

# Newsletter

## ECLI Has Already Been Introduced into the National Case Law Portal



### In this issue

This is the second issue of the ECLI-BG project newsletter. In this issue we present the successful completion of one of the main tasks in the project work plan, namely the implementation of the European Identifier for Case law – ECLI, within the national portal for case law maintained by the Supreme Judicial Council – CUBIPSA. We also publish brief information for the International Conference dedicated to ECLI and other open standards for legal documents in Europe.

The European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) has already been introduced into the national case law portal: <https://legalacts.justice.bg/>, created and maintained by the Supreme Judicial Council. The portal is also known by the abbreviation CUBIPSA, which stands for a Centralised web based interface for the publication of judicial acts.

Each of the over 2 million judicial acts published in the portal has been assigned an ECLI number generated under the rules of Chapter 7 of [Ordinance No. 4](#) of the SJC of 16.03.2017 on the keeping, maintenance and access to the register of judicial acts, which defines the national format of ECLI is defined. The ECLI number is also generated for each new court decision, which is submitted for publication in the CUBIPSA.

Additional information on the formation of a Bulgarian ECLI number can be found in the presentation of the ECLI-BG Project manager Mr. Hristo Konstantinov presented on the International Conference on ECLI and Other Open Standards for Legal Documents held in Sofia on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2018. The presentation is published on the website of the ECLI-BG Project in the "Documents" section. In connection with the introduction of ECLI, the following additional functional-

ties of the portal have been developed:

- **Search by ECLI number** – in the Quick Search and Advanced Search form is added a field in which the user can enter the ECLI number of a specific judicial act;

- **Search by an incomplete ECLI number** – the user can enter only a part of the ECLI number components. The search result will be a list of all legal acts whose ECLI number contains the user inputs;

*Example:* search of ECLI:BG:AD703:2016:201507 will return a list of all acts from 2016 of Administrative Court Blagoevgrad on cases filed in 2015.

- **Visualisation of the ECLI number** in the list of metadata of the court decision;

- **Referencing to the published act via URI (Uniform Resource Identifier)** – the user can easily create a link to the webpages containing metadata for the judicial acts in CUBIPSA using the Uniform Resource Identifier by adding the ECLI number of the act to the web address of the Portal

*Example:*

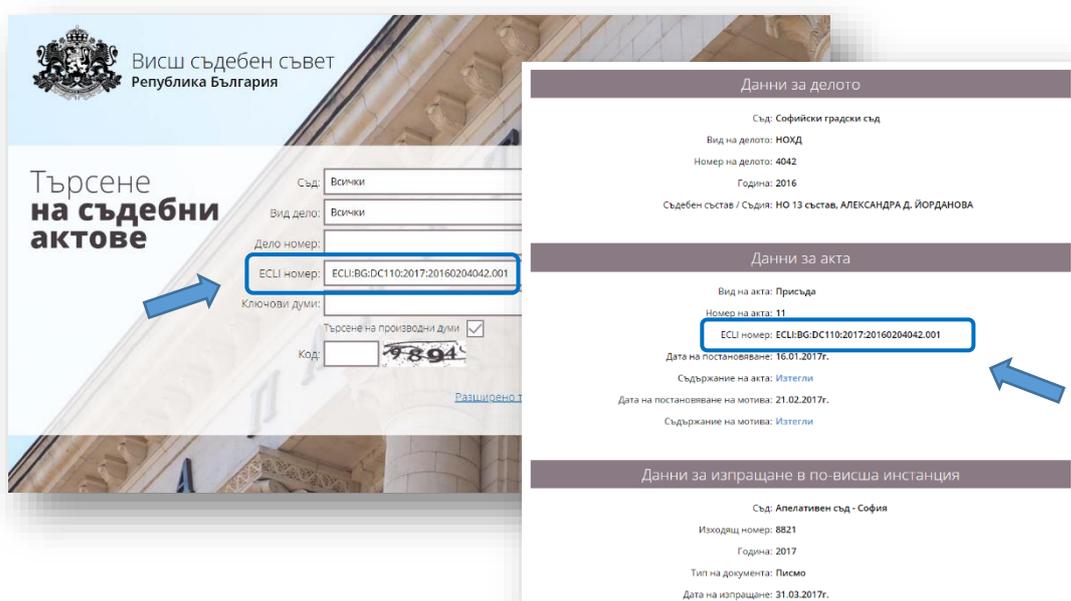
<https://legalacts.justice.bg/ECLI:BG:DC110:2017:20160204042.001>



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Висш съдебен съвет  
 Република България

Търсене на съдебни актове

Съд: Всички  
 Вид дело: Всички  
 Дело номер: [ ]  
 ЕCLI номер: ECLI:BG:DC110:2017:20160204042.001  
 Ключови думи: [ ]  
 Търсене на производни думи:   
 Код: 7894

Разширено

Данни за делото

Съд: Софийски градски съд  
 Вид на делото: НОХД  
 Номер на делото: 4042  
 Година: 2016  
 Съдебен състав / Съдия: НО 13 състав, АЛЕКСАНДРА Д. ЙОРДАНОВА

Данни за акта

Вид на акта: Присъда  
 Номер на акта: 11  
 ЕCLI номер: ECLI:BG:DC110:2017:20160204042.001  
 Дата на постановяване: 16.01.2017г.  
 Съдържание на акта: Истегли  
 Дата на постановяване на мотива: 21.02.2017г.  
 Съдържание на мотива: Истегли

Данни за изпращане в по-висша инстанция

Съд: Апелативен съд - София  
 Ищодащ номер: 8821  
 Година: 2017  
 Тип на документа: Писмо  
 Дата на изпращане: 31.03.2017г.

