

## **Blog Post Submission Guidelines (revised Spring 2016)**

Thank you for your interest in submitting a post to the European Law Blog! Please be advised of the following guidelines prior to drafting your post.

Our blog aims to deliver 'bite-sized' analyses of current developments in EU law that are short and light enough to be read and digested during a coffee break. In order to achieve this goal, all blog posts should meet three criteria: (1) they must be *interesting* to readers of [europeanlawblog.eu](http://europeanlawblog.eu); (2) they must be *well-written*; and (3) they must be *well-researched*.

'Interesting' means timely, relevant, and contextual. We strive to inform our readers about interesting current developments in the field of EU law. This extends to topics including (but not limited to) Court of Justice and General Court cases, European legislation, international treaties involving the EU, European law scholarship, and EU politics. In particular, we aim to contextualize 'micro-level' developments in EU law and scholarship within the framework of 'macro-level' issues in EU legal studies, such as proportionality, federalism, the rule of law, institutional integrity, and so on. By doing so, we hope to make our posts relevant and comprehensible to the broadest possible audience, and avoid posts that focus too narrowly on issues that are of interest only to a minority of lawyers or legal scholars.

'Well-written' means, of course, that posts must be syntactically and grammatically correct. But it also means that they should strive to be easy to read, accessible, fun, and to the point. To the extent possible, posts should avoid opaque legal language and should attempt to be evocative as well as informative. This means that we encourage opinionated posts that will inspire our readers to comment and debate, though we will not tolerate mean-spirited or offensive material.

Also remember that blog posts are not case notes: the ideal post for our blog will be between 1000 and 1500 words (although they may be longer for particularly interesting cases, or shorter for brief points of interest). We know that some authors (particularly those from the academic world!) may find it difficult to keep to these limits. As mentioned above, a post should be short and light enough to read and digest during a coffee break. If a case or piece of legislation is so interesting that it cannot possibly be described in less than 3000 words, then it might merit separate posts.

'Well-researched' means that we require our posts to be factually accurate. Posts should include links to relevant sources, should be precise in their discussion of legal material, and should demonstrate that the author has a command of the debates in the relevant field. Because we aim to emphasize connections to 'macro-level' context, authors should strive to link frequently and broadly.

Contributors should also be aware of several additional rules:

- Posts may not include marketing-related links or be entirely self-promoting;
- Posts must be original and must not have already been published elsewhere;
- We do not, as a rule, publish anonymous posts. If, however, you can make a good argument for why your name should be withheld, we will consider your request.

All posts and comments submitted to the blog will be reviewed prior to publication. We reserve the right to approve, edit, or reject any posts.

### **Editorial guidelines**

In an attempt to standardize some often encountered phenomena, in addition to the above please observe the following editorial guidelines:

- Choose the most relevant category or categories for your post and list them at the bottom of the word file. Please consult with the editors if you believe a new category is appropriate for your post.
- The author has to formulate tags (i.e. keywords) for his/her posts (e.g. when the post is about a judgment of the Court: the case-number is a tag, the name of the case as well). Look at other posts for examples. Please list tags at the bottom of the word file.
- The title of your post should be short. The font used on the blog does not allow for extensive titles.
- Only the first paragraph of your post (up to around 200 words) will normally be visible on the homepage of europeanlawblog.eu. Please make sure the first part of your post is appealing enough to convince the reader to click on the “Continue reading” button.
- Give short names where appropriate (e.g. ‘...the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)...’)
- We prefer active over passive voice: (not ‘It was held by the Court that’ but rather ‘The Court held’).
- Try to create a ‘flow’ in your post by using words like ‘therefore’, ‘hence’, ‘notwithstanding’, ‘nevertheless’, ‘also’, ‘however’, ‘in addition’, which connect the various sections and make it much easier to read.
- Be advised that writing in another language might involve translating legal terminology. Be as clear as you can about what a legal term means under national law means (e.g. “Under Dutch law a ‘bezwaarprocedure’ involves...”).
- References and abbreviations should be as follows:
  - Either ‘CJEU’ or ‘the Court’ when referring to the Luxembourg court;

- When citing European legislation, please use the short title and insert a hyperlink to the full text (e.g. "[Regulation \(EC\) No 44/2001](#)" and "[Directive 2004/48/EC](#)");
- Spell Article as 'Article' (so not 'article', 'art.', 'Art.' or 'articles');
- Cite the various parts of an Article reference in descending order in parentheses and not separated by commas or spaces (e.g. Article 5(3)(c) of Regulation.);
- Unnumbered parts of a reference are written out in full and usually precede the numbered part (e.g. Article 2 and the second paragraph of Article 3 provide that...)

## **Procedure**

In order to make sure that your post is online as quickly as possible we advise you to do the following:

1. Contact the editors by sending an email to [info@europeanlawblog.eu](mailto:info@europeanlawblog.eu) to express your interest in submitting a post. This serves two purposes: firstly, to avoid multiple posts on the same topic, and secondly, to assess at a preliminary stage whether the post subject would be fitting material for the readers of the blog.
2. Email your post **in word format** to one of the editors. This will facilitate editing and allow us to give you feedback and comments.
3. After the review process, the editors will publish your post on the blog!

***The Editors***