simple way to display complex information: how can citizens access legal content? How is consolidation organised: does it have legal value and is it published online?

• Treating legal content – the story of a directive
  Marcin Baryń, Head of Sector, Documentary Management and Legal Analysis, Publications Office of the EU

• How consolidated legal texts get their legal force
  Margit Lauri, Courts Division adviser, Ministry of Justice, Estonia

• Law consolidation actions in Greece: accessing and visualising national legislation over time
  Georgia Valatsou, Director General of Finance and Administrative Services in the Hellenic Ministry of Administrative Reconstruction, Greece, and Vassiliki Ntalakou, Legal Expert in the Permanent Law Codification Department in the Hellenic Ministry of Administrative Reconstruction, Greece

• Electronic OJ with added values
  John Dann, Director of the Official Journal of Luxembourg

11.00am – 11.15am  Coffee break

11.15am – 1.15pm  Sets of presentations by EU countries of their websites and best features
Parallel presentations in 3 rooms. Presentations will be given twice.

Spain – Latvia – Slovakia
Moderator: Laura Von Weissenberg, Head of Sector, EUR-Lex, Publications Office of the EU

• Interrelating legislation and case law: the Spanish model
  Susana Gómez, Head of the Editorial, Documentation and Information Department, Official State Bulletin Agency, Spain and Edurne Uranga, Senior Judge, Centre for Judicial Documentation, Spain
• **Likumi.lv - solutions for citizens and professional users**  
  *Sandra Zalite*, Deputy Head of the Likumi.lv, Official gazette “Latvijas Vēstnesis”, Latvia

• **Law in 21st century**  
  *Dominika Slaná*, Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic

**France – Austria – Romania**  
**Moderator:** *Gregor Ramuš*, Information and Communication Assistant, EUR-Lex, Publications Office of the EU

• **Best practices to access the in force legislation in France**  
  *Pierre Larrède*, Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information (DILA), France

• **The Austrian Legal Information System (RIS)**  
  *Helmut Weichsel*, Federal Chancellery of Austria

• **The legislative website of the Romanian Ministry of Justice**  
  *Alexandru Niță*, Legal Advisor, Ministry of Justice of Romania

**Ireland – Italy – The Netherlands**  
**Moderator:** *Cécilia Charlier*, Webmaster-Editor, EUR-Lex, Publications Office of the EU

• **The electronic Irish Statute Book (eISB)**  
  *Gerry Matthews*, eISB Project Manager – Office of the Attorney General, Ireland

• **European Legislation Identifier - Implementation on the Italian Official Gazette**  
  *Antonio Antetomaso*, Project Manager and Software Architect at Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca Dello Stato S.p.A. (Italian Official Gazette publication office), Italy

• **Legislation and Linked Legal Data in the Netherlands**  
  *Marc van Opijnen*, Adviser Legal Informatics UBR|KOOP (Publications Office of the Netherlands)

**1.15pm – 2.15pm Buffet lunch**

**Afternoon**

**2.15pm – 3.45pm**  
Roundtable on the **Official Journal, legislative procedures and case law**: participants will break down in 3 parallel sessions
What are the challenges we are facing for the publication of the Official Journal, the visualisation of the status of legislative procedures and the accessibility of case law?

- **Official Journal publication: how to go forward?**
  Moderator: **Carmen Malagon**, Head of Sector, Budget and Interoperability, Publications Office of the EU

What is the way forward for the publication of the Official Journal?

- **The Official Journal of the European Union and the challenges of the digital age**
  **Ivo Mihajlović**, Publications Production Assistant, Official Journal L and C, Publications Office of the EU

- **Official Gazette of the Italian Republic - the publication process**
  **Antonio Antetomaso**, Project Manager and Software Architect at Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca Dello Stato S.p.A. (Italian Official Gazette publication office), Italy

- **From paper to Linked Open Data**
  **John Dann**, Director of the Official Journal of Luxembourg

- **The new functionalities of the Portal of the Portuguese Official Journal**

- **Visualisation of the status of legislative procedures**
  Moderator: **Laura Von Weissenberg**, Head of Sector, EUR-Lex, Publications Office of the EU

Can citizens follow the legislative process at all stages?

- **Visualisation of EU decision-making procedures on EUR-Lex**
  **Julia Pichon**, Legal Officer, Documentary Management and Legal Analysis, Publications Office of the EU

- **Legislative Observatory: Parliament’s portal to follow its decision-making process**
  **Chrysostomos Panagiotou**, Administrator, Reception and Referral of Official Documents, Directorate-General for the Presidency, European Parliament

- **Opening up policy-making – the Commission Better Regulation Portal**
  **Martine Deprez**, Head of Unit, Advice and Development, Secretariat-General, European Commission
Case law
Moderator: Peter Schmitz, Head of Unit, Postproduction Reception, Validation and Cellar Management, Publications Office of the EU

How is case law available for consultation on public legal websites?

- Making EU Case law more (easily) accessible
  Andrew Paton, Head of Production, Publication & Distribution of Documents Unit, Court of Justice of the European Union

- European Union case law on EUR-Lex
  Juraj Kuba, Documentalist, Documentary Management and Legal Analysis, Publications Office of the EU

- Objectives and projects of the Electronic Documentation Center for the dissemination of the Supreme Court of Cassation judgments
  Alessio Scarcella, Judge (Magistrate assigned to the C.E.D.-Electronic Documentation Center), Supreme Court of Cassation, Italy

- Building on ECLI: better access to case law
  Marc van Opijnen, Adviser Legal Informatics UBR|KOOP (Publications Office of the Netherlands)

3.45pm – 4.00pm Coffee break

4.00pm– 5.30pm Plenary session on what makes a good search experience:
Moderator: Gregor Ramuš, Information and Communication Assistant, EUR-Lex, Publications Office of the EU

What are the different approaches to search on public legal websites across the EU and how can the search for legal information be enhanced?

- Search on EUR-Lex: responding to the diversity of user needs
  Cécilia Charlier, Webmaster-Editor, EUR-Lex team, Publications Office of the EU

- SEO and a new search interface for the Danish legal information system
  Søren Broberg Nielsen, Deputy Director and Head of Division, Legal Information Division, Department of Civil Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Denmark and Janus Andersen, Deputy Head of Division, Department of Civil Affairs, Legal Information Division, Ministry of Justice, Denmark

- On the concept of relevance: challenges for legal search
  Marc van Opijnen, Adviser Legal Informatics UBR|KOOP (Publications Office of the Netherlands)
Thursday, 18 May 2017

Morning

9.00am – 11.15am  
Plenary session on synergies between EU law and national law
Moderator: Maria Manuela Cruz, Head of Unit, EUR-Lex and TED,  
Publications Office of the EU

How can the connection between EU and national law be improved? Could N-Lex be further developed to better suit the needs of EU countries? Can we improve the access to National Transposition Measures?

