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**External action of the EU**

**SUMMARY OF DOCUMENTS:**

[Treaty on European Union (TEU) Articles 21-46 - the external action of the EU and the Common Foreign and Security Policy.](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M)

[Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) Articles 205-222 - the EU's external action.](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E/TXT)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT?**

They are intended to provide the EU with the tools it needs to provide assistance to, cooperate with, and build relationships and partnerships with non-EU countries and with international, regional or global organizations, including through [international agreements, in order](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:ai0034) to pursue the objectives of the EU's external action set out in [Article 21](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M021) TEU.

**IMPORTANT KEY POINTS**

Article 21 TEU sets out the principles on which the [EU's external action is](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/external_responsibilities.html) based and its objectives. These include:

* uphold their values, fundamental interests, security, independence and integrity;
* Consolidate and support democracy, the [rule of law](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/rule_of_law.html), [human rights,](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/human_rights.html) and the principles of [international law;](http://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/uphold-international-law/)
* to preserve peace, prevent conflict, and strengthen international security.

Article 21 also requires the EU to ensure coherence between the EU's external action and other policies. The EU's external action covers six areas:

1. **the common foreign and security policy** (including the common security and defense policy) - Articles 23-46 TEU

* The [High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy shall](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:ai0009) have the following duties:
  + He/she implements the [Common Foreign and Security Policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/foreign_security_policy.html) (Articles 24-41) and the [Common Security and Defense Policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/foreign_security_policy.html) (Articles 42-46);
  + he/she contributes to the development of these policies through his/her own proposals, and
  + he/she shall ensure that the decisions adopted by the [European Council](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_council.html) and the [Council are implemented.](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/eu_council.html)
* The [European External Action Service shall](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/eu_external_action_service.html) assist the High Representative in fulfilling his/her mandate.

2. **development cooperation** - Articles 208-211 TFEU

* The main long-term objective of EU [development cooperation](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/development_aid.html) is to eradicate world poverty by promoting the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of developing countries.

3. **humanitarian aid** - Article 214 TFEU

* EU [humanitarian aid](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/humanitarian_aid.html) operations aim to bring targeted assistance, rescue and protection to residents of non-EU countries affected by natural or man-made disasters.

4. **support** - Articles 212-213 TFEU

* The EU may provide assistance, including financial assistance, in non-EU developing countries. These measures must be consistent with the EU's development policy.

5. **trade** - Articles 205-207 TFEU

* The EU has exclusive [competence for the](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:ai0020) EU's common commercial [policy.](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/eu_trade_policy.html)
* The [European Parliament](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_parliament.html) is co-legislator on trade issues with the Council.
* The EU [Customs Union](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/customs_union.html) must contribute to the following goals:
  + the harmonious development of world trade,
  + the gradual elimination of restrictions on international trade and foreign direct investment, and
  + the dismantling of customs barriers and other barriers.

6. **solidarity clause** - Article 222 TFEU

The [solidarity clause](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/solidarity_clause.html) provides the basis for agreements that enable the EU and EU countries to act together and use the means at their disposal to

* avert terrorist threats on the territory of an EU country;
* to protect an EU country from possible terrorist attacks and to support it in such a case;
* support another EU country affected by a natural or man-made disaster.

**BACKGROUND**

Further information:

* [European External Action Service - Homepage](http://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en) (European External Action Service)

**MAIN DOCUMENTS**

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 1 - General provisions on the Union's external action - [Article 21](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M021) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 28-29).

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Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 24](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M024) (ex Article 11 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 30-31).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 25](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M025) (ex Article 12 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 31).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 26](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M026) (ex Article 13 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 31).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 27](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M027) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 32).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 28](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M028) (ex Article 14 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 32).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 29](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M029) (ex Article 15 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 33).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 30](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M030) (ex Article 22 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 33).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 31](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M031) (ex Article 23 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 33-34).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 32](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M032) (ex Article 16 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 34).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 33](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M033) (ex Article 18 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 34).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 34](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M034) (ex Article 19 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 35).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 35](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M035) (ex Article 20 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 35).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 36](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M036) (ex Article 21 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 35-36).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 37](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M037) (ex Article 24 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 36).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 38](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M038) (ex Article 25 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 36).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 39](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M039) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 36).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 40](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M040) (ex Article 47 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 37).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 41](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M041) (ex Article 28 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 37-38).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 2 - Provisions on the common security and defense policy - [Article 42](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M042) (ex Article 17 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 38-39).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 2 - Provisions on the common security and defense policy - [Article 43](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M043) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 39).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 2 - Provisions on the common security and defense policy - [Article 44](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M044) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 39-40).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 2 - Provisions on the common security and defense policy - [Article 45](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M045) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 40).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 2 - Provisions on the common security and defense policy - [Article 46](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M046) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 40-41).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title I - General provisions on the Union's external action - [Article 205](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E205) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 139).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title II - Common commercial policy - [Article 206](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E206) (ex Article 131 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 139).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title II - Common commercial policy - [Article 207](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E207) (ex Article 133 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, pp. 140-141).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 1 - Development cooperation - [Article 208](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E208) (ex Article 177 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 141).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 1 - Development cooperation - [Article 209](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E209) (ex Article 179 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 141).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 1 - Development cooperation - [Article 210](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E210) (ex Article 180 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 142).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 1 - Development cooperation - [Article 211](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E211) (ex Article 181 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 142).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 2 - Economic, financial and technical cooperation with third countries - [Article 212](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E212) (ex Article 181a TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 142).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 2 - Economic, financial and technical cooperation with third countries - [Article 213](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E213) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 143).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 3 - Humanitarian aid - [Article 214](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E214) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 143).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title IV - Restrictive measures - [Article 215](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E215) (ex Article 301 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 144).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title V - International agreements - [Article 216](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E216) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 144).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title V - International agreements - [Article 217](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E217) (ex Article 310 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 144).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title V - International agreements - [Article 218](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E218) (ex Article 300 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 144-146).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title V - International agreements - [Article 219](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E219) (ex Article 111(1) to (3) and (5) TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 146-147).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title VI - Relations of the Union with international organizations and third countries and Union delegations - [Article 220](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E220) (ex Articles 302 to 304 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 147).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title VI - The Union's relations with international organizations and third countries and Union delegations - [Article 221](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E221) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 147).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title VII - Solidarity clause - [Article 222](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E222) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 148).

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

[Consolidated versions of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016ME/TXT) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 1-388).

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**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT?**

They are intended to provide the EU with the tools it needs to provide assistance to, cooperate with, and build relationships and partnerships with non-EU countries and with international, regional or global organizations, including through [international agreements, in order](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:ai0034) to pursue the objectives of the EU's external action set out in [Article 21](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M021) TEU.

