

## **Blog Post Submission Guidelines (revised May 2021)**

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 or lunch 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, (if possible) 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.

The ideal length of a post for our blog ranges **between 1500 and 2500 words** (although they may be longer for particularly interesting cases or legal developments, 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 or lunch 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 or a submission to a law journal.

**‘Well-researched’** means that we require our posts to be factually and legally 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.

In addition, contributors should 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 the style and lay-out of our contributions, in addition to the above, **please observe the following editorial guidelines:**

- Please choose the most relevant **topic** 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 topic is appropriate for your post.
- The author also has to propose a number of **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, as well as legislation or EU Treaty provisions interpreted by the Court). Please list tags at the bottom of the word file.
- The title of your post should be relatively short and attractive.
- A contribution should be structured logically, and always contain an introduction and a conclusion.
- 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.
- Please give short names where appropriate; just make sure to introduce the abbreviations properly (e.g. '...the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)...').
- Please use British English spelling (including, e.g., also single quotation marks) if you chose to write in English. We also accept submissions in German and French.
- Please avoid abbreviations such as 'don't' or 'can't'.
- We prefer active over passive voice (e.g. 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. Please also insert subheadings to visually structure your text.

- Case names (e.g. *Schrems II*) and terms in another language should be put in italics (e.g. *‘Rechtsgut’*).
- Be advised that writing in another language than your own 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:
  - **‘CJEU’** refers to the Institution ‘Court of Justice of the European Union’ (including the Court of Justice AND the General Court); the **‘ECJ’** or **‘the Court’** refers to the Court of Justice as the principal court of the CJEU.
  - Whenever possible, please give preference to a **hyperlink** (as it is more reader-friendly in a blog post) and avoid footnotes. Footnotes should, ideally, be limited to a minimum.
  - When analysing or referring to a judgment or other document, please add a reference to the relevant paragraph(s) (‘para.’, ‘paras’) or page(s) (‘p.’) between round brackets. This will help the reader easily retrieve the information should he/she wish.
  - When you cite, please add (single) quotation marks. Long quotes (three or more lines) should preferably be presented with an indent.
  - When citing European legislation, please insert a hyperlink to the full text when you first mention the legal instrument and introduce a short title and (e.g. Regulation (EC) No 44/2001 and Directive 2004/48/EC).
  - References to legal provisions:
    - Please write Article in full, as ‘Article’ (so not ‘article’, ‘art.’, ‘Art.’ or ‘articles’).
    - Please refer to the various parts of an Article 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** (instead of pdf) to the above email address. This will facilitate editing and allow us to give you feedback and comments.
3. Please provide us with a short **bio pen** when you send us the final version of your contribution.
4. After the review process, the editors will publish your post on the blog! Your publication will also be announced on **Twitter** and **LinkedIn**. Please provide us with your **twitter handle**, and inform us whether you are registered on LinkedIn if you would like to be tagged in our post.
5. Should there be any comments on your contribution, you will be kindly invited to react to them.
6. Should you wish to republish your contribution elsewhere, this is possible. We would kindly ask you to mention the initial publication on the ELB and add an appropriate hyperlink.

***The Editors***