

**DECISION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT**

No. 11/2025

on the recognition of advanced electronic signatures and advanced electronic seals

The Joint Committee,

Having regard to Article 40.4 of Annex 1 to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement, done in Bucharest on 19 December 2006 ("CEFTA 2006");

Having regard to the CEFTA Parties' commitments under the Additional Protocol 6 on Trade in Services ("AP 6") and, in particular, its Article 18 on '*Electronic commerce*', which affirms the CEFTA Parties' obligation to maintain a dialogue on regulatory issues raised by electronic commerce, which is to address, *inter alia*, the recognition of certificates of electronic signatures issued to the public and the facilitation of inter-Party certification services,

Considering that the *CEFTA Roadmap for Regulatory Dialogue on Electronic Commerce* foresees the creation of a general framework for the recognition of electronic signatures and other trust services, which would set up general standards and be modelled according to the European Union's regulations in this field;

Recalling that CEFTA Parties have identified as a priority the recognition of electronic signatures and other trust services as key enablers of electronic commerce,

Emphasising the important role of the CEFTA Parties' ongoing approximation to the EU *acquis* with respect to rules on digital identity and trust services,

Has decided as follows:

Article 1

Purpose

This Decision seeks to facilitate electronic transactions within CEFTA through the recognition of advanced electronic signatures and advanced electronic seals.

Article 2

Scope

- (1) This Decision applies to trust service providers established in a CEFTA Party.
- (2) This Decision does not apply to the provision of advanced electronic signatures and advanced electronic seals that are used exclusively within closed systems resulting from a Party's regulations or administrative guidelines, or from agreements between a defined set of participants.

Article 3

Definitions

- (1) For purposes of this Decision and its implementation, the following definitions shall apply:
 - (a) “electronic signature” means data in electronic form which is attached to or logically associated with other data in electronic form, and which is used by the signatory to sign;
 - (b) “advanced electronic signature” means an electronic signature which meets the requirements set out in Article 26 of the European Union’s *Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market*, as amended by the European Digital Identity (EUDI) Regulation;
 - (c) “electronic seal” means data in electronic form, which is attached to or logically associated with other data in electronic form to ensure the latter’s origin and integrity;
 - (d) “advanced electronic seal” means an electronic seal, which meets the requirements set out in Article 36 of the European Union’s *Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market*, as amended by the European Digital Identity (EUDI) Regulation;
 - (e) “trust service provider” means a natural person or an organization who provides advanced electronic signature or advanced electronic seal services;
 - (f) “validation” means the process of verifying and confirming that data in electronic form are valid.
- (2) For purposes of this Decision and its implementation, any other definition provided for in Article 3 of *Regulation (EU) No 910/2014* shall be considered for purposes of clarification.

Article 4

Recognition of advanced electronic signatures and advanced electronic seals

- (1) The CEFTA Sub-Committee on Trade in Services shall recommend to the Joint Committee to recognize as equivalent to an advanced electronic signature or advanced electronic seal issued by a trust provider in a CEFTA Party any advanced electronic signature or advanced electronic seal issued by a trust service provider from another CEFTA Party, provided that the Additional Protocol 6 has entered into force for that Party and that the trust service provider and advanced electronic signature or advanced electronic seal services meet the requirements set out in the relevant EU regulation.
- (2) The CEFTA Sub-Committee on Trade in Services shall make a recommendation mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article based on the report from the Working Group on Digital Cooperation.
- (3) The Working Group on Digital Cooperation shall determine the requirements and develop the methodology for the recognition framework. The Working Group shall endeavor to prepare a first draft of the requirements and methodology within one year of the entry into force of this Decision.
- (4) The applicable requirements shall correspond to those set out in the relevant EU regulation, as adapted to the CEFTA context.

- (5) The methodology shall regulate, inter alia, the application for recognition, the initiation of the procedure, the assessment with the requirements, the revocation/suspension of recognition, and the establishment of a CEFTA List of Trusted Lists.
- (6) The CEFTA List of Trusted Lists shall be made available on the CEFTA website and kept up to date.

Article 5

Review

- (1) The Sub-Committee on Trade in Services shall monitor and review the application of this Decision and shall submit annual reports to the Joint Committee.
- (2) The CEFTA Secretariat shall support the review and the preparation of the report.

Article 6

Entry into force

This decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

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Adopted in Pristina on 16 December 2025 in the presence of all CEFTA Parties.