- Bridging the gap between EU and national law  
  Alain Pilette, President of the e-law working group, Council of the European Union

- N-Lex: what’s next?
  Valentina Fratto, Legal Officer, EUR-Lex team, Publications Office of the EU

- European Legislation Identifier - ELI  
  John Dann, Chair of the ELI Task Force

- National Transposition Measures – and how to find them on EUR-Lex  
  Maria Westermann, Head of Unit, Documentary Management and Metadata, Publications Office of the EU

- How legislation users access National Transposition Measures: a study in the frame of the ELI initiative  
  Carmen Malagon, Head of Sector, Budget and Interoperability,  
  Publications Office of the EU

- The relation between EU law and national law – the Greek experience  
  Antonis Stasis, Director of Procurement, Infrastructure & Material Management in the Hellenic Ministry of Administrative Reconstruction, Greece and Loukia Demiri, IT expert in the Department of Project Management in the Hellenic Ministry of Administrative Reconstruction, Greece

- Connecting national law to EU Law - the Finnish experience and future projects  
  Aki Hietanen, Head of Development, Ministry of Justice, Finland

11.15am – 11.30am  
Coffee break
11.30am – 12.30pm Roundtable in 3 small groups: Reflection and feedback on EUR-Lex and N-Lex

- How can we combine complexity of information with user-friendly display?
- Better ways of displaying and cross-linking legal information
- Unleashing the potential of N-Lex

12.30pm – 1.00pm Workshop conclusions and feedback from participants

António Carneiro, Director, Dissemination and Reuse, Publications Office of the EU

Maria Manuela Cruz, Head of Unit, EUR-Lex and TED, Publications Office of the EU

1.00pm – 2.00pm Sandwich lunch
Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, welcome!

I am very pleased that you accepted our invitation and are willing to share your views and experience on how to improve access to legal information for European citizens.

Technology and access to information

Years ago Paul Simon sang "These are the days of miracle and wonder". This is how I feel today. We are living in the days of technology, in the era of communication. Never before did we have such wide and easy access to information. We are always connected – via our smartphones, our tablets or our PCs. We do not need to actively search for anything - news are pushed on us, via Twitter, via Facebook and other social networks. We can find virtually everything in the internet. As some put it, "offline is the new luxury".

But are we really better informed than we were in the past? Are we getting the truth from reliable sources? How can we make the difference between real facts and fake news?

We are legal publishers. We all publish legal information via sophisticated web sites and databases. Yet our citizens seem lost when it comes to finding something meaningful.

As public services, are we providing better information to the citizens?

Information and democracy

Access to legal information is a question of democracy. Information is essential for well-informed citizens. It is a condition for active and enlightened participation in policy making.

This reflexion is particularly critical when it comes to talking about the European Union. We have all followed the British referendum, the Dutch parliamentary election and the French presidential campaign. In all cases it is striking to see how public debate is so little based on real facts. The message that is generally conveyed is that the European Union is the one to blame – for unemployment, for job delocalisation, for migration, for terrorism. It is as if the Member States had no initiative and no word to say in the decisions that, as we know, are commonly taken.

If we think of it, this is no different from what happens between local and central administrations. It is so much easier for a mayor to accuse the central government of unpleasant measures, if the people have no way of finding out who is indeed the one responsible.
This is what is happening in Europe. It is easy to blame Brussels for all the national problems, because citizens have difficulty to distinguish the fake news from the facts.

This phenomenon is not new. However it has a more dramatic dimension nowadays – and brings along the need to rethink carefully our ways of working and of communicating.

To quote another well-known songwriter, "Times, they are a-changing". New challenges are ahead of us. What are we to do? How can we use technology in our favour to respond to the challenges of the digital age?

That is our work for today and tomorrow. We will be addressing some of these challenges: how to provide for better access to legal information for EU citizens.

**Better access**

What is "better access" in the era of Google, when information is at a click's distance? Search results may be good or bad, but they come fast and easily.

Our job is to do better than Google: be fast and easy, and on top of that provide for good, reliable, complete and accurate data.

Our role can no longer be that of a mere publisher of legal data. We cannot limit ourselves to simply "publish" as we did in the past. We have to find new ways of making information accessible. I believe that the session on legislation and consolidation which will start this conference and the sessions on the Official Journal and on Case Law this afternoon will be particularly useful to illustrate this point.

Citizens’ expectations have evolved. Paper is no longer the preferred dissemination format. Mobile devices are the common means of access to digital content, in particular if it is of a political nature.

A comprehensive and easy-to-use access to all legal digital content is an absolute must. We need to ensure that our legislation websites make legal content accessible for all users at any time and on any device – whether it is a PC, a smartphone or a tablet. And of course, in a user friendly way.

The presentations given of various national legal websites later this morning will certainly provide us all with food for thought and inspire us in our future developments.

**Legal information**

Better access to legal information means also that we should make it easy for citizens to check the law. They should not need to use professional interpreters, like lawyers or other legal specialists, to find and understand legal texts.
It goes without saying that law can be complex. As legal publishers, our role is to display such complex information in a way that facilitates understanding.

Take for instance the EU decision making process. We tend to look at it as a bureaucratic, centralised process, where only the EU institutions – "Brussels!" – intervene.

However, there is a wide variety of actors participating in the process: national governments (via the Council); national Parliaments (who may give their opinions); regional and local administrations (represented in the Committee of the Regions); social partners (represented in the Economic and Social Committee). If the positions taken by each of these different actors were made available to the public in a comprehensive and easy way, the decision making process would be much more transparent.

That is why it is so important for us to enhance the visualisation of legislative procedures. We will see this afternoon how it is done in EUR-Lex and in the Legislative Observatory managed by the European Parliament.

Another striking example relates to the national transposition of EU directives. If citizens could, in a simple and easy way, compare the text of EU directives and the text of national measures it would be much harder for politicians to hide behind the EU institutions when unpopular decisions are taken at national level.

