

## Improving criminal justice in cyberspace

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### **QUESTIONNAIRE for EU MEMBER STATES following the 9 June 2016 Conclusions of the JHA Council on improving criminal justice in cyberspace**

This questionnaire is designed to provide further information to the European Commission Task Force on Cross-border Access to Electronic-Evidence, in order to facilitate swift progress of our work. We would be grateful for receiving your replies by Friday 16 September 2016.

Whereas some of the questions mainly refer to the legal framework, other questions are more related to current (working) practices in your Member State. The diversity in questions may require you to involve multiple organisations, including e.g. your responsible ministry, prosecutors and / or your national or regional police.

We are aware that you receive many questionnaires, including on these issues. Therefore, where you have provided information already under GENVAL or the Council of Europe, please feel free to simply refer us to answers already provided elsewhere. As the picture is not yet complete across Member States we could not altogether avoid certain questions. If you would like to share existing documents or responses to other questionnaires with us, please feel free to upload them here or to email them to us at **home-cybercrime@ec.europa.eu**.

If you prefer to respond to all or parts of the questionnaire in a separate document, you can download a PDF of this questionnaire by clicking on the link to the right and email your response to **home-cybercrime@ec.europa.eu**. You can also contact us at that email address for a Word version.

We very much appreciate your time and efforts and would like to thank you for your participation. Your contribution is a key element in our effort to address the existing problems.

*The E-Evidence Task Force*

### Administrative questions

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\* Please indicate on behalf of which EU Member State you are responding to the questionnaire

Cyprus

\* Please indicate which organisation you are representing

Ministry of Justice and Public Order

\* Please provide your contact details (name, e-mail address, phone number)

\* Did you coordinate your response to the questionnaire amongst different organisations in your Member State?

☒ Yes

☐ No

If yes, could you please indicate amongst which organisations you coordinated your response to the questionnaire?

The Cyprus Police

## Optional inclusion of files

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Please provide any details about the file(s) you are including

Please upload your file(s)

## 1. Direct cooperation with service providers for obtaining access to electronic evidence

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Part 1 of the questionnaire only concerns direct cooperation between law enforcement authorities and private sector service providers (e.g. providers of telecommunications services or providers of cloud services).

It may concern both mandatory and voluntary cooperation, depending on whether there is (i.e. search warrant) or there is no legal title for compelling the service provider to disclose the electronic evidence.

It does not cover situations where requests are made between authorities from a requesting and a receiving state, e.g. in the framework of a mutual legal assistance or mutual recognition procedure (see Part 2 of the questionnaire).

### 1.1 Normal practice within your domestic jurisdiction

1. What is the relevant legal framework for direct cooperation requests in your Member State? Could you please copy or include reference to the relevant provision(s) in your legislation?

Data Retention Law 183(I)/2007 [http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2007\\_1\\_183/full.html](http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2007_1_183/full.html)  
Mandatory Cooperation since a court order is necessary

2. For these direct cooperation requests, is there a difference in your legal framework between providers of telecommunications services and providers of information society services (e.g. cloud service providers)?

Yes

3a. How many domestic requests for direct cooperation are made per year by your authorities? Could you please specify the number of requests per section of the applicable legal framework and type of service provider?

Currently not available

3b. Which are the "top" service providers in terms of numbers of domestic requests for direct cooperation? Please include the names of the "top" 5 service providers.

CYTA Ltd, Primetel, MTN, Cablenet

## 1.2. Practice when the service provider is outside your domestic jurisdiction

4. How do you distinguish between domestic and foreign service providers when making a request?

- ☐ Main seat of the service provider in question
- ☐ Place where services are offered
- ☐ Place where data is stored
- ☒ Other criteria

4a. If you selected "Other criteria", please specify:

Whether the service provider is a registered company in Cyprus

5. Do authorities from your Member State make direct requests to service providers in another EU Member State or in third countries?

- ☒ Yes, both in EU Member States and third countries
- ☐ Yes, but only in other EU Member States
- ☐ Yes, but only in third countries
- ☐ No, none of the above

5a. If yes, please indicate which third countries (i.e. outside the EU) are most relevant for you in this context:

US, Russia

6. Does your domestic law address such direct requests from your authorities across borders specifically? Or do you apply the same framework as for domestic requests?

