

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

### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI)

The European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) has been developed to facilitate the correct and unequivocal citation of judgments from European and national courts. A set of uniform metadata will help to improve search facilities for case law.

Before ECLI, it was difficult and time-consuming to find relevant case law. Take, for example, a case where a ruling of the Supreme Court of Member State A was known to be of interest for a specific legal debate. The case was registered in various national and cross-border case law databases, but in each database the ruling had a different identifier. All these identifiers – if known at all – had to be cited to enable readers of the citation to find the case in the database of their preference. Different citation rules and styles complicated the search. Moreover, users had to go to all the databases to find out whether this Supreme Court case was available – summarised, translated or annotated. With the ECLI system one search via one search interface using just one identifier will suffice to find all occurrences of the ruling in all participating national and cross-border databases.

Easy access to judicial decisions of other Member States is of growing importance in reinforcing the role of the national judge in applying and upholding EU law. Searching for, and citation of judgments from other Member States is seriously hampered by differences in national case law identification systems, citation rules and technical fields describing the characteristics of a judgment.

To overcome these differences and to facilitate easy access to - and citation of - national, foreign and European case law, the Council of the European Union invited Member States and EU institutions to introduce the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) and a minimum set of uniform metadata for case law.

#### Main characteristics of ECLI

ECLI is a uniform identifier that has the same recognizable format for all Member States and EU courts. It is composed of five, mandatory, elements:

'ECLI': to identify the identifier as being a European Case Law Identifier;

the country code;

the code of the court that rendered the judgment;

the year the judgment was rendered;

an ordinal number, up to 25 alphanumeric characters, in a format that is decided upon by each Member State. Dots are allowed, but not other punctuation marks.

The elements are separated by a colon. A (non-existent) example of an ECLI could be:

ECLI:NL:HR:2009:384425, which could be decision 384425 of the Supreme Court ('HR') of the Netherlands ('NL') from the year 2009.

#### Metadata

To make it easier to understand and find case law, each document containing a judicial decision should have a set of metadata as described in this paragraph. These metadata should be described according to the standards set by the [Dublin Core Metadata Initiative](#).

[The Council Conclusions on ECLI](#) give a description of the metadata that can be used.

#### ECLI coordinator

Every Member State using ECLI must appoint a governmental or judicial organisation as the national ECLI coordinator. The National ECLI coordinator is responsible for establishing the list of codes for the participating courts, the publication of the way the ordinal number is made up, and all other information that is relevant for the functioning of the ECLI system. The ECLI co-ordinator for the EU is the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Each Member State decides whether, and to what extent - it will use the ECLI system, e.g. if it will apply it retroactively to historical records or the number of courts participating, for example only at supreme court level, all courts, etc.

#### European and international dimension

**By clicking on the EU and international flags available at the right hand side**, you will find information on implementation of ECLI by the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Patent Office.

In accordance with the [Council conclusions](#) the European Commission has developed a [multi-lingual ECLI search engine](#) which allows users to find judicial decisions from the databases of those case law publishers who have implemented the ECLI standard and provided us with access to their data.

An ECLI resolver is also available at <https://e-justice.europa.eu/eccli/> - any ECLI typed after this path will display the relevant ECLI metadata (if available). For example <https://e-justice.europa.eu/eccli/ECLI:NL:HR:2016:764> would directly display the metadata of decision ECLI:NL:HR:2016:764.

#### Member State pages

On the Member State pages you can find information on:

whether the Member State has already introduced ECLI and metadata;

if not: whether it is planning to do so;

if yes: information on court codes, formatting rules, metadata and so on;

the national ECLI coordinator.

**Please select the relevant country's flag to obtain detailed national information.**

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### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - European Union

The Court of Justice of the European Union ([ECLI-Coordinator@curia.europa.eu](mailto:ECLI-Coordinator@curia.europa.eu)) is the ECLI coordinator for the Union jurisdictions.

#### Country code

The "country code" for the Court of Justice of the European Union to be used in the second element of the ECLI is: [EU]

#### Generation of ECLI

Components of the ECLI to identify decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union:

ECLI abbreviation

Country code: EU

Court code:

C = Court of Justice

T = General Court

F = Civil Service Tribunal

Year when the decision was rendered (format YYYY)

Ordinal number composed of:

Serial number of the decision per jurisdiction per year

**Examples:**

ECLI:EU:C:1998:27 is the 27th document of the Court of Justice with an ECLI in 1998

ECLI:EU:T:2012:426 is the 426th document of the General Court with an ECLI in 2012

ECLI:EU:F:2010:80 is the 80th document of the Civil Service Tribunal with an ECLI in 2010

**Related links**

[EUR-Lex](#)

[Curia](#)

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**European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - International**

**European Patent Office**

[The European Patent Office](#) (EPO) offers inventors a uniform application procedure which enables them to seek patent protection in up to 40 European countries. Supervised by the Administrative Council, the Office is the executive arm of [the European Patent Organisation](#).

Coordination of ECLI in the European Patent Office is carried out by [Publication Department](#).