In this regard technology offers fantastic opportunities. Take the example of ELI – the European Legislation Identifier. It is a brilliant way of identifying legislation in different countries using a common standard. A few pioneers adopted it as a means to communicate to the Commission the national measures transposing directives. This allows us to display in EUR-Lex, next to the text of the directive, a link pointing directly to the corresponding national rule.

I am looking forward to hearing from the countries which already implemented ELI how this simple yet sophisticated tool can contribute to enhance transparency.

Citizens

Transparency guarantees greater legitimacy and accountability of our democratic systems. We need therefore to offer our citizens the means of accessing the legal information that exactly meets their needs. Informed citizens can give a constructive contribution to the decision making process – as we will see this afternoon during the presentation of the European Commission's Better Regulation Portal.

Citizens vs Professionals
It is essential that we provide citizens with means for direct access to information via our websites. However, in the field of legal information, professional needs must be addressed. We must cater for a wide variety of users, with different levels of expertise and skills: from legal professionals, such as lawyers, judges, civil servants, to NGOS, lobbyists, journalists and politicians. It will be interesting to see how these different needs are dealt with, and the different ways and means to allow for a **good search experience** later this afternoon.

**Multipliers**

The digital environment also created new opportunities to cooperate with partners who can help organisations like ours to reach their audiences. That is the case of libraries, information aggregators, information and documentation centres, to name just a few. These multipliers are extremely important, because they have significant power to further disseminate the correct factual information about our work.

I would also like to stress the role of professional reusers, including commercial ones. They can be publishers, developers of apps, data journalists and so on. Such professional reusers make an increasingly significant contribution to disseminating legal information, and to linking this legal information with other relevant data. Reusers create new applications and services which combine data from different sources. At the Publications Office we facilitate their work by means of semantic technologies, by making open data available. In this way reuse can generate innovative products and services and at the same time contribute to disseminating correct facts about the EU in the information environment.

**Social media**

The digital revolution allows us to engage directly with our users. There are no more intermediaries between us as content publishers and the content consumers. Social media created fantastic new opportunities for communication. At the Publications Office, we currently have well over 100 000 fans on Facebook, and one of our Twitter feeds, @EUR-Lex, has more than 20 000 followers.

This is important for two reasons. First, we reduce the distance that may exist between us and users and show that the institutions can have a human face. And second, we ensure an online presence that allows us to respond to the needs, requirements, suggestions and grievances in a much more dynamic and efficient fashion than before.

**Conclusion**
Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues.

We represent Members of 28 European Countries – both EU and non EU – and the main European institutions. We came together to share our views, our concerns and our solutions, with the aim of improving the services we provide to citizens.

Today's conference will not change the world, or be a mark in history. Yet it means a lot. I trust that it will change the way we work together; that we will create bonds; that we will be inspired by each other’s experiences.

We form a Community of Law. We share common values. European Law is part of the national systems. Regulations are directly applicable in Member States; Directives are transposed in the national legislation. The law applicable in Belgium is not much different from that applicable in Estonia or in Greece.

It is up to us to exploit the synergies which are offered and to set connections which may help us create in the minds of the European citizens the feeling that they share a unique, common, extraordinary space.

I wish us all a fruitful conference.

Thank you for your attention.
Plenary session: Legislation and consolidation

Access to legal information is essential for well-informed citizens. Legal information is often dense, prolific and prone to change over time. The challenge of today's publishers is to ensure easy access to complex information. A number of interesting solutions were described.

Treating EU legal content – the story of a directive
Marcin Baryń, Publications Office of the EU

The EUR-Lex website of the Publications Office of the European Union provides access in 24 languages to the world's widest collection of EU law and related documents. It is possible to follow the full lifecycle of documents from their genesis to their adoption, through their modifications and further implementing acts.

A good example is given by the 'story of a directive'. In EUR-Lex, the text of directives can be consulted together with a very complete set of metadata which includes relations to previous and forthcoming documents, such as judgements of the European Court of Justice. It is possible to visualize the procedure leading to the adoption of the act from the moment a Commission proposal is adopted, through discussions within the Council and the Parliament until the directive is finally published in the Official Journal of the EU.

The "story" is enriched with references to subsequent amendments or corrigenda, and with the inclusion of consolidated versions. Information about national transposition measures is also available. The content of the directive is summarized in one of the "Summaries of legislation" created to make legal acts understandable to non-professionals.

PowerPoint presentation

How consolidated texts get their legal force – the Estonian experience
Margit Lauri, Estonia

In Estonia consolidated legislation has legal value and is published in the State Gazette on the same day of the publication of the amending instrument. Estonia is the only European country where the legal value of consolidation is set by the Law. Consolidated texts are accompanied by additional information which is transferred to subsequent versions.

The State Gazette is published exclusively in electronic format since 2010. The production process is highly automatized which allows a fast production with a limited number of employees.

The Estonian legislative website (www.riigiteataja.ee) is a one-stop-shop with user-friendly features, such as links to related court decisions, the possibility to view versions of legal instruments no longer in force or not yet in force and to compare consolidated texts. It is also possible to create an account with personalised subscriptions.

Legislation is also translated into English by certified translators, yet the translations do not have legal value and bear a disclaimer.

PowerPoint presentation
Law consolidation actions in Greece: accessing and visualizing national legislation over time
Georgia Valatsou and Vassiliki Ntalakou, Greece

Greece is putting in place a strategy reform to overhaul the production and organisation of legal information. The strategy aims at improving quality, standardise the law making process, and enhance transparency and access to justice.

The programme includes a long-term plan for the codification of the main laws and the development of a portal which will provide access to legislation.

In collaboration with the EU programme ISA (Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations) an ontology based on ELI, Akoma Ntoso and the Core Public Organisation Vocabulary” (CPOV) was created along with special tools for the conversion of legal documents into linked open data. Among the main features of the portal are a multilingual interface, a timeline showing evolution of legal texts over time and the possibility to compare versions.

This ambitious reform builds on the collaboration with institutional partners, and takes into account the OECD recommendations and EU initiatives (i.e. the Better Regulation toolbox, the Better Regulation Guidelines and the REFIT programme).

PowerPoint presentation

Official Journal of Luxembourg
John Dann, Luxembourg

Luxembourg dramatically modernized the publishing methods of the Official Journal, by shifting from a paper–based approach to the "digital first" principle.

Previously based on PDFs and bearing high costs, the whole production process was completely overhauled with the aim to improve quality, reduce costs and offer users more services and information.

