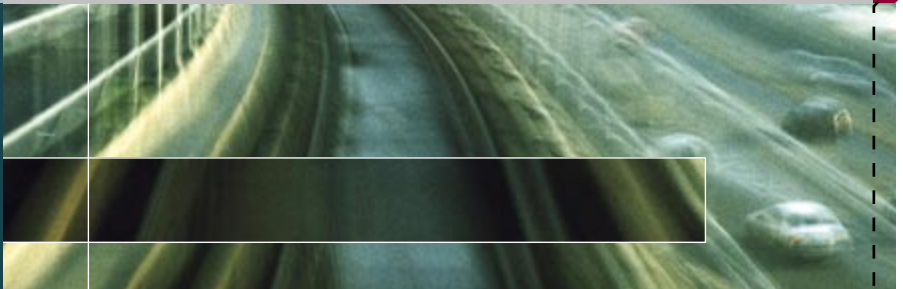



The EU Information Centre of the Danish Folketing

INFORMATION





The EU Information Centre - an overview

What has the EU got to do with summer time? Which countries use the euro? Can I travel to Germany without my passport? When will there next be a new EU treaty? What does COSAC mean? How are EU decisions made and what are the consequences for Denmark?

Many citizens have difficulty fully understanding what happens in the EU and how and where they can get a proper answer to their questions.

To that end the Folketing has set up an EU Information Centre which can answer citizens' questions. Forming part of the Folketing's EU Secretariat, the EU Information Centre offers an impartial service above party politics. Its task is to answer citizens' questions about all EU related matters. Fast, impartial, factual and, not least, free of charge.

The EU Information Centre can access Danish and international sources of information about the EU. We form part of a network linked to Danish government departments and agencies, the European Commission and the European Parliament. Which is why we can answer questions from the population about all aspects of EU cooperation.

FACT BOX

The EU Information Centre of the Folketing was established in April 1994, aimed at improving citizens' access to information about the EU. The EU Information Centre is open to everyone, and no prior knowledge of the EU is needed before you grab the phone, pencil or sit down at the keyboard. The EU Information Centre employs five information officers, a secretary and a number of students.



The day-to-day running of the EU Information Centre is based on the principle of:

***"The best information
is what you request yourself"***

That's why the EU Information Centre provides a telephone hotline giving citizens direct access to the Centre for guidance and answers to their questions.

You can ring, write, fax or mail questions to the EU Information Centre. You may also call on the EU Information Centre to ask questions, collect free informative material or get help with finding information about the EU on the Internet.

EU INFORMATION CENTRE OPENING HOURS

**Monday-Friday
10.00 - 16.00 hours**

Contact information

CONTACT THE EU INFORMATION CENTRE

The Folketing EU Information Centre
Christiansborg
DK-1240 København K
Tel.: (+ 45) 3337 3337
Fax: (+ 45) 3337 3330
E-mail: euopl@folketinget.dk
Web: www.eu-oplysningen.dk or
www.euo.dk



The EU Information Centre visitors counter is located in the Folketing, Provanthuset, room PRO B. Photo: Finn Christoffersen.



In addition to answering questions the EU Information Centre produces various publications about the EU aimed at explaining European issues. Publications from the EU Information Centre are used in connection with answering enquiries, but can also be ordered direct from the EU Information Centre website. Requested material is posted free of charge.

FACT BOX

The EU Information Centre forms part of the Folketing's EU Secretariat which consists of four permanent units:

1. The secretariat of the European Affairs Committee manages secretarial, clerical and administrative matters in relation to the European Affairs Committee.
2. The EU Adviser and his staff, including the special adviser to the standing committees, manage analytical tasks relating to EU matters.
3. The Folketing representative in Brussels reports on the work in the European Parliament and Commission and other EU institutions, for instance by publishing Info-notes.
4. The EU Information Centre manages the provision of external impartial and factual information about the EU and the proceedings in the Committee on European Affairs regarding EU matters.

Staff in the four units collaborate in horizontal groups to ensure the highest possible professional standards.

EU Information Centre publications



EU FACTS

A brief account by the Information Centre of EU related topics, written in a language which is easily accessible.



EU BACKGROUND

A more detailed account by the Information Centre of EU related topics or issues.



Booklets

A series of publications produced by the EU Adviser of the Folketing about important EU topics aimed at users seeking more in-depth information about particular European issues.



Questions & answers

The EU Information Centre compiles frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers about various topics from its telephone hotline.