**Postal address**

Postfach 90

1031 Vienna

Austria

**Address**

Rennweg 12

1030 Vienna

Austria

**Country code**

The country code for the European Patent Office to be used in the second element of the ECLI is: [EP]

**Generation of national ECLI**

Components of the ECLI to identify decisions of the Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office:

ECLI abbreviation

Country code: EP

Court code: BA (BA= Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office)

Year when the decision was rendered (format YYYY)

Ordinal number composed of:

Decision case number (original case number without the slash). Composed of 7 digits --> 1 digit (type of decision) + 4 digits (ordinal number of the decision) + 2 digits (last two digits of the year of filing).

**Codes for the type of decisions at the EPO:**

D : Disciplinary Board of Appeal

G : Enlarged Board of Appeal

J : Legal Board of Appeal

T : Technical boards of appeal

W : decisions on protest cases

R : decisions on petitions for review

A dot

Date of the decision (format YYYYMMDD)

**Example:**

ECLI:EP:BA:2002:D000300.20020503

EP= European Patent Office

BA= Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office

2002 - year in which the decision was rendered (example)

D000300= D0003/00 (decision case number)

20020503 = 2002.05.03 (date of the decision)

**Use of the ECLI**

The ECLI is used to uniquely identify decisions of the Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office.

Search by ECLI is enabled via the EPO Board of Appeal decisions database (see link below)

**Related links**

[EPO Board of Appeal decisions database](#)

[Case Law of the Boards of Appeal](#)

[European Patent Register](#)

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The language version you are now viewing is currently being prepared by our translators.

Please note that the following languages have already been translated.

#### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Belgium

For the time being, the Belgian system is not yet adapted to the ECLI system.

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#### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Bulgaria

##### National ECLI coordinator

The national ECLI coordinator is:

Supreme Judicial Council - *Vissh sadeben savet (VSS)*

Ul. Saborna 9

Sofia 1000

Pending the creation of a functional e-mail address, information can be sent to:

Martin Velichkov, [✉ martin.velichkov@mail.bg](mailto:martin.velichkov@mail.bg), telephone + 359 2 930 49 43

Valeri Mihaylov, [✉ valery@abv.bg](mailto:valery@abv.bg), telephone + 359 2 930 49 36

##### Country ID

The country ID for Bulgaria is: [BG]

##### Creation of a national ECLI

The Supreme Judicial Council has adopted a template for court websites that includes a section for court decisions, which are to be published in line with the Bulgarian Personal Data Protection Act (*Zakon za zashtita na lichnite dannii*). The Supreme Judicial Council has also approved the publication of court decisions via a centralised web-based interface.

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#### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Czech Republic

##### National ECLI coordinator

Supreme Court (*Nejvyšší soud*)

Burešova 571/20, Brno - Veveří, postcode: 657 37

Czech Republic

Tel.: +420 541 593 111

Fax.: +420 541 213 493

Data box: kccaa9t

e-mail: [✉ podatelna@nsoud.cz](mailto:podatelna@nsoud.cz) (please state ECLI as the subject)

web: [✉ http://www.nsoud.cz/](http://www.nsoud.cz/)

Contact person: JUDr. Michal Malaník

##### Generation of national ECLI (ECLI syntax)

The ECLI identifier was introduced in the Czech Republic in April 2012 for designating judgments of the Supreme Court (*Nejvyšší soud*). Since March 2014 this identifier has also been used to designate judgments of the Constitutional Court (*Ústavní soud*). Judgments of these courts are searchable using the ECLI identifier on the court websites (Supreme Court judgments at [✉ http://www.nsoud.cz/](http://www.nsoud.cz/) and Constitutional Court judgments at [✉ http://nalus.usoud.cz/Search/Search.aspx](http://nalus.usoud.cz/Search/Search.aspx)).

##### Country code

[CZ]: Country code for the Czech Republic.

##### Court codes

[NS]: Nejvyšší soud (Supreme Court of the Czech Republic).

[US]: Ústavní soud (Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic).

##### Example of ECLI identifier for Czech court decisions

ECLI:CZ:NS:2012:spisová značka.1

**[CZ] country code** (CZ for the Czech Republic);

**[NS]** is the code of the court that rendered the judgment (NS for the Supreme Court);

**[2012]** indicates the year the judgment was rendered;

**[spisová značka] (case number)** does not contain spaces or forward slashes; these are replaced by a dot;

**number [1]** is the ordinal number of a judgment with the same case number. Inclusion of the ordinal number ensures that the same ECLI identifier is not used to designate more than one judgment from one court in the same year.

##### Related links

<http://www.nsoud.cz/>

<http://nalus.usoud.cz/Search/Search.aspx>

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## European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Denmark

### National ECLI coordinator

The Court Administration (Domstolsstyrelsen)

St. Kongensgade 1-2

1264 København K.

Tel: 70 10 33 22

[post@domstolsstyrelsen.dk](mailto:post@domstolsstyrelsen.dk)

### Country code

The ECLI country code for Denmark is: [DK]

### Generation of national ECLI

Information will be provided at a later stage.

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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](mailto: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 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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#### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Estonia**

Estonia is preparing to introduce the ECLI for case law published in *Riigi Teataja* (the State Gazette).

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#### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Ireland**

##### **National ECLI coordinator**

The national ECLI coordinator is the Department the Department of Justice and Equality.

