

Guidelines for Citing and Referencing EU Law in LL.M. Papers

CITING EU LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Citations to EU legislative acts and other legal acts of the Council or the European Commission should be made on the basis of the edition of the *Official Journal of the European Union* in which they were established.

I. EU Treaties

For EU treaties and the Charter, the reference should include the official name of the document, the treaty name, the Official Journal series and issue (with *OJ* in italics), the publication date, and the page numbers.

References to specific articles and paragraphs in the text or footnotes can be made as follows: “This is also clearly reflected in the regulation’s legal basis, which is found in Art. 322 TFEU.”

- Example: Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

Document 12012E/TXT

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, pp. 47–390 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, pp. 47–390 (GA)

● In force

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2012/oj

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, *OJ C 326*, 26 October 2012, 47-390.

- Example: The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

Document 12016P/TXT

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, pp. 389–405 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, GA, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

● In force

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2016/oj

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, *OJ C 202*, 7 June 2016, 389- 405.

II. Regulations, Directives and Decisions

The minimum complete footnote reference should include the date of the act, its title and the reference to the Official Journal. In the main text of the paper, you are not required to refer to the full name of the regulation, directive or decision.

- Example: EU Directive

Document 32014L0057

Directive 2014/57/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on criminal sanctions for market abuse (market abuse directive)

OJ L 173, 12.6.2014, pp. 179–189 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

● In force

ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/57/oj>

Directive 2014/57/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on criminal sanctions for market abuse, *OJ L 173*, 12 June 2014, 179 – 189.

In the text, you may refer to the latter directive as “Directive 2014/57”. This is acceptable based on your own judgment, as long as you remain complete and consistent.

- Example: EU Regulation

Document 32021R0241

Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility

OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, pp. 17–75 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, GA, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

● In force: This act has been changed. Current consolidated version: 01/03/2024

ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/241/oj>

Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18 February 2021, 17-75.

In the text, the latter regulation may be referred to as “Regulation 2021/241”, provided that the reference is complete and consistent throughout the paper.

III. Other official documents

Please find below some illustrations on references to other official EU documents, the minimum complete footnote should include the date of the act, its title and the Official Journal reference. The list is not exhaustive. These guidelines cannot cover all EU documents. Therefore, it is recommended that you apply these guidelines in an analogous way, taking into account the general remarks and maintaining consistency in the referencing style throughout the LLM paper.

- Example: Communication from the Commission

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Commission Opinion on Serbia's application for membership of the European Union

* COM/2011/0668 final */

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, *Commission Opinion on Serbia's Application for Membership to the European Union*, COM (2011) 668 final, Brussels, 12 October 2011.

- Example: CETA

Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part

OJ L 11, 14.1.2017, pp. 23–1079 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

● In force

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2017/37/oj

Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part, OJ L 11, 14 January 2017, 23 – 1079.

