

**NOTIFICATION FORM FOR ELECTRONIC IDENTITY SCHEME UNDER ARTICLE 9(5) OF REGULATION (EU) No 910/2014**

The [Kingdom of Belgium](#) hereby notifies the European Commission of an electronic identification scheme to be published in the list referred to in Article 9(3) of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 and confirms the following:

- the information communicated in this notification is consistent with the information which has been communicated to the Cooperation Network in accordance with Article 7(g) of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014, and
- the electronic identification scheme can be used to access at least one service provided by a public sector body in the [Kingdom of Belgium](#).

**Date : 28/05/2018**

Ben Smeets, General Director a.i. of [Directorate General Digital Transformation of the Federal Public Service Policy & Support \(BOSA\)](#)

[signed electronically]

**1. General information**

Title of scheme (if any)	Level(s) of assurance (low, substantial or high)
<a href="#">Belgian eID scheme FAS/ eCards</a>	<b>High</b>

Year of the scheme : [FAS and the Belgian citizen eCard since 2003, Foreigner eCard since 2006](#)

Application of the scheme : [natural persons.](#)

**2. Authority(ies) responsible for the scheme**

Name(s) of authority(ies)	Postal address(es)	E-mail address(es)	Telephone No
<a href="#">For the Federal Authentication Service (FAS) : Federal Public Service Policy &amp; Support (BOSA)/Directorate General Digital Transformation</a>	<a href="#">Simon Bolivarlaan 30, 1000 Brussel</a>	<a href="mailto:ServiceManagement.IAM@bosa.fgov.be">ServiceManagement.IAM@bosa.fgov.be</a>	<a href="tel:+3227407474">+32 2 740 74 74</a>
<a href="#">For the Belgian citizen eCard : Federal Public Service Home Affairs / Directorate General Institutions and Population</a>	<a href="#">Koloniënstraat 11, 1000 Brussel</a>	<a href="mailto:IPIB-eIDAS@rrn.fgov.be">IPIB-eIDAS@rrn.fgov.be</a>	<a href="tel:+3225182116">+32 2 518 21 16</a>
<a href="#">For the Foreigner eCard : Federal Public Service Home Affairs /Directorate General Immigration Office</a>	<a href="#">Antwerpsesteenweg 59 B, 1000 Brussel</a>	<a href="mailto:infodesk@ibz.fgov.be">infodesk@ibz.fgov.be</a>	<a href="tel:+3227938000">+32 2 793 80 00</a>

**3. Information on relevant parties, entities and bodies (where there are multiple parties, entities or bodies, please list them all, in accordance with Article 3(2) and (3))**

**3.1. Entity which manages the registration process of the unique person identification data**

- Belgian Citizen eCard: National Register, municipalities and consulates manage the registration process of the unique person identification data of the Belgian citizens.
- Foreigner eCard: The immigration office, municipalities, embassies and consulates manage the registration process of the foreigners legally resident in Belgium

**3.2. Party issuing the electronic identification means**

Name of the party issuing the electronic identity means and indication of whether the party is referred to in Article 7(a)(i), (ii) or (iii) of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014.

As referred to in Article 7(a)(i) of Regulation (EU) N°910/2014, the party issuing the electronic identity means – namely the Belgian Citizen eCard and the Foreigner eCard – are the municipalities.

Article 7(a)(i) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Article 7(a)(ii) <input type="checkbox"/>	Article 7(a)(iii) <input type="checkbox"/>
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The issuance of the eCards is carried out by the municipalities and, for the the citizens living abroad, by the consulates<sup>1</sup>. The eCards are produced and personalized by an external, third-party company, appointed by the Council of Ministers. The municipalities are responsible for initiating the eCard manufacturing procedure and for delivering adequate documentation to the eCard applicants. The eCards are issued and handed over to the applicant in person at the municipality.

The National Register of natural persons plays a key role both in the development and in the control of the eCards system. It is developed and operated by the Federal Public Service Home Affairs/ Directorate General Institutions and Population. The operating structure of the National Register and the IT infrastructure of the municipalities have been adapted to allow the issuance of identity cards in a secure environment.

The Federal Public Service Home Affairs maintains two central files : one file containing the information related to the issued citizen eCards and a another one for the issued foreigner eCards.

**3.3. Party operating the authentication procedure**

The party that operates the authentication procedure for electronic government applications is the Federal Public Service Policy & Support / Directorate General Digital Transformation (BOSA / DG DT).

