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GUIDE TO NAMING CONVENTIONS AND CITATION STYLE

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1. PRIMARY LEGISLATION – Founding & accession treaties

1.1 NAMING CONVENTIONS

The original treaties. The treaties founding the European Communities are the [ECSC Treaty](#) (ECSC = European Coal and Steel Community), the [EC Treaty](#) (formerly EEC Treaty) and the [Euratom Treaty](#).

Order of listing. When listed together the Treaties should be put in historical order: [ECSC](#) Treaty, EEC Treaty, Euratom Treaty. Always use the full form in draft legislation: *The Treaty establishing the European Community, etc.*

Treaty of Paris. The [ECSC](#) Treaty can be called the Treaty of Paris if the Community context is clear.

Treaty of Rome. Adopt *EC Treaty* in preference to *Treaty of Rome* (though the latter may be used in speeches and less formal contexts); when referring to both EEC and Euratom write *the Treaties of Rome*.

Euratom Treaty. The standard form is now *Euratom Treaty*.

Accession treaties. The original Treaties have been supplemented by four treaties of accession. These are:

- the 1972 Treaty of Accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom,
- the 1979 Treaty of Accession of Greece,
- the 1985 Treaty of Accession of Spain and Portugal,
- the 1994 Treaty of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden.

Treaties versus Acts of Accession. Distinguish between *Treaty of Accession* and *Act of Accession*. Treaties of accession set out principles and regulate ratification, while acts of accession contain the technical details of transitional arrangements and secondary legislation (*droit dérivé*) requiring amendment.

The “Budget” Treaty. The 1975 “Budget” Treaty (occasionally referred to as the Treaty of Brussels) will be found in the latest edition of the Treaties in English. Its full title is *Treaty amending certain Financial Provisions of the Treaties establishing the European Communities and of the Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities*.

The Merger Treaty. The full title of the [Merger Treaty](#) of 1965 is *Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities*.

The Single European Act. The [Single European Act](#) of 1986 was the first major amendment to the EEC Treaty.

The Treaty on European Union.

The recommended short form is 'EU Treaty' (avoid the abbreviation 'TEU', which also occurs sometimes, as it is not at all obvious what it means).

Note the use of 'on' rather than 'of' in the title.

The Treaty of Amsterdam. The full title is the [Treaty of Amsterdam](#) amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties establishing the European Communities and certain related acts.

1.2 CITATION STYLE

Citation forms. Paragraphs and subparagraphs that are officially designated by numbers or letters should be cited in the form *Article 85(1)(a)*.

Subdivisions of an article that are not identified by a number or letter should be cited in the form *second paragraph of Article 54* (or, less formally, *Article 54, second paragraph*).

Following the many amendments to the Treaties over the years, the Treaty of Amsterdam has renumbered the articles of the EU and EC Treaties. So take care that citations are to the proper article as amended/inserted and renumbered. Beware, because many authors get their references wrong, referring to an article inserted as if it were an article of the Amsterdam (or previously the Maastricht) Treaty. It will often be necessary to check what the proper reference is and adjust the text accordingly. A few examples

Article 99(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Community

Article 99(3) of the EC Treaty

First paragraph of Article 100 of the EC Treaty

Article 100a of the Treaty as amended by the Single European Act (now renumbered Article 95 following the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam) [Note: *not* “100A”, *not* “of the Single European Act”, *not* “of the Amsterdam Treaty”]

Article 13 (formerly Article J.3) of the Treaty on European Union

Note too that discursive legal texts (e.g. commentaries, grounds of judgments) commonly cite the Treaties by a bare abbreviation:

Under the terms of Article 99(3) EEC the Commission can ...

The wording of Article 17 Euratom reflects ...

The arrangements for a rapid decision under Article 18 EU allow ...

Beware here too, however, since the Court of Justice adopted a new scheme for citing Treaty articles as they stood **before** or **after** the renumbering came into force (OJC246, 28.8.1999). *This applies to the Court's own publications only.*

Very briefly:

- Bare abbreviations “EU / EC / CS / EA” refer to the **new** articles (EU, EC, ECSC, Euratom).
- Citations “of the ... Treaty ...” refer to the **old** articles.