The new site (legilux.public.lu) features the electronic version of the Official Journal with legal value; a timeline starting at the date of publication of the Official Journal and showing all modifications of an act over time; relations with other documents generated automatically from a triple store repository; ELI (European Legislation Identifier) full integration; a personalised account to follow changes.

Several elements contributed to the achievement of the project: a modular ontology, where new elements can be added, controlled vocabularies, reusing some existing tables from Publications Office of the EU; a new XML editing tool (replacing the previous InDesign tool); an automatic conversion tool, enabling the extraction of metadata, giving over 90% of correct results; an efficient back office, which automatically retrieves data related to EU acts from the EUR-Lex repository. As a result, the production has now been completely internalised and costs dramatically reduced.

PowerPoint presentation
Parallel sessions: presentations by EU countries

During the parallel sessions, some Member States representative's shared their experiences, challenges and solutions in building up their legal information systems.

Interrelating legislation and case-law: the Spanish model
Susana Gómez and Edurne Uranga, Spain

In Spain there are two distinct databases respectively, one for the dissemination of legislation and its consolidation (www.boe.es) and the other for case law (www.poderjudicial.es). Thanks to the agreement of the two entities which manage the two databases (the Official State Bulletin Agency – BOE – and the Centre for Judicial Documentation – CENDOJ) to interrelate consolidated legislation and case law, users can access case law via the consolidated legislative texts and vice-versa. The system is based on daily exchanges of xml files, which allow the establishment of hyperlinks.

Likumi.lv – solutions for citizens and professional users
Sandra Zalite, Latvia

The Latvian legal database (likumi.lv), serves as single point of reference for Latvian legislation for both ordinary and professional users. The site offers a Quick Google search and works on mobile devices. Communication with users through social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Google Plus is ensured.

The site offers access to consolidated versions, together with links to explanations. The status of a legal act is indicated through color codes.

Professional users can use advanced search features with detailed criteria. They have access to the history versioning of an act, the possibility to create personalized lists and make annotations, and to get email notifications.

Law in the 21st century – the SLOV-Lex portal
Dominika Slaná, Slovakia

The modernized Slovak legal information system (https://www.slov-lex.sk), finalised in 2016, makes full use of digital technology. It has two main components.

The eLegislation portal provides lawmakers with effective tools for creating contents and managing the progress of legal acts. It also provides a platform for public consultation on draft legislation, open to legal experts (lawyers, notaries, etc.), entrepreneurs (physical and legal persons) and citizens.

The eCollection provides for free access to the legislative acts, including electronically signed PDF versions of Regulations and consolidated texts.

Initial users resistance to change was progressively overcome thanks to the quality of the services provided.
Légifrance: access to consolidated law in France
Pierre Larrêde, France

Legifrance (www.legifrance.gouv.fr), the government website created in 2002, provides access to laws and decrees published in the Official Journal, (the electronic version of which is authentic), important court rulings and European legislation, among others.

Legifrance offers simple and advanced search options for Official Codes and consolidated texts (with no legal value) not included in Codes. It allows users to consult texts or codes by article, in their current version in force and also in their previous versions or upcoming versions.

Legal Information System of Austria (RIS)
Helmut Weichsel, Austria

In Austria, the Legal Information System (RIS - www.ris.bka.gv.at) gives access to the authentic Federal Law Gazettes, for which ELI has been implemented; to case law for which ECLI is used; and to consolidated texts which, as statistics show, are very popular. RIS also includes links to EUR-Lex as well as selected laws translated in English.

An XML based interface to transfer documents to RIS is available (RIS-Journal), allowing authorities and Courts to fill in a form with the metadata and upload documents in DOCX and PDF.

The legislative website of the Romanian Ministry of Justice
Alexandru Niță, Romania

In Romania the legislative website (legislatie.just.ro) was created in 2014. The interface is in Romanian but it is connected to N-Lex to facilitate search in other languages. Interesting features of the site include multiple criteria for search and filter, the table of contents of the act, links to related acts, the version of the act at a given point in time, with modifications indicated in different colors and access to consolidated version (without legal value).

Electronic Irish Statute Book (eISB)
Gerry Matthews, Ireland

The electronic Irish Statute Book (eISB), the online repository of Irish legislation, is available since 2002 (www.irishstatutebook.ie). It is a re-publisher of legislation coming from various governmental sources, requiring a fast and efficient publication process.

Apart from certain important acts, there is no ongoing consolidation of legislation so information on amendments is provided from a link to each piece of legislation (the so-called Legislation Directory). The eISB conforms to the European Legislation Identifier (ELI). Plans for the future include expanding the range of metadata available.
European Legislation Identifier – Implementation on the Italian Official Gazette
Antonio Antetomaso, Italy

The Italian Gazzetta Ufficiale website (www.gazzettaufficiale.it) supports all three pillars of European Legislation Identifier (ELI). ELI is also used to communicate the national transposition measures to the European Commission. Moreover, on Gazzetta Ufficiale, EU directives (with a link to pdf files published on EUR-Lex) and the corresponding Italian transposition measures are linked and shown side-by-side. Developing an ELI schema for consolidated versions is part of future plans.

PowerPoint presentation

Legislation and Linked Legal Data in the Netherlands
Marc van Opijnen, the Netherlands

The Publications Office of the Netherlands has a dedicated linked open data website (linkeddata.overheid.nl). Its architecture allows to extract, store, transform and semantically link legal public data from different sources. In this context, it is especially worth mentioning the "Link eXtractor" software able to detect references to national and European legislation and to case-law in a text and to transform them into standardized and machine-readable URIs.

Based on this infrastructure of linked data, a free Law Pocket application has also been developed, consisting of two parts: the Law Pocket Bundle (‘bundle’), a collection of acts within a specific legal domain or a collection of all regulations from one regional government, and the Law Pocket Pocket (‘pocket’), a collection of legislation and other legal materials on a specific topic, selected and annotated by an author with extensive knowledge on the subject.

PowerPoint presentation

Roundtable on the Official Journal, legislative procedures and case law

Official Journal publication: how to go forward?
The role of public publishers can no longer be limited to that of a mere publisher of legal data. Citizens’ expectations have evolved. A comprehensive and easy-to-use access to reliable, authentic legal digital content is needed.

The Official Journal of the European Union and the challenges of the Digital Age
Yvo Mihajlović, Publications Office of the EU

The Official Journal (OJ) of the EU is published in the 24 languages official languages of the EU. The electronic version published in EUR-Lex is the authentic version. Acts published in different language versions are displayed synoptically. ELI is assigned to all secondary EU legislation published in the Official Journal (L series).

