# Multilingual text classification of EUR-Lex documents

## **Arne Defauw**





	22.6.2010 FR	] Journal o	fficiel de l'Union européenne L 155/56			True labels
		DÉC	ISION DU CONSEIL			-Agreement (EU)
	relative à la conclusion d	de l'accord entre le gouverne des i	nort de la Fédération de Russie et l'Union européenne sur la protection informations classifiées			-Ratification of an agreement
	LE CONSEIL DE L'UN	~ Text			Manual	-Public safety
	vu le traite sur l'Union e vu la recommandation de considérant es qui mit-	22.6.2010 PL	Dziennik Uraędowy Unii Europejskiej L 1552 DECYZJA RADY	50	assignment of	-Access to information
	<ol> <li>Lors de sa sessior général/haut représ européenne, avec o de sécurité relatives</li> </ol>	dotycząca zawarcia	z dnia 17 listopada 2009 r. Umowy między rządem Federacji Rowyjskiej a Unią Europejską w sprzwie ochrony informacji neizawach		labels/topics to	-Data protection
	(2) À la suite de cette gouvernement de la	BADA INVERSION	(2010/348/WE)		documents	-Russia
Multilingual) set	<li>(3) Il convient d'appro DÉCIDE:</li>	uwzględniając Traktat o 1 uwzględniając zalecenie	<ul> <li>Text</li> <li>22.6.2010 EN Official Journal of the European Union</li> </ul>	L 155/56	0	-Exchange of information
of (legal)	L'accord entre le gouver	a także mając na uwadze (1) Na posiedzeniu w	COUNCIL DECISION		$\rightarrow$	Confidentiality
documents	approuvé au nom de l'Ur Le texte de l'accord est j	Generalnego/Wysol negocjacji z niektó procedur bezpieczei	of 17 November 2009 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation a	nd the European Union on		-Conidentiality
	La minidrat da Cancal	<li>(2) Po otrzymaniu upc Federacją Rosyjską</li>	the protection of classified information (2010:348/EC)			
	curopéenne (1).	<li>(3) Umowa ta powinna STANOWI, CO NASTĘI</li>	THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 24 and 38 thereof,			
			Having regard to the recommendation from the Presidency, Whereas:			Correction
		Umowa między rządem zatwierdzona w imieniu 1	<ol> <li>At its meeting on 27 and 28 November 2003, the Council decided to authorise the Presidency General/High Representative ('SG/HR'), to open negotiations in accordance with Articles 24 and 3</li> </ol>	, assisted by the Secretary- 18 of the Treaty on European		Conection
		Tekst umowy jest dołącz-	Union with certain third States in order for the European Union to conclude with each of then procedures for the exchange of classified information.	n an Agreement on security		automatically
		Niniejszym upoważnia s	(2) Following this authorisation to open negotiations the Presidency, assisted by the SG/HR, negoti Government of the Russian Federation on the protection of classified information.	ated an Agreement with the		assigned labels
		związania nią Unii Eurog	(3) The Agreement should be approved, HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:			
			Article I The Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the European Union on	the protection of classified		
			information is hereby approved on behalf of the European Union. The text of the Agreement is attached to this Decision.			Predicted labels
			Article 2 The President of the Council is hereby authorised to designate the person(s) empowered to sign the Ag	reement in order to bind the		Evolution of information
			European Union (*).			-Exchange of mormation
			Article 5			-Ratification of an agreement
					(Multilingual)	-Common foreign and security policy
			L		classifier/topic	-Data protection
				A	model	-Agreement (EU)
				Automatic	of	-Russia
			lab	els/topics	to	-Confidentiality
			1000			A second to information



# Overview of the classification task:

- EUR-Lex (text)
- EUROVOC taxonomy (labels)

