Catalog of useful links for business in the European Union

1 | Translation and language help

Need help with understanding websites that do not exist in your language? Lost in EU terminology? Check the list below for available terminology and translation resources put online by the EU.

IATE (Interactive Terminology for Europe)

IATE is the EU's terminology database. It has been used in the EU institutions and agencies since summer 2004 for the collection, dissemination and management of EU-specific terminology. The project was launched in 1999 with the aim of providing a web-based infrastructure for all EU terminology resources, enhancing the availability and standardisation of the information.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130628032755/http://iate.europa.eu/iatediff/switchLang.do?success=mainPage&lang=en

Assistance in translating and compiling documents in the EU language

Online dictionaries, glossaries, clear writing campaigns, style guides, language recognition tools, special character sets and more.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130707075412/http://ec.europa.eu/translation/english/guidelines/en_guidelines_en.htm

Online dictionaries

Online term banks, glossaries and dictionaries, mainly including other languages to English and vice versa.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130703013231/http://ec.europa.eu/translation/english/english_en.htm

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EU glossary

Terms explaining EU institutions and activities. The multilingual glossary is regularly updated to include all changes brought about by recent reforms.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130623002656/http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/glossary/
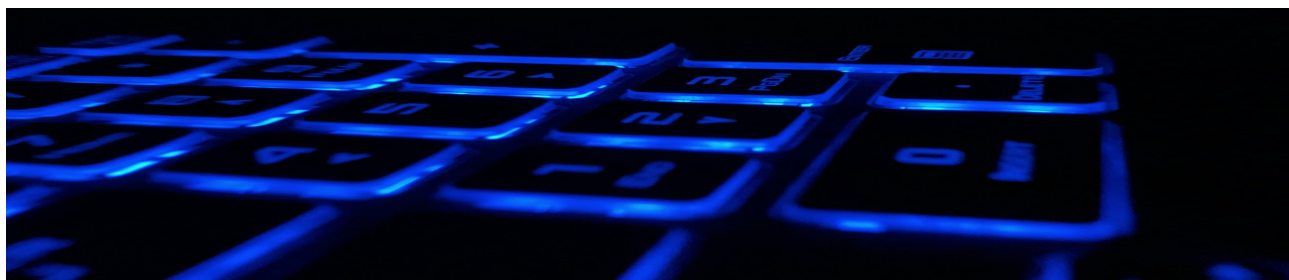
Glossary of businesses and industries

Terms and definitions relating to the corporate policy of the EU and its various industrial sectors.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130622033627/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/glossary/index_en.htm

Main EU abbreviations and acronyms

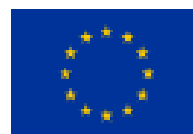https://web.archive.org/web/20130520100917/http://publications.europa.eu/code/en/en-5000400.htm

Contact points and support services

If you need more specific support for your business's needs, turn to the following services. There are local and European-wide networks and business contacts, as well as support services to provide you with the help you need.

European Union (EU)

The EU is an economic and political association of 27 European states. The European Union was created by the Maastricht Treaty of 1992, which entered into force on November 1, 1993, on the basis of the European Economic Community and aimed at regional integration.

https://european-union.europa.eu/index_en

European Commission

The European Commission is the highest executive body of the European Union, responsible for preparing bills, implementing decisions of the European Parliament and the Council, monitoring compliance with EU treaties and other legal acts, and the current

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affairs of the union.
https://ec.europa.eu/

European Small Business Portal

EUROPEAN SMALL BUSINESS PORTAL

European Commission

EU market rules

3

Taking business beyond national borders means entering new markets and increasing the number of potential customers and business opportunities. But the set of rules that need to be applied is also increasing.

