

Transnational Access to Legal Information Document Identification Standards for Case Law

ENRICO FRANCESCONI*, GINEVRA PERUGINELLI**

ABSTRACT: The recent evolution in web technologies and their increasing impact in social life are giving a growing importance to legal information that plays a central role within the public sector information. Identifiers of legal resources are the fundamental building block for the implementation of an infrastructure that can guarantee interoperability among legal resources.

Keywords: Legal informatics, Standards and identification of legislation and case law, Access to law, Transnational access to legal information.

I. The context

In recent years, the provision of legal information has changed greatly, in connection with the evolution of ICT and in particular thanks to the development of legal informatics.

Legislation, regulations, case law, administrative decisions, contracts, tax information, judicial proceedings are often available in electronic format: the Internet already includes many legal sources and in many areas of law has become the main source of information for lawyers and citizens. Furthermore, Internet is not just the information source of data on relevant legal facts of the real world, it is also a virtual place where legally relevant events find their specific and unique location¹.

The accessibility of law, case law and doctrine in the European Union (EU) Member States is essential for international business and harmonization of EU law². In particular in Europe lawyers require more knowledge about

* Publications Office of the European Union (Luxembourg) and Institute of Legal Information Theory and Techniques of CNR (ITTIG–CNR), Florence, Italy.
enrico.francesconi@publications.europa.eu; francesconi@ittig.cnr.it

** Institute of Legal Information Theory and Techniques of CNR (ITTIG–CNR), Florence, Italy.
peruginelli@ittig.cnr.it

1. *LegislativeXML in the Semantic Web. Principles, Models, Standards for Document Management*, a cura di G. Sartor, M. Palmirani, E. Francesconi, M. Biasiotti, Springer, London New York 2011.

2. COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, *Communication from the Commission of 12 February 2003 to the European Parliament and the Council— A more coherent European contract law— An action plan*,