**3.4. Supervisory body**

The supervisory body consists of the “organe de contrôle/ toezichthoudend orgaan”, composed of representatives with the required expertise and qualifications regarding electronic identification, designated by the Federal Public Services Policy & Support, Home Affairs and Economy, SMEs, Self-Employed & Energy (Article 6§1 of the Belgian law of 18 July 2017 and Article 3 of the Royal Decree of 1 February 2018, Doc Ref.1.6.1 and 1.6.2 in the Overview of Supporting Documentation).

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<sup>1</sup> Hereafter in the notification form, the term “municipalities” will be used for both “municipalities and consulates”

#### 4. Description of the electronic identification scheme

(a) Briefly describe the scheme including the context within which it operates and its scope

The Belgian eID scheme is based on two electronic identification means (the Belgian Citizen eCard and the Foreigner eCard) and the Federal Authentication Service (FAS). The eCards enable secure electronic identification and are issued to natural persons, i.e. currently to Belgian citizens (Citizen eCard) and EU & non-EU nationals legally residing in Belgium (Foreigner eCard).

The Belgian eCard is an ISO 7816 compliant smart card that contains all the information included on the traditional ID card and serves as an identification document for physical and digital purposes. The card is issued to natural persons, on the basis of the national register number (abbr. RRN). The card is mandatory as from the age of 12 for Belgian citizens. The standard validity of the Citizen eCard is 10 years, the validity of the Foreigner eCard varies accordingly to the type of card (up to 5 years).

The eCard is a smartcard with a chip containing two certificates, an authentication certificate and a signature certificate. The first one is for online authentication and the second one is for generating digital signatures. Both identification and signing can be done through two-factor authentication, i.e. by inserting the card into a smartcard reader and then entering the 4-digit PIN-code. The certificate for digital signatures is only activated for adults (18+ years). This notification concerns only the electronic authentication certificate, signature is out of scope.

The authentication is handled by the Federal Authentication Service (FAS), a central authentication service to provide access to online government applications for authenticated users. The FAS supports different authentication methods, including the eCard. The eIDAS node is also implemented and integrated on the FAS. The authentication flow between the Citizen or Foreigner eCard and the FAS is based on the TLS mutual authentication standard. The FAS handled almost 43 million authentications in 2017.

A more elaborate overview of the Belgian eID scheme is provided in the Belgian eID Scheme Whitepaper [Doc Ref 1.1.2 in the document "Overview of Supporting Documentation] supplied in the set of documents for this eIDAS notification.

(b) Where applicable, list the additional attributes which may be provided for natural persons under the scheme if requested by a relying party

The Belgian eIDAS node supports the mandatory minimal data set, as well as two optional attributes: the Place of Birth and Gender. These optional attributes will be relayed at the request of the connector node, with the consent of the user. The uniqueness identifier is persistent, it does not contain the national register number, but it is derived from it.

For more information, please refer to the document eIDAS interoperability Framework [Doc Ref 1.1.3].

(c) Where applicable, list the additional attributes which may be provided for legal persons under the scheme if requested by a relying party

N/A

#### 4.1. Applicable supervisory, liability and management regime

##### 4.1.1. Applicable supervisory regime

(a) supervisory regime applicable to the party issuing the electronic identification means

The Belgian Citizen eCard was introduced by the Royal Decree of 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2003 (Doc Ref. 1.6.15). under the authority of the Minister of Interior.

The Federal Public Service Home Affairs supervises the municipalities since the delivery of the eCards is a mission carried out by the municipality with the decentralized powers of the Federal Government. In this context, the municipalities are submitted to the hierarchical authority of the Federal Government.

The Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs supervises the issuance and delivery of electronic identity cards by the consulates.

(b)supervisory regime applicable to the party operating the authentication procedure

The Federal Authentication Service is operated by the Federal Public Service Policy & Support/Directorate General Digital Transformation as defined in the article 9 of the law of 18 July 2018 on electronic identification (Doc Ref. 1.6.1).

The Federal Public Service Policy & Support/DG Digital Transformation is under the authority of the Minister of Digital Agenda.

The control organ defined in this law is responsible for monitoring the electronic identification schemes notified and for taking the measures related to security breach (suspension or revocation of the scheme, imposing external audit,...).

#### 4.1.2. **Applicable liability regime**

(a)liability of the Member State under Article 11(1) of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 5.11.2015 L 289/22 Official Journal of the European Union

The liability of the Belgium is stated by the national legislation.

(b)liability of the party issuing the electronic identification means under Article 11(2) of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014

The municipalities are responsible for attributing the Belgian eCard to the correct person matching the person identification data on the eCard, thus uniquely identifying that person.

