

## Electronic signatures: new European framework

The European Parliament has published a new regulation on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions within the internal market.

This is intended to replace the existing legal framework, set out in the EU current Electronic Signatures Directive and implemented in the UK through the Electronic Communications Act 2000, and the Electronic Signatures Regulations 2002, when it comes into force on 1 July 2016.

It is hoped that the new rules will remedy many of the perceived problems with the current rules which have led to the low take up and use of electronic signatures in Europe, and encourage cross-border digital transactions and inspire consumer and business confidence in online transactions.

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