

**Act on Electronic Data Interchange and Automatic  
Data Processing in the General Courts  
(594/1993)**

(NOTICE! This Act has been repealed by the Act on Electronic Services and Communication in the  
Public Sector, 13/2003)

*Delivery of documents*

**Section 1**

- (1) An application for a summons, a response and another comparable document which a party to the matter may deliver to a court by post may also be delivered to a general court by telefax or E-mail or by direct computer transfer into the data system of the court (*electronic message*).
- (2) The Ministry of Justice may grant a party to the matter the permission to deliver the information required of an application for a summons by direct computer transfer into the data system of a district court.

**Section 2**

An electronic message, other than a telefax, delivered to a court shall contain the necessary information as to the basis for the competence of the attorney. This shall eliminate the need for the attorney to present a power of attorney signed by his client, unless otherwise ruled by the court.

**Section 3**

- (1) An electronic message shall be deemed to have arrived to a court when it is accessible in a reception device for the production of a hard copy or when an application delivered by direct computer transfer has arrived into the data system of the court.
- (2) If no information is available on the point of time referred to in paragraph (1), an electronic message that has arrived in the court shall be deemed to have arrived at the point of time of its transmission, provided that a reliable verification of the time of transmission is available.

- (3) A response, written statement and other document requested by a district court during the consideration of a case shall be deemed to have arrived in time, if the measure referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) has been completed during the last day of the time limit.

#### **Section 4**

The delivery of a document to a court as an electronic message shall take place at the sender's risk.

#### **Section 5**

If no information is available on the payment of the stamp duty on an electronic message delivered to a court, or if a document transmitted electronically shall be delivered in the original, or if the message is otherwise deficient as to its form, the sender shall be reserved an opportunity to rectify the defect, unless it is not necessary.

#### **Section 6**

The document need not be signed, if the electronic message that has arrived to a court contains sufficient information to enable the court to contact the sender of the message, should it have doubt as to the originality of the document.

#### *Consideration of a case in a court*

#### **Section 7**

A court shall produce a hard copy of a document received electronically, if this is necessary according to the provisions or administrative orders on archives.

#### **Section 8**

- (1) In a civil or commercial case a district court may serve documents other than a summons to a party to the matter also as electronic messages, by the means specified by the party.
- (2) In a civil or commercial case the district court may sign a summons and a document to be delivered as an electronic message also by machine.
- (3) The consideration of a case in a district court shall be organised in a manner that enables a retroactive verification of the person responsible for each measure relating to the consideration of the case in the court.

*Detailed provisions*

**Section 9**

More detailed provisions on the enforcement of this Act may be issued by Decree.

*Entry into force*

**Section 10**

- (1) This Act shall enter into force on 1 December 1993.
- (2) Measures necessary for the enforcement of this Act may be undertaken prior to its entry into force.