	An official website of the European Union	How do you know? 🗸
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		Search Results ? 😝 < Share
	Refine query <ul> <li>By keyword</li> </ul>	You can only view pages 1-9,999 of the search results.
	♥ In title ♥ In text	<ul> <li>Search criteria</li> <li>Search language: English</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>By year of document</li> <li>2023 (1)</li> <li>2023 (2010)</li> </ul>	Save to My searches Create in My alerts (RSS feeds) Save to My items
Around 20 000 EUR- Lex documents published each year.	2021 (17605) 2020 (21857) 2019 (23116)	Results 1 - 10 of 1059038       Sort by       Relevant       Image: Clear selection       Customise shown information       Image: Export volume         Sort by       Relevant       Image: Clear selection       Image: Clear selection
	By collection     EU law and case-law (710248)     Legal acts (217992)	<ul> <li>Directive (EU) 2021/1883 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2021 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment, and repealing Council Directive 2009/50/EC PE/40/2021/REV/1</li> <li>OJ L 382, 28.10.2021, p. 1–38 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, GA, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)</li> </ul>
Legal acts, Treaties,	Consolidated texts (27270) Treaties (9810) Lawmaking procedures (10526)	In force      CELEX number: 32021L1883      Author: European Parliament, Council of the European Union      Date of document: 20(10(2021) Pate of elevature
	International agreements (11815) Preparatory documents (133444) Parliamentary questions (1970/6)	
	Case law (100274)	Regulation (EU) 2021/1873 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2021 on the extension of the term of the



### EUROVOC Taxonomy:

- Contains 7390 concepts.
- 8 levels of concepts.
- If a document is assigned a concept, ancestors and descendants of that concept are typically not assigned to the same document.

## **Example:**

La Concept scheme 4826 air and space transport Version: 20210604-0 URI: http://eurovoc.europa.eu/100241 Type of dataset: Thesaurus Tree view Table view List view **48 TRANSPORT** 4826 air and space transport Language equivalents BG 4826 въздушен и космически транспорт EXPAND ALL 🕹 Filter by: ES 4826 transporte aéreo y espacial CS 4826 letecká a kosmická doprava + air transport DA 4826 lufttransport og rumfart + space transport DE 4826 Luftverkehr und Raumfahrt ET 4826 õhu- ja kosmosetransport 4826 εναέριες και διαστημικές μεταφορές EL EN 4826 air and space transport



Example from levels L1, L2 and L3 from the EUROVOC taxonomy. Image taken from Chalkidis, I., Fergadiotis, E., Malakasiotis, P. and Androutsopoulos, I. (2021). MultiEURLEX - A multi-lingual and multi-label legal document classification dataset for zero-shot cross lingual transfer. EUROVOC Taxonomy, data distribution:

- Number of descriptors per document (calculated on subset of EUR-Lex corpus, 76k documents):



- Histogram of number of times a descriptor is used:



Classification task:

- Manual assignment of EUROVOC labels to EUR-Lex documents is **time consuming**.
- Manual assignment of EUROVOC labels is **complex** (>7K EUROVOC descriptors) and requires domain knowledge.
- Can we build a text classification model that can predict EUROVOC labels given an EUR-Lex document with **good accuracy**?

## Pipeline for building a model for Text Classification:

- Data collection (scraping)
- Preprocessing (extraction of text)
- Training the model

Development of scrapers for EUR-Lex website (scraping of text and EUROVOC labels + extraction of text from html):

	An official website of the European Unio	on How do you know? 🗸	
	EUR-Lex Access to European Union law		English EN My EUR-Lex A
		X SEARCH	٩
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Development of 'scrapers' for data	EUROPA > EUR-Lex home > Advanced search > Search	h results Search Results	? ↔ < Share
collection.	Refine query	✓ Search criteria	
scrapy crawl eurlex \ -s FEED URI='//DATA/eurlex 012021.jsonl'	You have selected: O All × O January × O 2021 ×	Domain: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated ve         Image: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated ve         Image: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated ve         Image: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated ve         Image: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated ve         Image: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated ve         Image: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated ve         Image: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated ve         Image: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated ve         Image: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated ve         Image: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language:	Save to My items
-s FEED_FORMAT=jsonlines \ -a year='2021' \ -a month='01'	✓ By keyword ✓ In title ✓ In text Q	Results 1 - 10 of 1434 Sort by Relevant - I - Sort by Relevant - I - Relevant - I - Relevant - Relevant - Relevant - Relevant - Relevant - I - Relevant -	1     2 → ≫       ction     Sustomise shown information       ▲     Export ~
Scraper runs in docker container.	EU law and case-law (1072) Legal acts (236) International agreements (13) Preparatory documents (477) Case-law (342) EFTA documents (4) National law and case-law (328)	Regulation (EU) 2021/56 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 Januar control measures applicable in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention area an OJ L 24, 26.1.2021, p. 1–18 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, GA, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL In force CELEX number: 32021R0056 Date of docum	ry 2021 laying down management, conservation and id amending Council Regulation (EC) No 520/2007 L, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV) ean Parliament, Council of the European Union tent: 20/01/2021; Date of signature
	National transposition (316)         National case-law (12)         JURE case-law (12)         • By type of act         National transposition measures (316)         Judicial Information (194)         Corrigendum (99)         Implementing decision (81)         Announcements (65)	P9_TA(2021)0015 FEAD: specific measures to address the COVID-19 crisis ***I Euro 2021 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council the introduction of specific measures for addressing the COVID-19 crisis (COM(2020 P9_TC1-COD(2020)0105 Position of the European Parliament adopted at first readin Regulation (EU) 2021/ of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Re introduction of specific measures for addressing the crisis associated with the outbr OJ C 456, 10.11.2021, p. 264–264 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, CELEX number: 52021AP0015 Author: Europe Affairs Date of docum	pean Parliament legislative resolution of 21 January amending Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 as regards 0)0223 - C9-0151/2020 - 2020/0105(COD)) ig on 21 January 2021 with a view to the adoption of igulation (EU) No 223/2014 as regards the reak of COVID-19 , $PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV$ ) ian Parliament, Committee on Employment and Social ment: 21/01/2021; Date of vote

