

Electronic publication of the Official Journal of the EU: authentication by electronic seal

2017/0039(APP) - 18/12/2017 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to update the procedure for authenticating the electronic version of the Official Journal of the European Union by an electronic signature.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Regulation.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: [Pursuant to Regulation \(EU\) No 216/2013](#), the Official Journal of the European Union is published in electronic form. In order to guarantee the authenticity, integrity and inalterability of this electronic publication, Article 2(1) of this Regulation states that the electronic edition shall bear an advanced electronic signature based on a qualified certificate and created with a secure-signature-creation device, in accordance with Directive 1999/93/EC.

[Regulation \(EU\) No 910/2014](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council lays down a legal framework for electronic signatures, electronic seals, electronic time stamps, electronic documents, electronic registered delivery services and certificates for website authentication.

It is necessary to update the procedure for authenticating the electronic version of the OJ against the background of relevant EU legislation on electronic signatures having been updated in the meantime.

CONTENT: the draft amendment to Regulation (EU) No 216/2013 provides that the **electronic edition of the Official Journal shall bear an advanced electronic signature based on a qualified certificate** and created with a secure-signature-creation device, in accordance with Directive 1999/93/EC.

Qualified certificates and renewals thereof are published on the EUR-Lex website to allow the public to verify the advanced electronic signature or advanced electronic seal and the authenticity of the electronic edition of the Official Journal.

Authentication by electronic seal offers the same guarantees as those provided by electronic signature. The use of an electronic seal to authenticate the Official Journal would accelerate the procedure for the publication of the Official Journal on the EUR-Lex website.