

**Question for oral answer O-000042/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 128

Kaja Kallas

on behalf of the ALDE Group

Andreas Schwab, Krišjānis Kariņš, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Michał Boni, Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein, Henna Virkkunen, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Dan Nica, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri, Carlos Zorrinho, Marju Lauristin, Josef Weidenholzer

Subject: Deployment of cross-border e-identification tools and online services

The shift to e-government in Europe through the development of e-identification tools and a wide availability of online services is essential for competitiveness, reducing costs and making life easier for European citizens and therefore requires ambitious initiatives.

In light of this, could the Commission answer the following questions:

- In order to ensure the take up of online services, the deployment of a secure digital identity is necessary to build public trust and ensure convenience. In this respect, what initiatives are envisaged for promoting awareness about the opportunities of e-identification tools? What actions are envisaged for supporting Member States in the deployment of the technical solutions ensuring interoperability between e-IDs provided by the CEF platform?
- The take up of e-identification tools is conditional on the availability of online services. What actions are envisaged for implementing the 'digital by default' principle? Still, far too many services are only digital in part and require people to finalise the procedure offline. What actions are envisaged for developing 'whole' processes lines, such as those needed for a business lifecycle? What level of public and private cooperation is needed in order to develop online solutions across Europe? What initiatives are envisaged for improving cooperation with entrepreneurs able to develop digital solutions for public administrations?
- A centralised database or several databases that are not interconnected create additional costs, concerns related to cybersecurity and data protection, reduce flexibility and the potential for innovation. Has the Commission assessed the benefits of decentralised databases to address such concerns? What initiatives are envisaged to speed up the implementation of the 'once only' principle, according to which citizens and businesses should not be asked for information already provided to a public authority?

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