

Translation

Dr Thomas de Maizière
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Mr Andrus Ansip
Vice-President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 BRUSSELS
BELGIUM

Berlin, 14 February 2017

Dear Mr Vice-President, (Dear Mr Ansip, m.p.)

The eIDAS Regulation is crucial to the further development of the digital single market. This regulation will help increase trust in electronic transactions and expand safe and user-friendly administrative services in Europe.

With this in mind, I find it especially important to send the Commission early notification of our electronic identification scheme: the online ID function of Germany's national identity card and electronic residence permit. With this letter, I am therefore pleased to initiate the notification process.

Our online ID function offers a high level of security. Because the data are officially checked and transmitted in encrypted form, the online ID function protects against data theft and abuse. The online ID function allows users to control who receives which data, and its two-factor authentication is a safe alternative to passwords for e-government and e-business. My aim is for electronic identification using the online ID function to meet the requirements for the highest possible assurance level according to the eIDAS Regulation.

The notification process may be accompanied by a peer review. I believe this process is very important, and I plan to actively support such a peer review. To do so, the Federal Ministry of the Interior will organize an informational meeting in Berlin in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Thomas de Maizière