

# Final exploratory seminar on e-signatures for e-business transactions in the Southern Mediterranean region

22-23 January 2014, Palau de Pedralbes, Barcelona, Spain

## *Programme*

### *DAY 1 - Wednesday 22 January 2014*

**9:00 Registration**

*Chair: M Gérard GALLER, Policy Officer, DG CONNECT, European Commission*

**9:30 Welcome**

*Kevin Bortz, Managing Director of Financial Operations, Union for the Mediterranean*

**9:30 Objectives of the seminar**

*M Gérard GALLER, Policy Officer, DG CONNECT, European Commission*

**10:00 Report from the Amman seminar**

*M Marc SEL, Director, PWC, Belgium*

Key Amman seminar findings: *In order to promote e-signature solutions for e-business development in the EUROMED region, the following topics were identified:*

1. Need for a survey on the status e-trust services in MENA
2. Need for a mechanism to ease access to best practice on e-trust services.
3. Need for national "trusted lists"
4. Need to identify eGov services that would benefit most from e-trust services
5. Need to promote usage of e-trust services by businesses in MENA
6. Need to promote usage of open source software solutions for e-trust services
7. Advantages of a common political vision on e-trust services
8. Advantages of converging laws across MENA
9. Advantages of mutual recognition of e-trust services
10. Advantages of common standards for e-trust services

## **10:20 Methodology of the Barcelona seminar**

*M Thierry PIETTE-COUDOL, Lawyer, Piette-Coudol Law Office, France*

*Step 1: Series of ten panels with intervention of the audience to elaborate some of the key findings of the Amman seminar and investigate how they could lead to further actions.*

*For each of the proposed finding, the panellists/audience will be invited to further detail the topic, find out possible actions taking into account constraints specific to the topic, feasibility, obstacle, stakeholders. In particular the discussion should:*

- *Identify the relevant stakeholders*
- *Assess the familiarity of stakeholders in MENA of the legal / technical / operational aspects related to each topic,*
- *Address the diversified cultural basis of MENA when relevant,*
- *Assess the required human and financial resources for possible actions and*
- *Address political cooperation constraints, if any.*

*Panel setting: Average duration: 30 minutes per topic. Panels are made of three experts. One expert will lead each panel. Panels will open the discussions with some statements and will then involve the audience. Each discussion should at least cover all the points of a standard list of issues to be addressed. A chairperson ensures that the list is well covered. A note taker will during the discussions, fill a template based on the list of issues.*

*Step 2: Formulation of possible recommendations according to common template and presentation at the end of the seminar.*

## **10.30 Coffee break**

## **11:00 Additional presentations**

*Additional presentations on important initiatives that have been discovered after the Amman seminar to be taken into account.*

**What is the Union for the Mediterranean? How does it work?**

*M Kevin BORTZ, Managing Director of financial operations, Union for the Mediterranean*

**European Investment Bank & the e-payment project for the banking sector**

*M. Timothy Winters, Policy Officer, EIB*

**Interoperability between GCC Countries**

*H.E. Dr Ali AL KHOURI, Director General, Emirates Identity Authority, U.A.E.*

**Q&A**

## **12:00 Debate on the findings of the 1st seminar and discussion on possible further action (Session 1)**

*Chair: Ms Viky MANAILA, Managing Director, TransSped*

**Panel 1: Survey on the status e-trust services in MENA**

*Panellists: M x, M Y, M Z*

## **12:45 Lunch (courtesy of the European Commission)**

**14:15 Debate on the findings of the 1st seminar and discussion on possible further action (Session 2)**

*Chair: M Martin SPÄT, Policy Officer, DG CONNECT, European Commission*

Panel 2: Easing access to best practice on e-trust services.

*Panellists: M x, M Y, M Z*

Panel 3: eGov services that would benefit most from e-trust services

*Panellists: M x, M Y, M Z*

Panel 4: Promotion of usage of e-trust services by businesses in MENA

*Panellists: M x, M Y, M Z*

**16:00 Coffee break**

**16:30 Debate on the findings of the 1st seminar and discussion on possible further action (Session 3)**

*Chair: Mr Abi Chaker, Lebanon (TBC)*

Panel 5: National "trusted lists"

*Panellists: M x, M Y, M Z*

Panel 6: Promotion of usage of open source software solutions for e-trust services -  
invoicing

*Panellists: M x, M Y, M Z*

**17:00 End of day 1**

**19:00 Diner (Courtesy of European Commission)**

## ***DAY 2 – Thursday 23 January 2014***

*Chair: M Martin SPÄT, Policy Officer, DG CONNECT, European Commission*

### **9:30 Debate on the findings of the 1st seminar and discussion on possible further action (Session 4)**

*Chair: Mr Hatem HOCINI (TBC)*

Panel 7. Political vision on e-trust services

*Panellists: M x, M Y, M Z*

Panel 8. Converging laws across MENA in MENA

*Panellists: M x, M Y, M Z*

### **10:30 Coffee break**

### **11:00 Debate on the findings of the 1st seminar and discussion on possible further action (Session 5)**

*Chair: M Charles-Henri MENSEAU, Agence nationale des titres sécurisés -ANTS, France*

Panel 9: Mutual recognition of e-trust services

*Panellists: M x, M Y, M Z*

Panel 10: Common standards for e-trust services

*Panellists: M x, M Y, M Z*

### **12:00 Open debate: are there additional topics to consider?**

*Chair: TBD*

### **12:30 Lunch (courtesy of the European Commission)**

*During the lunch, the Steering Committee will consolidate the debates*

### **14:30 Consolidation of the debates and considerations for possible recommendations**

*Which actions should be undertaken? To whom should the recommendation be addressed? Who should act? What would be the output and deliverables? What would be the financing needs?*

*M Tijani BEN JEMAA, Executive Director, Fédération Méditerranéenne des Associations d'Internet (FMAI) - TBC*

*M Thierry PIETTE-COUDOL, Lawyer, Piette-Coudol Law Office, France*

### **15:00 Coffee break**

### **15.30 Open discussion: feedback from the audience on the possible recommendations actions, next steps**

*Moderators:*

*M Tijani BEN JEMAA, Executive Director, Fédération Méditerranéenne des Associations d'Internet (FMAI) - TBC*

*M Thierry PIETTE-COUDOL, Lawyer, Piette-Coudol Law Office, France*

**16:15 Next Steps and conclusions**

*M Martin SPÄT, Policy Officer, DG CONNECT, European Commission*

**16:30 End**

*The seminar is organised by the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission (DG CONNECT) in partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). The initiative is funded by the European Union and contracted to ATC Consultants, Austria.*