

EU digital ID laws likely to face vote in European Parliament this week

14 Mar 2023 | 16:29 GMT | **Insight**

By Lucy Valeski

Changes to the EU's digital ID laws could be put to a vote of the European Parliament this week following a petition for debate from rebel lawmakers led by Dutch conservative Rob Roos. A vote is expected on Thursday, MLex understands, after dozens of lawmakers signed a petition against the procedure, enough to force the legislature to hold a debate and a vote on controversial changes to the digital ID framework.

Changes to the EU's digital ID laws could be put to a vote of the European Parliament on Thursday following a petition for debate from rebel lawmakers led by Dutch conservative Rob Roos.

The draft revision was due to be waved through without a vote following approval from the legislature's industry committee. Parliamentary negotiators could then begin talks with the Council of the EU, which represents the 27 member states, on the final wording of the new law.

But according to Roos, a member of the European Conservatives and Reformists group, or ECR, more than 71 lawmakers signed a petition against the procedure, enough to force the parliament to hold a debate and a vote on controversial changes to the digital ID framework. The vote will occur on Thursday, MLex understands.

Besides the ECR, the petition also has support from the nationalist Identity and Democracy group, MLex understands. In a statement today, Roos said lawmakers "from all over the spectrum" had objected.

The petitioners need signatures from one-tenth of parliamentarians by today to force a debate and vote on Thursday. The European Parliament currently has 705 members, meaning the threshold is 71 signatures.

— Digital ID 'wallets' —

The revised Electronic Identification, Authentication and Trust Services Regulation, or eIDAS, aims to make it easier for EU member states to give citizens digital identity "wallets" that they could use to access public and private-sector services, both at home and in other EU countries. Official documents, including diplomas or driving licenses, would be linked to this digital identity (see [here](#)).

Digital identities are secure online repositories of personal data, often validated with a government-issued electronic ID card, that allow citizens to verify themselves to third parties.

Roos's statement that the legislation raises concerns over privacy and data protection.

"We may have different opinions on whether these concerns are valid or not, but it is my opinion that a controversial topic like this should be subjected to a Plenary vote," Roos said. "That way, democracy shines brightest."

The EU data protection chief and digital privacy NGOs have also called for greater protections for privacy. The EU's Data Protection Supervisor Wojciech Wiewiórowski said in a speech in February that data protection standards should be written into the regulation (see [here](#)).

"I would prefer the data protection safeguards and relevant data protection standards to already be integrated into the eIDAS 2 Proposal, at least at a high level, as this would not only facilitate compliance with GDPR, but also increase the level of certainty and trust expected from the regulation," Wiewiórowski said.

39 digital privacy advocates, including epicenter.works and European Digital Rights, signed a letter in February calling for greater protection of user privacy in the framework. This includes more safeguards so that companies and government organizations cannot see personal data included in citizens' digital identification wallets.

"Only strong technical protections on the architecture level can prevent data about user behavior to proliferate and be abused," the letter said.

The framework will begin interinstitutional discussions on March 21 or face a plenary vote in the parliament on Thursday.

Please email editors@mlex.com to contact the editorial staff regarding this story, or to submit the names of lawyers and advisers.

Related Portfolio(s):

[Regulation - Data Privacy & Security - Digital Economy policy 2019-2024 \(EU\)](#)

Areas of Interest: Data Privacy & Security, Sector Regulation

Industries: Communication Services, Information Technology

Geographies: Europe, EU

Topics:

5G technologies

Big Data

Cloud computing

Cybersecurity

Data Privacy

Digital tax

Future mobility