Currently, challenges encompass moving from an advanced electronic signature to an electronic seal and removal of personal data from documents published on the Publications Office sites published OJs. Plans for the future include publication act by act.

PowerPoint presentation
Official Gazette of the Italian Republic – the publication process
Antonio Antetomaso, Italy

In Italy, the Official Gazette receives a digital signature and a digital stamp on its PDF format with the possibility for the users to verify the authenticity.

The publication process is based on an infrastructure which allows all its actors to cooperate in an integrated manner until dissemination on the website (www.gazettaufficiale.it). Another site www.normattiva.it publishes legal acts and consolidation.

PowerPoint presentation

Official Journal of Luxembourg. From paper to linked open data
John Dann, Luxembourg

In Luxembourg, a rich ontology, aligned with ELI, has been created for legislation published on the Official Journal. Act by act publication has been implemented for some years. Access and reuse is facilitated by a dedicated open data portal (data.legilux.public.lu), with the aim of exploiting the opportunities offered by open data.

PowerPoint presentation

The new functionalities of the portal of the Portuguese Official Journal
Helder de Sousa Santos, Portugal

In Portugal, the electronic edition of the Official Journal published on https://dre.pt/ has legal value. The process of sending acts for publication is dematerialized: submission is done through an accredited electronic platform. Consolidation has no legal value; it is possible to check the differences between the original and the consolidated text. Some other features of the site include easy access to the level of the article with its amendments in a certain point in time and its relations to Court rulings, to the Parliament preparatory works and to EU law. Plans for the future include act by act publication.

PowerPoint presentation

Visualisation of the status of legislative procedures

Transparency guarantees greater legitimacy and accountability of our democratic systems. Citizens need to understand how legislation is adopted. An easy, user-friendly access to the decision making process is essential for well-informed citizens and a condition for active and enlightened participation in policy making.

Visualisation of EU decision-making procedures on EUR-Lex
Julia Pichon, Publications Office of the EU

The view of the legislative procedure on EUR-Lex reflects the complexity of the EU decision making process. EU institutions send their documents and metadata to the Publications Office of the EU using a common exchange protocol (IMMC).
An ‘Internal Procedure’ tab has recently been introduced on EUR-Lex. It allows to follow the progress of the internal decision-making process, with different types of documents gradually being added.

The challenges faced are due to a complex and dynamic life cycle; the existence of different exchange information systems with the EU institutions; and the need to bridge procedures with documents and vice-versa. Plans for the future comprise a visualization revamp; increasing the number of documents and relationships; and displaying the whole lifecycle of an act.

**PowerPoint presentation**

**Legislative Observatory: Parliament’s portal to follow its decision-making process**
Chrysostomos Panagiotou, European Parliament

The Legislative Observatory (OEIL - [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil), focuses on the European Parliament activities from a procedure perspective rather than from a single document perspective. This is what mostly distinguishes OEIL from EUR-Lex. A ‘procedure file’ gives access to useful information including references, key players and summaries of key documents and events. Statistics show that nearly all users of OEIL also use EUR-Lex.

**PowerPoint presentation**

**Opening up policy-making – the Commission Better Regulation Portal**
Martine Deprez, European Commission

The Better Regulation Portal ([ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/](http://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/)) gives access to relevant documents from planning and preparation to the adoption of an act by the Commission. Its objective is to interact with citizens, allowing external stakeholders to provide their feedback during the preparation process, thus contributing to the EU law-making. To ensure transparency, feedback is immediately published.

**PowerPoint presentation**

**Case law**

Easy, comprehensive access to case law is crucial for a good understanding of legal information. The role of public publishers in this domain is also evolving, to keep with times, and new ways of making information accessible are offered.

**Making EU case law more (easily) accessible**
Andrew Paton, Court of Justice of the European Union

The Court of Justice of the EU recently shifted from paper to digital publication of EU case law. The last paper edition of the European Court Reports was published in 2013.

With a considerable reduction in costs and production time, today two language versions of the judgment (French and the language of the procedure) are published on the same day of the judgement, with the PDF authentic version available within one week.

Document by document production started in November 2016. Currently, the follow-up of both backlog and document by document processes in three different production systems represent the main challenges.

**PowerPoint presentation**
European Union case law on EUR-Lex
Juraj Kuba, Publications Office of the EU

European Court of Justice documents are also available on EUR-Lex (judgments and orders; opinions and views of advocates generals; opinions of the Court on draft international agreements; communications) and published in the Court digital reports or in the Official Journal. Documents are enriched with metadata including relations to legislative documents.

PowerPoint presentation

Objectives and projects of the Electronic Documentation Center for the dissemination of the Supreme Court of Cassation judgments
Alessio Scarcella, Italy

In Italy, it is the objective of the e-Documentation Center (EDC) to spread legal data and enhance transparency of the justice service. Case-law is made available via three websites:

www.Cortedicassazione.it contains the most important judgments of the Supreme Court, accompanied by an abstract with general details of the parties obscured when required.

SentenzeWeb is a powerful and easy-to-use search engine for the judgments of the Supreme Court of the last five years, mostly from criminal matters. Particular attention is given to accessibility and privacy; judgments are not indexed by internet search engines and are deleted after 5 years.

ItalgiureWeb (Italgiure.giustizia.it), targeted to professionals users gives both free and paid access. Via advanced search features, it allows searching judgments of the Italian Court plus a rich collection of many types of documents, such as the judgments of European Court of Justice or historical archives.

PowerPoint presentation

Building on ECLI: better access to case Law
Marc von Opjinen, The Nertherland

ECLI (European Case Law identifier), a human readable and computer processable identifier, aims to improve cross-border access to national and EU court decisions published online. It is currently implemented in twelve Member States (as well as in Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Court of Human Rights and the Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office) and is gradually expanding to other Member States. Responsibility for national implementation of the European Case Law Identifier is borne by the national ECLI coordinators.

The ECLI Search Engine, developed by the European Commission and available on European e-Justice Portal, allows the users to search for legal decisions/judgments (within more than five million documents indexed) with an assigned ECLI identifier. "Building on ECLI" is a project which started in October 2015 involving sixteen partners from ten member states. The project aims at broadening national implementation of ECLI, discussing the next version of ECLI (ECLI 2.0.) and to further improving the accessibility of case law documents.

PowerPoint presentation
Plenary session: What makes a good search experience

In the field of legal information, a wide variety of users, with different levels of expertise and skills, need to be served. Different approaches to search on public legal websites are required to address different user needs.