To this end, the applicant must fetch the eCard in person at the municipality, where the eCard is handed over to him or her after identification by the civil servant of the municipality and after the activation of the eCard with the PUK received by mail. The person in question thus needs to be physically present and can only receive the eCard from the local authorities after identification.

Further, the general law of state liability applies [Doc Ref 1.6 in the document “Overview of Supporting Documentation)].

(c)liability of the party operating the authentication procedure under Article 11(3) of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014

Federal Public Service Policy & Support / DG Digital Transformation is responsible for the availability of authentication online in cross-border transactions (Federal Authentication Service (FAS) [Doc Ref 1.6.1).

#### 4.1.3. **Applicable management arrangements**

The eCard certificates (both the authentication certificate & signature certificate) can be revoked. Revocation can be done by the certificate authority. This can be done at the municipality level or by the Federal Public Service Home Affairs. A citizen can call to the DOCSTOP service to declare his card has been stolen or is lost. The certificates of that card immediately will be revoked.

Suspending the certificates was possible until 31th of May 2018. As from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2018, suspension of a certification (and consequently its reactivation) is not possible anymore, only revocation is possible.

By suspending or revoking a version of the Belgian Root CA, all cards issued under that version will be suspended or revoked. This can only be done at the National level.

In case of loss, theft or destruction of the Belgian citizen eCard, the citizen in question is held to notify this without delay to the municipality or the police where he has residence or to the closest police office (article 6 of the law of 25 March 2003 concerning electronic identity cards, Doc.Ref 1.6.15). In case of theft, the citizen must always notify the police.

In case of loss, theft or destruction of the Foreigner eCard, the person in question is held to notify this without delay to the closest police office (article 36bis of the Royal Decree of 8 October 1981, Doc.Ref 1.6.23) concerning the access to the territory, the stay, the residence and the removal of foreigners). In this case, the police must send a copy of the attestation to the Federal Public Service Home Affairs / DG Immigration Office.

Outside office hours of the municipality, the citizen or foreigner can declare the loss, theft or destruction of the eCard to DOCSTOP [Doc.Ref.2.3.6, <https://www.docstop.be>], by calling the free number 00800 2123 2123 (or, in case this number is not available, by calling the number +322 518 21 23). DOCSTOP is accessible 24/7, from anywhere in the world. The declaration induces the immediate revocation of the certificates on the card and the card number will be declared invalid in the card database to avoid misuse of the card. This can be checked by the use of Checkdoc public service ([www.checkdoc.be](http://www.checkdoc.be)).

#### 4.2. Description of the scheme components

Describe how the following elements of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1502 <sup>(2)</sup> have been met in order to reach a level of assurance of an electronic identification means under the scheme the Commission is being notified of:

*(include any standards adopted)*

##### 4.2.1. Enrolment

(a) Application and registration

Applicants born in Belgium receive their National register number at the moment of registration in the National Register. Every person who is registered later in the National Register, also receives such a National register Number. This number consists of 11 number allocated in an automated manner.

Upon application at the municipality for a card, the person must be properly identified by the civil servant. The applicant also provides a photo and must sign, his/her signature will be depicted on the eCard.

(b) Identity proofing and verification (natural person)

The photo identification evidence, brought by the applicant, is verified by the civil servant of the municipality to be genuine and valid, and is compared with the facial appearance of the applicant, who has to be physically present at municipality service.

The civil servant of the municipality uses the actual eCard combined with the information from the National Register to identify a person. In absence of a card (in case of loss or theft), the civil servant can use the Belpic-application to do a comparison between the photo already stored in the system (if any) and the photo brought by the applicant, in order to mitigate the risk of lost, stolen, revoked or expired evidence (verification in person).

(c) Identity proofing and verification (legal person)

N/A

(d) Binding between the electronic identification means of natural and legal persons

N/A

##### 4.2.2. Electronic identification means management

(a) Electronic identification means characteristics and design (including, where appropriate, information on security certification)

The eCard provides two-factor authentication. To be able to use it, a person has to be in possession of the card and should know the PIN code. Without the PIN code, no one can impersonate the owner on the internet or any other electronic application.

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<sup>2</sup> 5.11.2015 L 289/23 Official Journal of the European Union EN (i) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1502 of 8 September 2015 on setting out minimum technical specifications and procedures for assurance levels for electronic identification means pursuant to Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (OJ L 235, 9.9.2015, p. 7).

The eCard is tamperproof and the keys stored cannot be extracted, since it is a QSCD. This way the keys on the eCard are protected against copy, theft and removal.

An overview of the corresponding certificates and certification reports can be found in the overview of supporting documents [Doc.Ref. 1.3. and 1.4].