**IMPORTANT KEY POINTS**

Article 21 TEU sets out the principles on which the [EU's external action is](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/external_responsibilities.html) based and its objectives. These include:

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* to preserve peace, prevent conflict, and strengthen international security.

Article 21 also requires the EU to ensure coherence between the EU's external action and other policies. The EU's external action covers six areas:

1. **the common foreign and security policy** (including the common security and defense policy) - Articles 23-46 TEU

* The [High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy shall](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:ai0009) have the following duties:
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  + he/she contributes to the development of these policies through his/her own proposals, and
  + he/she shall ensure that the decisions adopted by the [European Council](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_council.html) and the [Council are implemented.](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/eu_council.html)
* The [European External Action Service shall](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/eu_external_action_service.html) assist the High Representative in fulfilling his/her mandate.

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* The main long-term objective of EU [development cooperation](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/development_aid.html) is to eradicate world poverty by promoting the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of developing countries.

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* EU [humanitarian aid](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/humanitarian_aid.html) operations aim to bring targeted assistance, rescue and protection to residents of non-EU countries affected by natural or man-made disasters.

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* The EU may provide assistance, including financial assistance, in non-EU developing countries. These measures must be consistent with the EU's development policy.

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* The EU has exclusive [competence for the](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:ai0020) EU's common commercial [policy.](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/eu_trade_policy.html)
* The [European Parliament](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_parliament.html) is co-legislator on trade issues with the Council.
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**BACKGROUND**

Further information:

* [European External Action Service - Homepage](http://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en) (European External Action Service)

**MAIN DOCUMENTS**

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 1 - General provisions on the Union's external action - [Article 21](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M021) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 28-29).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 1 - General provisions on the Union's external action - [Article 22](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M022) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 29-30).

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Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 24](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M024) (ex Article 11 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 30-31).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 25](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M025) (ex Article 12 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 31).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 26](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M026) (ex Article 13 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 31).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 27](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M027) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 32).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 28](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M028) (ex Article 14 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 32).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 29](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M029) (ex Article 15 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 33).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 30](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M030) (ex Article 22 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 33).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 31](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M031) (ex Article 23 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 33-34).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 32](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M032) (ex Article 16 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 34).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 33](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M033) (ex Article 18 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 34).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 34](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M034) (ex Article 19 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 35).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 35](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M035) (ex Article 20 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 35).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 36](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M036) (ex Article 21 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 35-36).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 37](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M037) (ex Article 24 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 36).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 38](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M038) (ex Article 25 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 36).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 39](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M039) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 36).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 40](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M040) (ex Article 47 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 37).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 1 - Common provisions - [Article 41](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M041) (ex Article 28 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 37-38).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 2 - Provisions on the common security and defense policy - [Article 42](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M042) (ex Article 17 TEU) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 38-39).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 2 - Provisions on the common security and defense policy - [Article 43](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M043) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 39).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 2 - Provisions on the common security and defense policy - [Article 44](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M044) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 39-40).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 2 - Provisions on the common security and defense policy - [Article 45](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M045) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 40).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union - Title V - General provisions on the Union's external action and specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Chapter 2 - Specific provisions on the common foreign and security policy - Section 2 - Provisions on the common security and defense policy - [Article 46](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016M046) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 40-41).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title I - General provisions on the Union's external action - [Article 205](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E205) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 139).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title II - Common commercial policy - [Article 206](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E206) (ex Article 131 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 139).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title II - Common commercial policy - [Article 207](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E207) (ex Article 133 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, pp. 140-141).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 1 - Development cooperation - [Article 208](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E208) (ex Article 177 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 141).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 1 - Development cooperation - [Article 209](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E209) (ex Article 179 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 141).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 1 - Development cooperation - [Article 210](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E210) (ex Article 180 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 142).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 1 - Development cooperation - [Article 211](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E211) (ex Article 181 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 142).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 2 - Economic, financial and technical cooperation with third countries - [Article 212](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E212) (ex Article 181a TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 142).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 2 - Economic, financial and technical cooperation with third countries - [Article 213](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E213) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 143).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title III - Cooperation with third countries and humanitarian aid - Chapter 3 - Humanitarian aid - [Article 214](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E214) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 143).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title IV - Restrictive measures - [Article 215](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E215) (ex Article 301 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 144).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title V - International agreements - [Article 216](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E216) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 144).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title V - International agreements - [Article 217](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E217) (ex Article 310 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 144).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title V - International agreements - [Article 218](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E218) (ex Article 300 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 144-146).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title V - International agreements - [Article 219](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E219) (ex Article 111(1) to (3) and (5) TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 146-147).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title VI - Relations of the Union with international organizations and third countries and Union delegations - [Article 220](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E220) (ex Articles 302 to 304 TEC) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 147).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title VI - The Union's relations with international organizations and third countries and Union delegations - [Article 221](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E221) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 147).

Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - Part Five - The Union's external action - Title VII - Solidarity clause - [Article 222](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016E222) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 148).

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

[Consolidated versions of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016ME/TXT) (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 1-388).

Last updated: 06.07.2018

**European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**

Council Regulation (EC) No [168/2007](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32007R0168) establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

**LAW**

Council Regulation (EC) No [168/2007 of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32007R0168) 15 February 2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

**SUMMARY**

The [Fundamental Rights Agency](http://fra.europa.eu/de) assists the EU institutions and the governments of the EU countries in implementing EU law with regard to [fundamental rights.](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/charter/index_de.htm)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS REGULATION?**

The Regulation creates a specific body for fundamental rights at EU level - the Agency - and defines its main tasks and objectives, as well as its functioning and internal governance structures.

**IMPORTANT KEY POINTS**

The agency performs the following activities:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | It provides fundamental rights **expertise to EU institutions and countries to** ensure that any measure or legislation adopted is in line with fundamental rights; |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | it issues **opinions to the** EU institutions and the EU countries. It does so either on its own initiative or at their request (for example, on whether measures or legislative proposals are compatible with fundamental rights); |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | it collects, analyzes and disseminates **reliable and comparable information** on the concrete impact of EU policies on fundamental rights; |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | it conducts scientific **research and surveys** on the subject of fundamental rights; |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | it issues publications on **specific topics** or on the realization of human rights by the EU institutions and countries; |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | it publishes an **annual report** on issues within its remit and highlights examples of **good practice;** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | **it develops communication strategies or campaigns** and promotes dialogue with civil society to raise **public awareness of** fundamental rights issues; |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | he proposes procedures for the enforcement of fundamental rights. |

However, the agency does not address individual complaints.

**5-year work plan**

The Agency's thematic areas of activity are identified in a multi-annual framework adopted by the Council. This framework covers a period of five years and is in line with the overall priorities of the EU.

The areas of activity of the Agency must include **racism, xenophobia** and related intolerance.

