

[Home](#) > ... > [Taking Legal Action](#) > [European Judicial Atlas In Civil Matters](#) > [Serving Documents \(recast\)](#) France

Serving documents (recast)

France



France

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.

Article 3(1) - Transmitting agencies

The transmitting agencies in France are the judicial commissioners (new name given to bailiffs as of 1 July 2022) and the court registries.

Article 3(2) - Receiving agencies

The receiving agencies in France are the judicial commissioners.

Article 3(4)(c) - Means of receipt of documents

Receipt can be by: post.

Article 3(4)(d) - Languages that may be used for the completion of the standard form set out in Annex I

France will accept the standard request form in Annex I if it is completed in French or in one of the following languages: English, German, Italian or Spanish.

Article 4 - Central body

The central body is the Department for mutual assistance, private international law and EU law (*Département de l'entraide, du droit international privé et européen - DEDIPE*).

Address:

Ministère de la Justice (Ministry of Justice)

Direction des Affaires Civiles et du Sceau (Civil Affairs and Seals Directorate)

Département de l'entraide, du droit international privé et européen (Department for mutual assistance, private international law and EU law)

13, place Vendôme

F-75042 Paris Cedex 01, FRANCE

Tel.: +33 1 44 77 61 05

Email: entraide-notifications.dacs@justice.gouv.fr

Languages: French and English.

Article 7 – Assistance in address enquiries

France does not have a competent authority to search for an address (Article 7(1)(a)) or in a population register (Article 7(1)(b)).

Pursuant to Article 7(1)(c), applicants are invited to consult the following information websites:

- For searches for a private individual's address:

- public service

Website: <https://www.service-public.fr/>

- telephone directory

Website: <https://annuairepagesblanches.org/>

- For searches for a company's address:

- Infogreffe

Website: <https://www.infogreffe.fr/>

- INPI

Website: <https://www.inpi.fr/>

For documents instituting proceedings and enforcement orders, applicants may also consult the competent judicial commissioners for the court of appeal in which the addressee had their last known domicile.

All information on judicial commissioners can be obtained from the National Chamber of Judicial Commissioners:

Tel.: +33 1 49 70 12 90

Email: cnhj@huissier-justice.fr

Website: <http://www.huissier-justice.fr/>

Pursuant to Article 7(2)(c), France does not designate authorities to which requests for address searches are made.

Article 8 – Transmission of documents

France will accept the standard request form A in Annex I if it is completed in French or in one of the following languages: English, German, Italian or Spanish.

Article 12 – Refusal to accept a document

Not applicable

Article 13 – Date of service

French law does not, in general, prescribe a time limit within which judgments must be served.

However, judgments rendered in absentia or judgments deemed to be contradictory are null and void if they have not been notified within six months of their date (Article 478 of the Code of Civil Procedure). If necessary, the procedure may be relaunched with a new summons if the proceedings are not time-barred.

Article 14 – Certificate of service and copy of the document served

France will accept the standard request form K in Annex I if it is completed in French or in one of the following languages: English, German, Italian or Spanish.

Article 15 – Costs of service

The fixed fee for service by a judicial commissioner is EUR 48.85. This amount must be paid directly into the bank account of the judicial commissioner to whom the case has been referred. This fee must be paid when the documents are submitted, unless the applicant is receiving legal aid. The judicial commissioner will upon request provide the bank details of the account into which the fee has to be paid.

For documents to be served in the overseas departments and collectivities, pursuant to [Article A444-10 of the Commercial Code](#), the fee is increased as follows:

1. by 30% for the Wallis and Futuna Islands, Saint Pierre and Miquelon and Mayotte (i.e. EUR 63.51);
2. by 29% in the departments of Guadeloupe and Martinique (i.e. EUR 63.02);
3. by 27% in the department of Guyane (i.e. EUR 62.04);
4. by 37% in the department of La Réunion (i.e. EUR 66.92).

Article 17 – Service by diplomatic agents or consular officers

France is opposed to another Member State serving judicial documents on French territory through consular or diplomatic channels unless the person to be served with the document is a national of that Member State.

Article 19 – Electronic service

National law does not allow the service of a document simply by email, however, pursuant to Article 19(2), France will accept electronic service subject to the following additional conditions:

- the procedure used must guarantee the reliability of the identification of the parties to the electronic communication, the integrity of the documents addressed, the security and confidentiality of the exchanges, the storage of the transmissions made and definitively establish the date of dispatch and the date of making available or the date of receipt by the recipient (Article 748-6 of the Code of Civil Procedure);
- in order to be valid, the document of service must state the addressee's consent to electronic service (Article 662-1 of the Code of Civil Procedure) and the date and time at which the addressee of the document became aware of it (Article 663 of the Code of Civil Procedure).

Article 20 – Direct service

France is not opposed to direct service as provided for in Article 20(1). Such direct service shall be authorised where it is carried out by the judicial commissioners and the court registries, where that task is expressly entrusted to them by national law.

Article 22 – Defendant not entering an appearance

Where a document instituting proceedings or an equivalent document has had to be transmitted to another Member State for the purpose of service under this Regulation and the defendant has not appeared, judgment shall not be given until the conditions laid down in paragraph 1 are met.

Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, a French judge may give judgment if all the conditions laid down in paragraph 2 are met.

Article 29 – Relationship with agreements or arrangements between Member States

Convention of 1 March 1954 on civil procedure

Convention of 15 November 1965 on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters

Agreement between France and Germany to facilitate the application of the Hague Convention of 1 March 1954 on civil procedure, signed on 6 May 1961

Convention on mutual judicial assistance in civil and commercial matters between France and Belgium of 1 March 1956, as amended by the Exchange of Letters of 23 and 30 August 1960

Agreement of 5 April 1967 between the Government of the Republic of France and the Government of the People's Republic of Poland to facilitate the application of the Hague Convention of 1 March 1954 on civil procedure

Convention of 2 February 1922 to facilitate formalities in proceedings between persons residing in France and in the United Kingdom

Agreement between the Republic of France and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to facilitate the application of the Hague Convention of 1 March 1954 on civil procedure, signed in Belgrade on 29 October 1969

Convention between the Republic of France and the Socialist Republic of Romania on Legal Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters, signed in Paris on 5 November 1974

Convention on Legal Assistance and Cooperation between the Republic of France and the Republic of Austria supplementary to the Hague Convention of 1 March 1954 on civil procedure, signed in Vienna on 27 February 1979

Convention on Legal Assistance in Civil and Family Matters, on the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments between the Republic of France and the People's Republic of Hungary, signed in Budapest on 31 July 1980

Convention between the Government of the Republic of France and Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on Legal Assistance and the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil, Family and Commercial Matters, signed on 10 May 1984

Convention on Legal Assistance in Civil Matters between the Government of the Republic of France and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, signed in Sofia on 18 January 1989

Article 33(2) - Notification on the early use of the decentralised IT-system

Not available

■ Last update: 19/11/2024

The national language version of this page is maintained by the respective Member State. The translations have been done by the European Commission service. Possible changes introduced in the original by the competent national authority may not be yet reflected in the translations. The European Commission accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to any information or data contained or referred to in this document. Please refer to the legal notice to see copyright rules for the Member State responsible for this page.