- ☐ The same legal framework  
☒ Regulated specifically

6a. If regulated specifically, please copy or reference the relevant article(s):

Law 23(I)/2001 regulates the issuing of written requests (rogatory letters) for obtaining evidence in other jurisdictions (mutual Legal assistance law)  
[http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2001\\_1\\_23/full.html](http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2001_1_23/full.html)

7. Are direct requests sent from your country directly to a service provider in another country considered mandatory or voluntary for the provider to comply with?

- ☒ Mandatory  
☐ Voluntary

7a. In case they are mandatory, can and do you enforce them, legally and in practice? Could you please explain how?

They have the status of MLA requests

8. Does your domestic law allow service providers established in your Member State to respond to direct requests from law enforcement authorities from another EU Member State or third countries?

- ☐ Yes, both from EU Member States and third countries  
☐ Yes, but only from other EU Member States  
☐ Yes, but only from third countries  
☒ No, this is not covered / allowed

8a. Please copy or reference the relevant article(s) providing for the legal basis to allow / prohibit service providers to do so:

9. Do you have a definition (legal or administrative/practical) of different types of data for law enforcement requests? Does your legal framework distinguish between different types of electronic evidence (e.g. subscriber data, traffic data, content data)?

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

9a. If yes, please provide us with the definition(s):

Data Retention Law 183(I)/2007 [http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2007\\_1\\_183/full.html](http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2007_1_183/full.html)  
Law 216(I)/2015  
Definitions are also included in the Budapest Convention ratified by the Republic of Cyprus

10. What kind of data can be requested directly from service providers according to your domestic law / the law applicable to the service provider?

- ☒ Subscriber data  
☒ Traffic data  
☒ Content data  
☐ Other data

11. Do you limit direct requests to cases with specific (e.g. exigent) circumstances or to specific (e.g. serious) crimes?

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

11a. If yes, please explain:

Serious crimes punishable by a term of imprisonment of 5 years and over. With regard to content data special rules are provided in article 17 of the Constitution.

12. What is the typical process in your Member State for making a direct request? Which authority typically initiates a request? Which other authorities are involved in processing the request?

The Police files an application through the Attorney General's office for a Court Order

13. Are these requests made in electronic form (e.g. by e-mail or sent through an online portal)? How are these requests tracked? Is there a central repository of requests that is managed by one single authority?

No they are not made in electronic form.  
Yes, the Police.

14. Do any specific agreements on direct requests exist (or are currently being negotiated) between your authorities and foreign service providers?

- ☐ Yes  
☒ No

15. For these requests that go beyond your domestic jurisdiction, what is the current practice of your authorities? How many requests are made per year? Which are the "top" service providers in terms of numbers of requests? For these questions, could you please make a distinction between requests within the EU and request outside the EU?

Please see the section below on Mutual Legal Assistance

16. What is the average timeframe to obtain data through direct requests to service providers? Are there any fixed deadlines that you include in your request? Do service providers commit to respect certain deadlines?

According to article 5 of Law 183(I)/2007, every service provider is obliged to deliver immediately and without any unjustified delay the requested data.

17. What are the means of transmission of evidence gathered in response to direct request?

- ☒ Paper (letter)
- ☒ Disks (optical or magnetic)
- ☐ Fax
- ☐ Normal email
- ☐ Web portal
- ☐ Secure channel (encrypted email, special ftp, etc.)
- ☒ Other

17a. If you selected "Other", please specify:

Same handling as other evidence

18. Is information gathered through direct requests admissible as evidence in court in your Member State?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ It depends on other conditions

18a. If you selected "Yes", could you please provide any article(s) that (either implicitly or explicitly) provide for that? In addition, if addressed by case law, could you please include references to relevant decision(s)?

Data Retention Law 183(I)/2007 [http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2007\\_1\\_183/full.html](http://www.cylaw.org/nomoi/enop/non-ind/2007_1_183/full.html)

## 2. Mutual Legal Assistance

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Part 2 of the questionnaire concerns requests for electronic evidence between authorities of a requesting and a receiving state (Mutual Legal Assistance or Mutual Recognition procedures).

19. What is the legal framework in your Member State for Mutual Legal Assistance requests for third countries?

- ☒ Budapest Cybercrime Convention
- ☒ Other multilateral conventions
- ☐ Bilateral agreements

19a. If you selected "Other multilateral conventions", please specify:

Council of Europe Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and its Additional Protocols

20. How many Mutual Legal Assistance requests to third countries for electronic evidence are made by your authorities per year? Which are the "top" third countries that you send requests to (outside the EU)?

Less than 10 per year

US, Russia

21. What is the typical process in your Member State for making a Mutual Legal Assistance request to a third country? Which authority initiates such a request? Which other authorities are involved?