**Cooperation with other institutions**

The agency must work closely with the following entities:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | the [EU institutions](http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/index_de.htm); |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | EU governments and civil society groups such as the [Fundamental Rights Platform](http://fra.europa.eu/en/cooperation/civil-society/about-frp); |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | Equality bodies (e.g., the [European Institute for Gender Equality](http://eige.europa.eu/) or the [United Nations Coordinating Committee for National Human Rights Institutions](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/NHRI/Pages/NHRIMain.aspx)); |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | international organizations ([Council of Europe](http://www.coe.int/de/web/portal/home), [United Nations](http://www.un.org/en/index.html), [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe](http://www.osce.org/)); |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | [candidate countries](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/countries/check-current-status/index_en.htm) for accession to the EU. |

**WHEN DOES THE REGULATION COME INTO FORCE?**

This regulation entered into force on February 23, 2007.

**BACKGROUND**

The Agency replaces the [European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:c10411) in Vienna and takes over its activities.

Further information:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | [European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Strategic Plan 2013-2017](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_strategic_plan_en.pdf); |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - — | [Website of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](http://europa.eu/about-eu/agencies/regulatory_agencies_bodies/policy_agencies/fra/index_de.htm). |

**REFERENCE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal act** | **Effective date** | **Deadline for implementation in the member states** | **Official Journal of the European Union** |
| Regulation (EC) No. [168/2007](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32007R0168) | 23.2.2007 | - | [OJ L 53, 22.2.2007, p. 1-14.](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2007.053.01.0001.01.DEU) |

**RELATED ACTS**

Council Decision No. [252/2013/EU of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32013D0252) 11 March 2013 establishing a Multiannual Framework (2013-2017) for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights ([OJ L 79, 21.3.2013, p. 1-3](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2013.079.01.0001.01.DEU)).

Last updated: 30.07.2015

**The new EU strategy for a digital single market**

A digital single market would allow consumers and entrepreneurs to take full advantage of the benefits opened up by the Internet and digital technologies.

**LAW**

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Strategy for a Digital Single Market for Europe ([COM(2015) 192 final,](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:52015DC0192) 6.5.2015).

**SUMMARY**

A digital single market would allow consumers and entrepreneurs to take full advantage of the benefits opened up by the Internet and digital technologies.

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS COMMUNICATION?**

This Communication sets out the strategy for a Digital Single Market, which is one of the [10 policy priorities of](http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/docs/pg_de.pdf#page=6) the European Commission's [Agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change.](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/resources/docs/jean-claude-juncker---political-guidelines.pdf)

**IMPORTANT KEY POINTS**

The strategy defines **16 targeted measures** built on **three pillars:**

* 1.

**Better access for consumers to digital goods and services across Europe**. Within this framework, the Commission will propose the following:

* + Rules to facilitate cross-border [e-commerce](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:l24204);
  + A review of the [Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation to](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:l32047) enforce consumer law more quickly and consistently;
  + More efficient and affordable cross-border parcel delivery services;
  + eliminating unjustified geo-blocking\* and thereby increasing choice and access for European online consumers;
  + Identify potential competition law issues in European e-commerce markets;
  + a modern, more European [copyright](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/index_de.htm);
  + a review of the [Satellite and Cable Directive to](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:l26031) determine whether its scope should be extended to online broadcasters' transmissions;
  + Reduce the administrative burden on businesses resulting from different VAT regimes.
* 2.

**Creating the right conditions and a level playing field for thriving digital networks and innovative services**. The Commission proposes the following:

* + a reform of the [EU telecommunications regulations](http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/telecoms-rules);
  + reviewing the regulatory framework for [audiovisual media to](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/audiovisual.html) modernize it for the 21st century;
  + an examination of the role of online platforms, such as search engines, social media, etc., in the digital single market and an analysis of how to combat illegal content on the Internet;
  + Strengthening trust and security in digital services, especially in the handling of [personal data](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:l14042). A review of the [ePrivacy Directive is](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:l24120) also planned for this purpose;
  + partnering with industry on [cybersecurity](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:si0010) related technologies and solutions for online network security.
* 3.

**Maximize the growth potential of the digital economy**. The Commission will:

* + Propose a "Free Flow of Data Initiative" in the EU to promote the free flow of data in the EU, as well as an initiative for a ["European Cloud";](https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/node/609#Article)
  + Priorities for standardization and interoperability of devices, applications, data storage, services and networks that are central to the Digital Single Market;
  + Promote an inclusive digital society in which citizens have the skills they need to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Internet and increase their own chances in the job market.

The Commission will implement these measures by the end of 2016.

More information is available on the [European Commission's Digital Single Market website.](http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/digital-single-market/index_de.htm)

**KEY TERMS**

**\* Geoblocking:** practice of blocking access to a website for online consumers based on where they are located or redirecting them to a website with different prices that corresponds to their location.

**RELATED ACTS**

Commission Staff Working Paper: Strategy for a Digital Single Market for Europe - Analysis and evidence - Accompanying document to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Strategy for a Digital Single Market for Europe ([SWD(2015) 100 final of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:52015SC0100) 6.5.2015).

Last updated: 17.08.2015

**Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**

**SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT:**

[Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016ME/TXT)

**INTRODUCTION**

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the result of the Treaty of Lisbon, is based on the Treaty establishing the **European Community** (TEC or EC Treaty) as provided by the [Treaty of Maastricht.](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=legissum:xy0026) The EC Treaty itself was based on the Treaty establishing the [**European Economic Community**](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=legissum:xy0023) (EEC Treaty), signed in Rome on March 25, 1957. The creation of the European Union by the Maastricht Treaty (February 7, 1992) was a further step toward the political unification of Europe.

However, the European Union did not replace the European Communities, but placed them in an overarching structure consisting of "three pillars."

* **The first pillar** consisted of the European Communities (the EC, the [European Coal and Steel Community](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=legissum:xy0022) (ECSC) (until 2002) and [Euratom](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=legissum:4301853)).
* **The second pillar** consisted of cooperation between EU countries within the framework of the [Common Foreign and Security Policy](http://europa.eu/european-union/topics/foreign-security-policy_de).
* **The third pillar** covered cooperation between EU countries in the areas of [justice](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/justice.html) and home affairs.

Each new treaty is accompanied by a renumbering of the articles. The [Treaty of Lisbon,](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:ai0033) signed on 13.12.2007, which entered into force on 1.12.2009, in turn led to the renaming of the TEC into the TFEU, which merged the three pillars into a reformed EU, and to a renewed renumbering.

Alongside the Treaty on [European Union](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:4301855) (TEU), the TFEU is one of the EU's two primary treaties. It forms the detailed basis of EU law and sets out the principles and objectives of the EU as well as the scope for action in its policy areas. It also sets out details of the organization and functioning of the EU institutions.

