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To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
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Subject:	Commission draft implementing regulation (EU) .../... of ... 2021 setting out technical and operational specifications of the technical system for the cross-border automated exchange of evidence and application of the "once-only" principle in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council

Delegations find here below the revised Commission draft Implementing Regulation on the above, which was notified to the Council on 7 June 2021.



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, **XXX**
XXXX
[...] (2021) **XXX** draft

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../...

of **XXX**

setting out technical and operational specifications of the technical system for the cross-border automated exchange of evidence and application of the "once-only" principle in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council

(Text with EEA relevance)

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../...

of **XXX**

setting out technical and operational specifications of the technical system for the cross-border automated exchange of evidence and application of the "once-only" principle in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, to procedures and to assistance and problem-solving services and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012¹, and in particular Article 14(9) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 requires the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, to establish a technical system for the exchange of evidence as required in online procedures listed in Annex II to that Regulation and in the procedures provided for in Directives 2005/36/EC², 2006/123/EC³, 2014/24/EU⁴ and 2014/25/EU⁵ of the European Parliament and of the Council.

(2) The technical and operational specifications of the 'once-only' technical system (OOTS) contained in this Regulation should set forth the main components of the architecture of the (OOTS), define the roles and the obligations of the Commission, the

¹ OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 1.

² Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications (OJ L 255, 30.9.2005, p. 22).

³ Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market (OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, p. 36).

⁴ Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 65).

⁵ Directive 2014/25/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors and repealing Directive 2004/17/EC (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 243).

Member States, evidence requesters, evidence providers and intermediary platforms. Furthermore, they should establish a log system in order to monitor the exchanges and delineate the responsibility for the maintenance, operation and security of the OOTS.

(3) In order to enable the establishment of the OOTS by the date set out in Regulation (EU) 2018/1724, it is envisaged to complement this Regulation by more detailed, non-binding technical design documents drawn up in a consensual manner by the Commission in cooperation with the Member States within the gateway coordination group and in accordance with the Commission's Guidelines for the implementation of the single digital gateway Regulation 2021-2022 work programme. However, where deemed necessary in the light of new technical developments or discussions or differences of opinion within the gateway coordination group, notably on the finalisation of the technical design documents and major design choices, or when the need arises to make certain elements of the technical design documents binding, it will be possible to complement/amend the relevant technical and operational specifications set out in this Regulation in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 37(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.

(4) In order to request evidence on behalf of a legal or natural person as required by some of the procedures listed in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724, this Regulation already foresees that additional attributes can be provided by users where evidence providers accept this for the exchange of certain evidence types through the OOTS and this acceptance is registered in the data service directory. The technical and operational specifications of the OOTS laid down in this Regulation will however need to be complemented in the future to support acceptance of and reliance on cross-border powers of representation and mandates by evidence providers for requesting evidence on behalf of a legal or natural person as required by some of the procedures listed in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.

~~(2)~~(5) In order to reduce the costs of and the time necessary for establishing ~~this 'once-only' technical system~~ the (OOTS), the architecture of the OOTS should rely on reusable solutions, be implementation technology neutral and accommodate different national solutions underpinning the functioning of databases. For example, the OOTS should be able to use the existing national procedure portals, data services or intermediary platforms, which have been created for national use.

~~(3)~~(6) One ~~of~~ such reusable solutions developed at Union level ~~are~~ is eIDAS nodes, which, by enabling the communication with other nodes of the eIDAS network, can process the request for and the provision of ~~the~~ cross-border authentication of a user. The eIDAS nodes should allow evidence requesters to identify users requesting evidence to be exchanged through the OOTS so that evidence providers can match the identification data in the evidence requests to the identification data they hold.

~~(4)~~(7) To ensure the security of the cross-border electronic delivery services for the purposes of the OOTS, the Member States should ensure that such services comply with the requirements for electronic registered delivery services, laid down in Article

44 of Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶. To that effect, it is appropriate that the OOTS uses eDelivery Access Points, as defined in the eDelivery building blocks ~~developed under of~~ the Connecting Europe Facility Programme⁷ and continued under the Digital Europe Programme⁸, ~~that provide technical specifications and standards, as well as ancillary services, which allow~~ to create a network of nodes for secure digital data exchange. Within that framework, Member States should be able to choose the provider(s) of their eDelivery software.

~~(5)~~(8) To ensure flexibility in the application of this Regulation, Member States should be able to decide to have either one or several eDelivery Access Points, as part of the OOTS. A Member State should therefore be able to deploy a single Access Point managing all OOTS-related eDelivery messaging to the evidence requesters or evidence providers through an intermediary platform, where applicable, or, alternatively, to deploy multiple Access Points at any hierarchical level or for specific domains or sectors or geographic levels of its public administration.

