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Legal aid

National information and online forms concerning Directive 2003/8/EC

General information

[Council Directive 2003/8/EC](#) of 27 January 2003 to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes seeks to promote the application of legal aid in cross-border disputes for persons who lack sufficient resources where aid is necessary to secure effective access to justice.

The Directive applies between all Member States of the European Union with the exception of Denmark. Between Denmark and certain Member States the European Agreement on the Transmission of Applications for Legal Aid of 1977 applies.

Transmitting authorities are competent to send applications. Receiving authorities are competent to receive applications.

The directive provides for two standard forms, one for legal aid applications and one for the transmission of legal aid applications.

The European e-Justice Portal provides you with information concerning the application of the Directive and a user-friendly tool for filling in the [forms](#).

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

Related links

[Commission Decision of 9 November 2004](#) establishing a form for legal aid applications under Council Directive 2003/8/EC to improve access to justice in cross-border disputes by establishing minimum common rules relating to legal aid for such disputes

[Commission Decision of 26 August 2005](#) establishing a form for the transmission of legal aid applications under Council Directive 2003/8/EC

[ARCHIVED European Judicial ATLAS website \(closed on 30 September 2017\)](#)

FINDING COMPETENT COURTS/AUTHORITIES

The search tool below will help you to identify court(s)/authority(ies) competent for a specific European legal instrument. Please note that although every effort has been made to ascertain the accuracy of the results, there may be some exceptional cases concerning the determination of competence that are not necessarily covered.

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