

7.

Countries, languages, currencies and their abbreviations

Common conventions simplify and harmonise the writing of country names, languages, currencies and their abbreviations, along with their listing order in different cases.

7.1. Countries

Conventional rules apply to the designations, abbreviations and listing order of Member States, candidate countries and non-EU countries.

7.1.1. Designations and abbreviations to use

(See also [Annexes A5](#) and [A6](#).)

Member States

The names of the Member States of the European Union must always be written and abbreviated in accordance with the following rules:

- the two-letter ISO code should be used ([ISO 3166 alpha-2](#)), except for Greece, for which the abbreviation EL is recommended;
- the protocol order of the Member States is based on the Roman alphabetical order of their geographical names in the original language(s) (see also [Section 7.1.2 ‘Country listing order’](#)).

Short name, in source language(s) (geographical name) ⁽¹⁾	Official name, in source language(s) (protocol name)	Short name in English (geographical name)	Official name in English (protocol name)	Country code ⁽²⁾	Former abbreviation ⁽³⁾
Belgique/België	Royaume de Belgique/ Koninkrijk België	Belgium	Kingdom of Belgium	BE	B
България ⁽⁴⁾	Република България	Bulgaria	Republic of Bulgaria	BG	—
Česko	Česká republika	Czechia	Czech Republic	CZ	—
Danmark	Kongeriget Danmark	Denmark	Kingdom of Denmark	DK	DK
Deutschland	Bundesrepublik Deutschland	Germany	Federal Republic of Germany	DE	D
Eesti	Eesti Vabariik	Estonia	Republic of Estonia	EE	—
Éire/Ireland ⁽⁵⁾	Éire/Ireland	Ireland	Ireland	IE	IRL
Ελλάδα ⁽⁶⁾	Ελληνική Δημοκρατία	Greece	Hellenic Republic	EL	EL
España	Reino de España	Spain	Kingdom of Spain	ES	E
France	République française	France	French Republic	FR	F
Hrvatska	Republika Hrvatska	Croatia	Republic of Croatia	HR	—
Italia	Repubblica italiana	Italy	Italian Republic	IT	I
Κύπρος ⁽⁷⁾	Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία	Cyprus	Republic of Cyprus	CY	—
Latvija	Latvijas Republika	Latvia	Republic of Latvia	LV	—
Lietuva	Lietuvos Respublika	Lithuania	Republic of Lithuania	LT	—

(Continued)

Short name, in source language(s) (geographical name) ⁽¹⁾	Official name, in source language(s) (protocol name)	Short name in English (geographical name)	Official name in English (protocol name)	Country code ⁽²⁾	Former abbreviation ⁽³⁾
Luxembourg	Grand-Duché de Luxembourg	Luxembourg	Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	LU	L
Magyarország	Magyarország	Hungary	Hungary	HU	—
Malta	Repubblika ta' Malta	Malta	Republic of Malta	MT	—
Nederland ⁽⁸⁾	Koninkrijk der Nederlanden	Netherlands	Kingdom of the Netherlands	NL	NL
Österreich	Republik Österreich	Austria	Republic of Austria	AT	A
Polska	Rzeczpospolita Polska	Poland	Republic of Poland	PL	—
Portugal	República Portuguesa	Portugal	Portuguese Republic	PT	P
România	România	Romania	Romania	RO	—
Slovenija	Republika Slovenija	Slovenia	Republic of Slovenia	SI	—
Slovensko	Slovenská republika	Slovakia	Slovak Republic	SK	—
Suomi/Finland	Suomen tasavalta/ Republiken Finland	Finland	Republic of Finland	FI	FIN
Sverige	Konungariket Sverige	Sweden	Kingdom of Sweden	SE	S

⁽¹⁾ The short name in the source language(s) is used to fix the protocol order and is used in multilingual documents (see [Section 7.1.2](#)).

⁽²⁾ The abbreviation to use = ISO code, except for Greece, for which EL is recommended (instead of the ISO code GR).

⁽³⁾ The former abbreviations (generally taken from the international code for automobiles) were used until the end of 2002.

⁽⁴⁾ Latin transliteration: България = Bulgaria.

⁽⁵⁾ Do not use 'Republic of Ireland'. Although this name is found in some documents, it does not have official status.

⁽⁶⁾ Latin transliteration: Ελλάδα = Elláda.

⁽⁷⁾ Latin transliteration: Κύπρος = Kýpros.

⁽⁸⁾ Use 'Netherlands' not Holland, which is only part of the Netherlands (the provinces of North and South Holland).

Non-EU countries

For non-EU countries, it is also advisable to use the two-character ISO code ([ISO 3166 alpha-2](#)).

For the format of presentation (short name, official title, list of ISO codes), see [Annexes A5](#) and [A6](#).

For the recommended order, see [Section 7.1.2](#).

Candidate countries

Short name, in source language(s) (geographical name)	Short name in English (geographical name)	Official name in English (protocol name)	Country code
Bosna i Hercegovina/Босна и Херцеговина	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA
Crna Gora/Црна Гора	Montenegro	Montenegro	ME
Republica Moldova	Moldova	Republic of Moldova	MD
საქართველო ⁽¹⁾	Georgia	Georgia	GE
Северна Македонија ⁽²⁾	North Macedonia ⁽³⁾	Republic of North Macedonia ⁽³⁾	MK
Shqipëria	Albania	Republic of Albania	AL
Srbija/Србија	Serbia	Republic of Serbia	RS
Türkiye	Türkiye	Republic of Türkiye	TR
Україна ⁽⁴⁾	Ukraine	Ukraine	UA

⁽¹⁾ Latin transliteration: საქართველო = Sakartvelo.

- (²) Latin transliteration: Северна Македонија = Severna Makedonija.
(³) Do not use 'Northern Macedonia' or 'Republic of Northern Macedonia'.
(⁴) Latin transliteration: Україна = Ukraina.

Official title or short name?

The **long form** (official title) is used when the state is targeted as a legal entity:

This Decision is addressed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The French Republic is authorised to ...

NB: If the recurrence of the name of a state in the text leads to a preference for using the short form, it can be introduced with the phrase 'hereinafter referred to as ...'.

The **short form** (short name) is used when the state is referred to geographically or economically:

Workers residing in France

Exports from Greece ...

NB: For certain states, the long form and the short form are identical:

Central African Republic

Ireland

Romania

7.1.2. Country listing order

Member States

Text

The Member States must be listed alphabetically using the spelling of their source language (protocol order) (see [Section 7.1.1](#)).

Tables

The names of the Member States should be written in the language of the publication (case A). However, in some cases, for technical reasons (single composition of tables for multilingual documents), the names of the Member States may be written in their source language (case B). In both cases, the states are listed according to the protocol order.