##### **Country code**

The country code for Ireland is: [IE]

##### **Generation of national ECLI**

It is currently not possible to build an ECLI based on existing publicly available information. The exact form of the ECLI is still under consideration and has not been finalised.

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### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Greece

Greece does not participate in the ECLI system.

Nevertheless, we are currently at the preparatory stage in the creation of a unified database to include all domestic court rulings. There are already several electronic databases of case law on the web, relating to:

1) the Hellenic Supreme Court, containing only its own case law:

<http://www.areiospagos.gr/>

2) the Council of State, containing only its own case law:

<https://www.ste.gr/ste/faces/index.jsp>

3) Athens Administrative Court of First Instance, containing only its own case law:

(this service is only available for certified users)

[http://www.protodikeio-ath.gr/opencms\\_prot/opencms/ProtSite/](http://www.protodikeio-ath.gr/opencms_prot/opencms/ProtSite/)

There are also private subscription databases, access to which must be paid for. For example:

1) that of the Athens Bar Association

<http://www.dsanet.gr/>

2) that of the company Intracom Services (private)

[http://lawdb.intrasoftnet.com/nomos/nomos\\_frame.html](http://lawdb.intrasoftnet.com/nomos/nomos_frame.html)

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### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Spain

#### National ECLI coordinator

The National ECLI coordinator is CENDOJ (*CENTRO DE DOCUMENTACION JUDICIAL*), the Centre for Judicial Documentation, a technical body in Spain's General Council of the Judiciary: [cendoj.ecli@cgpj.es](mailto:cendoj.ecli@cgpj.es).

#### Country code

The code for Spain is: [ES]

#### Creation of the national ECLI

The ECLI was introduced in Spain in November 2012.

This was possible because, since the start of the ECLI Project on 27 October 2011, case law in Spain already had a national identifier, called the ROJ (*Repositorio Oficial de Jurisprudencia*) - the Official Case Law Repository, which identifies the decisions handed down by all the Spanish courts, from the Courts of First Instance to the Supreme Court.

Through the website <http://www.poderjudicial.es/>, we offer all citizens open access to the decisions handed down by all the Spanish courts, consisting of a total of 5 600 000 judgments, a number which increases every year. Judges/Senior Judges, Prosecutors and Court Clerks have access in a restricted environment with additional information and hyperlinks to the case law of the Constitutional Court (*Tribunal Constitucional*), the European Court of Justice, as well as national and international legislation and doctrine: <http://www.poderjudicial.es/>.

We currently maintain the ROJ national identifier - the Cendoj ID - as the official body for the dissemination of Spanish case law, and the ECLI at European level. On the e-justice portal, we therefore have, as of 2014, 2 500 000 decisions of the Supreme Court (*Tribunal Supremo*), the National High Court (*Audiencia Nacional*), the High Courts of Justice (*Tribunales Superiores de Justicia*) and Provincial Courts (*Audiencias Provinciales*), as well as a selection of judgments from the Courts of First Instance (*Primera Instancia*) that are of legal interest or have social impact. The number of decisions increases every day as they are uploaded into the system. The ECLI integration process was successfully completed in Spain, and we are currently a partner in the BO-ECLI project.

The ECLIs in Spain consist of the following fields:

'ECLI';

The country code: 'ES'

The court code: an acronym to indicate the court in which the judgment was given. – see the section 'ECLI court codes';

The year of the decision;

A serial number, which in the case of Spain is the sequential number of the ROJ national identifier. This means that once a judgment has been assigned its ROJ, it is possible to automatically assign to it its corresponding ECLI.

Furthermore, in the case of Orders (*Autos*), the letter 'A' is added to the end of the sequential number.

EXAMPLES:

Where the ROJ is: the national case-law identifier.

1) \*Judgment of the National High Court of 30 May 2014. Criminal Court, with ROJ [SAN 2389/2014](#)

The corresponding ECLI will be:

**ECLI:ES:AN:2014:2389**

2) \*Judgment of the High Court of Justice of 15 April 2011. Appeals Chamber of Burgos, Autonomous Community of Castile-Leon, with ROJ: STSJ CL 782 /2011

The corresponding ECLI will be:

**ECLI:ES:TSJCL:2011:782**

Order of the National High Court Chamber for Criminal Matters of 29 October 2015, with ROJ: ANN 199/2015

The corresponding ECLI will be:

**ECLI:ES:AN:2015:199A**

**ECLI court codes:**

In Spain, the court code for the ECLI is represented using the acronym of the court that issued the judgment and which corresponds with that used in the judgment's ROJ national identifier.

