



Notification Number: 1999/548/UK

Electronic Communications Bill

Date received : 09/12/1999
End of Standstill : 10/03/2000
Issue of comments by : Commission, Sweden

Message

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Message 001

Communication from the Commission - SG(1999) D/52685
Directive 98/34/EC

Notifikation - Notifizierung - Γνωστοποίηση - Notificación - Notificación - Notifica - Kennisgeving -
Notificação - Ilmoitus - Anmälan : 1999/548/UK.

Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - No abre el
plazo - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Geen termijnbegin - Nao inicia o prazo - Määräaika ei
ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist.

(MSG: 199902685.EN)

1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 1999 0548 UK EN 10-03-2000 09-12-1999 UK NOTIF 10-03-2000

2. Member State

United Kingdom

3. Department Responsible

Department of Trade and Industry: Standards and Technical Regulations Directorate

3. Originating Department

Department of Trade and Industry: Communications and Information Industries



4. Notification Number

1999/0548/UK

5. Title

Electronic Communications Bill

6. Products Concerned

Provision of Cryptographic support services (eg issue of public key certificates) to the public and by government (or their agencies) to the citizen.

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

The Electronic Communications Bill seeks to establish trust and confidence in the use of cryptographic services. It does this through the establishment of a voluntary "approvals" scheme in Part I and the legal admissibility of electronic signatures and of the certification process in Part II. This latter Part also allows Orders to be made modifying primary and secondary legislation as well as schemes, licences, authorisations and approvals to allow the purposes listed in Clause 8(2) to be achieved electronically as well as in paper form. The Bill in part seeks to implement the Electronic Signatures Directive. Part I may not be brought into force if an industry self-regulation scheme (under development) which would also provide for the "approval" of the providers of cryptographic services is established. The UK will fulfil its obligation under Article 12 of Directive 98/34/EC when the Act is officially published.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

Clause 2 of the Bill makes provision for regulations which can be made concerning the "approval" of providers of cryptographic services. These regulations could cover the procedural and technical standards which providers would have to meet to be approved; but Clause 2 lays down the arrangements which must be included in the creation of any such regulations.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

- i. The Electronic Communications Bill (as introduced in the House of Commons on 18 November 1999) and the associated Explanatory Notes
- ii. -
- iii. -

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality



No

14. Fiscal measures

No

Carlo Trojan
General Secretary
European Commission