**(b) Issuance, delivery and activation**

The applicant must fetch the eCard in person at the municipality and activate it with the PUK code received by mail. This implies that the person needs to be physically present and that only that person him or herself can receive the eCard from the local authorities.

After the activation of the eCard, the applicant can change the original PIN code to a code of his or her choice.

The eCard should always be activated in the municipality of registration, except for some special cases, such as Belgians residing abroad. In this case, cards received through an Embassy or Consulate may be activated in any Belgian municipality [Doc.Ref 1.2.2].

**(c) Suspension, revocation and reactivation**

The electronic functions of the eCard can immediately be revoked by the municipality or by DOCSTOP upon request of the citizen or foreigner (after identification of the person in question), or upon request of the police office where the person has reported the eCard loss/theft (accessible 24/7 via 00800 21.23.21.23, or, in case this number is not available, by calling the number +32 2 518.21.23).

Only the National Register and the municipalities are authorized to revoke the electronic functions of the eCard after being notified by the identified victim.

As from the 1 of June 2018, suspension and reactivation of a certificate is not possible anymore.

**(d) Renewal and replacement**

The applicant must fetch the new eCard in person at the municipality in exchange for his old identity card, and activate it with the PUK code received by mail.

The civil servant of the municipality uses the Belpic-application to do a comparison between the current card, the photo already stored in the system (if any) and the photo brought by the applicant, in order to mitigate the risk of lost, stolen, revoked or expired evidence (verification in person).

**4.2.3. Authentication**

Describe the authentication mechanism including terms of access to authentication by relying parties other than public sector bodies

Person identification data is protected using strict access control and/or encryption when stored and transmitted (e.g. TLS). A challenge-response mechanism is implemented so that a new secure code is computed at each new authentication. The keys stored on the eCard are protected against copy, theft and removal [Doc.Ref 1.4.2].

Additional information about authentication and authentication mechanisms is present in the “Belgian eID LoA mapping – Mapping of the characteristics of the Belgian eID scheme to the eIDAS Levels of Assurance” [Doc.ref 1.1.4].

**4.2.4. Management and organisation**

**(a) General provisions on management and organisation**

All entities providing operational services under authority of the Federal Public Service Home Affairs and the Federal Public Service Policy & Support are recognized as a legal entity by national law. The operations of all

entities involved in the Belgian eID scheme are directly governed by national law and subordinate regulations and guidelines.

The provision of the Belgian eCards is organised under authority of the Directorate General Institutions and Population of the Federal Public Service Home Affairs and the Directorate General Digital Transformation of the Federal Public Service Policy & Support. The provision of the Federal Authentication Service (FAS) is organised under authority of the directorate General Digital Transformation of the Federal Public Service Policy & Support.

Both are public authorities, meaning that no additional insurance is necessary. Agreements with contractors of the Belgian State are managed via contracts. The provider of the Belgian eCards remains fully responsible for the provided services.

A detailed description is available in the document Belgian eID LOA mapping (Ref.Doc 1.1.4).

(b) Published notices and user information

For a detailed description, cf. document LoA mapping Section 2.4.2. All terms and conditions can be found in the overview of supporting documents [Ref.Doc 1.2.2 and 1.2.3].

(c) Information security management

For a detailed description, cf. document LoA mapping Section 2.4.3.

(d) Record keeping

For a detailed description, cf. document LoA mapping Section 2.4.4.

(e) Facilities and staff

For a detailed description, cf. document LoA mapping Section 2.4.5.

(f) Technical controls

For a detailed description, cf. document LoA mapping Section 2.4.6

(g) Compliance and audit

For a detailed description, cf. document LoA mapping Section 2.4.7

#### 4.3. Interoperability requirements

Describe how the interoperability and minimum technical and operational security requirements under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1501 <sup>3</sup> are met. List and attach any document that may give further information on compliance, such as the opinion of the Cooperation Network, external audits, etc.

The Belgian eID Scheme meets the interoperability requirements and technical and operational security requirements according to the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1501 as described in the document eIDAS Interoperability Framework – Belgian eID Scheme [Doc.Ref 1.1.3].

#### 4.4. Supporting documents

List here all supporting documentation submitted and state to which of the elements above they relate. Include any domestic legislation which relates to the electronic identification provision relevant to this notification. Submit an English version or English translation whenever available.

The relevant supporting documents, including national laws and technical guidelines and articles, are listed in the “Overview of Supporting Documentation”- Doc.Ref 1.1.5.

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<sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1501 of 8 September 2015 on the interoperability framework pursuant to Article 12(8) of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (OJ L 235, 9.9.2015, p. 1).