ACRONYM	NAME
TS	Supreme Court
AN	National High Court
TSJAND	High Court of Justice of Andalusia
TSJAR	High Court of Justice of Aragon
TSJAS	High Court of Justice of Asturias
TSJBAL	High Court of Justice of the Balearic Islands
TSJICAN	High Court of Justice of the Canary Islands
TSJCANT	High Court of Justice of Cantabria
TSJCL	High Court of Justice of Castile-Leon
TSJ CLM	High Court of Justice of Castile-La Mancha
TSJCAT	High Court of Justice of Catalonia
TSJCV	High Court of Justice of the Community of Valencia
TSJEXT	High Court of Justice of Extremadura
TSJGAL	High Court of Justice of Galicia
TSJLR	High Court of Justice of Rioja
TSJMAD	High Court of Justice of Madrid
TSJMU	High Court of Justice of Murcia
TSJNAV	High Court of Justice of Navarre
TSJPV	High Court of Justice of the Basque Country
TSJCE	High Court of Justice of Ceuta
TSJML	High Court of Justice of Melilla
APVI	Provincial Court of Alava
APAB	Provincial Court of Albacete
APA	Provincial Court of Alicante
APAL	Provincial Court of Almeria
APAV	Provincial Court of Avila
APBA	Provincial Court of Badajoz
APIB	Provincial Court of the Balearic Islands
APB	Provincial Court of Barcelona
APBU	Provincial Court of Burgos
APCC	Provincial Court of Caceres
APCA	Provincial Court of Cadiz
APCS	Provincial Court of Castellon
APCR	Provincial Court of Ciudad Real
APCO	Provincial Court of Cordoba
APC	Provincial Court of A Coruña
APCU	Provincial Court of Cuenca
APGI	Provincial Court of Girona
APGR	Provincial Court of Granada
APGU	Provincial Court of Guadalajara
APSS	Provincial Court of Guipuzcoa
APH	Provincial Court of Huelva
APHU	Provincial Court of Huesca
APJ	Provincial Court of Jaen
APLE	Provincial Court of Leon
APL	Provincial Court of Lleida
APLO	Provincial Court of Rioja
APLU	Provincial Court of Lugo
APM	Provincial Court of Madrid
APMA	Provincial Court of Malaga
APMU	Provincial Court of Murcia
APNA	Provincial Court of Navarre
APOU	Provincial Court of Ourense
APO	Provincial Court of Asturias
APP	Provincial Court of Palencia
APGC	Provincial Court of Las Palmas



APPO	Provincial Court of Pontevedra
APSA	Provincial Court of Salamanca
APTF	Provincial Court of Santa Cruz de Tenerife
APS	Provincial Court of Cantabria
APSG	Provincial Court of Segovia
APSE	Provincial Court of Seville
APSO	Provincial Court of Soria
APT	Provincial Court of Tarragona
APTE	Provincial Court of Teruel
APTO	Provincial Court of Toledo
APV	Provincial Court of Valencia
APVA	Provincial Court of Valladolid
APBI	Provincial Court of Vizcaya
APZA	Provincial Court of Zamora
APZ	Provincial Court of Zaragoza
APCE	Provincial Court of Ceuta
APML	Provincial Court of Melilla
JPII	Court of First Instance and Local Criminal Court
JPI	Court of First Instance
JI	Local Criminal Court
JSO	Social Affairs Court
JCA	Administrative Appeals Court
JM	Commercial Court
JVM	Court for Violence against Women
JP	Criminal Court
JVP	Court with special duties in the matter of criminal sentences
JME	Juvenile Court
JF	Family Court

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Please note that the following languages have already been translated.

#### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - France

France is still in an experimentation phase for the implementation of the European Case Law Identifier.

#### National ECLI coordinator

The Office of Legal and Administrative Information (*Direction de l'information légale et administrative* ( DILA)) has been designated as the national ECLI coordinator for France by the General Secretariat of the Government.

#### Country code

The country code for France is: [FR]

#### Generation of national ECLI

The French supreme courts covered by the ECLI system are:

the Constitutional Council (*Conseil constitutionnel*);

the Court of Cassation (*Cour de cassation*);

the Council of State (*Conseil d'État*).

ECLIs are made up of five components, the first two of which are constants for a Member State:

ECLI:FR:{ Court\_code}:{year when decision was rendered}:{ordinal number}

Each of the three courts has adopted a court code and rules for creating an ordinal number.

The year in which the decision was handed down is always made up of four numerical characters (in the format YYYY, for example 2012).

#### 1. The Constitutional Council

The court code is always CC.

The generic form of an ECLI is therefore:

ECLI:FR:CC:{year of decision}:{ordinal number}

The ordinal number is in two parts, separated by a full stop:

the serial number within each class or type of decision (which starts again at 1 every year);

the type of decision (DC, QPC, AN... see list of types).

For example:

the ECLI for the decision of Friday 27 July 2012 No 2012-270 QPC would be ECLI:FR:CC:2012:2012.270.QPC.

#### 2. The Court of Cassation

The court code is always CCASS.

The generic form of an ECLI is therefore:

ECLI:FR:CCASS:{year of decision}:{ordinal number}



The ordinal number is made up of two elements, written without a break:

The ECLI code for the division of the court (two alphanumerical characters as laid down in the table below):

AP	<i>Assemblée plénière</i> (Full Court)
AV	<i>Avis</i> (Opinion)
C1	<i>Première chambre civile</i> (First Civil Division)
C2	<i>Deuxième chambre civile</i> (Second Civil Division)
C3	<i>Troisième chambre civile</i> (Third Civil Division)
CO	<i>Chambre commerciale</i> (Commercial Division)
CR	<i>Chambre criminelle</i> (Criminal Division)
MI	<i>Chambre mixte</i> (Joint Bench)
OR	<i>Ordonnance du premier président</i> (order of the President)
SO	<i>Chambre sociale</i> (Social Division)

The code is based on the use of an internal administration number, which itself has eight characters:

a one-character code identifying the division of the court;

two digits for the year of the decision;

a five-digit serial number running within that year for the division of the court in question.

Example: the appeal number of the judgment of the Court of Cassation, Criminal Division, of 27 February 2013, is 12-81.063 and the administration number is C1300710. The first part of the ordinal number of this judgment will be CR, for the Criminal Division.

The last five digits of the administration number.

In our example, the second part of the ordinal number will be 00710. Altogether, the ECLI of the judgment handed down by the Criminal Division of the Court of Cassation on 27 February 2013, under the appeal number 12-81063, will be ECLI:FR:CCASS:2013:CR00710.

### 3. The Council of State

The Council of State uses a court code which identifies the type of division of the court: the root CE is followed without a break by a number of letters as shown below:

<i>Assemblée</i> (assembly of presiding judges)	CEASS
<i>Ordonnance</i> (order)	CEORD
<i>Section du contentieux</i> (Disputes Division)	CESEC
<i>Soussection jugeant seule</i> (subdivision ruling alone)	CESJS
<i>Soussections réunies</i> (subdivisions sitting together)	CESSR

The code CE is not used on its own.

The generic form is therefore:

ECLI:FR:CE...:{year of the decision}:{ordinal number}

The ordinal number is also made up of two parts, separated by a full stop:

the application number of the decision;

the date of the delivery of the decision, in the format YYYYMMDD.

For example:

the ECLI of Council of State decision No 355099 of 1 March 2013, delivered by the third and eighth subdivisions sitting together, would be: ECLI:FR:CESSR:2013:355099.20130301

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### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Croatia

In the Republic of Croatia the ECLI has not been introduced into the [ECLI database of case law](#) which is kept at the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia (Vrhovni sud Republike Hrvatske), and which can be accessed on the Supreme Court's website. Consequently, given the importance of the ECLI system and the need to introduce it in all the Member States of the EU, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia decided to submit a tender for the implementation of the ECLI system under the Justice Programme 2014-2020 of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers.

It is a source of great satisfaction to us that the above-mentioned project was recently given official approval by the European Commission and that we shall start to introduce the ECLI system, together with about ten project partners, at the beginning of October of this year.

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### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Italy

#### National ECLI Coordinator

The national ECLI coordinator has not yet been appointed. For the time being the Ministry of Justice's Directorate-General for Automated Information Systems (DGSIA) is acting as coordinator.

#### Country code

The country code for Italy is: [IT].

#### Generation of national ECLI

As part of the current pilot phase activities, a proposal for the introduction of ECLI is being drawn up. More particularly, rules are being drawn up on the composition of the ordinal number for case-law documents, as stipulated in the ECLI standard, using a set of accessible metadata in order to guarantee that each identification number is unique.

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### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Cyprus**

#### **National ECLI coordinator**

The national ECLI coordinator is the Department of Legal Publications - email: [publicationsc@sc.judicial.gov.cy](mailto:publicationsc@sc.judicial.gov.cy)

#### **Country code**

The country code for Cyprus is: [CY]

#### **Generation of national ECLI**

The exact format of the ECLI is still under consideration and is yet to be decided.

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### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Latvia**

#### **National ECLI coordinator**

The national ECLI coordinator will be appointed along with implementation of ECLI.

#### **Country code**

The country code for Latvia is: [LV]

#### **Generation of national ECLI**

The implementation of ECLI is underway.

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### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Lithuania**

#### **National ECLI coordinator**

The national ECLI coordinator is the National Courts Administration, L.Sapiegos gatvė 15, LT-10312 Vilnius, Lithuania. Phone: +370 5 266 29 81, e-mail: [info@teismai.lt](mailto:info@teismai.lt)

#### **Country code**

The country code for Lithuania is [LT].

#### **Generation of national ECLI**

The ECLI is not yet in use in Lithuania.

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### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Luxembourg**

Luxembourg is currently looking into the possibility of implementing the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI).

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### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Hungary**

In Hungary at present there are no plans for the introduction of ECLI.

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### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Malta**

#### **National ECLI coordinator**

The national ECLI coordinator is Courts of Malta ([courts.justice@gov.mt](mailto:courts.justice@gov.mt)).

#### **Country code**

The country code for Malta is: [MT]

#### **Generation of national ECLI**

In Malta the ECLI number cannot be built from the case judgment details available to the public user. It is automatically generated at the time the judgment is entered in the court system.

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## European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Netherlands

### National ECLI coordinator

The national ECLI coordinator is the Council for the Judiciary (*Raad voor de rechtspraak*): [✉ eciservice@rechtspraak.nl](mailto:eciservice@rechtspraak.nl).

### Country code

The country code for the Netherlands is: [NL]

### Generation of national ECLIs

The ECLI was introduced in the Netherlands on 28 June 2013. An ECLI can be allocated to:

- all judicial decisions published on the website of the Council for the Judiciary: <http://www.rechtspraak.nl/>;
- all disciplinary decisions published on the website of the joint disciplinary authorities: <http://www.tuchtrecht.nl/>;
- all judicial decisions not published on the websites under (a) and (b) but published in magazines or databases, and judicial decisions published commercially as 'open access'. Magazine editors or database managers who wish to register their decisions can do so via the above email address;
- all judicial decisions kept in an internal database of the Council for the Judiciary.