## Development of data preprocessing scripts for extraction and cleaning of text:

	Document 32010D0348 ? 😝 < Share	Document 32010D0348			
	V Expand all in Collapse all	✓ Title and reference			
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		✓ Languages, formats and link to OJ       BG     ES     CS     DA     DE       HTML     Em     Em     Em     Em       PDF     E     C     D     Em     Em			
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Extraction of	22.6.2010 EN Official Journal of the European Union L 155/50	~ Dates			
the text	COUNCIL DECISION of 17 November 2009 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the European Union on the protection of classified information	Date of document: 17/11/2009 Date of effect: 17/11/2009, Entry into force Date of effect: 17/11/2009; Takes effect Da Date of end of validity: No end date			
	(2010/348/EC) THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.	<ul> <li>Classifications</li> </ul>			
	Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 24 and 38 thereof, Having regard to the recommendation from the Presidency, Whereas: (1) At its meeting on 27 and 28 November 2003, the Council decided to authorise the Presidency, assisted by the Secretary- General/High Representative ('SG/HR'), to open negotiations in accordance with Articles 24 and 38 of the Treaty on European Union with certain third States in order for the European Union to conclude with each of them an Agreement on security procedures for the exchange of classified information.	EUROVOC descriptor: - agreement (EU) - ratification of an agreement - public safety - access to information - data protection - Russia - exchange of information - confidentiality			

#### Extraction of EUROVOC labels:

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Train the model for text classification using the docker provided by CrossLang:

thon train_bert.py \ config_path configuration_files_bert/train.config
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me weights of the model checkpoint at bert-base-uncased were not used when initializing BertForSequenceClassification: ['cls.predictions.transform.Lay
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t', 'cls.seq_relationship.weight', 'cls.seq_relationship.bias', 'cls.predictions.transform.dense.weight']
This IS expected if you are initializing BertForSequenceClassification from the checkpoint of a model trained on another task or with another architec
re (e.g. initializing a BertForSequenceClassification model from a BertForPreTraining model).
This IS NOT expected if you are initializing BertForSequenceClassification from the checkpoint of a model that you expect to be exactly identical (ini
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me weights of BertForSequenceClassification were not initialized from the model checkpoint at bert-base-uncased and are newly initialized: ['classifie
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# Pipeline for text classification (inference)

#### Pipeline for inference (given an html document, predict EUROVOC labels):





# **Evaluation of predicted labels:**

- Automatic procedure
- Human assessment

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	Results (automatic evaluation on held out test set)											
Score Model	JEX	fastText	(multilingual) BERT	State-of-the-art (Shaheen et al. 2020) <sup>1</sup>								
Micro F1 score	0.46	0.72	0.76	0.75								
mean R-precision	0.54	0.72	0.76	-								

- Human assessment: evaluation of precision of predicted EUROVOC labels.