European Commission
The EU Single Market

Questions on Single Market Legislation
This website helps stakeholders, SMEs, trade associations and public organisations, find questions about legislative acts recently finalised by the European Commission in the area of the Single Market. You can see answers to questions previously asked or submit new questions about these legislative acts.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130707043348/http://ec.europa.eu/yqol/index.cfm

Business environment
A favourable business environment is a precondition for the growth and prosperity of SMEs. The EU is working to cut down red tape and to harmonise rules, such as those relating to company law, contract law, accounting and public procurement.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130729002223/http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/top_layer/business-environment/index_en.htm

European Contract Law
An overview of EU measures to make contract law across Europe more coherent for easier cross-border transactions.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130719222619/http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/cons_int/safe_shop/fair_bus_pract/cont_law/index_en.htm

Company taxation
Information on EU initiatives to achieve a certain degree of harmonisation of direct corporate taxes, particularly in cross-border situations: background information, access to legislation, publications and events.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130625075443/http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/company_tax/gen_overview/index_en.htm

Taxation and SMEs
See the results of a study analysing how tax systems affect small businesses. The study identifies tax obstacles for the re-investment of earnings and formulates proposals for solutions.

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https://web.archive.org/web/20130712001205/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/business-environment/taxation-smes/index_en.htm

Paying taxes
The rules on direct and indirect taxation relevant to enterprises in the EU.
Information on the national aspects of this issue can be accessed via the right-hand navigation.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130727001015/http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/managing-business/paying-taxes/index_en.htm

VAT
Overview of EU legislation, key documents and useful information on value added tax (VAT).
https://web.archive.org/web/20130723004420/http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/vat/index_en.htm

VAT invoicing rules update (2013)
As from 1 January 2013, a directive on VAT invoicing establishes equal treatment between paper and electronic invoices, and allows freedom of choice regarding the invoicing method. The new rules aim to make life easier for small firms by removing burdens and barriers, and to promote the uptake of e-invoicing.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130626122446/http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/vat/traders/invoicing_rules/index_en.htm#second

Accounting systems for small enterprises
The EU is working to improve the accounting systems of small firms to help them provide stakeholders with relevant financial information, without at the same time overburdening small firms.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130729085849/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/business-environment/accounting/index_en.htm

Keeping the accounts
The EU is working towards greater transparency and comparability of financial statements provided by companies. This page informs on existing standards and initiatives to make these rules easier.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130716093105/http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/managing-business/keeping-accounts/index_en.htm

Fit for the euro
A guide to help small firms prepare for the switchover to the euro and reap the benefits of the single currency.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130727123053/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?lang=en&tpa_id=0&item_id=2039

The euro
All about the EU's single currency.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130630124059/http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/euro/index_en.htm

Fighting late payments
The European Commission is organising the European late payment information campaign to show how the EU is equipping business with the tools to combat late payments between businesses and between businesses and public authorities, and to provide information.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130709005440/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/fighting-late-payments/late-payment-campaign/

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Single Market Act

In the wake of the financial crisis, the Commission adopted a number of measures to boost the European economy and encourage job creation. This 'Single Market Act' will simplify life for small firms, and help them take advantage of the Internal Market, as well as improving their access to finance.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130623000006/http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/smact/index_en.htm

Free movement of goods

These web pages give an overview of the opportunities offered by the free movement of goods on the European Single Market and the rules that apply.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130707155001/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/index_en.htm

Cross-border outstanding claims project

This project aims to support SMEs that operate across borders by facilitating cross-border debt recovery, and to improve the use, understanding and awareness of the available legal instruments.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130609045933/http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/

TRIS (Technical Regulations Information System)

TRIS is a system for Member States to inform other Member States and the Commission of draft technical regulations concerning products and information society services before they are adopted, to prevent the creation of unjustified barriers between Member States.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130716193639/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tris/index_en.htm

"Taxes in Europe - Tax reforms" databases (TEDB/TAXREF)

The "Taxes in Europe - Tax reforms" databases provide information on the main taxes in force in the EU Member States as well as on the reforms in Personal income tax, Corporate income taxes, VAT, EU harmonised excise duties and Social security contributions.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130723004409/http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/taxation/gen_info/info_docs/tax_inventory/index_en.htm

