

Chapter Eleven

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Publications of the European Union

There is a direct relationship between CELEX and the official publications of the European Union. CELEX may be used simply as an index to these publications, though it is much more than that. The most important legal publications of the EU are:

*The Official Journal 'L' (often referred to as **OJ 'L'**)*

This journal is published every working day throughout the year and every piece of binding legislation enacted by the EU must appear in it. All the Directives, Regulations and Decisions are first published in this journal.

Sector 3/4 of CELEX is drawn directly from the entries in OJ 'L'. The full reference to the publication of a piece of legislation in the Official Journal is given in the **PUBREF** field.

*The Official Journal 'C' (often referred to as **OJ 'C'**)*

This journal is published almost as often as the 'L' series. It contains a wide range of documents, the most useful of which are the so-called **COM DOCS**, which are the texts of proposals for new legislation. Thus, the 'C' series is closely linked to **Sector 5** of CELEX, which may be regarded as an index to the 'C' series.

In addition, the 'C' series contains summaries of cases heard in the European Court of Justice. These appear about one month after the judgment has been given and are the first official publication of any court ruling.

Other documents published in the 'C' series include the minutes of proceedings of the European Parliament, the minutes of the Economic and Social Committee, and notices of mergers and takeovers (referred to as "concentrations").

A more recent addition to CELEX is **Sector C**, which contains documents published in the 'C' series which are not already present in CELEX and have no direct legal interest.

The OJ 'C' is becoming increasingly important, as the EU releases an increasing number of its documents to the general public through this publication.

*The European Court Reports (often referred to as the **ECRs**)*

These contain the full text of the judgments of all cases decided in the European Court of Justice.

The ECRs tend to appear about one or two years after the case has been decided. This delay is largely due to the need to translate from the language in which the case was heard to the other European languages.

Sector 6 of CELEX is the electronic equivalent of the ECRs and is normally much more up to date than the printed version.

The Directory of Community Legislation in Force

This publication is produced from CELEX by the **Office for Official Publications of the European Union**. It is published every six months in two volumes, which contain:

- Chronological Index
- Alphabetic Index
- Analytical Register

This is a very useful publication. Each brief entry gives the CELEX document number and the Official Journal reference.

The Office for Official Publications of the European Union is probably the largest legal publisher in the world today. In addition to the publications mentioned above, this organisation publishes a host of pamphlets and explanatory materials that illustrate the work of the EU. These may be obtained from the individual offices of the EU, which are situated in most countries of the world, or directly from:

The Office for Official Publications of the European Communities
2, rue Mercier
L-2985
Luxembourg