The request is prepared by a competent law enforcement authority in the Republic of Cyprus and sent to the Ministry of Justice and Public Order which is the Central authority.

The Central authority is responsible for transmitting the request to the third country usually via diplomatic channels.

22. What kind of electronic evidence do you usually request on the basis of Mutual Legal Assistance?

- ☒ Subscriber data
- ☐ Traffic data
- ☒ Content data
- ☐ Other data

23. Could you explain the situation for incoming Mutual Legal Assistance requests from third countries? How many requests are received per year? Which are the "top" countries that you receive requests from? What kinds of data are usually requested? Which authorities are involved when processing such a request?

The request is received by the Central authority and then transmitted to the competent authority in Cyprus for execution.

US, Ukraine, Russia

Approximately 10 - 20 per year

The Police is usually involved in processing the request.

24. What is the average timeframe for obtaining electronic evidence through Mutual Legal Assistance from your main destination countries outside the EU? Are there any fixed deadlines provided for in your agreement with the countries? Are these deadlines usually respected?

Approximately 3 to 6 months.

There are no fixed deadlines.

25. When a Mutual Legal Assistance request is refused by a foreign authority, what are the main grounds for refusal (e.g. your main destination country)?

Refusal is mainly based on the fact that no such data is kept.

26. What are the means of transmission of Mutual Legal Assistance requests to other EU Member States (how you send it)?

- ☒ Regular mail (letter)
- ☒ Fax
- ☒ Normal email
- ☐ Web portal
- ☐ Secure channel (encrypted email, special ftp, etc.)
- ☒ Other means

26a. If you selected "Other means", please explain:

Via diplomatic channels (due to the absence of cooperation agreement) If the matter is urgent and the authority is known then the mla request may be sent through fax or email

27. What are the means of transmission of Mutual Legal Assistance requests to third countries (how you send it)?

- ☒ Regular mail (letter)
- ☐ Fax
- ☐ Normal email
- ☐ Web portal
- ☒ Secure channel (encrypted email, special ftp, etc.)
- ☐ Other means

28. What are the means of transmission of electronic evidence gathered in response to Mutual Legal Assistance requests to other EU Member States (how you receive it)?

- ☒ Regular mail (letter)
- ☐ Fax
- ☐ Normal email
- ☐ Disks (optical or magnetic)
- ☐ Web portal
- ☒ Secure channel (encrypted email, special ftp, etc.)
- ☐ Other means

29. What are the means of transmission of electronic evidence in response to Mutual Legal Assistance requests to third countries (how you receive it)?

- ☒ Regular mail (letter)
- ☐ Fax
- ☒ Normal email
- ☐ Disks (optical or magnetic)
- ☐ Web portal
- ☐ Secure channel (encrypted email, special ftp, etc.)
- ☐ Other means

### 3. Jurisdiction in cyberspace / other issues

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Part 3 of the questionnaire concerns other measures that law enforcement authorities could use to obtain electronic evidence in cases where

- a) it is not clear that they would stay within their own jurisdiction, e.g. because it is not possible to determine where evidence is stored, or
- b) it is clear that they would operate beyond their jurisdiction without using the measures covered under part 1 and 2 of the questionnaire.

30. Can your law enforcement authorities still access electronic evidence when it is unclear what the location of the electronic evidence is / when it is impossible to establish the location of electronic evidence (e.g. when it may be stored beyond your own jurisdiction)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ It depends on circumstances

31. Can your law enforcement authorities still access electronic evidence when it is impossible to obtain electronic evidence that is stored in another country through direct cooperation with a service provider or a request based on Mutual Legal Assistance or Mutual Recognition (e.g. the service provider refuses to cooperate and there is no legal basis for a Mutual Legal Assistance or Mutual Recognition request)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ It depends on circumstances

32. In the above two situations (see questions 30 and 31), does your domestic law make a distinction between the framework for obtaining access to stored data and the real-time collection of data?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not applicable

33. To what extent do your authorities use police-to-police cooperation for obtaining cross-border access to electronic evidence? What is the legal framework for such cooperation and what are current practices (e.g. how often, what data, for which purpose)?

Only for intelligence gathering

34. Is information obtained through police-to-police cooperation admissible as evidence in court in your Member State?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ It depends on circumstances

34a. If you selected "Not" or "It depends on circumstances", please explain:

If the information is in the police database and no coercive measures need to be taken to access it.

## Contact

home-cybercrime@ec.europa.eu

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