Web portal to the EU - the website of the EU Information Centre

Our homepage acts as a portal to relevant information about and from the EU on the Internet. The website uses only Open Source software.

The Information Centre website serves to facilitate citizens' access to EU information by presenting the wide range of EU information presently available on the Internet. The website takes as its starting point the Danish debates and decisions on EU matters, including work in the European Affairs Committee of the Folketing.

Information from the EU's own databases and websites has been included to give users a complete overview of current EU information and documentation. The website also includes relevant material from various organizations, other EU websites etc.

The EU Information Centre website contains over 35,000 documents, adding a further 100 documents every day. In addition to information material about the EU you can find EU documentation and legislation, documents from the European Affairs Committee of the Folketing and a collection of over 1000 commented links to relevant web pages about the European Union.

At present over 3000 people visit the website every day, making the EU Information Centre website the most frequently visited EU homepage in Denmark.

Contents

- **Current affairs**
- **About the EU**
- **Denmark and the EU**
- **Documents**
- **EU portal**
- **Calendar**
- **Legal texts**
- **Press service**
- **Policies**
- **Questions & answers**

Current affairs

Shortcut to special topics pages about current affairs such as the Schengen agreement, EU enlargement etc.

About the EU

Here, you will find information material compiled by the Information Centre about the structure, decision-making processes, institutions and member states of the EU.

Denmark and the EU

Denmark and the EU is the place for relevant information about the Danish EU decision-making process and the debates and decisions of the Folketing concerning EU matters.

Documents

Here, you will find relevant information and documentation about the EU sorted according to document type, e.g. green and white papers, Council documents etc.

Icons



Glossary

Definitions of over 125 different EU terms.



Euro rates of exchange

Here you can see the current euro rate against Danish Kroner and US Dollars.



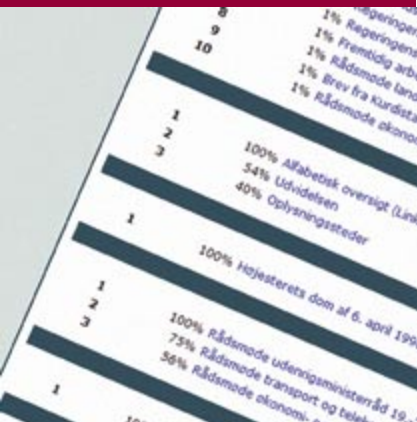
Order

You can order selected documents which are posted free of charge to your home address.



Profile

Set up your personal starting page - you choose specific topics and document types and may then see the result at any time by visiting the front page of the website. There is also the option of receiving the EU Information Centre news bulletin with its overview of the most recent documents on EU-Oplysningen.dk every day by e-mail.



SØG

Search the database

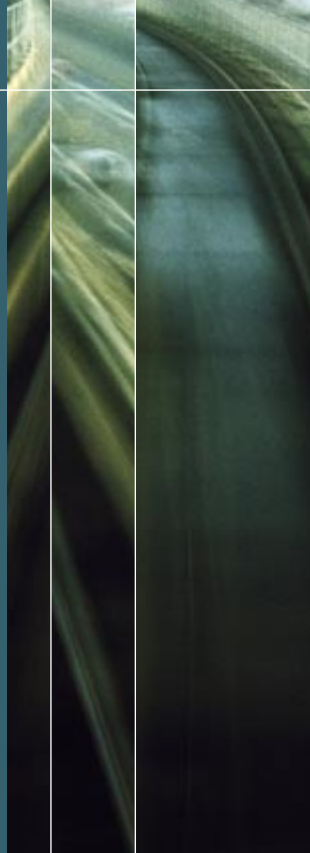
You may search for documents using the search function, offering both simple and advanced searches. Simple searches are based on a free-text search of the website content which is indexed daily. Documents uploaded to the website in the previous 24 hours will thus not be included in the search. The search result will be shown in the main categories under which the documents are classified.

By contrast, the website's advanced search facility is a database search enabling users to search very accurately in fields of the EU Information Centre database as well as the most recent documents. Furthermore, it is possible to decide yourself how the results should be displayed.

Special websites

In connection with special EU activities such as the Danish EU presidency and the European Convention on the Future of Europe, the EU Information Centre will set up special websites where you can find documents and facts about a specific topic. The sites also offer the opportunity to participate in Internet-based debates about the EU.

The EU Information Centre websites are also available in simplified English versions which give access to selected documents. As with the Danish versions, the English versions allow you to put questions to the Information Centre.



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