Law

Law is a system of rules created and enforced by public institutions. Law is a major determining factor of society that shapes the political, economic and social environment and essentially contributes to social peace. Therefore, it is crucial for every citizen to be informed about the applicable law.

The European Union (EU) and its Member States are founded on the rule of law, the principle of democracy, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. This means that the law is above everyone and applies to everyone, and that it is adopted under a democratic procedure. Any acts and decisions taken by the state and/or its public authorities have to be in line with its law. In particular, the law guarantees the citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms.

Each of the EU Member States has its own law, legal system and constitutional requirements and procedures for the adoption of law. In addition, all Member States are bound by the law of the European Union and by international law.

Please consult relevant subpages to find more information on:

- The law of the European Union,
- The law of its Member States, and
- International law

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.

Last update: 07/02/2018