



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND
TECHNOLOGY

Digital Society, Trust and Cybersecurity
eGovernment and Trust

eIDAS Expert Group

**DEVELOPING A COMMON UNION TOOLBOX FOR A
COORDINATED APPROACH TOWARDS A EUROPEAN DIGITAL
IDENTITY FRAMEWORK**

Minutes

53rd Meeting of the eIDAS Expert Group

23 November 2023

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING – STATE OF PLAY COMMISSION

The fifty-third eIDAS Expert Group meeting was non-public. It was chaired by DG CONNECT and held as a remote meeting through the WebEx platform. All members of the Expert Group were invited to participate.

The Chair welcomed the participants to the meeting and presented the agenda of the day.

1.1 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The objectives of the meeting were:

- ARF Sprint Update;
- Conclusions and Next Steps.

2. STREAMLINED AND OPEN ARF PROCESS

DG CONNECT provided an update on how the **negotiations are proceeding**. The main highlights are as follows:

- The last trilogue was concluded on the 8th of November.
- **Document Publication and Overview:** The European Parliament published the provisional legal text on November 8, providing insights into the agreed-upon terms. It is not yet an official document, but it sheds light on key aspects of the agreement.
- **Legislative Process:** The next step of the legislative process involves the collaboration with the two co-legislators, (the European Parliament, and the Council) to refine the document, addressing editorial mistakes and issues identified.
- **Upcoming Committee Review:** The ITRE Committee, the main committee in the European Parliament for this document, is scheduled to review it on November 28. Votes in the European Parliament and Council for approval are anticipated following its review.
- **Plenary Vote and Regulation Enforcement:** A plenary vote in the Parliament is expected in February 2024 (not yet confirmed). The expected entry into force of the Regulation is set between April 1 and May 15, 2024 (not yet confirmed).

DG CONNECT reported that **challenges have arisen** particularly related to qualified web authentication certificates (QWACs). Specifically, press articles alleging concerns about government supervision, tracking and tracing, and confidentiality breaches. An ongoing

collaboration with members of the European Parliament is necessary to address these challenges and ensure a smooth process.

DG CONNECT also highlighted that the Commission is satisfied with the negotiation outcomes, believing the proposal from June 2021 has been strengthened in several areas. Specifically:

- **Transparency** is enhanced through the publication of source code under specific conditions;
- User-friendliness and protection of personal data are reinforced, with the introduction of an **open license for the source code**.
- Ease of use is enhanced with the **introduction of more functionalities and improvements in the onboarding process**. In particular, the European Parliament introduced new functionalities such as pseudonyms, a transaction dashboard, and data portability complaint functions. Despite being challenging for implementation, these additions strengthen the concept from a user perspective. Also, the onboarding process has been improved, creating a stronger link between the current situation and the proposed changes.
- The **governance** of the Wallet is reinforced with the introduction of a new governance structure to enhance the overall management of the electronic identification and the trust services.

In addition, DG CONNECT presented the agreed **security enhancements**:

- The level of assurance for the Wallet has been maintained at a level of assurance “High”;
- The CSA Certification will be mandatory, but until CSA schemes are available, national schemes may be used;
- Access to secure elements: The link to the Digital Markets Act (DMA) is maintained and strengthened;
- Recognition requirements for Qualified Website Authentication Certificates (QWACs) to improve transparency on the internet ;
- Electronic ledgers are recognised as a new trust service for secure and trusted expression of distributed ledgers.

DG CONNECT then noted that with the current timeline Wallets will be issued by 2026.

DG CONNECT clarified that the **unique persistent identifier** proposed by the Commission hasn't been maintained in the final proposal. Thus, there's a need to rely on

the current system for this purpose, posing a challenge that wasn't successfully argued during the negotiation process.

Finally, DG CONNECT extended a promise to provide a more detailed schedule for the Expert Group's work, including mapping of requirements and analysing legislative options.

3. ARF SPRINT UPDATE

DG CONNECT then presented the **core considerations for the ARF process**. Specifically, they noted that:

- There is now a now a stable legal text to rely on, which helps for the establishment of the functional requirements;
- The timeline for providing inputs to the Implementing Acts drafting will be limited;
- Thus, the work needs to be focused on main issues and primarily at the level of requirements.