IV. CASE-LAW

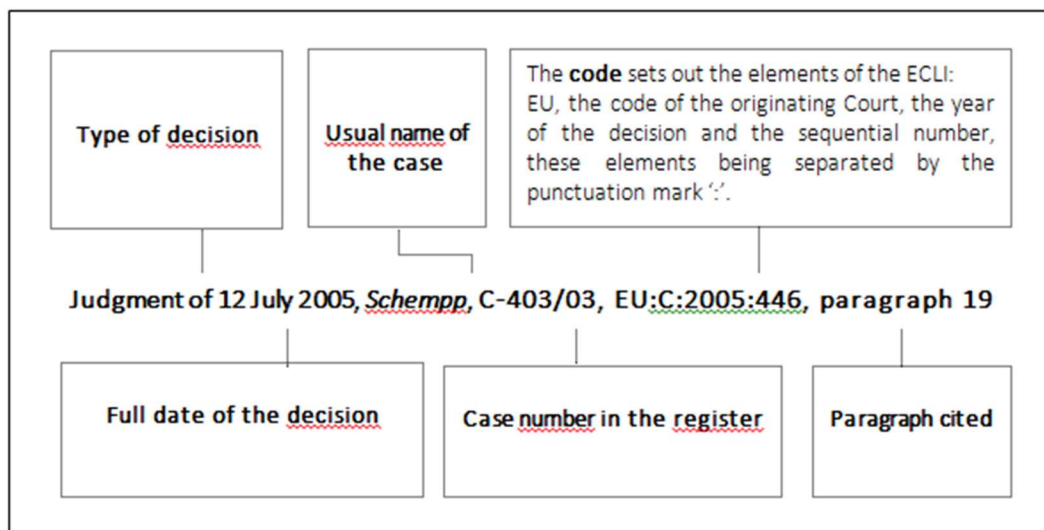
Court of Justice of the European Union

For the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, the ECLI-method is used. The method of citing the case-law adopted by the Court of Justice of the European Union combines the ECLI with the usual name of the decision and the case number in the register.

The ECLI is composed of the following four mandatory elements, in addition to the prefix 'ECLI'. Please note that the prefix 'ECLI' should not be included in the reference:

- the code corresponding to the Member State of the court or tribunal concerned or to the European Union where it is an EU Court;
- the abbreviation corresponding to the court or tribunal which delivered the decision;
- the year of the decision;
- an ordinal number of a maximum of 25 alphanumeric characters, in a format decided by each Member State or by the supranational court or tribunal concerned. The ordinal number may not contain any punctuation marks other than full stops (.) or colons (:), the latter separating the components of an ECLI.

Example



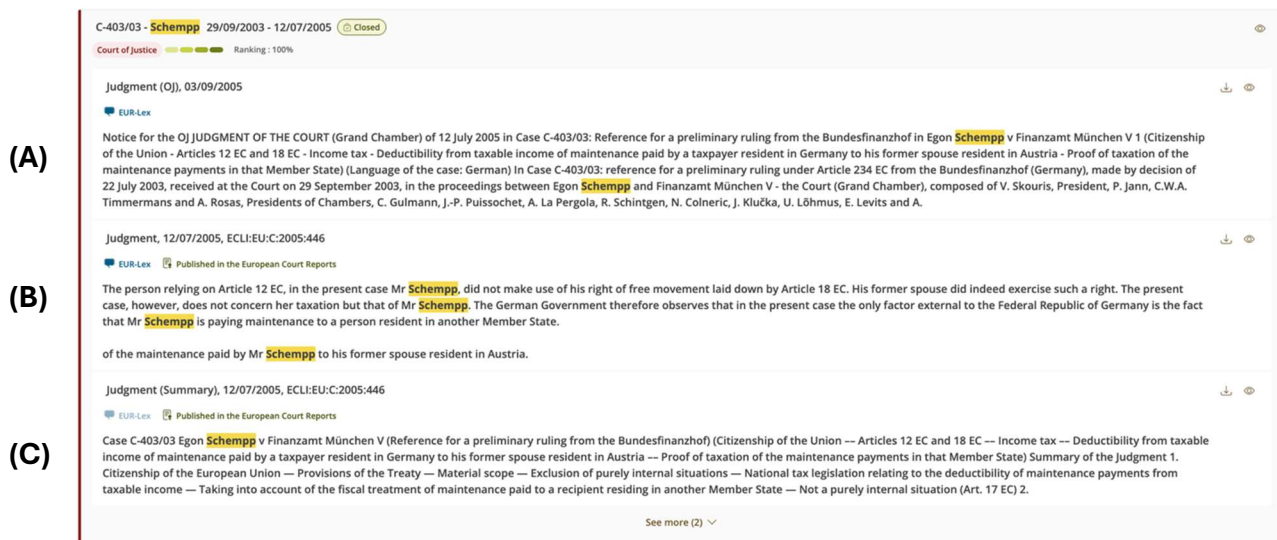
The screenshot shows the EUR-Lex website entry for Case C-403/03 *Schemp*. The ECLI **EU:C:2005:446** is circled in blue. The entry includes the following information:

- Case C-403/03 - Schemp** (9/09/2003 - 12/07/2005) (Closed)
- Judgment (OJ), 03/09/2005**
- EUR-Lex**
- Notice for the OJ JUDGMENT OF THE COURT (Grand Chamber) of 12 July 2005 in Case C-403/03: Reference for a preliminary ruling from the Bundesfinanzhof in Egon Schemp v Finanzamt München V 1 (Citizenship of the Union - Articles 12 EC and 18 EC - Income tax - Deductibility from taxable income of maintenance paid by a taxpayer resident in Germany to his former spouse resident in Austria - Proof of taxation of the maintenance payments in that Member State) (Language of the case: German) In Case C-403/03: reference for a preliminary ruling under Article 234 EC from the Bundesfinanzhof (Germany), made by decision of 22 July 2003, received at the Court on 29 September 2003, in the proceedings between Egon Schemp and Finanzamt München V - the Court (Grand Chamber), composed of V. Skouris, President, P. Jann, C.W.A. Timmermans and A. Rosas, Presidents of Chambers, C. Gulmann, J.-P. Puissechet, A. La Pergola, R. Schintgen, N. Colneric, J. Klučka, U. Lohmus, E. Levits and A.**
- Judgment, 12/07/2005, ECLI:EU:C:2005:446**
- Published in the European Court Reports**
- The person relying on Article 12 EC, in the present case Mr Schemp, did not make use of his right of free movement laid down by Article 18 EC. His former spouse did indeed exercise such a right. The present case, however, does not concern her taxation but that of Mr Schemp. The German Government therefore observes that in the present case the only factor external to the Federal Republic of Germany is the fact that Mr Schemp is paying maintenance to a person resident in another Member State.**
- of the maintenance paid by Mr Schemp to his former spouse resident in Austria.**
- Judgment (Summary), 12/07/2005, ECLI:EU:C:2005:446**
- EUR-Lex**
- Published in the European Court Reports**
- Case C-403/03 Egon Schemp v Finanzamt München V (Reference for a preliminary ruling from the Bundesfinanzhof) (Citizenship of the Union — Articles 12 EC and 18 EC — Income tax — Deductibility from taxable income of maintenance paid by a taxpayer resident in Germany to his former spouse resident in Austria — Proof of taxation of the maintenance payments in that Member State) Summary of the Judgment 1. Citizenship of the European Union — Provisions of the Treaty — Material scope — Exclusion of purely internal situations — National tax legislation relating to the deductibility of maintenance payments from taxable income — Taking into account of the fiscal treatment of maintenance paid to a recipient residing in another Member State — Not a purely internal situation (Art. 17 EC) 2.**

If any data of the case is missing on the Curia database, you can fill in the missing elements by consulting the judgment via EUR-lex. You can easily consult the judgment in EUR-lex via the Curia database.



When using the Curia database, be careful to use the correct document for your reference. Curia will typically display (A) the publication of the judgment in the Official Journal, (B) the actual judgment, and (C) a summary of the judgment. The data of these documents may be different (such as the date of the judgment and the date of publication in the OJ). **Your references should contain the data of the actual judgment (B).**



Example in bibliography: Judgment of 12 July 2005, *Schempp*, C-403/03, EU:C:2005:446.

Example in footnote: Judgment of 12 July 2005, *Schempp*, C-403/03, EU:C:2005:446, para. 19.

Please indicate in the footnote the specific paragraph of the judgment where you found the referenced information. The paragraph number should not be included in the bibliography. Keep in mind that the judgements in the bibliography should be ranked chronologically from old to new.

The same rules apply to the citation of Opinions of an Advocate General. For example, the citation in the footnote: “Opinion of 12 September 2019 of Advocate General Kokott in judgment *Google Ireland*, C-482/18, EU:C:2019:728, para. 44.”

European Court of Human Rights

When referring to judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, include the name of the case (in italics), the date of the judgment, and the application number. If the judgment is cited in a footnote, it also includes the relevant paragraph number. It is not necessary to include paragraph numbers in the bibliography, but the judgments should there be arranged in chronological order.

Example in bibliography: ECtHR, *Mortensen v. Denmark*, 21 October 2025, (Application no. 16756/24).

Example in footnote: ECtHR, *Mortensen v. Denmark*, 21 October 2025, (Application no. 16756/24), para. 12.