Examples:

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Article 30 EU / EC / CS / EA | = | after 1/5/1999 |
| Article 85 of the EC / EEC / ECSC / EAEC Treaty | = | before 1/5/1999 |
| Article J.4 of the Treaty on European Union | = | “ |

2. SECONDARY LEGISLATION – Directives, regulations, decisions

2.1 CITATION STYLE

2.1.1 *Citation style.* Since the EU Treaty, the style of citation has been as follows:

Directive yr/###/EC
 Regulation (EC) No ####/yr
 Decision yr/####/EC

Before 1 November 1993, the style is:

Directive yr/####/EEC
 Regulation (EEC) No ####/yr
 Decision yr/####/EEC

Before 1976, the name of the adopting institution came after the number of an instrument; it is now placed in front. This style should be used in referring to pre-1976 legislation as well.

As of January 1999, the two-digit year numbers forming part of the title of all published legislation have been replaced by the full four-digit number:

before 1999: Council Directive 98/xxx/EC
 since 1999: Council Directive 1999/xxx/EC

N.B. This change of numbering style is *not* retroactive. Acts adopted before January 1999 retain their two-digit year number.

Joint acts (Council and Parliament)

Regulation (EC) No ####/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of *[date]*
 Directive 1999/####/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of *[date]*

2.1.2 *Regulations.* Each regulation has a serial number which is an integral part of the title and the contraction No should always precede that number.

Numbering of regulations. EEC and Euratom regulations were numbered continuously (as separate series) from 1958 to 1962, then annually; since 1 January 1968 they have formed one series numbered annually:

(before 1963) EEC Council Regulation No 17
(before 1968) Council Regulation No 1009/67
(since 1968) Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1234/84

Amendments. Regulations are as a rule amended by the same institution as adopted the original instrument, so the name of the institution is not repeated in titles of amending regulations; as the date of the original instrument is also omitted, its official title is quoted in full:

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 1607/92 of 22 June 1992 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2200/90 by imposing an additional anti-dumping duty on imports of silicon metal originating in the People's Republic of China

- 2.1.3 *Directives.* Directives are issued mainly by the Council and less frequently by the Commission. Since 1 January 1992 directives, like regulations, have had an official serial number forming an integral part of the title. But the form of the number follows the pattern *year/number/Community* and is not preceded by *No* (e.g. *Commission Directive 92/1/EEC*). Before then, directives had a “publication number” only.
- 2.1.4 *ECSC general decisions.* ECSC general decisions, being equivalent to EEC and Euratom regulations, bear an official serial number which is an integral part of the title (e.g. *Commission Decision No 891/92/ECSC*).
- 2.1.5 *Other decisions.* [ECSC](#) individual decisions, decisions taken under Article 189 EEC or Article 161 Euratom and other decisions *sui generis* bear no official serial number forming part of the title, but they are allocated a “publication number” by the Publications Office. This is shown in parentheses below the title in the [OJ](#):

COUNCIL DECISION

of 13 July 1992

on a Community action plan to assist tourism

(92/421/EEC)

Although it is not formally part of the title, the publication number is regularly used in citing such instruments: *Council Decision 92/421/EEC*. Decisions that are not published are identified by date.

- 2.1.6 *Numbered subdivisions.* In citing provisions of Community legislation, place numbered subdivisions of articles in brackets after the article number (note: no spaces):

Article 1(3)(d) of Regulation (EEC) No 1696/71

Unnumbered subdivisions. Unnumbered items precede the article number and are written out in words:

The third indent of the second subparagraph of Article 2(2) of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1153/75 provides that the colour of V. A. 3 forms is to be red.

When referring to three consecutive articles, name them all, i. e. not *Articles 92 to 94 EEC* but Articles 92, 93 and 94 EEC.

Abbreviations to avoid. Avoid abbreviating *Article* to *Art.* wherever possible, and do not use the § sign for EU legislation: the French use of the sign in *l'article 3 §1* is incorrect in English.

2.1.7 *Multiple references.* When referring to several instruments together follow the pattern below:

Regulations (EC) Nos 1234/96 and 1235/96
Directives 96/350/EC and 96/100/EC

3. OFFICIAL JOURNAL

3.1 NAMING CONVENTIONS AND CITATION STYLE

OJ series. The subdivision of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* into 'L' and 'C' series began in 1968.

The 'S' series was introduced in 1979 and contains public procurement notices.

The L series. The *OJ L* journal is divided into two parts, *OJ L Section I* for instruments whose application is conditional upon their being published (EEC and Euratom regulations, [ECSC](#) general decisions and recommendations) and *OJ L Section II* for instruments whose application is not (agreements, budget, conventions, EEC and Euratom decisions and directives, [ECSC](#) individual decisions and recommendations, estimates, exchange rates, financial regulations, opinions, protocols, recommendations, resolutions, rules of procedure).

The C Series. The C journals are used for notices and information (Court of Justice, European Parliament, draft legislation, food aid tenders, etc.).

Old pagination system. Before 1 July 1967 ([OJ](#) 138), pages in the OJ were numbered continuously throughout the year:

OJ 106, 30.10.1962, p. 2553/62

OJ references in running text. It has now been agreed that 'No' should be omitted from references to OJs, whether in the OJ or in other work. References to OJs dating from before the introduction of this convention should also preferably be presented without the 'No'. References should thus follow the pattern:

Official Journal (or OJ) L 118 of 4 May 1973

OJ footnote references. References in footnotes in the OJ itself have a shortened form for the date (this is recommended for OJ references in footnotes elsewhere as well, except as noted below):

OJ L 281, 1.11.1975, p.1.

Use this form for texts appearing ultimately in the OJ, especially legislation, the budget ('Remarks' column), answers to parliamentary written questions and amendments to the Combined Nomenclature.

Footnotes in other official publications. Footnotes in the [General Report](#) have been standardised since 1 January 1981 on the following pattern, with No and (usually) page number omitted:

OJ L 281, 1.11.1975.

Page references following an oblique stroke (e.g. [OJ L 262/68](#)) are used only in page headings of the OJ itself.

Numbering of directives. From 1 January 1992 a directive's official number forms part of its title, just like instruments in Section I.

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92/38/EEC of 11 May 1992 on the adoption of standards for satellite broadcasting of television signals

Before 1992, the number was not an integral part of the official title, but was appended in brackets:

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE of 28 January 1991 concerning the animal health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products (91/67/EEC).

4. BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE GENERAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

4.1 CITATION STYLE

Bulletin. References to [Bulletin](#) take the form:

Bull. 9-1980, point 1.3.4
Supplement 5/79 — Bull.

General Report. References to the [General Report](#) take the form:

Twenty-third General Report, point 383; 1994 General Report, point 12
Point 104 of this Report
1990 Annexed Memorandum, point 38

The form “Twenty-seventh (or XXVIIth) General Report” was used up to and including 1993. As from 1994, the title on the cover is “General Report 1994” and the reference style “1994 General Report”. The above forms of reference are standard for footnotes in official publications, but in less formal contexts it is quite acceptable (and clearer) to refer to e.g. “the 1990 General Report”.

5. THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

5.1 NAMING CONVENTIONS

- 5.1.1 *Title.* The [Commission of the European Communities](#) (full title) is commonly referred to as *the European Commission* or *the Commission*. Either of these forms is preferable to the abbreviation CEC. *The Commission.* The term “the Commission” may refer either to the Members of the Commission, as the body ultimately responsible for Commission decisions, or to the Commission staff or departments (*les services de la Commission* — do not translate as *the services of the Commission*). Normally the context will show which meaning is intended, but sometimes a distinction must be made. *Other commissions.* Guard against confusion with the *UN Economic Commission for Europe* based in Geneva and the *European Commission of Human Rights* based in Strasbourg. *Statistical Office.* The [Statistical Office of the European Communities](#) is attached to the Commission. It should normally be abbreviated as *Eurostat*. *Official Publications Office.* The [Official Publications Office](#) is attached to the Commission. Its full name is *Office for Official Publications of the European Communities*.
- 5.1.2 Generally write *the Council*; use *Council of the European Union* only in formal contexts or to distinguish from other councils where required. Make clear the distinction between the Council and the following institutions:
- the European Council*, the summit of Heads of State or Government normally held twice a year
the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers under the Lomé Convention;
the Council of Europe, a non-Community body based in Strasbourg
- 5.1.2.1 Referring to Council meetings:
- the Council meeting of 22 May (one day)
the Council meeting of 22 and 23 May (two days)
the Council meeting of 22/23 May (overnight)
the Council meeting of 22 to 24 May (three days)
- Meetings lasting more than one day have sittings referred to by date: *the Council sitting of 22 May*. Meetings are also identified by the policy area covered and are normally attended by the national ministers holding the corresponding portfolio, though other matters may also be discussed. Ways of translating *le Conseil agricole*, etc.:
- the Council meeting on agriculture
the Council meeting (agriculture)
the Council meeting of Agriculture Ministers
- 5.1.3 Refer to the European Parliament simply as *Parliament* (no definite article) unless confusion with national parliaments is possible. The abbreviation EP is used by Parliament itself but write out 'Parliament' if you can. Do not use *Assembly* (the official Treaty designation of the European Parliament prior to the Single European Act). *Sessions.* Parliamentary sessions run from one year to the next, e.g. the 1990/91 session. These are divided into *part-sessions*, e.g. part-session from 18 to 22 January 1993. *Sitting.* Each day's *sitting* during a part-session is referred to by the day on which it commences, whether or not it goes on past midnight. *MEPs.* Members are identified in English by the letters MEP (not EMP or Euro-MP!) after their name. *Written questions.* Answers should be headed *Answer given by (Commission Member's name) on behalf of the Commission*, followed by the date of the answer. The MEP putting the question is referred to as *the Honourable Member*, other MEPs by name (do not capitalise names throughout as in French). For [OJ](#) style in footnotes see [15.6](#).

Rainbow editions. The verbatim reports in the languages actually used by speakers are called “rainbow” editions. Full translations are issued as annexes to the [OJ](#) and are called *Reports of Proceedings*. The correct form of reference follows the pattern:

Debates of the European Parliament, OJ Annex 1-303 (September 1983)

- 5.1.4 The full title, *Court of Justice of the European Communities (CJEC)*, may be shortened to the *European Court of Justice (ECJ)* or the *Court of Justice (CJ)*.

Court of First Instance. The lower-level *Court of First Instance (CFI)* was established in 1988. It deals with certain classes of actions or proceedings brought by natural or legal persons (e.g. staff disputes, certain types of competition cases) and its judgments are subject to appeal to the [ECJ](#).

Make clear the distinctions between the [ECJ](#) in Luxembourg, the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Avoid *the Court* if confusion of the ECJ with the [CFI](#) or the Court of Auditors is possible.

- 5.1.4.1 *Citation of cases.* Always cite cases from before the establishment of the [CFI](#) as below:

Case 13/72 *Netherlands v Commission* [1973] ECR 27

Since the CFI was established, [ECJ](#) and CFI cases have been cited differently:

ECJ cases: Case C-287/87 *Commission v Greece* [1990] ECR I-125

CFI cases: Case T-131/89 *Cosimex v Commission* [1990] ECR II-1

Court Reports. In referring to European Court Reports (ECR) there is no need in English to cite the date of judgment (unless not yet published); footnotes should not repeat the case number or other details given in the body of the text.

Page numbering. The page number in the ECR on which a judgment begins has been the same in the French and English versions since 1969 only. Check you have the right page number for references to the English version before that (the simplest way is to use the [CELEX](#) database).

- 5.1.5 The Court of Auditors has no abbreviation in common use for the title.
- 5.1.6 The Economic and Social Committee (ESC) is often simply *the Committee* but one should avoid the colloquial *Ecosoc* used among Commission officials. Do not confuse this, either, with the semi-official name *ECOSOC*, the UN Economic and Social Council, of which the Economic Commission for Europe is a regional subdivision.
- 5.1.7 *The Committee of the Regions (COR)* was set up under the Maastricht amendments to the EC Treaty.

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<http://europa.eu.int/comm/translation/writing/style_guides/english/english_style_guide_en.htm>