Regardless of whether the decision itself is published on one of the two websites referred to above, the website <http://www.rechtspraak.nl/> publishes all Dutch ECLIs, together with at least the name of the body that delivered the decision, the date of the decision and the case number. Where known, publication references are also given for any reports of the decision in journals or databases.

Dutch ECLIs are made up of the following:

'ECLI';

The country code 'NL';

The court code - see under the heading 'ECLI court codes';

The year of the decision;

A serial number. There are two possible formats.

Before 28 June 2013, virtually all decisions published in the Netherlands were given an 'LJN' (*Landelijk JurisprudentieNummer* or country case number). This LJN always consisted of two letters and four figures, e.g.: 'AB1234'. For reasons of consistency this LJN has been included as the fifth part of the ECLI code. As of 28 June 2013, LJNs are no longer allocated. All decisions that are given an ECLI after that date have an ascending serial number consisting solely of figures. This may also be the case for decisions issued before 28 June 2013.

### The most important court codes

The Netherlands has a large number of law courts. The codes of the most important Dutch courts are listed below.

On 1 January 2013 the organisation of the courts in the Netherlands changed significantly. Courts no longer in existence at 1 January 2013 are indicated as 'abolished'. On 1 April 2013 there was a further change. The courts that no longer exist since that date are also indicated as 'abolished'.

Highest Courts	
HR	Hoge Raad (Supreme Court)
PHR	Parket bij de Hoge Raad (Supreme Court Public Prosecutor's Office) (Advocate-General)
RVS	Raad van State (Council of State)
CRVB	Centrale Raad van Beroep (Court of last instance in social security matters)
CBB	College van Beroep voor het bedrijfsleven (Administrative court of last instance in matters of trade and industry)
Courts of Appeal	
GHAMS	Gerechtshof Amsterdam (Amsterdam Court of Appeal)
GHARL	Gerechtshof Arnhem-Leeuwarden
GHARN	Gerechtshof Arnhem (abolished)
GHDHA	Gerechtshof Den Haag
GHLEE	Gerechtshof Leeuwarden (abolished)
GHSGR	Gerechtshof 's-Gravenhage (abolished)
GHSHE	Gerechtshof 's-Hertogenbosch
District courts	
RBALK	Rechtbank Alkmaar (Alkmaar District Court) (abolished)
RBALM	Rechtbank Almelo (abolished)
RBAMS	Rechtbank Amsterdam
RBARN	Rechtbank Arnhem (abolished)
RBASS	Rechtbank Assen (abolished)
RBBRE	Rechtbank Breda (abolished)
RBDHA	Rechtbank Den Haag
RBDOR	Rechtbank Dordrecht (abolished)
RBGEL	Rechtbank Gelderland
RBGRO	Rechtbank Groningen (abolished)
RBHAA	Rechtbank Haarlem (abolished)
RBLEE	Rechtbank Leeuwarden (abolished)
RBLIM	Rechtbank Limburg

RBMAA	Rechtbank Maastricht (abolished)
RBMID	Rechtbank Middelburg (abolished)
RBMNE	Rechtbank Midden-Nederland
RBNHO	Rechtbank Noord-Holland
RBNNE	Rechtbank Noord-Nederland
RBOBR	Rechtbank Oost-Brabant
RBONE	Rechtbank Oost-Nederland (abolished)
RBOVE	Rechtbank Overijssel
RBROE	Rechtbank Roermond (abolished)
RBROT	Rechtbank Rotterdam
RBSGR	Rechtbank 's-Gravenhage (abolished)
RBSHE	Rechtbank 's-Hertogenbosch (abolished)
RBUTR	Rechtbank Utrecht (abolished)
RBZLY	Rechtbank Zwolle-Lelystad (abolished)
RBZUT	Rechtbank Zutphen (abolished)
RBZWB	Rechtbank Zeeland-West-Brabant

#### All court codes

A full list of Dutch court codes, in alphabetical order, is available in the [Annex\(73 Kb\)](#) (73 Kb) [nl](#). Bodies no longer in existence are indicated as 'abolished'.

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Please note that the following languages have already been translated.

#### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Austria

##### National ECLI coordinator

Federal Chancellery

e-Government - Programme and project management (Department I/13)

Ballhausplatz 2

A-1014 Vienna

Helmut Weichsel

Tel.: (+43 1) 53115/204211

Fax No: (+43 1) 53109/204211

Email: [helmut.weichsel@bka.gv.at](mailto:helmut.weichsel@bka.gv.at)

##### Country code

ECLI country code for Austria: [AT]

##### Generation of national ECLI

The ECLI is given when decisions of the following courts and authorities are [published on the internet](#):

Constitutional Court (*Verfassungsgerichtshof*)

Supreme Court (*Oberster Gerichtshof*) and other courts

Federal Administrative Court (*Bundesverwaltungsgericht*)

Federal Fiscal Court (*Bundesfinanzgericht*)

Regional administrative courts (*Landesverwaltungsgerichte*)

Data Protection Authority (*Datenschutzbehörde*)

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#### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Poland

For the time being Poland does not have any plans concerning implementation of the European Case Law Identifier.

