



Organisation Internationale pour la Sécurité des Transactions Électroniques (OISTE)  
International Secure Electronic Transactions Organization  
Organización Internacional para la Seguridad de las Transacciones Electrónicas

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## Swiss federal e-ID Act - written statement OISTE

The Swiss electorate is scheduled to vote on March 7, 2021 to approve the legislation introducing a **federally recognized electronic identity, the e-ID**, which regulates how people can be uniquely identified on the internet. Once the e-ID Act is approved, anyone who wants an e-ID must apply through a federally approved identity provider.

The current pandemic has further increased the urgency for citizens, companies and organizations to adapt themselves to a new reality where professional interactions involving customers and employees must happen electronically. Nevertheless, this new reality should not weaken their business process or introduce new security risks for any individual user.

Consequently, a Swiss federal e-ID could be the solution necessary to address the issues that Swiss professionals face. However, the process to provide and manage these IDs and their data may be questionable. On the one hand, a solution where the State is the sole provider of the e-IDs is inconceivable as public agencies do not have the competency nor the experience required to provide and manage secure identities. Moreover, user's interests and rights would be open to abuses from the public sector in dealing with e-IDs on national security issues. On the other hand, a solution where private companies provide and manage digital identities without being regulated by a strong legal framework is also inconceivable. Namely, private sector actors also have the power to violate the interests and rights of users through the misuse of their data for economic reasons.

Therefore, at OISTE, we believe that a hybrid solution such as the Swiss federal e-ID Act is a good compromise in comparison to a public or private monopoly. This law could leverage both the private companies' competence and experience in the field while simultaneously ensuring the protection of user's rights and interests via the government's strong regulatory framework and monitoring process. Thus, under this law, Swiss Federal e-IDs could be managed both efficiently and securely.

The OISTE Foundation approves the law based on this hybrid solution as it offers a good compromise to manage the risk of people being exposed under either a public or private monopoly.

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