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Thematic searches for European Union Law

1. Introduction

By way of introduction, I would like to tell you that with this information note you will acquire the necessary digital skills to be able to carry out thematic searches on European Union law.

It should be noted that the scope of the thematic search can be narrowed down according to the type of documents of interest (treaties, legal acts, case law, etc.).

I will use as an example a search for "all documents" related to "European Citizenship".

2. Access to the website "Advanced Search - EUROPE".

The first step is to type into the Google search engine of your computer "Eurlex advanced search" and then select the "search with Google" icon. In the new window that opens on your computer, choose the option "Advanced search - EUROPE".



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3. Choose the collection or collections where you want to carry out the thematic search.

In the new window that opens, the second step is that, in the left-hand column, you look for "Collection" and you will have two possible options.

The first option is to select "All documents" with the cursor, which will take a few seconds. We could also choose, if we wish, only one collection, for example, "Jurisprudence".

The second option would be to select "Choose several collections". In this case, we could choose several collections at the same time, e.g. Treaties, Legal Acts and Jurisprudence.

We will follow the first option, leaving the cursor bar on "All documents" and click on the "Search" icon.

4. Choose the topic to search for

You are still on the "Advanced Search" website. In the left-hand column, look for the "Topic" section. Click on the "plus" icon in the EuroVoc Thesaurus table and click on the search icon. In the EuroVoc Thesaurus drop-down that opens, we also have two options.

The simplest option is that in the search box at the top, type "European citizenship" and click on the "Filter" icon.

The most complex option is that, in the left-hand column, you choose options until you reach "European Citizenship" and click on the "Select" icon.

I recommend always trying the simplest option first.

5. Conduct the thematic search

For either of the two possible options, you return to the Advanced Search Web. As a fourth step, I invite you to check that "European citizenship" is written in the EuroVoc Thesaurus box. If so, click on the search icon in the top right-hand corner.

6. The search results

As a result of the search, in this fifth and final step, a list appears in descending chronological order with all the documents searched for.

In each document found, in the bottom right-hand corner you have the icons for the "pdf" and "HTML" formats, which allow us to access the text in English.

The full title of each document is a link to its full text. If you select it, you can consult the text of this document in all 24 official languages.

7. Final summary

Summarising the steps we have followed, remember that:

1st) In the Google browser, type "Eurlex advanced search". Choose the option: "Advanced search - EUROPE";

2º) In the left-hand column, in the "Collection" drop-down menu, place the cursor on "all documents";

3º) In the left column, look for the "Topic" section and click on the plus icon in the EuroVoc Thesaurus table. In the "EuroVoc Thesaurus" drop-down menu, type "European Citizenship" in the box and click on the "Filter" icon;

4º) Again in the Advanced Search Web, check that "European Citizenship" appears in "EuroVoc Thesaurus" and click on the search icon;

5º) You can consult the documents you are looking for in English, in pdf or HTML format. If you click on the title of a document, you can choose between the 24 official languages of the European Union, in two different formats. In the English column (headed by "EN"), choose the pdf format.

