

01. URL structure

Rules

All Commission websites must be hosted on europa.eu, according to [Europa domain and subdomains rules](#).

In addition:

- URLs must always be lower case (to avoid incompatibility between Unix and Windows, respectively case-sensitive and case-insensitive)
- URLs must always be in English, even when they contain a page in another language (see also *Language indicator*)
- multiple words contained in a URL must be separated by a dash/hyphen (-), though the underscore (_) is also accepted
- URLs must not contain chained multiple words (e. g. *europeancommission* is wrong, *european-commission* is correct)
- URLs must not contain acronyms, as they are not understood by a broader audience. Exceptions can only be granted for existing URLs already approved in the past.

4th level domains in ec.europa.eu

Executive agencies of the European Commission and Commission websites with specific technical requirements (such as secured and cloud hosting) can have their own fourth level domain name within the third level domain ec.europa.eu.

Language Indicator

Translated pages must have exactly the same URL of the original page, with the addition of suffix at the end of the page name.

For example:

ec.europa.eu/info/my-page points to the English page
ec.europa.eu/info/my-page_en English page
ec.europa.eu/info/my-page_de German page
ec.europa.eu/info/my-page_sl Slovenian page

The permitted suffixes for Eu-languages are the following (taken from [alpha-3/ISO 639-2 Code](#))

Bulgarian: bg
Spanish: es
Czech: cs
Danish: da
German: de
Estonian: et
Greek: el
English: en
French: fr
Gaelic: ga
Italian: it
Latvian: lv
Lithuanian: lt
Croatian: hr
Hungarian: hu
Maltese: mt
Dutch: nl
Polish: pl
Portuguese: pt
Romanian: ro
Slovakia: sk
Slovenian: sl
Finland: fi
Swedish: sv

When listing the available languages, Spanish comes directly after Bulgarian (because of *castillian spanish*). Nevertheless the prefix is _es and not _cs

For non-EU languages, the following suffixes must be used:

Arabic: ar
Chinese (simplified): zh-hans
Chinese (traditional): zh-hant

For other languages, see the file [DGT-languages](#)

Printing URLs

In case you need to print or advertise or publish URLs, always use lower case (e. g. ec.europa.eu and not Ec.europa.eu nor EC.EUROPA.EU)

Drupal Instances

Urls containing the *node* keyword should rewrite to the human-readable version of the url. For example:
ec.europa.eu/drupalInstance/folder1/node_en ec.europa.eu/drupalInstance/folder1/title-of-the-page_en

Guidelines

- if possible, avoid using [stopwords](#) (e. g. "and", "or", "but"...) in URLs

Procedure

Please see:

- [Request procedure for domains and sites names - Restricted](#)
- [Request procedure for revamps and new websites - Restricted](#)

Contact and support

If you require further assistance, please contact:

[Comm Europa Management](#)

European Commission
DG Communication
Unit B.3
Europa Web Communication