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CONTRACT?**

As already stated in the preamble at that time, the aim of the TEC was "to lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe". This formulation is still present in the preamble of both the current TFEU and the TEU. These treaties actually expanded European integration to include a more political and democratic dimension that went beyond the original economic objective (of a common market).

**IMPORTANT KEY POINTS OF THE CONSOLIDATED AGREEMENT**

* The First Part - **Principles:**
  + describes the scope of the Treaty and its relationship with the TEU (Article 1);
  + outlines the competences of the EU according to the powers of the respective EU areas (Articles 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6);
  + sets out general principles governing the activities of the EU (Articles 7 to 17).
* The Second Part - **Non-discrimination and EU Citizenship:**
  + prohibits discrimination on the basis of nationality (Article 18);
  + states that the EU will combat "discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation" (Article 19);
  + introduces and defines EU citizenship and related rights (Articles 20 to 24).
* Part Three - which is the most comprehensive (Articles 26 to 197) - sets out the legal basis for the **EU's internal policies and actions in** the following areas:
  + [Internal Market](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market_de) (Title I);
  + [free movement of goods](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/goods/free-movement-sectors_de) (Title II), including the [Customs Union](http://europa.eu/european-union/topics/customs_de);
  + [Common Agricultural Policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/agricultural_policy.html) and [Common Fisheries Policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/fisheries.html) (Title III);
  + Free movement of workers (and [people in](http://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/residence-rights/index_de.htm) general), [services](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services_de), and [capital](http://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/financial-markets/capital-movements_de) (Title IV);
  + [Area of Freedom, Security and Justice](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/freedom_and_security.html) (Title V), including [police and judicial cooperation](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/police_judicial_cooperation.html);
  + [Transportation](http://europa.eu/european-union/topics/transport_de) (Title VI);
  + [Competition](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/competition.html), [Fiscal Affairs,](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/taxation.html) and [Regulatory Alignment](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/guide/part1.htm) (Title VII);
  + [Economic and Monetary Policy](http://europa.eu/european-union/topics/economic-monetary-affairs_de) (Title VIII), which includes articles on the euro;
  + [Employment Policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/employment.html) (Title IX);
  + [Social Policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/social_policy.html) (Title X), with reference to the [European Social Charter (](http://www.coe.int/en/web/turin-european-social-charter)1961) and the [Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:c10107) (1989) - Title XI establishes the [European Social Fund](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_social_fund.html);
  + [education](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/education.html), [training](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/training.html), [youth](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/youth.html) and [sport](http://europa.eu/european-union/topics/sport_de) (Title XII);
  + [Culture](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/culture.html) (Title XIII);
  + [Health Care](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/public_health.html) (Title XIV);
  + [Consumer Protection](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/consumer_protection.html) (Title XV);
  + [trans-European networks](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/ten.html) (Title XVI);
  + [Industry](http://europa.eu/european-union/topics/enterprise_de) (Title XVII);
  + [economic, social and territorial cohesion](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/economic_social_cohesion.html) - i.e. reducing disparities in levels of development (Title XVIII);
  + [Research and Development](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/research_and_development.html) and [Space](http://europa.eu/european-union/topics/space_de) (title XIX);
  + [Environmental Policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/environment.html) (Title XX);
  + [Energy Policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/energy.html) (Title XXI);
  + [Tourism](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/tourism_de) (Title XXII);
  + [Civil Protection](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/civil_protection.html) (Title XXIII);
  + [Administrative cooperation](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/tax-cooperation-control/administrative-cooperation_de) (Title XXIV).
* Part Four - **Association of** [**Overseas Countries and Territories**](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/octs_en) - (Articles 198 to 204) describes the special relationship between the EU and the overseas territories of some EU countries which, unlike the outermost territories, are not part of the EU.
* Part Five - **External Action of the EU** - (Articles 205 to 222) describes:
  + the common commercial policy ([foreign trade policy](http://europa.eu/european-union/topics/trade_de));
  + [Development cooperation and humanitarian aid](http://europa.eu/european-union/topics/development-cooperation_de) to non-EU countries;
  + Relations with non-EU countries (international treaties, [sanctions](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:25_1) and [solidarity](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/solidarity_clause.html) between EU countries) and international bodies;
  + the creation of EU delegations;
  + that external action must be consistent with the principles set out in Title V, Chapter 1 of the TEU on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (Article 205).
* Part Six - **Institutional Provisions and Financial Regulations** - describes the following in more detail:
  + the [EU institutions](http://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies_de) (Articles 223 to 227);
  + the EU advisory bodies (Articles 300 to 307);
  + the European Investment Bank (Articles 308 and 309);
  + EU [legal acts](http://europa.eu/european-union/eu-law/legal-acts_de) (regulations, directives, etc.) and [procedures](http://europa.eu/european-union/eu-law/decision-making/procedures_de) (Articles 288 to 299);
  + the EU [budget](http://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/money_de) (Articles 310 to 325);
  + [enhanced cooperation](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/enhanced_cooperation.html) between EU countries (Articles 326 to 334).
* Part Seven - **General and Final Provisions** - (Articles 335 to 358) deals with specific legal aspects such as the legal capacity of the EU, the territorial and temporal scope, the seat of the institutions, exemptions and the effect on treaties signed before 1958 or before the date of accession.

**WHEN DOES THE CONTRACT COME INTO FORCE?**

The TFEU, signed by 27 EU countries on December 13, 2007 (Croatia did not join until 2013), entered into force on December 1, 2009.

**BACKGROUND**

Further information:

* [The founding treaties](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/de/sheet/1/the-first-treaties) (*European Parliament*)
* [Historical outline of the EU](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/de/history/) (*Council of the EU*)
* [EU Treaties](http://europa.eu/european-union/law/treaties_de) (*European Commission*)
* [Overview of the Treaties](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/collection/eu-law/treaties/treaties-overview.html?locale=de) (*EUR-Lex*).

**MAIN DOCUMENT**

[Treaty](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12016ME/TXT) on the Functioning of the European Union of 13 December 2007 - consolidated version (OJ C 202, 7.6.2016, p. 47-360).

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

[Treaty](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:11957E/TXT) establishing the European Economic Community (not published in the Official Journal)

Subsequent amendments to the Treaty have been inserted into the original text. This [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:02016ME/TXT-20160901) is for documentary purposes only.

[Treaty of Maastricht of](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=OJ:JOC_1992_191_R_0001_01) 7 February 1992 (OJ C 191, 29.7.1992, pp. 1-112).

[Treaty of Lisbon of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:12007L%2FTXT) 13 December 2007 (OJ C 306, 17.12.2007, p. 1-271)

Last updated: 15.12.2017

**A vision for the internal market for industrial products**

The European Commission has prepared a strategy paper setting out its vision for the future for the European single market for industrial products.

