

PRO TECH

# Capitals at odds with Brussels over EU identity wallets

Document shows that national experts object to the fast-track approach

**Maximilian Henning** [Euractiv](#)





[Photo by Prasert Krainukul via Getty Images]

The European Commission and national experts are at loggerheads over key technical details for a planned EU-wide digital tool meant for citizens to easily prove their identities online, according to a document seen by *Euractiv*.

The EU has had a long-running plan to spin up digital identity wallets for citizens, creating a legal basis for the push in 2024. The aim is to cut paperwork when citizens need to prove their identity, such as opening a bank account especially across borders.

The wallets would also be central to any EU push to **age-gate** social media, with the Commission president **eyeing** a legal proposal on that as soon as this summer.

But ahead of the December deadline when EU countries are supposed to provide citizens with a wallet, capitals and the Commission are still battling over important technical details.

In a meeting held on 6 May, a long list of countries – including Germany, France, Spain and Poland – pointed out “fundamental problems” with a draft implementing act that the Commission presented at the meeting, according to meeting minutes seen by *Euractiv*.

The Commission also appears to have only presented these draft texts at the meeting itself, giving national experts little time to assess them for a vote intended for the same meeting.

Austria, Luxembourg and Sweden objected to the rapid procedure, per the notes. The Commission countered by arguing the proposed changes did not alter the substance of the legal texts.

The changes in question centre on two topics in different implementing acts which are currently

being drafted.

The first concerns registration certificates, which are meant to allow users to check whether a wallet is only requesting information from them that is required for an intended use. A majority of countries apparently wanted these certificates to be obligatory. But, according to the minutes, the Commission was not open to including that requirement in the new legal text.

Countries were also sceptical of a push by the EU's executive to make photo portraits part of the required dataset for identifying natural people – which is currently limited to names, birth dates and birth place, as well as nationality.

Spain, the Netherlands, Italy, Estonia and several other countries opposed the new requirement for a photo, per the minutes.

In the end, the Commission gave up on putting the packages of draft implementing acts containing these two points to a vote – effectively conceding defeat.

(nl)

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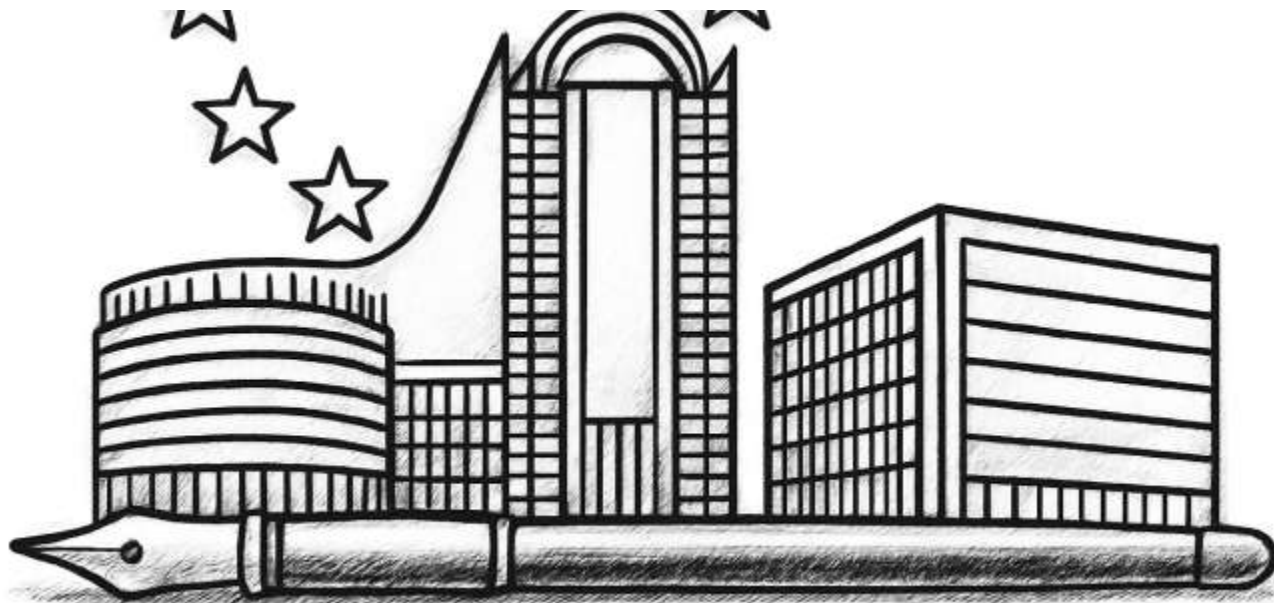
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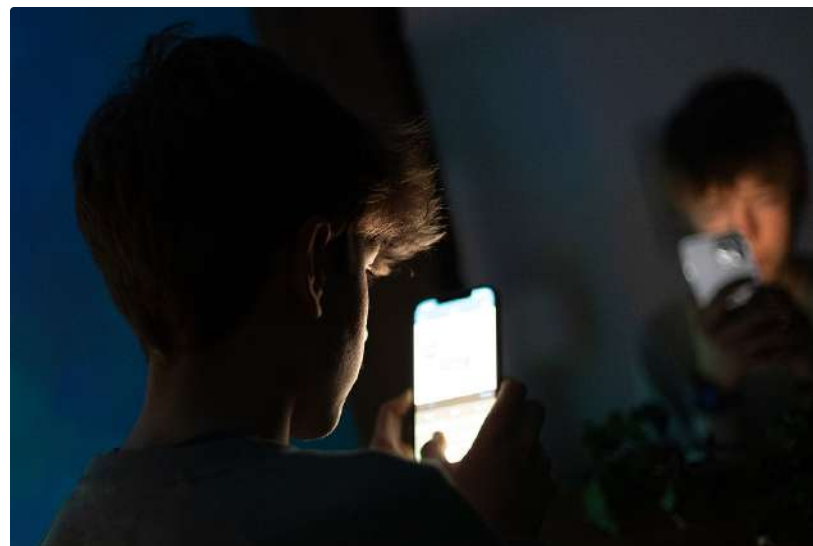
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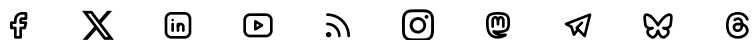
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