

Home>Tools for courts and practitioners>Cooperation in civil matters>**Automatic processing**

Automatic processing

Modern information technology has rapidly and substantially changed our everyday life. Civil judicial proceedings must react accordingly to face the challenges this brings to provide a framework for justice which can keep up with the expectations of modern societies.

In recent years more and more Member States have introduced changes in law which allow for the use of modern communication and information technologies in civil judicial proceedings. These changes allow communication between the judicial authorities and the parties concerned with the proceedings by new channels such as the internet.

In some cases procedures may be initiated by an electronic application sent by the claimant via the internet to the court; in other cases courts have the authority to serve judicial documents electronically to the parties; and in other cases all communications are conducted electronically. There are some Member States, where the use of internet for communication purposes is accepted for almost all kind of civil proceedings, while in others it is restricted to certain special types of proceedings.

The use of modern communication technologies in civil proceedings must not jeopardise the fundamental rights of the parties involved. Access to justice may not be prevented by the fact that a certain means of communication technology is not available to a party. In addition to that, national legislation should ensure that communication via the internet does not threaten the appropriate protection of sensitive data used in the course of the proceedings.

To obtain detailed information about the relevant legal environment in the Member States, please select one of the flags listed on the right hand side.

Last update: 27/04/2016

This page is maintained by the European Commission. The information on this page does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission. The Commission accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever with regard to any information or data contained or referred to in this document. Please refer to the legal notice with regard to copyright rules for European pages.

The Commission is in the process of updating some of the content on this website in the light of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. If the site contains content that does not yet reflect the withdrawal of the United Kingdom, it is unintentional and will be addressed.