Search on EUR-Lex: responding to the diversity of user needs
Cécilia Charlier, Publications Office of the EU

EUR-Lex offers different types of searches with the aim to accommodate different types of users: from the Google-type quick search for ordinary users, to the advanced search for experienced users to the expert search for proficient users. Challenges for providing a good search include the integration of new types of documents, improving relevancy and addressing very different users’ needs.

PowerPoint presentation

On the concept of relevance: challenges for legal search
Marc van Opijnen, The Netherlands

Relevancy relates to how search results are suitable to the user’s information needs. There are several dimensions of relevancy. Off-the-shelf search engines only cater for algorithmic relevance. Other dimensions, such as bibliographic or domain relevance, are often overlooked. Interesting developments in artificial intelligence could be used.

PowerPoint presentation

SEO and a new search interface for the Danish legal information system
Søren Nielsen and Janus Andersen, Denmark

The current search strategy implemented for the Danish Legal System (retsinformation.dk) focused on Search engine optimization (SEO) and on the implementation of a customized Google Search Appliance (GSA).

Plans for the future strategy are centered this time on how to help users in ways that General Public Search engines do not. Key points will focus on accessibility, speed and relevancy with the implementation of a new search engine by 2018 replacing the GSA. Analysis of users and data is one of the key elements of the strategy.

PowerPoint presentation
Plenary session: synergies between EU law and national law

European Law is part of the national systems. Regulations are directly applicable in Member States; Directives are transposed in the national legislation. Improving the connection between EU and national law contributes to reinforcing the feeling of belonging to a Community of Law.

Bridging the gap between EU and national law
Alain Pilette, Council of the European Union

The e-law Working Group of the Council is an interinstitutional platform of interchange with Member States in the field of e-Law. Much progress has been achieved in the last years thanks to the impulse of the Group to promote dialogue and transparency. The Group follows closely and strongly supports the works of the Publications Office of the EU. It is worth mentioning the results achieved in improving access in EUR-Lex to transposition measures of directives and support to the implementation of ELI.

N-Lex: what’s next?
Valentina Fratto, Publications Office of the EU

N-Lex (eur-lex.europa.eu/n-lex/) was created in 2002 by initiative of the Council Working Group on eLaw to provide for easy access to national legal websites. The site provides for a common search interface allowing to retrieve information from national sites. A reflection on how further exploit its potential is ongoing. Proposed ideas include using N-Lex to find national transposition measures, providing information and access to available translated legislation and finding synergies with ELI and EuroVoc for thematic search.

PowerPoint presentation

European Legislation Identifier - ELI
John Dann, Luxembourg

The main goal of the European Legislation Identifier (ELI) is to interconnect legal information and the opportunities derived in fostering transparency, efficiency and innovation. There are currently 12 Member States implementing ELI. Reference material to find more information about ELI is available: the ELI register on EUR-Lex and the ELI Ontology published on the MetaData Registry (MDR). A video introduces ELI and its advantages.

The ELI is based on three components: 1) Unique Resource Identifier (URI), 2) standardized metadata catalogue, 3) machine-readability. Each component can be implemented at a different time. Work for the future include adding ELI identifiers at the level of the articles of legislation, development of IT tools to support ELI implementation and management of the ontology and related tasks.

PowerPoint presentation
National Transposition Measures – and how to find them on EUR-Lex
Maria Westermann, Publications Office of the EU

The Publications Office of the EU publishes information related to national transposition measures which is notified by Member States to the Secretariat-General of the Commission on EUR-Lex. The measures can be found in a separate tab within the directive view or via advanced search.

Since October 2016, Member States have the possibility to send the text of transposition or a link to the actual document to be displayed in EUR-Lex.

Plans for the future embrace an increased number of Member States publishing texts or links; adding transposition measures of framework directives, machine translation for titles, and develop an automatic transmission so that the measures are published on EUR-Lex within a few hours from their notification.

PowerPoint presentation

How users of legislation access national transposition measures: a study in the framework of the ELI initiative
Carmen Malagón, Publications Office of the EU

The study was undertaken at the initiative of the ELI taskforce and coordinated by the Publications Office, with the objectives to gain deeper insight into how transposition is used from a national perspective and to better meet usability needs. Results show that the vast majority of respondents were interested in finding information about transposition which is used for preparing national legislation, verifying how a specific national provision has been transposed in different Member States and for helping with standardization terminology. 50% of respondents start their search from the national law and the other half from the EU directive when looking for transposition measures.

The study will be available on the ELI register http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli-register.

PowerPoint presentation

The relation between EU Law and national law. The Greek experience
Antonis Stasis and Loukia Demiri, Greece

In Greece, the relation between Greek and EU legislation and the related existing IT tools was handled by looking at other projects at EU and national level, assessing, reusing and combining existing tools, such as ELI for identifying law and components of law, Akoma Ntoso to describe parts of legal acts, the “Core Public Organisation Vocabulary” (CPOV) to describe entities in a structured way, the scrollbar from the UK National Archive to display the evolution of legislation over time. Those tools were combined to produce a first draft of an ontology. Next steps include the creation of an RDF editor that will support the ontology. The audience and other Member States representatives were invited to share their feedback on the Greek project.

PowerPoint presentation
Connecting National Law to EU Law – the Finnish experience and future projects
Aki Hietanen, Finland

The Finlex database (www.finlex.fi/en/) contains transposition measures since Finland joined the EU in 1995. The text of the measures is annexed to the notification of transposition sent to the Commission. A reference to the EU directives is present in the national act, with a link to EUR-Lex through the CELEX number of the EU act. The use of ELI will facilitate linking of national legislative acts in EUR-Lex

Legislation is available as linked open data at data.finlex.fi based on an ontology that extends the ELI ontology, in particular by adding sections and other subdivisions. A SPARQL endpoint search interface is available.

Future projects related to the enrichment of web content focus on visualization and anonymization of legal data and on further development of a contextual reader allowing to highlight and provide for definitions of specialised terminology in documents.

PowerPoint presentation
Reflexion and feedback on EUR-Lex and N-Lex

Participants were asked to suggest lines of action, identify advantages and disadvantages and rank ideas on three topics.

