



Court of Justice of the European Union

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Press and Information

'e-Curia' becomes the only means of exchange of legal documents between parties' representatives and the General Court with effect from 1 December 2018

This development aims to make the best use of the immediacy of paperless communications and to optimise case-handling

The IT application 'e-Curia', which is common to the Court of Justice and the General Court, enables procedural documents to be lodged and served electronically.

Since becoming available in 2011, that transmission method has been particularly successful, as shown by the increase in the number of access account holders (currently 4 230) and by the increase in the percentage of lodgements made using e-Curia (83% in 2017, before the General Court).

The positive feedback gathered from the users (lawyers and agents), the advantages of the immediacy of electronic transfers and the enhanced efficiency which are the result of the abandon of managing mixed formats (paper and digital) have led the General Court to develop the process of the move to paperless procedures.

The need to give that development a legal framework led the General Court to adopt, on 11 July 2018, amendments to its Rules of Procedure and a new decision concerning the lodging and service of procedural documents by means of e-Curia.

Those amendments and that decision, published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 25 September 2018,¹ will make e-Curia the only means of exchange between the parties and the General Court from 1 December 2018. The change affects all parties (applicants, defendants and interveners) and all types of procedures, including the urgent procedure, while retaining certain exceptions to observe the principle of access to the courts (in particular where using e-Curia is impossible for technical reasons or where legal aid is sought by an applicant not represented by a lawyer).

In view of the imminent entry into force of this change, lawyers and agents who do not yet have an e-Curia access account are requested to apply for one using the form for requesting access. The information about e-Curia can be found on the website of the Court of Justice (http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/P_78957).

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¹ Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the General Court and Decision of the General Court of 11 July 2018 on the lodging and service of procedural documents by means of e-Curia (OJEU 2018, L 240, p. 68 and p. 72).