~~(6)~~(9) According to Union law, including Directives 2005/36/EC, 2006/123/EC, 2014/24/EU, 2014/25/EU and Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 certain administrative procedures are to be available to users online. As those procedures and the evidence required are not harmonised under Union law, common services ~~—~~should be established to enable the cross-border exchange of evidence required for these procedures through the OOTS.

~~(7)~~(10) In situations where there is no agreed evidence type that is harmonised across the Union and that all Member States can provide, an evidence broker should help determine which evidence types can be accepted ~~from other Member States~~ for a particular procedure. ~~As the type of evidence that is used in the Member State that requests the evidence may not exist in other Member States, it should be possible to provide equivalent evidence that contains the same required information.~~

~~(8)~~(11) The evidence broker~~—~~ should be based on rule content provided by Member States and should provide an on-line mechanism for Member States to ~~align and~~ query their information requirements and evidence type sets. The evidence broker should allow Member States to manage and share information about rules relating to ~~evidence types, in particular for~~ standardised types of evidence ~~that do not require a detailed substantial assessment.~~

(12) In cases where interoperability integration is needed between the procedure portal and the data services and the common services, ~~the exchange protocols and other~~this

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC (OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p. 73).

⁷ Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, amending Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 680/2007 and (EC) No 67/2010 (OJ L 348, 20.12.2013, p. 129–171).

⁸ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Digital Europe programme for the period 2021-2027 (COM/2018/434 final - 2018/0227 (COD)).

~~should be supported by the technical design documents should be provided by the Commission in cooperation with the gateway coordination group preferred to in recital (2).~~

~~(9)~~—

~~(13) In order to comply with Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724, Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 provides that any evidence required for the procedures listed in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 and lawfully issued in an electronic format that allows automated exchanged in an automated fashion should be covered by the OOTS. This Regulation specifies when this is the case for structured and unstructured evidence. it should be possible to exchange through the OOTS structured evidence as well as unstructured evidence that can be exchanged in an automated fashion. Unstructured pieces of evidence issued in an electronic format can be exchanged through the OOTS if they are supplemented by the metadata elements of the OOTS generic metadata model contained in the semantic repository referred to in Article 7(1). Structured pieces of evidence—pieces of evidence can be exchanged through the OOTS if they are supplemented by the metadata elements of the OOTS generic metadata model referred to in Article 7(1) and are either in compliance with the OOTS data model for the relevant evidence type as referred to in Article 7(2), or accompanied by a human-readable version. To enable this exchange, a semantic repository should be developed by the Commission to provide access to and manage data models, metadata schemata and data formats for evidence that can be exchanged in an automated fashion.~~

~~(14)~~ Member States should be free to determine when they convert ~~unstructured~~ pieces of evidence to a format that enables their automated exchange ~~through the OOTS. ,and thus make them compliant with the relevant data models, metadata schemata and data formats stored in the semantic repository.~~ However, in order to enhance the usefulness of the OOTS for its users and since the ~~usage~~ use of data models and metadata schemata for both unstructured and structured ~~evidence~~ formats is generally highly recommended, the Commission should support Member States in their efforts to work towards this goal.

~~(10)(15)~~ In ~~the~~ view of the foregoing, the semantic repository should be ~~built~~ gradually ~~expanded~~, as the number of pieces of evidence qualifying for ~~an~~ exchange through the OOTS increases. ~~When changes are made to the data models and metadata schemata for pieces of evidence contained in the semantic repository.~~ Member States should be given twelve months ~~from the adoption of any update to apply any changes to for the implementation of updates of the semantic repository—the pieces of evidence concerned.~~

~~(11)(16)~~ To minimize the amount of data ~~subject to exchanged~~, in the case of structured evidence, if only a subset of data is requested in the evidence request, the evidence provider ~~or an intermediary platform, where applicable,~~ may enable automated filtering of the data so that only the requested data are exchanged.

~~(12)~~(17) Where Member States manage national registries and services that play the same or an equivalent role as the data service directory or the evidence broker, they should not be required to duplicate their work by contributing to the ~~relevant~~respective common services. However, in such a case they should ensure that their national services are ~~inter~~connected ~~with to~~ the common services ~~so in such a way~~ that they can be used by other Member States. Alternatively, those Member States should be able to copy the relevant data from the national registries or services to the data service directory or evidence broker.