Free movement of services

An overview of the opportunities the free movement of services on the European Single Market provides and the rules that apply.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130810221528/http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/top_layer/services/index_en.htm

Profiting from the EU market

How can you take full advantage of the Single Market and exploit its potential to boost your business? Information is available on selling goods, providing services, competing fairly and benefiting from private contracts. Further pages contain extensive information on the situation in the different Member States.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130719221316/http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/profiting-from-eu-market/index_en.htm

Enterprise Europe Network

Help and advice for small firms in EU matters, including accessing markets both within the EU and beyond and applying for funding – the Enterprise Europe Network offers personal support through a network of local contact points. An online database also provides B2B contacts and information on funding.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130621174618/http://een.ec.europa.eu/

Your Europe - Business portal

Looking for business opportunities in another EU country? For each step in the life-cycle of a business from its creation to the decision to stop, the Your Europe - Business portal provides information on procedures and opportunities in all EU countries as well as on relevant EU action.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130715103225/http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/index_en.htm

Video on Your Europe - Business portal

Your Europe-Business portal offers extensive information for European small businesses that wish to do business in another EU country.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130622192452/http://www.youtube.com/user/eutube#p/a/u/1/GPYlny1GnJQ

SOLVIT - on-line problem solving network

Facing problems of exercising your rights in Europe by the misapplication of Internal Market law by public authorities? SOLVIT is there to help you - and it is committed to providing real solutions within ten weeks.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130621154719/http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/site/index_en.htm

EURES - European job mobility portal

EURES is a key portal for the recruitment needs of SMEs: enterprises can use it to advertise vacancies, search online CVs and benefit from the job-matching services of its network of advisors.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130615121033/https://ec.europa.eu/eures/home.jsp?lang=en

European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN)

EBN is an umbrella organisation bringing together over 200 Business and Innovation Centres (BICs), the aim of which is to support the creation of new businesses and to develop activities in existing SMEs.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130622175446/http://www.ebn.be/

European e-Business Support Network Portal (eBSN)

Information on e-business policy, statistics about the take-up of e-business among European small firms, examples of best practice, news, announcements, articles and more.

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https://web.archive.org/web/20130621145513/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/ict/ebsn/index_en.htm

Intellectual property rights (IPR) helpdesk
This free-of-charge service provides users with answers to questions related to intellectual property through an email helpline as well as online resources.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130527191312/http://www.iprhelpdesk.eu/

China IPR SME helpdesk
This helpdesk provides free information, advice and training for European small firms to help them protect and enforce their intellectual property rights in China.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130623085841/http://www.china-iprhelpdesk.eu/

National REACH/CLP helpdesks
National helpdesks providing advice and support for businesses on issues regarding the REACH chemical directive and CLP (classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals) regulations.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130406195349/http://echa.europa.eu/bg/support/helpdesks/national-helpdesks

SMEs in research - national contact points
Guidance and support for small firms interested in the opportunities offered by EU funding for research - a list of national contacts in the EU and elsewhere.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130407025619/http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm?pg=ncp

Research Enquiry Service
Any questions about European research? Struggling to find your way around the Research Framework Programme? Get in touch with experts and ask your questions directly via the online mail form.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130311172920/http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=enquiries

European Business and Technology Centre in India
The Centre assists the business, science and research community in Europe and India, generating new business opportunities and technology transfer as well as promoting European clean technologies in India.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130321062907/http://www.ebtc.eu/

Business support

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There is a wide support network to help and inform small businesses locally and European-wide. Find more information on the national services via the right-hand navigation.
https://web.archive.org/web/20131212171838/http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/index_en.htm

The Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency (BSMEPA)

The Bulgarian Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion Agency (BSMEPA) is an administrative structure with the Minister of Economy, which implements the state policy for promoting entrepreneurship, development and internationalization

https://www.b2bconnect.bg/en/pages/about-us

4 Standards

Standards are necessary to ensure that products and services are suitable, proportionate and compatible for their intended use.

