

[Home](#) > ... > [Taking Legal Action](#) > [Where and How](#) > Which country's law applies?

## Which country's law applies?

When you are involved in litigation in a case where not all the facts of the case are connected with the same country, there is a need to establish the law which will be applied by the court in making a decision on the substance of the matter.

As international trade and travel expand, so too does the risk that a company or an individual might be involved in a dispute having an international element. The international element could be because the parties are of different nationality or that they reside in different countries or that they have entered into a contract concerning a transaction taking place abroad.

In the event of a dispute, it is not enough to determine which court has international [jurisdiction](#) to hear and determine the case; it also has to be established which law will be applicable to determine the substance of the matter.

Finally, if a foreign law is applicable to a case, the content of that foreign law needs to be established with as much legal certainty as possible. To help the court, the parties and their lawyers, an international convention has established a cooperation between its contracting States (all EU countries have ratified this Convention except Ireland) : the [European Convention of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1968 on Information on Foreign Law](#). See the [CoE webpage](#) on the European Convention on Information of Foreign Law and its Additional Protocol.

The [European Judicial Network in civil an commercial matters](#) (EJN-civil) may also assist the courts and judicial authorities in finding the content of foreign law, through the [information on national law](#) provided by the EJN-civil factsheets or the assistance of EJN-civil contact points.

Finally, the [factsheet on National Legislation](#) can be consulted for an overview of the various sources of law in the different Member States.

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

---

Last update: 03/06/2025

This page is maintained by the European Commission. The information on this page does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission. The 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 with regard to copyright rules for European pages.