**LAW**

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee: A vision for the single market for industrial products ([COM(2014) 25 final of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:52014DC0025) 22.1.2014 - not published in the Official Journal).

**SUMMARY**

EU regulations regarding industrial products set out the essential safety, health and other public interest requirements that companies must meet when placing products on the Union market, including the affixing of the CE marking. These regulations define the necessary steps that must be taken to demonstrate that the product complies with EU law before it can bear the CE marking.

The general result of an online public consultation and assessment in this area is that internal market legislation is instrumental in achieving the EU's objectives in relation to the need for technical harmonization measures with a high level of protection for health and safety as well as consumers and the environment. Thus, this is not only an essential factor in terms of competitiveness of European industry, but also in terms of consumer and environmental protection.

However, the strategy paper, referred to as a communication, also identified a number of aspects in need of improvement. While the Commission is keen to keep up with the pace of technological challenges in the 21st century, it also wants to take into account the expressed desire of European industry for longer periods of regulatory stability without major regulatory overhaul.

The strategy paper identifies the following priorities:

**Effective enforcement mechanisms**

This means strengthening the Commission's efforts to ensure that existing law is enforced because it serves to safeguard important public interests such as health and safety, but also environmental and consumer protection. The Commission will develop a legislative proposal to optimize and harmonize administrative or civil economic sanctions to punish violations of the applicable law.

**Cross-industry product regulations**

The Commission will consider the need for cross-cutting (i.e., cross-industry) legislation with common elements for all industries.

**Innovation and the digital future**

In preparing new legislative proposals for industrial products, the Commission will take into account developments in technology and innovation. It will also launch an initiative on e-compliance. This will enable companies to demonstrate compliance with Union regulations electronically.

**Blurring boundaries between products and associated services**

Manufacturing companies are increasingly offering services such as maintenance and training alongside their traditional products. The Commission will investigate how these blurring boundaries between products and services can be better managed.

**More regulations, fewer directives**

Subject to an examination of the individual case, the Commission will from now on prefer to use regulations rather than directives as the main source of Union law. Regulations are directly applicable in the member states and thus lead to more certainty for companies.

**A business-friendly approach to product regulations**

Currently, businesses are faced with a multitude of acts that apply to the same products/manufacturers and the boundaries between many of these acts are sometimes not clear. Once a periodic review of an industry-related act is due, the Commission will consider whether it is possible to group it with other acts that apply to the same product category.

**The global market**

The EU should continue to promote international convergence of legislation and technical standards for industrial products while ensuring a high level of protection of public interests. The Commission should ensure that there is a greater focus on the impact of EU legislation on the international competitiveness of EU companies.

Last change: 28.07.2014

**Monitoring program for the EU border-free area**

This legislation creates a framework for a dedicated monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the so-called' Schengen acquis of the European Union. The aim is to ensure that the member states of the European Union (EU) in the Schengen area apply uniformly high standards in implementation practice. The 26 Schengen states include 22 EU member states and four non-EU states. No checks are carried out at internal borders in the Schengen area.

**LAW**

Council Regulation (EU) No [1053/2013 of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32013R1053) 7 October 2013 on the establishment of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis and repealing the Decision of the Executive Committee of 16 September 1998 setting up the Schengen Implementing Convention Standing Committee.

**SUMMARY**

The main objective of the evaluation and monitoring mechanism is to ensure **a high level of mutual trust between the Member States of the** "Schengen area" with regard to their proper implementation of all relevant legislation of the [EU](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/HTML/schengen_agreement) Schengen [area legislation](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/HTML/schengen_agreement) ("Schengen acquis").

**SCOPE OF THE MECHANISM**

The evaluation mechanism covers all aspects of legislation in this area. As far as borders are concerned, the mechanism is intended to cover both the efficiency of border controls at external borders and the absence of border controls at internal borders.

The EU Member States and the Commission are jointly responsible for implementing the overall mechanism, while the Commission has a general coordinating role.

**ANNOUNCED AND UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS**

To implement the evaluation mechanism, a multi-annual (over 5 years) and an annual inspection program will be established under the auspices of the Commission. This evaluation will take place regularly in the form of **announced and unannounced inspections** on the respective territory of the Schengen States.

**ACTION PLAN FOR THE ELIMINATION OF DEFICIENCIES**

Site visits must be carried out by specially trained experts nominated and selected in a neutral manner by Member States and take into account the **risk analysis** (in relation to external borders) prepared by the [Frontex](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:l33216) Agency and the assistance provided by [Europol](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:jl0025), [Eurojust](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:l33188) and other relevant Union bodies in the areas covered by their mandate.

After this analysis and based on the results of the site visits, the experts draw up a report under the coordination of the Commission. This contains various recommendations for the EU countries evaluated in each case. If it is found that the Member State's implementation of the legislation is deficient or that it is seriously neglecting its obligations, it must submit an **action plan to** remedy these deficiencies.

**MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP**

The evaluated Member State must report to the Commission and the other Member States every six months on the implementation of this Action Plan to confirm that it has taken the **necessary actions and steps to** address the identified weaknesses. This may be followed by further reports to track the implementation of the measures. If necessary, the Commission may schedule new site visits.

**REFERENCE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Legal act** | **Effective date** | **Deadline for implementation in the member states** | **Official Journal of the European Union** |
| Regulation (EU) No. [1053/2013](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32013R1053) | 26.11.2013. | - | [OJ L 295, 6.11.2013, p. 27](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2013.295.01.0027.01.DEU) |

**RELATED ACTS**

Regulation (EU) No [1051/2013 of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32013R1051) the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 so as to establish common rules for the temporary reintroduction of checks at internal borders in exceptional circumstances (OJ L 295, 6.11.2013, p. 1).

Last updated: 06.10.2014

**EU control measures for the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO).**

**SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT:**

[Regulation (EU) 2018/975 - Management, conservation and enforcement measures for the Convention Area of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO).](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32018R0975)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS REGULATION?**

* The Regulation aims to ensure that management, conservation and control rules for the Convention Area of the [South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) are](http://www.sprfmo.int/) fully incorporated into EU law.
* The regulation works in tandem with the [EU fisheries](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:pe0012) control [regime](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:pe0012) for control, inspection and enforcement of the [Common Fisheries Policy](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:02020101_1) rules by national authorities.

**IMPORTANT KEY POINTS**

**SPRFMO**

* The SPRFMO is an intergovernmental organization committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources in the South Pacific.
* The EU is a contracting party.

**Scope and application**

* This regulation applies to:
  + EU fishing vessels fishing in the SPRFMO Convention Area;
  + EU fishing vessels transhipping fishery products caught in the SPRFMO Convention Area\*;
  + Non-EU fishing vessels intending to enter an EU port or subject to inspection in such a port and carrying on board fishery products caught in the SPRFMO Convention Area.
* It applies without prejudice to:
  + Regulation (EC) No. [1005/2008](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=celex:32008R1005) (see [summary](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:pe0005));
  + Regulation (EC) No. [1224/2009](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=celex:32009R1224) (see [summary](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/ALL/?uri=LEGISSUM:pe0012));
  + Regulation (EU) [2017/2403](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=celex:32017R2403) (see [summary](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:4326429)).