European standards
Standardisation makes international trade, competition and the acceptance of innovations by markets easier. Bringing added value for SMEs remains among the biggest challenges in this field.
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/index_en.htm

Legislation on European standards
An overview of European harmonised standards and how they are used for technical harmonisation of product requirements within the Single Market. Includes a comprehensive list of all harmonised standards.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130719072152/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/european-standards/harmonised-standards/index_en.htm

Standardisation and SMEs
Standards reduce the technical barriers to trade and thus facilitate SMEs' access to the Single Market - the EU Commission is making sure that small firms' needs are addressed in the standardisation process.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130714024738/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/market-access/standardisation/index_en.htm

CEN-CENELEC SME Helpdesk

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Член на Търговско-Промишлена Палата Стара Загора   **E-mail:** temperilogistics.bg@gmail.com
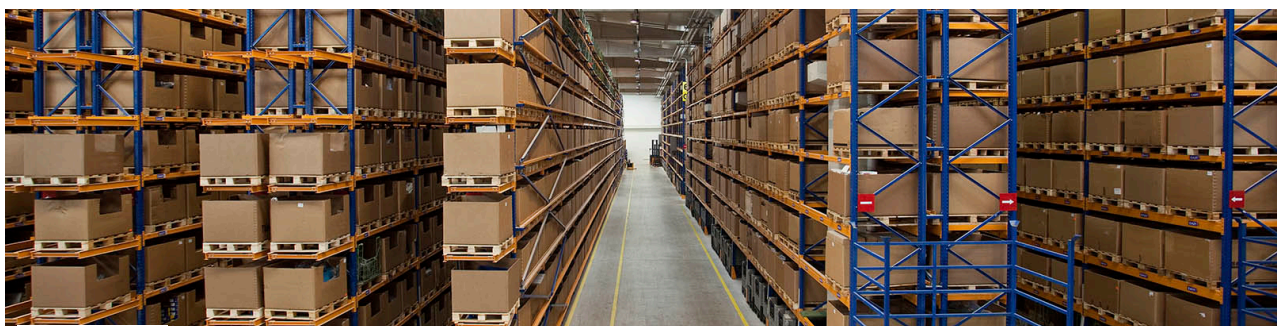**Chamber of Commerce and Industry Stara Zagora member**

A help and support centre for small businesses in the field of standardization.
https://www.cencenelec.eu/get-involved/small-and-medium-enterprises-smes/smes-and-standards/

International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an international standard-setting body composed of representatives from various national standards organizations. ISO is an independent, non-governmental organization made up of members from the national standards bodies of 165 countries.
https://www.iso.org/about-us.html

5

Manufacturing rules

Pre-packaging and units of measurement

These web pages provide information on EU regulations concerning products and packaging materials, measuring instruments and units of measurement.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130709181747/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/legal-metrology-and-prepack/index_en.htm

REACH - Dealing with chemicals

EU rules for the chemical industry known as the REACH package require companies to register and provide information on the chemicals they use, in order to minimise health and environmental hazards.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130622000335/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/reach/index_en.htm

National REACH/CLP helpdesks

National helpdesks providing advice and support for businesses on issues regarding the REACH chemical directive and CLP (classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals) regulations.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130809033252/http://echa.europa.eu/bg/support/helpdesks/national-helpdesks

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6 Dealing with consumers

Financial Dispute Resolution Network (FIN-NET)
FIN-NET helps consumers resolve cross-border complaints in the area of financial services by providing a mechanism that allows them to contact an out-of-court complaint scheme.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130712035629/http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/fin-net/index_en.htm

Consumer protection
An overview of the EU's consumer policy including information of interest to SMEs, such as the EU Directives on distance selling and on unfair commercial practices and a compendium of EU consumer law.
https://web.archive.org/web/20130712001205/http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/index_en.htm

Liability for defective products
Extensive consumer rights in the EU concerning product safety and compensation for damage caused by defective products are essential for producers to know.

https://web.archive.org/web/20130730131648/http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/product-liability/index_en.htm

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