Here below an overview, with the result listed in descending order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideas</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Prioritise up-to-date consolidated versions</td>
<td>Providing the user with the &quot;latest&quot; version</td>
<td>Time constraints</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Legal and cognitive relevancy</td>
<td>Simplify search experience</td>
<td>Can lead users to results they don't want</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Different experiences for Novice/Advanced users</td>
<td>Adapting to the needs of the user</td>
<td>Difficult to identify the needs of every user</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Progressive drilldown search experience</td>
<td>Very user-friendly, adaptable to users knowledge / expertise</td>
<td>Can be leading</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Simplicity</td>
<td>More accessible</td>
<td>Overly simple</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Semantic intelligence</td>
<td>Smarter results</td>
<td>Danger of bugs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Personalisation</td>
<td>More responsive to the needs of the user</td>
<td>Issues with data protection</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. User-friendly presentation</td>
<td>More accessible</td>
<td>Difficulty with identifying the user</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Personalised interface</td>
<td>Tailor-made experience</td>
<td>Issues with login (login is required each time)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Consolidation with legal value</td>
<td>Reliable and easy to access</td>
<td>Time constraints</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Use of summaries</td>
<td>Good overview</td>
<td>Not up-to-date</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas</td>
<td>Advantages</td>
<td>Disadvantages</td>
<td>Rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. In the text of an act, provide hyperlinks to all the other acts referred to</td>
<td>Easy and convenient way to access additional info</td>
<td>It can disrupt reading, especially if many links</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Use a common legal text format/template</td>
<td>Higher quality of texts and streamlined processing</td>
<td>Limits the freedom of the legislator</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Enhance the visualisation of implementation by showing how documents on the national level are linked together and which parts of a directive they transpose</td>
<td>Easier access to information</td>
<td>Increased complexity of display</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Create links to family of documents (inspired by the &quot;law pocket&quot; concept presented by Mr Opijnen)</td>
<td>Can provide an overview</td>
<td>Hard to categorise</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Offer a view of future legislation, via future consolidated versions</td>
<td>Better prepare for the future, as users would get an idea of where legislation is headed</td>
<td>Could create false expectations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. See modifications to an act in track-changes, with dates of notification and a colour code</td>
<td>Easy comparison between versions</td>
<td>Colours can be problematic</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Use more graphics, such as mind maps and timelines</td>
<td>A better understanding of the texts</td>
<td>Higher bandwidth needed, can lead to over-simplification</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Improve SEO and interaction with Google</td>
<td>The information is available more easily</td>
<td>The system is constantly changing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Add Commission documents and judgements of the ECJ to the national transposition measures</td>
<td>All info available from one place</td>
<td>Too much data is no data</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Unleashing the potential of N-Lex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideas</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Enable the search across multiple country databases at once</td>
<td>Reduced number of searches to perform</td>
<td>Language-related problems</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Make use of the ELI URI to display more versions (i.e. consolidated versions)</td>
<td>Increased user-friendliness</td>
<td>This would benefit only to the countries using ELI. It would also increase the number of results in result lists</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Allow for machine translation not only of the titles of national acts but also of the content</td>
<td>Quick insight into the national acts</td>
<td>High cost as manual translation will be needed for better accuracy</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Extend the gateway to case law</td>
<td>This would allow to &quot;compare notes&quot; among institutions and Member States</td>
<td>Need for resources and costs to be incurred. This is seen more as a luxury service</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Standardisation of cross-references on legal resources</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Use of ELI URI in the search interface. This new field could also provide help</td>
<td>Use of information from the ELI register, so no</td>
<td>The ELI syntax is not well known</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
with the grammar of ELI used in each Member State
development needed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7. Get more refined results (also address subdivisions of acts)</th>
<th>Facilitate the job of lawyers</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. Develop more modern connectors to access open data services</td>
<td>More accessible metadata, a single entry point, a streamlined structure, re-use of 3rd ELI pillar</td>
<td>Development and resources needed, both from the side of the Member States and of the EU institutions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Closing remarks by Maria Manuela Cruz, Head of Unit EUR-Lex and TED, Publications Office of the European Union

The purpose of the workshop was clearly set in the opening address of the Director General of the Publications Office. We came together to share our views, our concerns and our solutions, with the aim of improving the services we provide to citizens. We hoped to be inspired by each other’s experiences. We expected to create or reinforce bonds.

From the perspective of the Publications Office, we can conclude without hesitation that these objectives have been met.

A number of points are worth highlighting:

1. We share a common concern: the user of our systems, the citizen. Our aim is to provide him/her a good user experience in access to information. A few elements prove this point.

   One of the many aspects of facilitating access to information is consolidation. Many countries provide for consolidated versions of the legislation; we admire Estonia which has taken the ultimate step and publishes officially consolidated texts. We are curious to see the result of the plans of Denmark to improve the search experience of the different types of users.

   Systems need to be adapted to different types of users – ordinary or expert, occasional or intensive, professional and non-professional. The Latvian presentation gives a good perspective of this duality.

   As users are different, they also have different expectations as regards search results. What is relevant for some may not be for others. Our colleague from the Netherlands led us through a fascinating tour into the different aspects of relevancy.

2. Improved access to information enhances transparency. It is in this perspective that we look with interest at the projects and actions undertaken in Greece, the recent development of the Romanian legislative site and the various perspectives of access to law and case-law provided by our Italian speakers. Transparency is also the motto of the European institutions: the Legislative Observatory of the European Parliament facilitates understanding of the successive steps of the legislative procedure, while the Better Regulation Portal of the European Commission encourages the active participation of citizens in the decision making process.

3. Good access to information requires that we keep up with times. This was very well illustrated by the presentation of the new functionalities of the Portal of the Portuguese Official Journal, and was underlined during the presentation of the best practices to access legislation in force in France.

4. Change is not always welcome. Users have their habits, their preferences, and are not always willing to adapt to new realities. Luxembourg and Slovakia demonstrated that it is possible to overcome resistance to change, provided that the result of the change meets the user's needs.

5. Change brings new challenges. In the area of creation and transmission of documents, for example. XML based editors and transmission methods are examples of useful tools as illustrated by the European Court of Justice and by Austria.
6. Information is frequently spread around several sites or databases. In some sessions the choice between bringing documents into the same repository and simply bringing together information available in different sources was addressed. In Ireland, legal information is sourced from various Government Departments and Offices to be displayed centrally. Spain found an elegant solution to link legislation and case-law available in two autonomous information systems.

7. A number of innovative tools were mentioned in this regard, such as link extractors, the ECLI search engine, and the federated search project currently under development within the EU institutions.