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Please note that the following languages have already been translated.

#### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Romania

##### National ECLI coordinator

The national ECLI coordinator is not established yet. The information will be updated accordingly.

##### Country code

The country code for Romania is: [RO]

#### Generation of national ECLI

In principle, the ECLI will be generated at the time the judgment is rendered, as the Court Judgment Number is part of the ECLI.

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#### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Slovenia

##### National ECLI coordinator

The national ECLI coordinator for Slovenia is:

Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia  
Registry Department,  
Tavčarjeva 9,  
SI-1000 Ljubljana  
Slovenia

Contact email: [ecli.vsr@sodisce.si](mailto:ecli.vsr@sodisce.si)

Contact person: Gregor Stojin

##### Country code

The country code for Slovenia is: [SI]

#### Generation of national ECLI

On 1 October 2011, Slovenia introduced an ECLI as an integral part of all existing documents published in the [case law databases of its courts](#). All new documents which are entered into case-law databases also receive an ECLI. An ECLI will also be included in all new judicial decisions in the near future. All ECLIs are created automatically on the basis of the existing data.

All known private publishers of case law documents have been informed about the ECLI, and most of them have already assigned an ECLI to published documents.

##### Court codes:

VSRS: Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia (Vrhovno sodišče Republike Slovenije)

USRS: Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia (Ustavno sodišče Republike Slovenije)

VSCE: Higher Court in Celje (Višje sodišče v Celju)

VSKP: Higher Court in Koper (Višje sodišče v Kopru)

VSLJ: Higher Court in Ljubljana (Višje sodišče v Ljubljani)

V SMB: Higher Court in Maribor (Višje sodišče v Mariboru)

UPRS: Administrative Court of the Republic of Slovenia (Upravno sodišče Republike Slovenije)

VDSS: Higher Labour and Social Court (Višje delovno in socialno sodišče)

Note: Court codes consist of four letters. The list of participating courts currently only applies to appellate courts, the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia, whose decisions are already published in national case law databases. Other courts and institutions will be added in the near future.

##### Year of decision:

The year in which the decision was issued is used (YYYY entry).

##### Reference number:

The regular ordinal number (hereinafter: RON), e.g. II Ips 123/2005 of a particular court (datafield: Odločba (=decision)) is used as the basis for the formation of the ECLI ordinal number (hereinafter: EON).

Other words (e.g. Sodba, Sklep, etc.) which may be part of the field Odločba are not considered part of RON and are to be omitted/deleted in the formation of EON.

The year, which is a part of RON, remains part of the new EON.

As regular ordinal numbers include signs such as dashes, slashes or empty spaces, each one of these is to be replaced by a period sign within the ECLI format (e.g. II Ips 123/2005 becomes II.Ips.123.2005; I K 123456/2010 becomes I.K.123456.2010, etc.).

The general rules for EON are subject to the exceptions defined in special cases below.

##### Special cases:

**A:** Where one joint decision lists two or more RONs, only the first RON is used for the formation of the ECLI. 'A' is to be added at the end of EON in such cases. Other RONs can be accessed through document metadata.

Example:

*Sodba II Ips 49/2008 and II Ips 28/2011*

then the ECLI is:

*ECLI:SI:VSRS:2008:II.IPS.49.2008.A*

**B:** Where a decision uses only one RON which is similar to a number of other decisions with different RONs, the others have not been added to the case law databases. The first RON is used for the creation of the ECLI, and the others are mentioned as 'same as' in the metadata. The remaining RONs are used to create ECLIs which are listed in the database as relating to similar decisions.

Example:

*Sodba VIII Ips 432/2009, same as VIII Ips 50/2009 and VIII Ips 448/2009, VIII Ips 28/2009*

then ECLI is:

*ECLI:SI:VSRS:2009:VIII.IPS.432.2009,*

*same as:*

*ECLI:SI:VSRS:2009:VIII.IPS.50.2009*

*ECLI:SI:VSRS:2009:VIII.IPS.448.2009*

*ECLI:SI:VSRS:2009:VIII.IPS.28.2009*

Users searching for any of these ECLIs will be directed to the same document.

**C:** In the past there were instances where RON of the same court could be duplicated, because the institution operated at different branches and did not have a centralized case management system (e.g. UPRS). The exact branch is identified in the metadata of a document. In such cases a '.letter' combination representing the branch is to be added at the end of EON, based on the following classification:

Celje: **.C**

Ljubljana: **.L**

Nova Gorica: **.G**

Maribor: **.M**

**D:** Some penal (criminal law) documents in the SOVS database of the Supreme Court use two RONs in the field 'Odločba'. The first uses the ordinal number (in the form -NN), while the other is included in brackets ( ). The reason for this is a double registration of cases during a transition phase for the introduction of a computerised criminal case management system.

In these cases only the first RON is used for the creation of the ECLI, to which the ordinal number of the case is added after the year. The other RON mentioned in brackets is discarded and does not form part of the ECLI.