~~(13)~~(18) In order to ~~ensure compliance with~~ ensure that the principles of user centricity and user-friendliness, expressed in the 2017 Tallinn Declaration on eGovernment and the 2020 Berlin Declaration on Digital Society and Value-Based Digital Government, ~~are met~~, users should be informed about the OOTS, its steps and the consequences of using the system. In addition, ~~the OOTS should be accessible for persons with disabilities~~ in line with the accessibility requirements set out in Annex I of Directive (EU) 2019/882⁹, ~~the OOTS should be accessible for persons with disabilities.~~

~~(14)~~ It is important that an appropriate system is in place to allow users to identify themselves for the purposes of the exchange of evidence. The OOTS architecture requires Member States to mutually recognise user authentication. The only mutual recognition framework at EU level –is set out in Regulation (EU) 910/2014. Electronic identification means notified in accordance with that Regulation should therefore be used to authenticate the identity of a user. For the evidence provider or intermediary platform, where applicable, to should be able to match the attributes of the user provided during the authentication process with the attributes of the user to which the requested evidence relates. assess whether the evidence request made by a user relates to evidence that this user is entitled to receive. The evidence provider or intermediary platform should receive the attributes exchanged using the electronic identification means notified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 910/2014 that allow identifying the user to be identified should be used. Where matching will require the provision of attributes other than those contained in the electronic identification means notified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 910/2014. In case the evidence provider or intermediary platform requests additional attributes for particular evidence types, such additional attributes should also be requested from the user by the evidence requester and provided to the evidence provider or intermediary platform, where applicable, as part of the evidence request.

~~(19)~~

~~(15)~~

~~(16)~~(20) In order to guarantee ~~users~~ that ~~they~~ users retain control over their personal data at all times while using the OOTS ~~in accordance with Article 14(3)(a) and (f), (4) and (5) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724~~, this Regulation should ensure that users

⁹ Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services (OJ L 151, 7.6.2019, p. 70–115).

receive sufficient information to enable them to make an informed and explicit request to exchange evidence, and that they can view the evidence to be provided in a separate and secure preview space before deciding whether to use it or not in the procedure.

~~To enable users to request evidence on behalf of a legal or natural person as required by some of the procedures listed in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724, the OOTS should incorporate and this Regulation will in the future need to be adapted to rely on solutions developed in the future for cross-border powers of representation and mandates and accepted by Member States. In order to take account of the Union or national law, Tthe OOTS should in the future incorporate solutions and this Regulation will also need to be adapted to enable the exchange of evidence without explicit request by the user and without preview as provided by way of exemption in Article 14(4) and (5) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.~~

~~(17)~~(21) Considering that Responsibility for the establishment of the OOTS is ~~a shared responsibility~~ between the Commission and the Member States, and the gateway coordination group should therefore play a central role in the governance of the system. In view of the technical nature of its work and in order to facilitate implementation in existing national systems of the protocols and technical design documents developed by the Commission in cooperation with Member States referred to in recital (2), ensure that protocols and technical design documents can be finalised, implemented with ease in existing national systems and further developed where necessary, the work of the gateway coordination group should be supported and prepared by experts coming together in one or several sub-groups created in accordance with its rules of procedure. To ensure a quick reaction to any possible incidents and downtimes which may impact the functioning of the OOTS, the Commission and the Member States should establish a network of technical support contact points. It will be important, for the good functioning of the OOTS, that those technical support contact points have and provide them with the powers and sufficient human and financial resources to enable them to carry out their tasks.

~~(18)~~(22) To ensure an efficient functioning and maintenance of the OOTS, the responsibilities for its different components should be clearly distributed. The Commission, as the owner and operator of the common services, should be responsible for their maintenance, hosting and security. Each Member State should be responsible for ensuring maintenance and the security of those components of the OOTS that they own and for which they are responsible, such as eIDAS nodes, eDelivery Access Points or national registries, in accordance with the relevant Union and national law.

~~(19)~~(23) In order to ensure ~~an~~ appropriate protection of ~~the users'~~ personal data as required by Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the

Council¹⁰ this Regulation should specify the role of the Member States in relation to the personal data contained in the evidence that is exchanged through the OOTS.

~~(20)~~(24) Article 14(1) to (8) and (10) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 is to apply from 12 December 2023. Therefore, the requirements laid down in this Regulation should also apply from the same date.

~~(21)~~(25) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted on the measures laid down in this Regulation and provided its opinion on 6 May 2021.

~~(22)~~(26) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Single Digital Gateway Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

CHAPTER I

General provisions

Article 1 *Definitions*

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) ‘once-only technical system’ (‘OOTS’) means the technical system for the cross-border automated exchange of evidence referred to in Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724;
- (2) ‘evidence provider’ means a competent authority as referred to in Article 14(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 [that lawfully issues structured or unstructured evidence](#);
- (3) ‘evidence requester’ means a competent authority responsible for one or more of the procedures referred to in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724;
- (4) ‘eDelivery Access Point’ means a communication component that is part of the eDelivery electronic delivery service based on technical specifications and standards such as the AS4 messaging protocol and ancillary services developed under the Connecting Europe Facility Programme and continued under the Digital Europe

¹⁰ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p.1).

Programme, to the extent that these technical specifications and standards overlap with the ISO 15000-2 standard;

- (5) 'eIDAS node' means a node as defined in point 1 of Article 2 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1501¹¹ and complying with the technical and operational requirements laid down in and on the basis of that Regulation;
- (6) 'intermediary platform' means a technical solution through which evidence providers or evidence requesters ~~from one Member State~~ connect to the common services referred to in Article 4(1) ~~and/or~~ to evidence providers or evidence requesters from other Member States;
- (7) 'data service directory' means a registry containing the list of evidence providers, and the evidence types they issue together with the relevant accompanying information provide and their descriptive elements;
- (8) 'evidence broker' means a service allowing an evidence requester to determine which evidence type from another Member States is equivalent to the evidence it requires for the purposes of a national procedure;
- (9) 'semantic repository' means a collection of semantic specifications, linked to the evidence broker and the data service directory, ~~which stores and shares~~ composed of machine-readable definitions of names, data types and data elements associated with specific evidence types to ensure ~~the~~ mutual understanding and cross-lingual interpretation for evidence providers, evidence requesters and users, when exchanging evidence through the OOTS;
- (9)(10) 'technical design documents' means a set of detailed and non-binding technical documents, drawn up by the Commission in cooperation with the Member States in the framework of the gateway coordination group referred to in Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 or any sub-groups created in accordance with the rules of procedure of that group, which includes but is not limited to a high-level architecture, exchange protocols, standards and ancillary services that support the Commission, Member States, evidence providers, evidence requesters, intermediary platforms and other entities concerned in establishing the OOTS in compliance with this Regulation;
- ~~(10)~~(11) 'data service' means a technical service through which an evidence provider handles the evidence requests and dispatches evidence;
- ~~(11)~~(12) 'data model' means an abstraction that organises elements of data, standardises how they relate to one another and specifies the entities, their attributes and the relationships between entities;

¹¹ 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).

(+2)(13) ‘preview space’ means a functionality accessible but separate from the procedure portal, enabling the temporary storage of evidence for the purposes of its preview by the user;

(+3)(14) ‘structured evidence’ means any ~~data or document~~ evidence in electronic format required for the procedures listed in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 falling within the scope of Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724, that is organised in predefined elements or fields that have a specific meaning and technical format allowing for processing by software systems, supplemented by the metadata elements of the OOTS generic metadata model referred to in Article 7(1) and either in compliance with the OOTS data model for the relevant evidence type as referred to in Article 7(2), or accompanied by a human-readable version;

~~(+4)(15)~~ ‘unstructured evidence’ means evidence in electronic format required for the procedures listed in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 falling within the scope of Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724, that is not organised in predefined elements or fields that have specific meaning and technical format, but is supplemented by the metadata elements of the OOTS generic metadata model referred to in Article 7(1) but that can be mapped to at least the minimal attributes of the relevant data model as documented in the semantic repository to enable its identification and automated exchange;

(+5)(16) ‘evidence type’ means a category of structured or unstructured evidence with a common purpose or content;

(+6)(17) ‘incident’ means a situation where the OOTS is not performing, fails to transmit the evidence or transmits evidence that has not been requested, or where the evidence has changed during the transmission, as well as any security breach;

(+7)(18) ‘procedure portal’ means a webpage or a mobile application where a user can access and complete an online procedure referred to in Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.

Article 2

Structure of the OOTS

The OOTS shall consist of the following:

- (a) the procedure portals of evidence requesters and the data services of evidence providers;
- (b) intermediary platforms, where relevant;
- (c) the preview spaces referred to in Article 14;
- (d) the national registries and services referred to in Article 8, where relevant;
- (e) eIDAS nodes for user authentication and identity matching;

- (f) eDelivery Access Points;
- (g) the common services referred to in Article 4(1);
- (h) the integration elements and interfaces required to connect the components referred to in points (a) to (g).

CHAPTER II

Services of the OOTS

Article 3 *eIDAS nodes and eDelivery Access Points*

1. Member States shall ensure that evidence requesters are connected to an eIDAS-node to perform user authentication pursuant to Article 12, either directly or through an intermediary platform.
2. Member States shall ensure that eDelivery Access Points are installed, configured and integrated in the procedure portals of evidence requesters, in the data services of evidence providers ~~or~~ and in intermediary platforms, as the case may be.
3. Member States may choose the number of eDelivery Access Points they use for the OOTS.

Article 4 *Common services*

1. The Commission in cooperation with the Member States shall establish the following services of the OOTS for the shared use by all Member States (“common services”):
 - (a) the data service directory;
 - (b) the evidence broker;
 - (c) the semantic repository~~;~~
2. Member States shall ensure the connection integration between the procedure portals of evidence requesters and the data services of evidence providers, directly or through intermediary platforms, the national registries and services where applicable, and with the common services. The integrationMember States shall be based supported in this task by the descriptions contained in the technical design documents referred to in Article 1 (on a high-level architecture ensuring interoperability composed of detailed exchange protocols, technical specifications, standards and ancillary services to be set out by the Commission in cooperation with the Member States in the framework of the gateway coordination group referred to in

~~Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 or any sub-groups created in accordance with the rules of procedure of that group.~~

3. Member States shall ensure that only evidence requesters and evidence providers are connected, directly or through intermediary platforms, to the common services and can make use of the OOTS. Member States shall ~~check-control~~ the connections to the common services at regular intervals.

Article 5 *Data service directory*

1. Without prejudice to Article 8, Member States shall ensure that each evidence provider and each evidence type issued by an evidence provider ~~are~~is registered in the data service directory.
2. ~~Registration of the evidence types referred to in paragraph 1 shall be~~ The evidence types referred to in paragraph 1 shall be registered in accordance with the OOTS generic metadata model referred to in Article 7(1) and where applicable in accordance with the OOTS data model relevant for the evidence type concerned ~~s, metadata schemata and data formats relevant for each evidence type~~ as documented in the semantic repository.
3. The Member States shall ensure that each type of evidence registered in the data service directory is accompanied by:
 - (a) the level of assurance of the electronic identification means notified by the Member States in accordance with Regulation (EU) 910/2014; and
 - (b) where applicable, ~~the additional attributes, specified in order to facilitate the authentication of the identity of the user or the identification of the relevant evidence provider, that go beyond the minimum data set laid down in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1501¹²; the attributes~~ exchanged using the electronic identification means notified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 910/2014 ~~facilitate the authentication of the identity of the user or the identification of the relevant evidence provider,~~required for its exchange through the OOTS.
4. The data service directory shall make a clear distinction between the additional attributes referred to in paragraph 3(b) and the attributes exchanged using the electronic identification means notified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 910/2014 referred to in paragraph 3(a).

¹² [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 \(Text with EEA relevance\); OJ L 235, 9.9.2015, p. 1–6.](#)

5. The level of assurance and the additional attributes referred to in paragraph 3 shall not exceed the level of assurance and attributes required by the evidence provider or intermediary platform, where applicable, from a national user requesting this type of evidence directly from the evidence provider.
6. Member States shall ensure that the information in the data service directory is kept up to date.
7. The Commission shall provide Member States with a tool which will help them to verify the compliance of the evidence with [the OOTS generic metadata model and the OOTS data models referred to in Article 7](#).

Article 6 Evidence broker

1. The evidence broker shall allow evidence requesters to determine which evidence type issued in another Member States corresponds to the evidence type required in the context of procedures for which they are competent.

~~To that effect, evidence providers or intermediary platforms, where applicable, shall provide the Commission with a listing of all evidence types issued by evidence providers and, for each of them, a name, description and indication of which facts or compliance with procedural requirements they prove.~~

2. ~~To that effect~~ the Commission in cooperation with Member States [and on the basis of information provided by them shall complement the](#) list of evidence types [referred to in Article 5\(1\) with](#) the facts or compliance with procedural requirements they prove, [on the basis of information referred to in paragraph 2](#).

Article 7 Semantic repository and data models

1. The semantic repository shall provide access to [the OOTS generic metadata model](#)~~data models, metadata schemata and data formats relevant for the different evidence types that can be requested on the basis of Article 14 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724, whose first two fields are designed to display metadata that uniquely identify the evidence and the evidence provider and which includes additional fields designed to display the metadata referred to in Article 15(2) a) to c).~~
2. For each type of structured evidence, the semantic repository shall contain [an the OOTS data model consisting of at least the](#) following components:
 - (a) A representations of the data model with:
 - (i) a visual class diagram; and

- (ii) a textual description of all the entities of the data model, consisting of a definition and the list of the attributes of the entity. For each attribute, the expected type (e.g. Boolean, Identifier, Date), a definition, the cardinality and the optional usage of a code list, is must be indicated. For each type of evidence, the repository will offer version control and keep track of a change log in between different versions;
 - (b) Distributions in .XSD or an equivalent format, complemented by other widely used serialisation formats, where feasible;
 - (c) Code lists to ensure the automated processing of evidences, available in a structured format.
 - ~~(e)(d)~~ A mechanism for conversion into a human-readable format such as .XSLT or equivalent.
3. For each type of evidence, the semantic repository shall offer version control and a change log to keep track of different versions.
 4. The semantic repository shall contain a methodology for developing new OOTS data models for evidence types exchanged through the OOTS, consisting of examples and learning materials.
 5. Schedules for updates and adaptations to the OOTS generic metadata models and the OOTS –data models, ~~metadata schemata and data formats~~ shall be regularly announced and discussed in the gateway coordination group referred to in Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 or any sub-groups created in accordance with the rules of procedure of that group. The evidence providers or intermediary platforms, where applicable, shall apply those updates and adaptations within twelve months from their publication in the semantic repository.

Article 8

National registries and services

Member States that have national registries or services that are equivalent to the data service directory or evidence broker shall choose to do one of the following:

- (a) allow other Member States to search their national registries ;
- (b) copy data from the national registries or services to the data service directory or evidence broker.

CHAPTER III

Evidence requesters

Article 9

Explanation to users

1. Evidence requesters shall ensure that their procedure portals contain an explanation [about of](#) the OOTS and its features, including, in particular, the information that:
 - (a) the use of the OOTS is voluntary;
 - (b) users have the option to preview the evidence in the preview space referred to in Article 14 and decide whether or not to use it for the procedure;
 - (c) if the user decides not to use it for the procedure, the previewed evidence will be deleted automatically from that preview space.

The information referred to in point (b) shall not be required in the case of the procedures referred to in Article 14(5) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.
2. The obligation to provide explanations referred to in paragraph 1 shall be without prejudice to the obligation to provide the data subjects with the information referred to in Articles 13 and 14 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Article 10

Evidence selection

1. Evidence requesters shall give users the possibility to request the types of evidence that would be acceptable under the applicable law in the same procedure by direct submission, provided that evidence providers make these types of evidence available through the OOTS.
2. If multiple pieces of evidence can be requested the evidence requester shall ensure that users can select all, a sub-set [of](#) or a specific type of evidence.

Article 11

User authentication

1. Evidence requesters shall rely on electronic identification means notified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 910/2014 ~~for to~~ authenticating the identity of the users.
2. Once the user has selected the evidence to be exchanged through the OOTS, and based on the level of assurance of electronic identification means and, where

applicable, the additional attributes referred to in Article 5(3)(a) and (b), the evidence requesters shall inform users ~~about~~:

- (a) ~~that the authentication performed upon entering the procedure portal is sufficient for the purposes of the evidence exchange through the OOTS, or, in the case referred to in paragraph 4, of~~ the electronic identification means available for authenticating ~~its-his or her~~ identity ~~for that the purposes of the evidence exchange through the OOTS~~; and
- (b) where applicable, ~~of~~ any additional attributes that the user ~~needs to~~ must provide.

3. ~~Users shall be required to identify themselves only once provided that the conditions for mutual recognition set out in Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 910/2014 are met, including when they request multiple pieces of evidence from different evidence providers in the same or different Member States.~~

- 4. ~~In derogation from~~ Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, evidence requesters shall require users to identify ~~and authenticate themselves~~ again for the purpose of requesting the exchange of one or several pieces of evidence for which the level of assurance of the electronic identification means required by the evidence providers as registered in the data service directory is higher than the ~~assurance~~ level of the electronic identification means used to access the procedure ~~al~~ portal.

Article 12 Explicit request

To enable users to select the evidence to be exchanged through the OOTS in an informed manner, the evidence requester shall provide the user with the following:

- (a) the name(s) of the evidence provider(s);
- (b) the evidence type(s) or data fields that will be exchanged.

Article 13 Evidence request

- 1. The evidence requester shall ensure that an explicit request made by a user is transmitted to the evidence provider or intermediary platform, where applicable, consisting of the following information:
 - (a) the unique identifier of the request;
 - (b) the evidence type that is requested;
 - (c) date and time when the explicit request was made;
 - (d) identification of the procedure for which the evidence is required;

- (e) name of the evidence requester and intermediary platform, where applicable;
 - (f) the attributes of the user exchanged using the electronic identification means notified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 910/2014;
 - (g) the level of assurance, as defined in Regulation (EU) 910/2014, of the electronic identification means used by the user;
 - (h) the additional attributes, referred to in Article 5(3)(b), provided by the user for the purpose of the request;
 - (i) the identification of the evidence provider as registered in the data service directory.
2. The evidence requester shall make a clear distinction between the additional attributes referred to in paragraph 1(h) and the attributes referred to in paragraph 1(f).
- ~~3. The evidence requester shall ensure that the information listed in paragraph 1 is provided in an electronic format that enables its automated exchange.~~

Article 14 *Preview of evidence*

Except in the case of the procedures referred to in Article 14(5) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724, Member States shall ensure that the procedure portal of the evidence requester gives the user access to a preview space:

- (a) Which is a separate component to the procedure portal with a separate storage and an independent data retention period;
- (b) To which only the user has access to preview the evidence until the user decides to use it in the procedure and give the evidence requester or intermediary platform permission to access the evidence for that purpose;
- (c) Which immediately and permanently deletes the evidence and any cached data when:
 - (i) the user decides not to use the evidence for the procedure, ~~or~~
 - (ii) when the user leaves the preview space or the procedure portal without explicitly approving the use of the evidence, or
 - ~~(iii)~~ once the evidence requester has obtained access to the evidence after the user has decided to use the evidence in the procedure.

CHAPTER IV

Evidence providers

Article 15

Role in the exchange of evidence

1. Member States shall ensure that, for the purpose of an evidence exchange through the OOTS, evidence providers or intermediary platforms, where applicable, shall use application services capable of the following:
 - (a) receiving and interpreting evidence requests delivered by an eDelivery Access Point, which shall be considered as the input to the data services;
 - (b) retrieving any pieces of evidence matching the request, subject to successful authentication;
 - (c) returning to the evidence requester through an eDelivery Access Point evidence responses, or error reports, including in the situation referred to in Article 16(2).
2. If an evidence response is returned, it shall include the requested evidence and be accompanied by:~~together with~~
 - (a) metadata that uniquely identifies the evidence response;
 - (b) metadata that uniquely identifies the evidence request;
 - (c) metadata that indicates the evidence provider and the date and time at which the response was generated;
 - (d) the metadata in the first two fields of the OOTS generic metadata model referred to in Article 7(1);
 - ~~(d)(e)~~in case of structured evidence that does not comply with the OOTS data model relevant for the evidence type concerned, a human-readable version of the evidence.
- 2.3. If an error report is returned, it shall include metadata that uniquely identifies the evidence request, the date and time at which it was generated and a description of the error that occurred.

Article 16

Identity matching

1. Evidence providers or intermediary platforms, where applicable, shall be responsible for ensuring that evidence is only exchanged through the OOTS if the attributes of

the user exchanged using the electronic identification means notified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 910/2014 as set out in the evidence request referred to in Article 14(1)(e) unambiguously match the attributes held by them. ~~The Member States are responsible for determining the criteria to assess when a match is considered unambiguous.~~

2. Where the process of identity matching does not result in an unambiguous match, the requested evidence shall not be exchanged. In such a situation:
 - (a) an error report shall be sent to the evidence requester;
 - (b) the user shall receive an automated message explaining that the evidence cannot be provided.
 - ~~(c) an error message shall be sent to the evidence requester.~~

Article 17

Responsibility for evidence entering an eDelivery Access Point

Evidence providers shall be responsible for the quality and integrity of the evidence that they send to the eDelivery Access Points.

CHAPTER V

Log system of the OOTS

Article 18

Log system

1. For each evidence request transmitted through the OOTS, the ~~relevant~~ evidence requester, evidence provider(s) or intermediary platform(s), where applicable, shall log ~~at the least~~ the following elements:
 - (a) ~~t~~The evidence request referred to in Article 13(1);
 - (b) ~~t~~The information included in the evidence response, with the exception of the evidence itself, or error report referred to in Article 15(2) and 15(3);
 - (c) ~~t~~The eDelivery event data related to any of the following:
 - (i) ~~the~~ exchange of evidence requests,
 - (ii) evidence responses,
 - ~~(+)~~(iii) error reports.

2. For each piece of evidence exchanged through the OOTS, the ~~relevant~~ evidence requester or intermediary platform, where applicable, shall log ~~the~~ decision of the user after previewing the evidence to approve or not ~~the~~ to use of the piece of evidence for the procedure, or where applicable the fact that the user leaves the preview space or procedure portal without making a specific decision.

2.

3. The Commission and, in situations referred to in Article 8(a), the relevant Member States shall log ~~all~~ interactions with the common services referred to in Article 4(1).

3.

4. Without prejudice to longer retention periods mandated by national law for the logs referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 for the purposes of the OOTS or for other purposes, the Commission and the evidence requesters, evidence providers or intermediary platforms, where applicable, shall keep those logs for a period of 12 months.

5. The Commission and the Member States shall ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the logs referred to in paragraphs 1 to 3 through appropriate and proportionate ~~adequate~~ security measures, each for the logs that is has recorded.

6. In case of strong suspicion of incidents and for the purposes of audits and random checks of security performed within their respective areas of responsibility referred to in Article 23, ~~t~~The ~~relevant~~ evidence requesters, evidence providers and intermediary platforms, where applicable, shall make available to each other on request the logs referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 ~~in case of potential incidents and for the purposes of audits and random checks of security performed within their respective areas of responsibility, referred to in Article 23.~~ The Commission and the Member States, where applicable, shall make available to the relevant evidence requesters, evidence providers and intermediary platforms, where applicable, the logs referred to in paragraph 3 for the same purposes.

CHAPTER VI

Governance of the OOTS

Article 19

Gateway coordination group

The Commission, in cooperation with Member States in the framework of the gateway coordination group established by Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 or any sub-groups created in accordance with the rules of procedure of that group, shall:

- (a) oversee the establishment and launch of the OOTS, ~~including the implementation of the high level architecture referred in Article 4(2) in line with Article 26(1);~~
- (b) set priorities for further developments and improvements to the OOTS;
- (c) determine an indicative schedule for ~~the finalisation of the first complete version~~ regular updates ~~to~~ and adaptation of the technical design documents;
- (d) determine criteria for conformity testing to ensure the correct functioning of the OOTS;
- (e) adopt risk management plans to identify risks, assess their potential impact and plan appropriate technical and organisational responses in case of incidents.

Article 20

Technical support contact points

1. The Commission and each of the Member States shall designate a single contact point for technical support to ensure a coordinated development, operation and maintenance of the relevant components of the OOTS for which they are responsible pursuant to Chapter VII.
2. The single technical support- contact points shall, in particular, each in its area of responsibility:
 - (a) provide expertise and advice to evidence providers and evidence requesters for all technical problems encountered in relation to the operation of the OOTS;
 - (b) investigate and solve any possible downtimes of the eDelivery Access Points, possible security breaches and other incidents.
3. The Commission and ~~each of~~ the Member States shall ensure that ~~their-its~~ respective technical support contact points ~~are-is~~ organised in a way which allows ~~them-it~~ to perform ~~their-its~~ tasks in all circumstances and ~~that they areis~~ able to react at short notice.

4. ~~Each of the~~ technical support contact points shall report any ~~substantial~~ incident ~~it considers to be substantial~~ to the ~~Chair of the~~ gateway coordination group. ~~The technical support contact points designated by the Member States~~ and shall support their respective national coordinators in exercising their tasks related to the OOTS in the gateway coordination group.
5. The Commission and ~~each of~~ the Member States shall communicate the contact details of their respective technical support contact points to each other and shall inform each other immediately of any changes thereof.
6. The Commission shall provide a platform enabling the technical support contact points to communicate among themselves, report substantial incidents through an alert mechanism, consult on temporary or permanent measures following incidents and request assistance from other technical support contact points.

Article 21

Cooperation with other governance structures

The Commission shall inform the gateway coordination group about discussions and decisions of ~~the Cooperation Network different governance structures~~ established by ~~Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/296¹³ under Regulation (EU) No 910/2014~~, which are relevant for the functioning of the OOTS.

CHAPTER VI

Responsibility for the maintenance, operation and security of the components of the OOTS

Article 22

Responsibilities of the Commission

The Commission shall be the owner of the common services and responsible for the following:

- (a) the development, availability, monitoring, updating, maintenance and hosting of the common services;

¹³ [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2015/296 of 24 February 2015 establishing procedural arrangements for cooperation between Member States on electronic identification pursuant to Article 12\(7\) 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 Text with EEA relevance; OJ L 53, 25.2.2015, p. 14–20](#)

- (b) ensuring the security of the common services by preventing any unauthorised access, entry of data and consultation modification or deletion of data, and by detecting any security breaches.

Article 23
Responsibilities of the Member States

With respect to the respective national components of the OOTS referred to in Article 2(2), points (a) to (f) and (h), each Member State shall be considered as ~~the~~ owner and responsible for the following:

- (a) ~~the~~ establishment, where applicable, and ~~the~~ development, availability, monitoring, updating, maintenance and hosting;
- (b) ensuring the security of those components by preventing any unauthorised access, entry of data and consultation, modification or deletion of data and by detecting any security breaches.

Article 24
Changes and updates

1. The Commission shall inform the Member States of changes and updates to the common services.
2. Member States shall inform the Commission of changes and updates to the components under their responsibility that may have repercussions on the functioning of the OOTS.

Article 25
~~Assessment~~ Monitoring of the electronic systems

1. The Commission and the Member States shall conduct regular checks on assessments ~~of~~ the components of the OOTS for which they are responsible.
2. The Commission and the Member States shall inform each other of problems discovered during the checks ~~any activities~~ that might result in a breach or a suspected breach of the security of the OOTS.

CHAPTER VII

Final provisions

Article 26 *Testing of the OOTS*

1. The Commission and the Member States shall test the functioning of the OOTS and verify that it can function properly. Only when the tests yield positive results, the OOTS shall be made available for users.
2. The Commission in cooperation with Member States shall prepare a testing schedule and a set of indicators according to which the testing results can be measured and considered as positive.

Article 27 *Processing of personal data*

In relation to the processing of personal data occurring in the components of the OOTS that they own pursuant to Article 23, [the respective competent authorities of the](#) Member States shall act as controllers as defined in Article 4, point 7, of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁴.

Article 28 *Entry into force*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 12 December 2023.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)(OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission
The President
Ursula von der Leyen*

DRAFT