



European Journal of Legal Studies

Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement

1. Editorial Board

The European Journal of Legal Studies (EJLS) is a double-blind peer-reviewed, open-access online journal founded in 2007 and managed by LL.M. and Ph.D. researchers of the Department of Law of the European University Institute. EJLS is governed by an Editorial Board composed of Editors who simultaneously act as Reviewers of the Journal. The EJLS Editorial Board is supported by a Departmental Advisory Board composed of four professors of the Department of Law of the European University Institute (EUI). The EJLS is also supported by doctoral researchers of the EUI Department of Political and Social Sciences acting as external reviewers. The full names of the Editors and their affiliation are public and available at the following link: <http://ejls.eu/board/>.

The Editorial Board is located at the Law Department of the European University Institute in Florence:

European Journal of Legal Studies
c/o EUI, Law Department,
Villa Salviati, Via Bolognese 156,
50139 Florence – Italy

2. Peer-review Process

The EJLS has a rigorous and transparent editorial policy to ensure contributions meet the highest academic standards. The article review procedure is guided by the principles of impartiality and anonymity, with each article subjected to a double-blind peer-review.

Submissions are first screened by the EJLS' Managing Editors, who notify authors within three days from submission as to whether their work has been passed on for peer-review, or rejected. The screening by the Managing Editors assesses whether the article corresponds to the subject matter of the EJLS, whether the length of the article does not exceed the maximum word count and whether it meets the minimum standards of academic writing and publishing. Moreover, the screening also verifies the presence of a research question and legal claim or argument. If an article is rejected at the screening stage, the author will be notified about the grounds of such rejection.



If the article is passed on for peer-review, it will be anonymized by the Managing Editors and forwarded to the Heads of Section who assign the paper to a Review Committee made up of two internal reviewers with specific competence in the subject matter covered by the article under review. When there are no available internal reviewers within the Editorial Board with expertise in the subject matter of the article, one or both internal reviewers may be replaced with external reviewers who are experts in the field. The Review Committee then has 2 weeks to evaluate the quality of the article and submit a written report to the Editorial Board, recommending either publication without changes, publication subject to suggested changes or the rejection of the contribution. To ease and standardise the review process, reviewers are provided with a template that guides them throughout the evaluation of the article concerned with precise questions and a grading scale. The entire review process, from submission to final decision, should take no longer than one month, unless special circumstances, such as the search for an external reviewer, require it.

After peer-review, authors are informed of the status of their submission and, depending on the assessment of the article, may be presented with a list of suggestions for improvement or with the reasons for its rejection. The Managing Editors will liaise with the author to secure anonymity, and provide any assistance the author may require in finalising the article for publication. The author will be given a specified time-frame by the responsible Managing Editor in which to make changes before resubmission, including changes related to citation style. As a general guideline, this should be no more than one month from receipt of the decision, unless a deadline for extension is explicitly required by the author and approved by the Managing Editors.

After being accepted for publication, the articles are forwarded to the Executive Editors, who are responsible for proof-reading, editing and formatting all articles that successfully pass the review process. At this stage of the publication process, authors may be requested to correct substantive errors, to implement further editorial changes and/or to submit their article to professional proof-reading and language correction by a native speaker, before the submission will be published.

3. Duties of Editors and Reviewers

- **Publication decision:** The outcome of the double-blind peer-review process determines whether a submission will be published as an article in the EJLS. The decision-making and publication process is committed to the values of freedom of expression, pluralism, independence, integrity, and responsibility. The



outcomes of editorial decisions are communicated to authors in a transparent fashion.

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 - (a) originality
 - (b) quality of argument;
 - (c) legal and factual accuracy;
 - (d) topicality;
 - (e) structure and style of writing; and
 - (f) adequate referencing of the article.

Reviewers also actively check articles for potential plagiarism and ensure the acknowledgement of all sources. Authors sign a declaration of honour, which certifies their authorship and compliance with the principles of academic writing and research and publication ethics (see annex 1).

- **Corrections, clarifications, retractions, apologies, withdrawals:** The Editorial Board is always willing to publish corrections, clarifications, retractions and apologies when needed. The final decisions on such publications are taken by the Editorial Board by simple majority upon consultation with the author.



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6. Archiving

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7. Publishing schedule

The EJLS publishes two issues a year.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understood the EJLS Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement and comply with all its provisions.

Author(s):

By: _____

Name: XXXXX



ANNEX I

Declaration of Authorship

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