**Regulations**

* EU countries must ensure that scientific observers are on board for at least 10% of the Chilean horse mackerel fishery and that fishing ends when 100% of their catch limit is reached.
* EU fishing vessels must follow **seabird** protection regulations, including the use of bird-scaring lines.
* To protect vulnerable marine ecosystems\*, EU fishing vessels are prohibited from engaging in bottom fishing\* or exploratory fishing\* without authorization from the SPRFMO and based on a bottom fishing assessment conducted by the SPRFMO Scientific Committee.
* Scientific observers shall be on board for at least 10% of the fishing operations of the longline fishery for demersal species, and demersal fishing activities shall cease within five nautical miles of the area where the detection of vulnerable marine ecosystems exceeds the established thresholds.
* Prohibit the use of large pelagic drift gillnets (gillnets or combinations of gillnets longer than 2.5 kilometers) and all deepwater gillnets\* throughout the SPRFMO Convention Area.
* Need to communicate the transhipment of Chilean horse mackerel and groundfish species and their monitoring when an observer is on board.
* EU vessels intending to transit the SPRFMO Convention Area and carrying **gillnets** on board must notify the SPRFMO Secretariat at least 36 hours before the vessel enters the area and ensure that vessels flying their flag operate a [vessel monitoring system that signals](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/control/technologies/vms_de) every two hours while in the SPRFMO Convention Area.
* By November 15 of each year, EU countries must submit to the Commission a list of vessels authorized to fish in the SPRFMO Convention Area under their flag for the following year, including the information contained in Appendix V. The Commission shall submit the list to the SPRFMO Secretariat.
* EU countries whose vessels fish in the SPRFMO Convention Area must establish observer programs to collect data on fish caught, which are submitted to the Commission.

**WHEN DOES THE REGULATION COME INTO FORCE?**

It entered into force on July 19, 2018

**BACKGROUND**

* [South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/fisheries-south-pacific-regional-fisheries-management-organisation-sprfmo-new-organisation_de) (*European Commission*).

**KEY TERMS**

**Transhipment:** the transfer of a catch from aboard a smaller fishing vessel to a larger fishing vessel, which then takes it in a larger shipment.

**Vulnerable marine ecosystem means** a marine ecosystem whose integrity (i.e., its structure and function) is, to the best of scientific knowledge and taking into account the precautionary principle, threatened by significant adverse impacts resulting from the physical action of bottom fishing gear used in the normal course of fishing operations; such systems include, but are not limited to, reefs, seamounts, cold-water corals, or deep-sea sponge reefs.

**Bottom fishing:** Fishing activities by any fishing vessel using any fishing gear likely to come into contact with the seabed or benthic organisms (i.e., those found in the bottom area of the sea in the ecological region) in the normal course of the activities.

**Experimental fishery:** a fishery in which no fishing or fishing with a particular gear or technique has been conducted for the past ten years.

**Deep-sea gillnets:** consist of single or, less frequently, double or triple nets joined together on frame ropes. Several types of nets may be combined in one gear. These nets may be set alone or more often in large numbers side by side ("fleets"). The gear can be set up or attached to the bottom, or drift freely or connected to the fishing vessel.

**MAIN DOCUMENT**

Regulation (EU) [2018/975](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32018R0975) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 laying down management, conservation and enforcement measures applicable in the Convention Area of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO) (OJ L 179, 16.7.2018, p. 30-75).

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Regulation (EU) [2017/2403](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32017R2403) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 on the sustainable management of external fleets and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/2008 (OJ L 347, 28.12.2017, p. 81-104).

Regulation (EU) No. [1380/2013 of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32013R1380) the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy and amending Council Regulations (EC) No. 1954/2003 and (EC) No. 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No. 2371/2002 and (EC) No. 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 22-61).

Subsequent amendments to Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 have been inserted in the original text. This [consolidated version is for](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:02013R1380-20190814) documentary purposes only.

Council Regulation (EC) No [1224/2009 of](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=celex:32009R1224) 20 November 2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy and amending Regulations (EC) No 847/96, (EC) No 2371/2002, (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No. 768/2005, (EC) No 2115/2005, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007, (EC) No 676/2007, (EC) No 1098/2007, (EC) No 1300/2008, (EC) No 1342/2008 and repealing Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1627/94 and (EC) No 1966/2006 (OJ L 343, 22.12.2009, p. 1-50).

See [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:02009R1224-20190814).

Council Regulation (EC) No [1005/2008 of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32008R1005) 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, amending Regulations (EEC) No 2847/93, (EC) No 1936/2001 and (EC) No 601/2004 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 1093/94 and (EC) No 1447/1999 (OJ L 286, 29.10.2008, p. 1-32).

See [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:02008R1005-20110309).

Last updated: 23.04.2020

**Ensuring the sustainability of European healthcare systems**

On April 4, 2014, the European Commission presented recommendations to help national health systems address the challenges and pressures they face so they can deliver the highest quality health care.

**LAW**

Commission Communication on effective, accessible and resilient health systems ([COM(2014) 215 final,](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:52014DC0215) 4.4.2014).

**SUMMARY**

On April 4, 2014, the European Commission presented recommendations to help national health systems address the challenges and pressures they face so they can deliver the highest quality health care.

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS COMMUNICATION?**

It identifies factors that can contribute to the overall sustainability of healthcare systems. These must bear the consequences of the financial and economic crisis and cope with the increasing demand on their resources. The recommendations are addressed to the EU countries, which bear primary responsibility for health care.

**IMPORTANT KEY POINTS**

The memo recommends:

* Strengthen the **effectiveness of services** through performance monitoring results to develop a holistic approach so that treatments are not only inpatient and to ensure patient safety and quality of care.
* **Improve accessibility** so that health care is open to the entire population. This can be achieved through better planning in the use of human resources and more effective use of medicines. Similarly, EU legislation on patient mobility can make it possible to be treated in a country other than one's own.
* **Improve resilience** so that health systems can adapt to a changing environment, identify innovative approaches, and take greater and more effective advantage of information and other technologies.

**BACKGROUND**

The recommendations were agreed upon after extensive research on accessibility to and effectiveness of health care systems and hospital reforms. These studies confirmed:

* That **health interventions are complex** and can only be adequately evaluated over time;
* That **early detection of** colorectal, cervical, and breast cancer through public [screening programs](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:c11505d) **can improve health outcomes**;
* That **the way health systems are organized and managed** can have a critical impact on the accessibility of health care.

