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**NOTE**

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From:	Publications Office of the European Union
To:	Working Party on e-Law (e-Law)
No. prev. doc.:	9645/16
Subject:	Electronic Official Journal - State of play

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1. As of 1 July 2013<sup>1</sup>, the electronic issues of the Official Journal (OJ) are of legal value. This applies to the L and C series as well as the special edition of the OJ containing secondary legislation in force at the time of accession of new Member States. The OJ and its advanced electronic signature are available on the EUR-Lex portal (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu>).
2. Between 1 July 2013 and 30 November 2016, 3 020 electronic issues of the Official Journal have been published (1 188 of the OJ L series and 1 832 of the OJ C series) and 131 volumes of Croatian special edition with the secondary legislation.
3. Since 1 July 2013, it was necessary to declare legal value to the paper edition in two occasions (on 20 December 2013 for OJ L 347 and on 25 July 2014 for OJ L 221). However, since the end of July 2014 all electronic issues of the Official Journal are authentic due to the improvements made to the production systems and to the communication flows.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EU) No 216/2013 of 7 March 2013 on the electronic publication of the Official Journal of the European Union, OJ L 69, 13.3.2013, p. 1.

4. The addition of a subseries "I" to the L and C series of the Official Journal (on 7 December 2015) allows for greater flexibility in the event of a change in the planned content of the OJ, notably for the documents needing to be published shortly after their adoption. The first document published on 16 January 2016 in OJ L 11 I was Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/37 of 16 January 2016 concerning the date of application of Decision (CFSP) 2015/1863 amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Iran. The document was published only 20 minutes after the Council's agreement. Since its introduction, 6 OJs were published in the subseries I.
5. Act by act publication - the Publications Office has started considering how to move from an issue-based daily publication to an act by act publication, more flexible, faster and, therefore, simplified. After a generally favourable feed-back received from the participants of the workshop which took place on 19 April 2016 to kick-start a technical assessment and discussions on how to achieve this evolution, in 2017 the Publications Office will formally ask the institutions whether the reflection on the act by act publication of the Official Journal shall be pursued.
6. Mass Signature - in 2016, OP started to envisage, also in view of the publication act by act, to sign the OJ with an electronic seal or advanced electronic seal (as opposed to the electronic signature currently in use) based on a certificate for electronic seal as provided for by Regulation (EU) No 910/2014<sup>2</sup>. In order to implement this change the Regulation (EU) No 216/2013 has to be modified following the opinion of the legal services of the Commission and of the Council. The procedure in this regard is in progress. In 2017, the Publications Office will launch a study on the changes induced by the move from electronic signature to electronic seal.

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<sup>2</sup> 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

7. In the context of anonymization of personal data published in official documents, on 26 September 2016, the first Official Journal with anonymised personal data (republishing OJ C 102 A of 27 March 2015) was produced and published on the EUR-Lex website. This anonymised version erases the name concerned by the anonymization request in the reserve list of an EPSO open competition.
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