Example:

*Sodba I Ips 3248/2009-39 (I Ips 10/2010)*

then the ECLI is:

*ECLI:SI:VSRS:2009:I.IPS.3248.2009.39*

**E:** In some cases several documents of the same court use the same RON, for example interim measures and final decisions. In these cases, a number is added for the purpose of EON creation. The first decision (according to date of issue) does not have a numerical addendum. The next one receives addendum '.1', the subsequent one '.2', etc. Addenda are assigned automatically based on the date when the document was issued.

Example:

*Sklep G 6/2011* (note: duplicated in a number of documents)

then the ECLIs are:

*ECLI:SI:VSRS:2011:G.6.2011*

*ECLI:SI:VSRS:2011:G.6.2011.1*

*ECLI:SI:VSRS:2011:G.6.2011.2*

etc.

#### Related links

[Supreme Court of the Republic of Slovenia \(Vrhovno sodišče RS\)](#)

Constitutional Court of the Republic of Slovenia (Ustavno sodišče RS)

[Case law \(Sodna praksa\)](#)

[Case law \(permission from the Supreme Court is required to use the application programming interface \(API\)\)](#)

[Case law of the Constitutional Court \(Sodna praksa Ustavnega sodišča RS\)](#)

Last update: 02/11/2016

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#### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Slovakia

##### National ECLI coordinator

The national ECLI coordinator is the Informatics and Project Management Section of the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic – e-mail: [ecli@justice.sk](mailto:ecli@justice.sk)

##### Country code

The country code for the Slovak Republic is: [SK]

##### Generation of national ECLI code

An ECLI code is generated when a judgment is delivered. Only judgments delivered after 25 July 2011 are given an ECLI number. If a judgment delivered before 25 July 2011 is appealed after 25 July 2011, this and all other judgments in that file are also given an ECLI code.

Example of an ECLI code for the Slovak Republic:

ECLI:SK:OSBA1:2011:0123456789.123

OSBA1 = abbreviation for the court

2011 = year

0123456789 = IČS (file identification number)

123 = serial number of judgment in the file

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#### European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Finland

Finland is currently implementing the European Case Law Identifier in all case law databases of Finlex, the national legal data bank.

##### National ECLI coordinator

The national ECLI coordinator is Aki Hietanen, Ministry of Justice, Finland, e-mail: [finlex@om.fi](mailto:finlex@om.fi)

##### Country code

The country code for Finland is: [FI]

##### Generation of national ECLI



Finland is currently implementing the European Case Law Identifier in all case law databases in Finlex, the national legal data bank. The project was started with tests on the use of ECLI in the case law databases of the Finnish Supreme Court and Supreme Administrative Court. Currently also the databases of Courts of Appeal, Administrative Courts and Special Courts are using the ECLI identifier. In 2013, the metadata in the judgments will be enriched with ECLI metadata. The Finlex case law databases are already now using metadata of Dublin Core Metadata Initiative.

The ECLI identifier will also be used in the Finlex database "Case Law in Legal Literature". The database includes references to case law in Finnish legal literature since 1926. The case law consists of judgments of e.g. the Finnish Supreme Court, Supreme Administrative Court, Courts of Appeal, the European Court of Human Rights and the EC Court of Justice.

#### **The generation of national ECLI**

Supreme Court: ECLI:FI:KKO:2011:43

Supreme Administrative Court: ECLI:FI:KHO:2011:85

- for case summaries (no full text) ECLI:FI:KHO:2010:T3764

Courts of Appeal:

Helsinki Court of Appeal ECLI:FI:HELHO:2011:5

Eastern Finland (Itä-Suomi) Court of Appeal ECLI:FI:I-SHO:2011:4

Kouvola Court of Appeal ECLI:FI:KOUHO:2009:3

Rovaniemi Court of Appeal ECLI:FI:RHO:2010:8

Turku Court of Appeal ECLI:FI:THO:2011:2

Vaasa Court of Appeal ECLI:FI:VHO:2011: 7

Administrative Courts:

Helsinki Administrative Court ECLI:FI:HELHAO:2011:11.0378.255

Hämeenlinna Administrative Court ECLI:FI:HAMHAO:2011:11.0378.255

Kouvola Administrative Court ECLI:FI:KOUHAO:2011:11.0379.25

Kuopio Administrative Court ECLI:FI:KUOHAO:2011:11.0377.25

Oulu Administrative Court ECLI:FI:OULHAO:2011:11.0375.25

Rovaniemi Administrative Court ECLI:FI:ROVHAO:2011:11.0373.25

Turku Administrative Court ECLI:FI:TURHAO:2011:11.0293.15

Vaasa Administrative Court ECLI:FI:VAHAO:2011:11.0371.25

Åland Administrative Court ECLI:FI:AALHAO:2011:11.0372.25

Insurance Court ECLI:FI:VAKO:2010:757

Labour Court ECLI:FI:TTO:2011:108

Market Court ECLI:FI:MAO:2010:595

#### **Related links**

 [Finlex – national legal databank](#)

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#### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Sweden**

Sweden is not yet in a position to implement ECLI.

Last update: 22/10/2015

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#### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - England and Wales**

While no final decision on whether to implement the European Case Law Identifier has yet been made, the United Kingdom is considering options.

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#### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Northern Ireland**

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#### **European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) - Scotland**

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