More information can be found on the website of the European Commission's [Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety.](http://ec.europa.eu/health/systems_performance_assessment/health_systems_organisation/index_de.htm)

Last update: 03.11.2014

**Benefiting from European research and innovation**

This European Commission Communication on Research and Innovation as Conditions for Future Growth identifies ways to increase the impact of the research and innovation (R&I) sector, which is of great importance in strengthening future growth in Europe. The focus is on how EU countries can improve the quality of investments in this area. It also emphasizes that Europe's growth opportunities arise from the development of new products and services, and that Europe is so well positioned to seize these opportunities.

**LAW**

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Research and Innovation: Conditions for Future Growth ([COM(2014) 339 final,](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:52014DC0339) 10.6.2014 - not published in the Official Journal).

**SUMMARY**

In light of the [Europe 2020 strategy](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:em0028) and recent [annual growth reports,](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/annual-growth-surveys/index_de.htm) the Communication recommends that governments should prioritize growth-enhancing spending, such as on R&I - even as they seek to reduce their government deficits and debt (fiscal consolidation).

These investments therefore need to be embedded in **reforms of R&I systems** to increase the quality, efficiency and impact of R&I spending. The Communication emphasizes the need to achieve a greater leverage effect of public R&I spending on business investment. Thus, R&I reforms should be tailored for each EU country.

EU countries should focus on the following three key reform paths:

* 1.

**Increasing the quality of strategy development and policymaking:** for example, developing an overarching R&I strategy with strategic orientation at the highest political level while focusing on a few key strengths and opportunities (smart specialization);

* 2.

**Improve program quality, pool resources, and funding mechanisms:** for example, focus national R&I programs more on societal challenges and solutions to citizens' concerns; allocate funds competitively; make R&I programs relevant and accessible to businesses;

* 3.

**Optimizing the quality of public research and innovation institutions:** for example, encouraging institutions that receive public R&D funding to be more entrepreneurial and to seek new opportunities and partnerships, including outside Europe, and to recruit the best possible researchers.

To help EU countries successfully implement R&I reforms, the Commission is drawing on experience from the [Innovation Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:em0041) flagship initiative and the [European Research Area,](http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm) and using resources made available under [Horizon 2020.](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=uriserv:2701_4)

According to the Communication, successful innovation depends not only on the quality of public policies, but also on innovation-friendly framework conditions. While the EU can claim some successes in the area of R&I, such as the launch of the Innovation Union, further efforts are needed, such as deepening the internal market, strengthening the innovation capacity of the public sector, facilitating access to funding, enhancing the skills of the workforce, and promoting "frontier research" (i.e., research in new and emerging interdisciplinary research areas combined with unconventional approaches).

Last updated: 23.09.2014

**Driving entrepreneurship among SMEs in Europe - COSME program**

**SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT:**

[Regulation (EU) No. 1287/2013 - Establishment of a Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) Program (2014-20).](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32013R1287)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS REGULATION?**

The regulation establishes a European Union (EU) program to strengthen support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by improving the conditions in which entrepreneurship can thrive.

**IMPORTANT KEY POINTS**

* SMEs are **key to growth and employment** in the EU. The Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ([COSME](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cosme_de)) program makes it easier for SMEs to remain competitive by providing access to finance and markets, simplifying legislation and promoting entrepreneurship.
* COSME provides a **direct communication channel** between European SMEs and the [European Commission](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_commission.html).

**Better economic conditions**

* COSME supports measures to **improve SMEs' access to finance**, both in the start-up and growth phases. Financial instruments include equity and the loan guarantee facility. In some cases, these can be used in conjunction with national financial instruments for regional policies and the [Horizon 2020 program](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/horizon_2020.html) for research and innovation.
* The program also provides **better access to markets inside and outside the EU.** The program provides information on the following topics:
  + existing business opportunities,
  + Market access barriers in areas outside the EU,
  + Advice on legal practice and customs procedures.
* Support services are also provided in the area of **intellectual property rights**, including supporting cross-border partnerships in the areas of business cooperation, technology, research and development, transfer and innovation.

**Promote competition**

* In order to maintain the competitiveness and sustainability of businesses, the program envisages **improving** the **design and implementation of** existing policies relating to SMEs. In addition, **cross-border cooperation is** to be strengthened and the **development of products, services and technologies is** to be promoted.
* SMEs are also encouraged to act in an **environmentally sustainable manner** and demonstrate **corporate social responsibility.**

**An entrepreneurial culture**

* The program also focuses on promoting entrepreneurship. The aim is to create an entrepreneurial culture in the EU **by removing barriers that** make it difficult for small companies to grow and reducing the regulatory burden that already exists for SMEs.
* Special attention is paid to **young female entrepreneurs** as well as other special target groups such as **older people and entrepreneurs from socially disadvantaged groups.**

**Funding**

The program has a budget of EUR 2.3 billion over seven years and runs from 2014 to 2020, managed by the [Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises](https://ec.europa.eu/easme/).

**WHEN DOES THE REGULATION COME INTO FORCE?**

It entered into force on December 23, 2013.

**BACKGROUND**

Further information:

* [COSME program](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/cosme_de) (*European Commission*).

**MAIN DOCUMENT**

Regulation (EU) No. [1287/2013 of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32013R1287) the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing a Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) Programme (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No. 1639/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 33-49).

Last update: 01.03.2018

**Taxation of payments of interest and royalties between associated companies**

**SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT:**

[Directive 2003/49/EC - common system of taxation applicable to interest and royalty payments made between associated companies of different EU countries](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32003L0049)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DIRECTIVE?**

The purpose is to provide for fair taxation of payments between associated companies\* in different EU countries, while avoiding double taxation between EU countries. It applies to:

* Interest\*;
* Royalties\*

**IMPORTANT KEY POINTS**

The purpose of this directive is to eliminate taxes that are levied in the EU source country and at the same time in the EU recipient country.

The main objective is therefore to ensure that payments are taxed exclusively in one country (double taxation).

Income accrued in an EU country in the form of interest or royalties is exempt from all taxes leviable on it in that country, provided that the beneficial owner\* of the interest or royalties:

* a company from another EU country\*
* or is a permanent establishment\* located in another EU country.

The **Annex to** the Directive includes a **list of types of companies to** which the Directive applies. The Directive has been amended to take into account the types of companies in the countries that joined the EU in 2004, 2007 and 2013.

If an associated company or permanent establishment pays too much tax on interest and royalties in an EU country other than its own, it must apply for a **refund.** The country must refund the excess tax withheld within one year of proper receipt of the request and such justifying information as it may reasonably require from the company or permanent establishment. If the refund of the tax withheld is not made within this period, the enterprise or permanent establishment shall be entitled to interest on the tax (after the expiration of this year). The interest shall be calculated in accordance with the national interest rate applicable in comparable cases under the national law of the country concerned.

