

Joint Press Release

Brussels, 27 February 2014

Cross border e-Identity and e-Signature: EU deal close

Chambers of Commerce and Industry sense that the finalisation of negotiations on a new regulation on e-ID and e-Signatures is now within touching distance and hope that the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) will tomorrow validate the common agreement found in trilogue on Tuesday.

Chambers consider that the new legislation will greatly facilitate the use of e-ID and e-Signatures in cross-border business-to-business (B2B) transactions and public procurement processes and thus provide a boost to the economy.

E-identity and e-Signature are increasingly used in e-Government applications such as online tax declarations, as well as for public procurements processes and in B2B transactions. However, their uptake in cross-border transactions within the EU remains limited due to legal and administrative barriers between member states. Lifting such barriers would enhance the increasingly digitalised single market.

The regulation on electronic identification and trusted services for electronic transactions in the internal market addresses a real business need, according to EUROCHAMBRES. *“We are contacted regularly by companies that encounter difficulties in using the e-ID and e-Signature in a cross-border electronic public procurement process”*, explained Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary-General of EUROCHAMBRES.

“The mutual recognition principle set out in the 1999 directive did not provide adequate legal certainty and gold-plating has created additional complexities. We believe that the new regulation addresses these issues in an effective and balanced manner”, stressed Mr Abruzzini.

According to Vincent Tilman, Managing Director of ChamberSign: *“One billion electronic signatures are already used in Europe each day, but there is scope to increase this figure exponentially and the regulation could act as a strong catalyst”*.

“Major companies such as Adobe, Apple, Google and Microsoft are more likely to integrate such services in their applications if interoperability across the EU is assured”, added Mr Tilman.

The 25 February trilogue common agreement should be validated by COREPER on Friday 28 February and by the European Parliament on 3 April.

Further information: Mr Vincent Tilman, Tel. +32 2 282 08 67, tilman@eurochambres.eu or info@chambersign.com

Press contact: Ms Susete Sampaio, Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, sampaio@eurochambres.eu

All EUROCHAMBRES' press releases can be downloaded from

<http://www.eurochambres.eu/Content/default.asp?pagename=Pressreleases>

All ChamberSign news can be found in

<http://www.chambersign.com/news>

ChamberSign – The association bringing together Chambers of Commerce and Industry from Austria, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania, Spain and Sweden deliver trusts services to businesses. So far, ChamberSign members have delivered over 4 million authentication certificates to companies, which use them for multiple purposes such as signing VAT declarations online, signing electronic invoices, securing email exchanges or electronic procurement.

EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 20 million enterprises in Europe – 98% of which are SMEs – through members in 43 countries and a European network of 1700 regional and local Chambers.