V. LEGAL DOCTRINE

For (legal) doctrine, there is no fixed reference method for LL.M. Papers, and you have a certain freedom to select the referencing method you are most comfortable with. Every reference to legal doctrine must be clear, consistent, and complete. Consistency implies that every source that belongs to the same category (book, journal article, blog post, ...) is referenced in the exact same method. Completeness implies that the reference provides all necessary information in order to allow the reader to quickly and easily check your source. For a source to be complete, it requires – at least – the following elements:

1. Last name of the Author(s)
2. Full title of the publication
3. Publisher (if applicable)
4. Date of publication
 - a. For books and journal articles, the year of publication suffices
 - b. For blog posts, the exact date is required
5. Name of the Journal (in case of journal articles) or the title of the edited volume (in case of book chapters in an edited volume)
6. The exact page(s) you refer to (if applicable)
7. URL and date of access in case the source can only be found online

The examples below make use of the OSCOLA referencing method. As previously indicated, you are allowed to make use of other methods as long as they are clear, consistent, and complete.

- Example: Books



BOOK

The impact of war (in Ukraine) on the EU

By Garben, Sacha;Govaere, Inge;Spaventa, Eleanor

Publication 2025

This book charts the transformative effect of the nature of the EU's direct response to the Ukraine war. The war in Ukraine has proved to be a pivotal moment for the EU. The EU, with its foundation of a unique peace...

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● Available at Law and Criminology Universiteitstraat 4 Gent (RBIB.BUREAU EUROPEES INSTITUUT)

[View online](#)

☰ [Chapters of this book \(6\)](#)

Inge Govaere, Sacha Garben and Eleanor Spaventa (eds), *The Impact of War (in Ukraine) on the EU* (Hart 2025).

- Example: Book chapters



BOOK CHAPTER

The Impact of the War in Ukraine on European Neighbourhood Policy and the Enlargement Process: From Wider Europe to Wider Neighbourhood

By **Lannon, Erwan**; Garben, S; Govaere; Spaventa, E

Part of The Impact of War (in Ukraine) on the EU, 2025, Vol.132, p.109-138

● Available at Law and Criminology Universiteitstraat 4 Gent (RBIB.BUREAU EUROPEES INSTITUUT)

[View online](#)

☰ Other chapters of the same book (6)

Erwan Lannon, 'The Impact of the War in Ukraine on European Neighbourhood Policy and the Enlargement Process: From Wider Europe to Wider Neighbourhood' in Inge Govaere, Sacha Garben and Eleanor Spaventa (eds), *The Impact of War (in Ukraine) on the EU* (1st edn, Hart Publishing 2025).

- Example: Journal articles



ARTICLE |  OPEN ACCESS |  PEER REVIEWED

The Sui Generis Framework for Implementing the Law of EMU: A Constitutional Assessment

By **Chamon, Merijn**

Part of European papers (Online. periodico), 2022-02, Vol.6 (3), p.1463-1484

This Article compares the implementation of EMU law with the framework governing the implementation of EU law in general to determine whether that general framework has been complemented, adapted or transform...

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Merijn Chamon, 'The Sui Generis Framework for Implementing the Law of EMU: A Constitutional Assessment' (2022) 2021 6 European Papers - A Journal on Law and Integration 1463-1484.

- Example: Blog posts

EU Law Analysis

Expert insight into EU law developments

FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2020

Action for damages in relation to CFSP decisions pertaining to restrictive measures: A revolutionary move by the Court of Justice in Bank Refah Kargaran?



Professor Dr. Peter Van Elsuwege and Joyce De Coninck (PhD Researcher), Ghent European Law Institute

PAGES

[Litigating Brexit: a guide to the case law](#)

[Guide to Brexit sources \(updated July 2025\)](#)

[How to read EU legislation?](#)

[Studying EU Law: A Law Student's Guide](#)

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Peter Van Elsuwege and Joyce De Coninck, 'Action for Damages in Relation to CFSP Decisions Pertaining to Restrictive Measures: A Revolutionary Move by the Court of Justice in Bank Refah Kargaran?' (EU Law Analysis, 9 October 2020) <<https://eulawanalysis.blogspot.com/2020/10/action-for-damages-in-relation-to-cfsp.html>> accessed 19 February 2026.