# Minister Tsatcheva Opened the ECLI-BG International Conference

More than 130 experts in the law and IT field participated in the “The European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) and the introduction of open standards for legal documents in Europe” international conference which was held in Sofia and was organized by the partners carrying out the ECLI-BG Project –The Union of Bulgarian Jurists and “Apis Europe” JSC.

The Minister of Justice of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mrs. Tsetska Tsatcheva, was a special guest at the International Conference on “The European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) and the introduction of open standards for legal documents in Europe” held in Sofia on 24 April.

“For every legal practitioner, knowledge on the substance and application of European Union law cannot be solely acquired from EU legal sources”, said Minister Tsatcheva in her speech at the opening of the conference. – “We must undoubtedly have access to case law of national courts.

However, the search for and knowledge of the judgments of other Member States is seriously hampered by the differences in national standards across countries and there are still a lot of differences in the

rules for referring to case-law in the technical fields describing the characteristics of a judgment. Thanks to the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI), finding relevant case law has greatly facilitated and shortened the time to find it.”

Minister Tsatcheva wished successful implementation of the project and highly appreciated the support provided by the Supreme Judicial Council for its realisation.

Welcome speech on behalf of the Supreme Judicial Council delivered the Representative member of the SJC Boyan Magdalintchev.

In the work process of the forum a number of influential international experts in the field



of legal informatics took place - Marc van Opijnen an Adviser Legal Informatics at Publications Office of the Netherlands and manager of the recently concluded BO-ECLI Project, John Dann Director of the Central Legislative Service of Luxembourg and head of the ELI Working Group, Carmen Malagón, Head of Sector Budget and Interoperability, Official Journal and Case Law and Monica Palmirani an associate professor of Computer Science and Law at Bologna University, School of Law, Italy.

Whit much interest was met the presentation of Mr. John Dann and Mrs. Carmen Malagón who presented the European Legal Identifier – ELI, which is already implemented in 12 EU Member States.

The presentations of the speakers can be found on the ECLI-BG website in the “Documents” section.

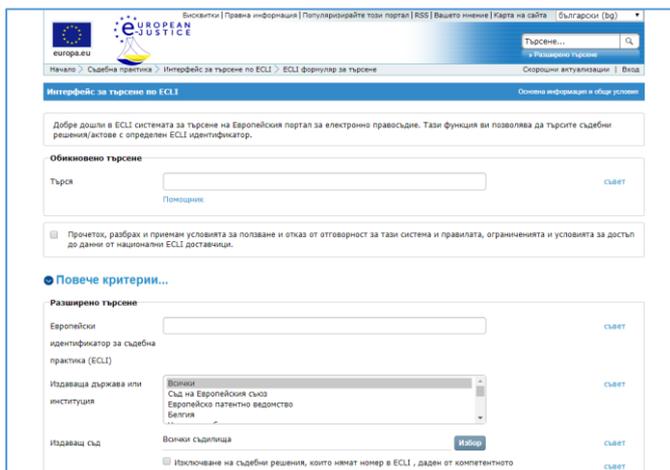


## The Establishment of Interconnection with the ECLI Search Engine in the e-Justice Portal Has Started

Since the end of May this year the establishment of interconnection between the national case law portal, known as CUBIPSA, maintained by the Supreme Judicial Council, and the [ECLI Search Engine](#) in the e-Justice portal. The interconnection between the portals is being established via the Integration module. Its task is to ensure daily generation of valid structures of Sitemap files which contain the metadata of the regularly published in CUBIPSA Portal judicial acts in ECLI-XML format as well as robots.txt file with instructions which point to this structure.

The file structure created in this way is used by the crawler of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, which maintains the e-Justice portal, for the indexation of the case law and the publishing of their metadata in the ECLI Search Engine.

At present moment, performance tests of the Integration module are performed. To this end, around ten thousand judicial acts in ECLI-XML format are sent to the crawler of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers.



It is expected, that the tests of the Integration module will be concluded by the end of June or the beginning of July this year after which the actual exploitation of the module will start.

At that point, the Bulgarian case law will be available for the European jurists who will be able to use it via the ECLI Search Engine available at the European e-Justice Portal.

## Upcoming ECLI-BG Project Events

### UBJ and Apis to organise 28 ECLI Seminars in the Country

The ECLI-BG project partners - “Apis Europe” JSC and The Union of Bulgarian Jurists, will organise during this year’s autumn training seminars for working with ECLI in all district courts of the country. Besides the additional functionalities of the CUBIPSA portal which were developed in connection to the implementation of ECLI and the search option provided by the ECLI Search Engine in the e-Justice portal, the seminars’ curriculum will include presentation of other online legal information services and resources created with the support and financing of the EU, such as N-Lex, JURE, Dec.Nat, JuriFast, eTranslation and others.

### Results of the ECLI-BG Project will be Discussed on a Round Table

The results of the ECLI-BG project will be presented at a round table discussion. The discussion will take place in the end of October or the first half of November in Sofia, was announced by The Union of Bulgarian Jurists. Invitations for participation will be send to leading experts in the field of law, IT and e-Justice, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and in-house lawyers as well as experts from the public administration.