This Directive does not preclude the application of national provisions or the provisions of double taxation treaties necessary to **prevent fraud and abuse.** EU countries may withdraw the legal benefit of, or refuse to apply, this Directive in respect of transactions where the principal motive or one of the principal motives is tax evasion, avoidance or abuse.

Certain countries benefited for a time from **transitional arrangements** under which the application of this Directive was postponed.

The [International Tax Documentation Office conducted](http://www.ibfd.org/) a [study](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/resources/documents/common/publications/studies/survey_ir_dir.pdf) on the implementation of the Directive on behalf of the [European Commission in](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_commission.html) 2006, and the Commission published its own [report on its](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:52009DC0179) functioning in 2009. In 2011, the Commission adopted a [proposal for](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:52011PC0714) a [recast of](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/legislation_recasting.html) the Directive with the aim of broadening its scope and avoiding situations where tax relief is granted but the corresponding income is not effectively taxed (double non-taxation).

**WHEN DOES THE DIRECTIVE COME INTO FORCE?**

The directive came into force on June 26, 2003 and had to be transposed into national law by the EU countries by January 1, 2004 at the latest.

**BACKGROUND**

Further information:

* [Taxation of cross-border interest and royalty payments in the EU](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/business/company-tax/taxation-crossborder-interest-royalty-payments-eu-union_de) (*European Commission*).

**KEY TERMS**

**Interest:** income from debt claims of any kind, even if the claims are secured by liens on real property or carry a participation in the debtor's profits. This includes income from public bonds and from bonds (long-term bonds that yield a fixed interest rate, are subscribed by a company and are secured by assets), and related premiums and gains on lot bonds. Surcharges for late payment are not considered interest.

**Royalties:** Remuneration of any kind paid for the use of, or for the right to use, copyrights in literary, artistic, or scientific works, including:

* cinematographic films and software,
* of patents,
* Brands,
* Patterns or models,
* Plans,
* secret formulas or procedures or for the communication of industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

Payments for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment are considered royalties.

**Affiliated companies:** 2 companies are considered to be affiliated companies:

* if one company directly holds at least 25% of the capital of the other company, or
* if a third company directly holds at least 25% of the capital of each of the two companies.

**Beneficial owner:** entity that receives payments for its own benefit and not merely as an intermediary, such as an agent, trustee or representative for another person.

Permanent establishments are treated as beneficial owners if the payments are specifically related to the permanent establishment.

**Company from another EU country:** this company must meet the following 3 criteria:

* it is incorporated under the laws of an EU country (i.e. its registered office, central administration or principal place of business is located in the EU and its activities have a real and continuous link with the economy of that country);
* it is established in this EU country;
* it is subject to corporate income tax.

**Permanent establishment:** fixed place of business in a Member State through which an undertaking of another Member State carries out all or part of its economic activity.

**MAIN DOCUMENT**

Council [Directive 2003/49/EC of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32003L0049) 3 June 2003 on a common system of taxation applicable to interest and royalty payments made between associated companies of different Member States (OJ L 157, 26.6.2003, p. 49-54).

Subsequent amendments and corrections to Directive 2003/49/EC have been incorporated into the basic text. This [consolidated version is for](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:02003L0049-20130701) information purposes only.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Proposal for a Council Directive on a common system of taxation applicable to interest and royalty payments made between associated companies of different Member States ([COM(2011) 714 final).](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:52011PC0714) , 11.11.2011)

Last updated: 04.07.2018

**Air traffic management: Order and use of airspace in the Single European Sky**

**SUMMARY OF DOCUMENT:**

[Regulation (EC) No. 551/2004 - Organisation and use of airspace in the Single European Sky ("Airspace Regulation")](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32004R0551)

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE REGULATION?**

* The regulation is part of a package of air traffic management legislation designed to create a single European sky under Regulation (EC) No [549/2004](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=celex:32004R0549) (see [summary](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:l24020)) to ensure optimal use of European airspace, which would have a positive impact in terms of flight delays and in the face of increasing air traffic.
* The Regulation was amended by Regulation (EC) No [1070/2009 with](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32009R1070) regard to the plan to complement the responsibilities of the [European Aviation Safety Agency with](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:4359400) air traffic management safety. This amendment allows the [European Commission to](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/glossary/european_commission.html) update the measures due to technical or operational developments and to establish basic criteria and procedures for performing certain network management functions.

**IMPORTANT KEY POINTS**

**Creation of the Single European Sky**

The goals are:

* Provide tools to manage fluctuations in air traffic capacity;
* Enhancing safety: ensuring that a consistent level of safety is maintained in air traffic control systems and procedures in all EU countries;
* Reducing fragmentation in the provision of air traffic services: different national approaches to air traffic management and its organization lead to inconsistencies and deficiencies that have a negative impact on the single market in air transport;
* Better integration of the military sector into the air traffic control organization.
* Promoting the introduction of new technologies.

**Network management and design**

To support initiatives at the national level as well as at the functional airspace block level, the air traffic management network functions allow for optimal airspace utilization and ensure that airspace users can conduct air traffic on preferred flight paths, while maximizing access to airspace and air navigation services.

**Flexible use of airspace**

Coordination between civil and military agencies will be improved, particularly with regard to the allocation and efficient use of airspace for military purposes, including the principles and criteria applicable thereto, especially the opening of military airspace to civil flights.

**WHEN DOES THE REGULATION COME INTO FORCE?**

The regulation entered into force on April 20, 2004.

**BACKGROUND**

See also:

* [Single European Sky](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/ses_en) (*European Commission*).

**MAIN DOCUMENT**

Regulation (EC) No [551/2004 of](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32004R0551) the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2004 on the organisation and use of the airspace in the Single European Sky (the airspace Regulation) (OJ L 96, 31.3.2004, p. 20-25).

Subsequent amendments to Regulation (EC) No 551/2004 have been inserted in the original text. This [consolidated version is for](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:02004R0551-20091204) documentary purposes only.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Regulation (EU) [2018/1139](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=celex:32018R1139) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 on common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Union Aviation Safety Agency, and amending Regulations (EC) No. 2111/2005, (EC) No. 1008/2008, (EU) No. 996/2010, (EU) No. 376/2014 and Directives 2014/30/EU and 2014/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Regulations (EC) No. 552/2004 and (EC) No. 216/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3922/91 (OJ L 212, 22.8.2018, p. 1-122).

See [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:32018R1139R%2801%29).

Regulation (EC) No [549/2004 of](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/TXT/?uri=celex:32004R0549) the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 March 2004 laying down the framework for the creation of the Single European Sky (the framework Regulation) (OJ L 96, 31.3.2004, p. 1-9).

See [consolidated version](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/DE/AUTO/?uri=celex:02004R0549-20091204). Last update: 08.05.2020