



Easier electronic deals and cross border electronic identification

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A deal on easier electronic deals and cross border electronic identification was confirmed by Parliament on Thursday. "This law will make it easier for people who need to deal with authorities in another EU country. It could be applying for a course at a foreign university, planning a marriage or filing tax returns", said Marita Ulvskog (S&D, SE), who led Parliament's work on the draft law.

"We also expect a boost in online business, now that there will be an improved system for companies and their clients to know that the documents they receive on line are legally valid. I am glad that we managed to convince the Council to bring forward the date when the rules will enter into force. Another important victory for us was to make sure that also local and regional – not only national – authorities would need to recognise e-IDs from another EU country", she added. Her report was adopted by 534 votes to 73 with 7 abstentions.

Recognition of other's electronic identification systems

Companies, citizens and public authorities wanting to strike cross-border deals will have access to easy and trustworthy ways to sign and certify documents, with the new law already agreed with the Greek presidency. The law will require EU member states to recognise each other's electronic identification systems.

Member states can start joining the system for mutual recognition of national systems of e-identification on July 1st 2015, the last day to join will be July 1st 2018.

Easier and safer identification processes

The regulation aims to make it easier and safer for parties in different EU countries to identify themselves, sign documents and check the authenticity of online documents. This is the first EU law to require EU member states to recognise and accept electronic identifications issued in other member states.

The proposal requires member states to mutually recognise each other's national electronic identification systems, provided that these systems have been reported to the European Commission. Existing national systems do not have to change, but need to follow certain rules, for instance regarding security levels, in order to participate in the agreed EU framework.

Next steps

The draft law also needs to be formally confirmed by the Council. It will enter into force after being published in the EU official journal, expected to happen this summer.

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