

Home>Legislation and case law>European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)

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German

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European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)

Germany

National ECLI coordinator

The designated ECLI coordinator for Germany is:

Bundesamt für Justiz [Federal Office of Justice]

Kompetenzzentrum Rechtsinformationssystem des Bundes [Federal Competence Centre - Legal Information System](CC-RIS)

Adenauerallee 99-103

53113 Bonn

Deutschland

+49 228 410 5801

E-Mail: cc-ris@bfj.bund.de

<http://www.bundesjustizamt.de>

Country code

The ECLI country code for Germany is: [DE]

Generation of national ECLI

At Federal level, all the Federal Courts plan to introduce the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI). The courts of the Länder are expected to introduce it at a later date.

So far, the Federal Constitutional Court, the Federal Administrative Court and the Federal Labour Court have introduced the ECLI into their databases of decisions. All decisions published on their respective websites since the ECLI was introduced are allocated an ECLI. For details:

<http://www.bundesverfassungsgericht.de>

<http://www.bundesverwaltungsgericht.de>

<http://www.bundesarbeitsgericht.de> (for decisions dated after 1.1.2015).

In the five-part ECLI identification number, the first two characters are always the code of the Member State:

ECLI:DE:[court code]:[year of the decision]:[serial number]

Every court is allocated a court code and individual rules for generating the serial number. As a rule, the year of the decision is encoded as a four-figure number (yyyy, e.g. 2015).

Federal Constitutional Court (*Bundesverfassungsgericht*)

The court code is always BVerfG.

The serial number (ordinal number) is composed of four or, if an additional distinguishing character is needed, five parts, of which the third and the fourth and the fourth and the fifth parts are separated by a point.

1. Type of procedure:

- b Finding that a party is unconstitutional
- c Appeal against a ruling in an electoral dispute
- e Dispute resolution proceedings between constitutional bodies
- f Abstract judicial review
- g Federation-*Länder* disputes
- h Other disputes between Federation and *Länder*
- k Disputes concerning the constitution of a *Land*
- l Substantive judicial review
- m Review of international law as Federal law
- n Interpretation of the Basic Law following referral by the constitutional court of a *Land*
- p Decisions on other matters referred to it by Federal Act
- q Interim orders
- r Constitutional complaints
- up Full court decisions
- vb Complaints regarding judicial delay

2. Abbreviations for court formations: k for decisions of a Chamber or s for decisions of a Senate (division) (not for full court cases or complaints regarding delay; in these cases the court formation is implicitly indicated by the abbreviations "up" and "vb"),

3. Exact date of decision in the format *yyyymmdd*

4. Optional: additional distinguishing character (a-z) needed when decisions are handed down with the same date/reference number (example: extension of interim order + decision on merits with the same date/reference number),

5. Reference number

Example:

The ECLI for the decision of 21 January 2015 with reference number 2 BvR 1856/13 is:

ECLI:DE:BVerfG:2015:rk20150121.2bvr185613.

Federal Administrative Court (*Bundesverwaltungsgericht*)

The court code is always BVerwG.

The serial number consists of four parts, of which the second and third parts and the third and fourth parts are separated by a point.

1. Exact date of decision in the format ddmmyy,
2. Abbreviation for the type of decision (U for judgment (*Urteil*), B for ruling (*Beschluss*), G for order (*Gerichtsbescheid*),
3. Reference number and
4. Always: additional distinguishing number (serves to distinguish between two or more documents with the same type of decision on the same day, with the same reference number, e.g. '0').

Example:

The ECLI for the judgment of 17 April 2002 with reference number 9 CN 1.01 is:

ECLI:DE:BVerwG:2002:170402U9CN1.01.0

Federal Labour Court (*Bundesarbeitsgericht*)

The court code is always BAG.

The serial number consists of four parts, separated by points:

1. Exact date of decision in the format ddmmyy,
2. Abbreviation for the type of decision (B for ruling (*Beschluss*), U for judgment (*Urteil*)),
3. Reference number and
4. Always: additional distinguishing number (serves to distinguish between two or more documents with the same type of decision on the same day, with the same reference number, e.g. '0').

Example:

The ECLI for the decision of the Federal Labour Court of 7 January 2015 with reference number 10 AZB 109/14 is:

ECLI:DE:BAG:2015:070115.B.10AZB109.14.0

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