FR asked about the application of Privacy by Design principles in technical aspects, noting the significance of Privacy by Design, especially considering the varying perceptions of Member States. DG CONNECT thanked FR for bringing this topic up for discussion. They noted that there is a clear political ambition for the Wallet to offer users more control over their data than any other solution on the market and expressed their commitment to translate this political obligation into operational reality, citing Article 6a as a basis for this work as well as GDPR which is based on Privacy by Design.

DK expressed their overall satisfaction with the text, seeking clarification on the timeline for the reference implementation, source code, and ARF publication. DG CONNECT explained the decision of not publishing the ARF and code at his moment in time to prevent potential abuse or manipulation. They also mentioned that there are ongoing checks, and the expectation is to publish as soon as possible.

DG CONNECT clarified that they prepared everything for the publication of the ARF, but the process is now paused.

Then, DG CONNECT proceeded with **clarifying the roles of the Expert Group** in relation to the forthcoming work on the implementing acts. Specifically, **the expectations of the Commission** include:

- To adopt Implementing Acts on time, highlighting the legislative commitment to adopt Implementing Acts in six months.
- Ensuring transparency in the process by consulting the Member States on elements to be used for the Implementing Acts.

In regard to Member States, DG CONNECT noted that they should actively participate in the discussions by providing inputs and by reviewing topics.

DG CONNECT then presented the slightly **adjusted approach to the ARF**. The plan is to continue with the ARF Sprints, but with the following adjustments:

- Re-prioritise the backlog items by focusing efforts on unresolved issues related to Implementing Acts;
- Limit Epic outputs to a requirements' list by primarily focusing on functional and cross- functional requirements.

Subsequently, they presented a quick overview off the **current status of the ARF's Sprints**. In particular:

- Sprint 1: released;
- Sprint 2: to-be-published;
- Sprint 3: final steps in review, to-be-published;
- Sprint 4: to-be-published;
- Sprint 5: pending Epic 27 discussions, to-be-published;
- Sprint 6: Epics 9 and 38 are still being discussed.

In addition, DG CONNECT explained that the **focus of the next Sprint** will be on the trust model and the trust distribution.

DG CONNECT then explained the mapping of the latest legal text with Epics that can be found on Confluence. They explained that this mapping aligns the latest text with the existing epics, indicating the status and identifying gaps. They encouraged comments and feedback on the mapping document from the Experts and expressed gratitude for the positive feedback received, noting its value in enhancing visibility of the scope of work.

DG CONNECT also presented the **Generic Model for the EUDI Wallet Trust Diagram** representation. The roles of different actors in the trust ecosystem were explained, including providers, relying parties, and registration and certification authorities. This exercise aims to describe how trust will be managed in the Wallet instance, with a focus on Epic 9 and 38, which define the relationship between the Wallet Provider, Wallet Instance, and other providers (e.g., PID, QEAA etc.). Finally, the aim is to define the trust model for implementation, highlighting the importance of reaching an agreement on trust levels.

DG CONNECT then clarified that the model is a generic, high-level description aimed at facilitating discussions around the trust model. It is not yet a part of the trust model but serves as a tool to initiate dialogue on the subject.

NL inquired whether the approach around the ARF will remain more public with a larger audience, potentially involving LSPs. DG CONNECT confirms this approach, emphasising the need to engage the public in this project, recognising that the work done so far must extend beyond internal discussions.

4. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

DG CONNECT then summarised the **next steps on the ARF**. In particular:

- The exact timeline for finalising Sprint 6 will be updated.
- The focus during the next sprints will shift to the first model discussed in previous slides.
- Hybrid workshops may be utilised for more in-depth discussions to facilitate next Sprint implementation.
- Exact dates for discussions will be proposed once there is more clarity.

DK raised a concern regarding the document repository in the Collaborative Space and inquired whether a more centralised repository could be set up. DG CONNECT noted their remark and they will reflect internally.

Finally, the Chair concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation.