STORK 2.0 welcomes the endorsement EU Agreement on
New Draft Regulation on eID and Trust Services for
Electronic Transactions

A Single European eID and Authentication Area Takes a Major Step Forward

Brussels, 24/03/142 - STORK 2.0 (Secure idenTity acrOss boRders linKed 2.0) has welcomed the endorsement of a draft regulation for electronic identification (eID) and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (eIDAS). The European Commission reached a political agreement on Friday 28th February 2014, providing the necessary legal basis for achieving eID and authentication across Europe using STORK 2.0 infrastructure.

The eIDAS regulation that is due to come into force on 1st July 2014 is intended to develop interoperability and usage of eID and trust services. It aims to remove the barriers inhibiting national and cross-border electronic transactions, by giving them the same legal validity as paper-based processes. The regulation also includes a strengthening of existing EU legislation regarding eSignatures.

STORK 2.0 Project Coordinator from Atos Spain, Ana Piñuela states: “This agreement on eIDAS represents a key milestone in our efforts to move towards the realisation of interoperable and secure eID and authentication for European Member States. We have come a long way, since the inception of the initial STORK project back in 2008, to reach this milestone.” She adds: “Today, thanks to the joint efforts of the EC, the Member States and the STORK 2.0 consortium, we are closer than ever to achieve, based on mutually recognised eID and trust services, the required levels of trustworthiness in cross-border electronic relations between European citizens, public and private organisations.”

STORK 2.0 was launched in 2012 as a large scale pilot, bringing together 58 consortium partners and 19 countries to facilitate the creation and take-up of a single interoperable and sustainable eID authentication area for Europe. The project’s key objectives are to accelerate the deployment of eID for public and private services; maximise the take-up of its scalable solutions throughout the EU and Associated Countries; foster the cooperation between private and public sectors and validate the common specifications and building blocks by
means of four cross-border and cross-sector pilots (eLearning and Academic Qualifications, eBanking, Public Services for Business and eHealth).

STORK 2.0 Dissemination and Communication Leader, Arvid Welin of Sweden explains: “With the currently achieved optimal fit between the new eIDAS Regulation and STORK 2.0 objectives, we are now truly confident that the single European electronic identification and authentication area will become a tangible reality for the benefit and adoption of all Europeans.”

The agreement has also been welcomed by Vice-President of the European Commission, Neelie Kroes and Commissioner Michel Barnier.

Further information regarding STORK 2.0 and eIDAS can be found at:


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About STORK 2.0 project:
STORK 2.0 (Secure idenTity acrOss boRders linKed 2.0) builds on the success and results of STORK by taking further steps to decisively push the lines for wider uptake of eID in Europe, aiming at realising a single European electronic identification & authentication area. Its highly innovative focus lies on the convergence of private and public sectors in an operational framework and infrastructure encompassing eID for secure electronic authentication of both legal and natural persons. It includes facilities for mandates, widely useable across the EU, providing strong data protection and secure ways of transferring attributes, all under user control.

STORK 2.0 Pilots, focused on strategic eLearning & Academic Qualifications, eBanking, Public Services for Business and eHealth areas, will demonstrate interoperable services in real-life settings and validate common specifications, standards and building blocks, convincingly addressing challenging legal and governance issues (across borders, application domains and different sectors). These applications will facilitate borderless digital living and mobility in the EU, enhancing the Digital Single Market for public and commercial services in alignment with the Services Directive.

STORK 2.0 is an EU co-funded project under the ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP). STORK 2.0 will be a key-enabler to support the open, competitive digital economy envisaged in the Europe 2020 Strategy and is aligned with Key Actions in the Digital Agenda, thus contributing to Europe’s leadership role of the eID market. STORK 2.0 involves directly 19 countries in the Consortium (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom) in which participate 58 partners in total.

Further information:
STORK 2.0 website: http://www.eid-stork2.eu
PRESS RELEASE

Editorial Contacts:
STORK 2.0 Press Office: communication@eid-stork2.eu