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Electronic identification (eID) is one of the tools to ensure secure access to online services and to carry out electronic transactions in a safer way.

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Secure electronic identification is an important enabler of data protection and the prevention of online fraud. These aspects really matter in areas such as [eGovernment](#) [2], where citizens and businesses need to trust that their data are treated in full respect of existing data protection legislation.

eID can guarantee the unambiguous identification of a person and make it possible to get the service delivered to the person who is really entitled to it. However, there is a lack of common legal basis engaging each Member State to recognise and accept eIDs issued in other Member States. The insufficient cross-border interoperability of national eIDs prevents citizens and businesses from benefitting fully from the digital single market.

While existing gaps in technical and organisational interoperability can be tackled on the basis of the model which resulted from the ongoing "large scale pilot project" on eID ([STORK](#)) [3], action is still needed to remedy the lack of a common legal basis for cross-border mutual recognition of eIDs. To fill this gap, the Commission adopted on 04 June 2012 a proposal on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market ([COM\(2012\)238](#)) [4] that provides with legal grounds for the mutual recognition of eIDs.

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[2] <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/node/67237>

[3] <http://www.eid-stork.eu/>

[4] <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0238:FIN:en:PDF>

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