

LAW & DATA

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SOURCES OF LAW

HARD LAW

binding legal provisions
which can be legally enforced
before a court

SOFT LAW

contents
(agreements, principles,
declarations, statements, etc.)
which are **not legally binding**

usually cannot be enforced by a
party before a court,
but can be used by a judge to
interpret hard law



Examples of **SOURCES OF LAW**

- Treaties / Conventions
- Legislation (Constitution, acts, laws, statutes, regulations, codes, etc.)
- Case-law
- Public and Private Policies
- Doctrine
- Fundamental/General Principles of Law
- Customary Law

HIERARCHY

OF THE SOURCES OF LAW



WHAT IS

the EUROPEAN UNION?



DIFFERENCES

COUNCIL OF EUROPE - CoE -

Continental level

46 Member States

Institutions
(European Court of Human Rights)

Strasbourg (France)

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION - EFTA -

Regional trade organisation

Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein,
Switzerland

Free trade area

Participation in the Schengen
Area

Geneva (Switzerland)
Bruxelles + Luxembourg

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA - EEA -

EU MS + EFTA MS
(no Switzerland)

Defined by an international
agreement (1994) within which
the EU single market basic rules
apply

Participation in the European
Single Market

Geographical area