Results (human evaluation on subset of held out test set)									
Score Model	JEX	fastText	(multilingual) BERT						
Human annotator 1 (mean R-precision)	0.82	0.83	0.86						
Human annotator 2 (mean R-precision)	0.78	0.80							

Inter annotator agreement of 84%

1. Shaheen, Z., Wohlgenannt, G., and Filtz, E. (2020) Large Scale Legal Text Classification Using Transformer Models.

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#### Title and reference

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/204 of 6 February 2015 amending Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC as regards the entry for Canada in the list of third countries or parts thereof from which the introduction of meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines into the Union is authorised in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza (notified under document C(2015) 554) Text with EEA relevance

OJ L 33, 10.2.2015, p. 45-47 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

• No longer in force, Date of end of validity: 20/04/2021; Implicitly repealed by 32020R0692

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec\_impl/2015/204/oj

Predicted labels (JEX)

-Avian influenza

-Poultry

-Veterinary inspection

-Health certificate

-Bird

Predicted labels (BERT)	
Veterinary inspection	
Import (EU)	
Poultry	
Animal product	
Avian influenza	

#### Example: FR document

Document 32008R0493		

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#### Title and reference

Commission Regulation (EC) No 493/2008 of 2 June 2008 establishing a prohibition of fishing for cod in Norwegian waters of I and II by vessels flying the flag of Portugal

OJ L 144, 4.6.2008, p. 31-32 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

• No longer in force, Date of end of validity: 31/12/2008

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/493/oj

#### Document 32008R0493

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#### Title and reference

Règlement (CE) n o 493/2008 de la Commission du 2 juin 2008 interdisant la pêche du cabillaud dans les eaux norvégiennes des zones CIEM I et II par les navires battant pavillon du Portugal

OJ L 144, 4.6.2008, p. 31-32 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

• No longer in force, Date of end of validity: 31/12/2008

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/493/oj

Predicted labels (JEX)
Pavillion de navire (Ship's flag)
Droit de pêche (Fishing rights)
Quota de pêche (catch quota)
Poisson de mer (Sea fish)
Zone de pêche (Fishing area)

True labels
-Pavillion de navire (Ship's flag)
-Poisson de mer (Sea fish)
-Portugal
-Quota de pêche (catch quota)
-Réglementation de la pêche (fishing regulartions
-Droit de pêche (Fishing rights)
-Eaux de l'UE (EU waters)

#### Example: PL document

Document	32011R0815	
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#### Title and reference

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 815/2011 of 12 August 2011 amending the representative prices and additional import duties for certain products in the sugar sector fixed by Regulation (EU) No 867/2010 for the 2010/11 marketing year *OJ L 208, 13.8.2011, p. 82–83 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV*) ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\_impl/2011/815/oj

#### Document 32011R0815

#### ? 🖨 < Share

#### Title and reference

Rozporządzenie wykonawcze Komisji (UE) nr 815/2011 z dnia 12 sierpnia 2011 r. zmieniające ceny reprezentatywne oraz kwoty dodatkowych należności przywozowych w odniesieniu do niektórych produktów w sektorze cukru, ustalone rozporządzeniem (UE) nr 867/2010 na rok gospodarczy 2010/2011 OJ L 208, 13.8.2011, p. 82–83 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\_impl/2011/815/oj

Predicted labels (JEX)

-Cukier buraczany (Beet sugar)

-Produkt cukrowy (Sugar product)

-Cena reprezentatywna (Representative price)

-cło handlowe (CCT duties)

-Cukier biały (White sugar)

Predicted labels (BERT) -Przywóz (UE) (Import (EU)) -cło handlowe (CCT duties) -Cena importowa (Import price) -Produkt cukrowy (Sugar product) -Cukier (Sugar)

True labels
-Cena importowa (Import price)
-Produkt cukrowy (Sugar product)
-Przywóz (UE) (Import (EU))
-cło handlowe (CCT duties)

Takeaways:

- Labels predicted by JEX/fastText/BERT architectures can be considered relevant for the document in most cases (precision around +/-80%).
- (multilingual) BERT architecture learns to predict labels that are both **relevant** according to human evaluation and **consistent** with labeling efforts of human annotators.
- Only one (multilingual) BERT model needed for classification of documents in 22 official languages of the EU (MT not supported). Using JEX/fastText would require 22+1 separate models.
- Predicting using one multilingual model has the advantage that the result will be **more consistent** across languages, compared to the use of separate models for each language.
- Both data collection (scraping), (multilingual) model training and inference can be done inside the docker container provided by CrossLang.