# Danish ELI citation use-case

## Situation

A typical citation in Danish Law is : « LOV nr 925 af 18/09/2012 » . This would roughly turn into this reference features, as currently proposed by LegalCiteM OASIS committee:

// frames

// FRBR levels

// feature

// hierarchy of equivalent values

{

 "source": {

 "work": {

 "document type": [

 ["Lov"]

 ],

 "document number": [

 [925],

 ] ,

 "date of document": [

 [“18/09/2012”],

 ]

 }

 },

 "interpretation": {

 "work": {

 "jurisdiction": [

 ["dk", "dnk"]

 ]

 },

 "expression": {

 "language": [

 ["da", "dan", "Danish"]

 ]

 }

 }

}

Precise date is given in the citation although the number and year are normally sufficient.

By tradition and/or simplicity, « Lov » is cited although it can cover different document types. Actual possible document types are :

* lovh (« hovedlov », or « main act ») ;
* lovc (« ændringslov », or « amending act ») ;

The actual type might be known when the citation is written, but is never explicit in the citation. *So there is a discrepancy between the type given in the citation and the actual type of the text referred to.*

## Denmark ELI structure

### Canonical ELI

Denmark has specified its canonical legislation ELI identifiers this way:

http://retsinformation.dk/eli/{pubmedium}/{year}/{natural identifier}

Where:

* {pubmedium} : the medium in which the text was published. Possible values include :
	+ “lta”, “ltb”, “ltc”, 3 sections in the Official Journal;
	+ “ft” corresponds to amendments, bills, decisions that surround the legislation per se;
	+ “retsinfo” corresponds to legally binding documents that are published on the website, although they are not strictly speaking part of the OJ;
	+ etc.
* {year} : the year in which the text was published;
* {natural identifier} : the number of the legislation;

The canonical ELI of the example above would be http://retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2012/925.

The canonical ELI is the one used to express the metadata of the legislation in RDF triples, e.g. in Turtle syntax:

<http://retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2012/925><http://data.europa.eu/eli#date\_document> “2012-09-18”^^xsd:date .

Note that canonical ELI identifiers, in this case, use different features as a citation (the canonical identifier uses {pubmedium}, and not the citation, and citation uses a document type, not in the canonical ELI). This illustrates the difference between a *reference* and the *identifier*.

### Alias ELI (or ELI for references)

Denmark would like to be able to easily parse text citations and turn them into ELI; to achieve this, an *alias* ELI template is designed, with a structure that closely maps the way the citation is written:

http://retsinformation.dk/eli/regel/{docType}/{year}/{month}/{day}/{natural identifier}

Where:

* {docType} is the type cited ;
* {year}, {month} and {day} are the date of the document ;
* {natural identifier} is the legislation number ;

In order to be as close as possible to how citations are written, and in order to solve the discrepancy between how legislation is cited and the actual type of the text, the value « lov » is allowed in {docType} component, and will actually search for both « lovh » (main act) and « lovc » (amending act).

So the « citation alias » ELI for the above citation would be:

http://retsinformation.dk/eli/regel/lov/2012/09/18/925

This URI would either redirect to the canonical ELI (<http://retsinformation.dk/eli/lta/2012/925>), or simply return the same page (without redirecting).

Conclusion: ELIs can act both as (canonical) identifiers, and as references using aliases that have the same structure as a citation.

In this case, the institution responsible for the ELI implementation also provides the mapping from the aliases to the canonical identifiers.

Questions:

* How does this “alias mechanism” fit with the LegalCiteM proposal?
* Does the LegalCiteM committee have comments on this use-case?
* How is discrepancy between citations and actual document metadata addressed (if at all) by LegalCiteM ?

Note : a similar situation may exists (to be further analyzed and validated) when citing European “directives, where “directive” in a citation could corresponds to actual document types “directive”, “implementing directive”, or “delegated directive” (3 different types of documents).