8. One interesting point regarding new standard tools such as the ECLI or the ELI is the fact that they are developed at European level, through the active cooperation of Member States. This confirms indeed the idea that we form a Community of Law, which was also clear from presentations such as the one given by our Finish colleague.

9. European Law is part of the national systems. Directives are transposed in the national legislation. We saw how crucial it is that this information is made visible – both in national sites and in EUR-Lex. We realised the benefits of ELI as regards standardisation and better exchange of data. We acknowledged the potential of N-Lex for ensuring access to a wider set of information beyond the national borders.

At the end of this very intensive one and a half day of exchange, we can certainly agree on how imperative it is to share our views, our problems, and our solutions. In particular in the light of Brexit, it is more important than ever to work together, as this will make us stronger.

This event would not have been possible without you. Many thanks for taking the time to be here, for sharing your views, for your interest and for your questions.

We are very grateful to the speakers for the work put in the preparation of their interventions, for presenting the result of their reflexions. We are well aware that it represents a lot of work and effort – in particular when it comes to writing and presenting in a language which is not your mother language.

A particular word to the colleagues of the Publications Office, for all the work done (at it was a lot) to prepare the event, to organise it and for making sure that everything went smoothly. A very special word for Cécilia Charlier, for the brilliant overall coordination.

We wish you all a safe trip home.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.
List of participants

BULGARIA
Yanislava Andreeava-Aleksandrova, National Institute of Justice, Bulgaria

CZECH REPUBLIC
Aleš Gola, Ministry of the Interior, Czech Republic
Jiri Lenfeld, Office of the Government, Czech Republic
Tomáš Přenosil, Office of the Government, Czech Republic
Petr Škařupa, Ministry of the Interior, Czech Republic

DENMARK
Janus Andersen, Ministry of Justice, Denmark
Soren Broberg Nielsen, Ministry of Justice, Denmark

GERMANY
Michael Grasberger-Wirt, Bundesamt für Justiz, Germany
Ralf Killian, Bundesanzeiger Verlag, Germany
Alexander Rott, Bundesamt für Justiz, Germany

ESTONIA
Jüri Heinla, Ministry of Justice, Estonia
Margit Lauri, Ministry of Justice, Estonia
Maret Mauer, Ministry of Justice, Estonia
Sandra Raudsepp, Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU

IRELAND
Gerry Matthews, Office of the Attorney General, Ireland
Stephen Rigney, Houses of the Oireachtas, Ireland
GREECE
Loukia Demiri, Hellenic Ministry of Administrative Reconstruction, Greece
Vassiliki Ntalakou, Hellenic Ministry of Administrative Reconstruction, Greece
Antonis Stasis, Hellenic Ministry of Administrative Reconstruction, Greece
Dimitrios Titsias, Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU
Georgia Valatsou, Hellenic Ministry of Administrative Reconstruction, Greece

SPAIN
Susana Gómez, Official State Bulletin Agency, Spain
Edurne Uranga, Centre for Judicial Documentation, Spain

FRANCE
Pierre Larrede, Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information (DILA), France
Manuel Siaud, SIINC, France
Jean-Michel Thivel, SGAE, France

CROATIA
Anja Srsek Crnkovic, Ministry of Justice, Croatia
Mirna Wiewegh, Official Gazette of the Republic, Croatia

ITALY
Antonio Antetomaso, Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, Italy
Paolo Bruno, Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU
Delia Chiara, Ministero della Giustizia, Italy
Nando Orsini, Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, Italy
Maurizio Quattrociocchi, Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, Italy
Alessio Scarcella, Supreme Court of Cassation, Italy
CYPRUS
Nikolaos Konstantinou, Department of Information Technology Services

LATVIA
Janis Abens, VSIA “Latvijas Vēstnesis”, Latvia
Kristine Kuprijanova, Ministry of Justice, Latvia
Sandra Zalite, Official Gazette “Latvijas Vēstnesis”, Latvia

LITHUANIA
Jurgita Urbaite, Ministry of Justice, Lithuania

LUXEMBOURG
John Dann, Official Journal of Luxembourg

HUNGARY
János Szenthe, Ministry for Justice, Hungary

MALTA
Frank Attard, Ministry for Justice, Malta
Mary Debono Borg, Court of Justice, Malta
Donald Mangion, Ministry for Justice, Malta

NETHERLANDS
Marc van Opijnen, UBR|KOOP (Publications Office), The Netherlands
Stefanie Tsonos, UBR|KOOP (Publications Office), The Netherlands
AUSTRIA
Helmut Weichsel, Federal Chancellery, Austria

POLAND
Tomasz Białas, Ministry of Justice, Poland
Marta Kulikowska, Supreme Administrative Court, Poland
Marcin Nowacki, Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU

PORTUGAL
Carlos Ribeiro, National Printing Office and Mint, Portugal
Helder de Sousa Santos, National Printing Office and Mint, Portugal

ROMANIA
Alexandru Niță, Ministry of Justice, Romania
Karina Stan, Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU

SLOVENIA
Mitja Guštin, Office for Legislation of the Government, Slovenia
Žiga Pipan, Office for Legislation of the Government, Slovenia

SLOVAKIA
Dominika Slaná, Ministry of Justice, Slovak Republic

FINLAND
Aki Hietanen, Ministry of Justice, Finland
Sari Korhonen, Edita Publishing OY, Finland
Altti Mieho, Edita Publishing OY, Finland
SWEDEN
Pontus Sjöström Hederberg, Ministry of Justice, Sweden

NORWAY
Trygve Harvold, The Lovdata Foundation, Norway
Vegar Robertsen, The Lovdata Foundation, Norway
Odd Storm-Paulsen, The Lovdata Foundation, Norway

EU INSTITUTIONS

European Parliament
Hansjoerg Beirer
Chrysostomos Panagiotou

Council of the European Union
Ieva Lejasisaka
Tony O'Grady
Alain Pilette

European Commission
Martine Deprez
Alexander Ivantchev

Court of Justice
Eren Gültekin
Andrew Paton

European Central Bank
Mikael Stenström
Publications Office of the EU

Marcin Baryń
Dejan Brkic
António Carneiro
Cécilia Charlier
Maria Manuela Cruz
Valentina Fratto
Juraj Kuba
Bertrand Lorentz
Carmen Malagon
Luca Martinelli
Ivo Mihajlovič
Julia Pichon
Gregor Ramuš
Peter Schmitz
Valeria Sciarrino
Rudolf Strohmeier
George Vernardos
Laura Von Weissenberg
Maria Westermann