Egypt Becomes First Non-European Country to Achieve Technical Alignment with the EU on Electronic Signatures and Seals

Minister of Communications and Information Technology Witnesses Signing of Administrative Arrangement to Advance Egypt-EU Digital Cooperation

- The arrangement facilitates cross-border electronic transactions, making it easier to exchange trusted electronic documents between Egypt and the EU.

Cairo, Egypt - 12 November 2026



Egypt and the European Union have reached an important milestone in their digital cooperation, with Egypt becoming the first country outside Europe to achieve technical alignment with the EU on electronic signatures and seals. The achievement represents a significant deliverable of the EU-Egypt Summit held on 22 October 2025.

Following the successful technical assessment of Egypt's Trusted List for Electronic Signatures and Seal Schemes under the EU's eIDAS Regulation, a reference to Egypt's Trusted List is set to be included in the EU Third Countries Advanced Electronic Signature (AdES) List of Trusted Lists (LOTL). This will enable EU Member States to validate electronic signatures and seals issued in Egypt, facilitating cross-border digital transactions and the exchange of trusted electronic documents.

In this context, H.E. Eng. Raafat Hindy, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, witnessed via video conference the signing of an Administrative Arrangement on cooperation in electronic signatures and seals between Egypt and the European Union. The

arrangement establishes a framework for continued cooperation and information exchange, further strengthening digital ties between the two sides.

The Administrative Arrangement was signed by Eng. Ahmed Elzaher, CEO of the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), in its capacity as Egypt's national supervisory authority for digital trust services, and Mr. Roberto Viola, Director-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology at the European Commission.



The ceremony was attended via video conference by H.E. Ambassador Ahmed Abou Zeid, Ambassador of Egypt to the European Union; H.E. Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, Head of the EU Delegation to Egypt; and Mr. Michael Karnitschnig, Acting Director-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf at the European Commission.

Also attending were H.E. Ambassador Nelly Eloraby, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for European Institutions and Secretary-General of the Coordination Secretariat for the Implementation of the Egypt-EU Association Agreement; Ambassador Khaled Taha, Adviser to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology for International Relations; Eng. Doaa Khaled, Head of the Electronic Transaction Security Sector at ITIDA; and Samah Aziz, Head of the Central Department of International Relations at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

In his remarks, **H.E. Eng. Raafat Hindy, Minister of Communications and Information Technology**, said that the arrangement reflects the fruitful cooperation between Egypt and the European Union in digital trust services. He noted that it strengthens the reliability of digital transactions and supports the wider use of electronic signatures and seals in commercial and administrative activities.

He added that the cooperation creates broader opportunities for companies and institutions in both countries by making cross-border transactions easier and more efficient, reducing reliance on paper-based procedures and supporting digital integration and e-commerce between Egypt and the European Union.

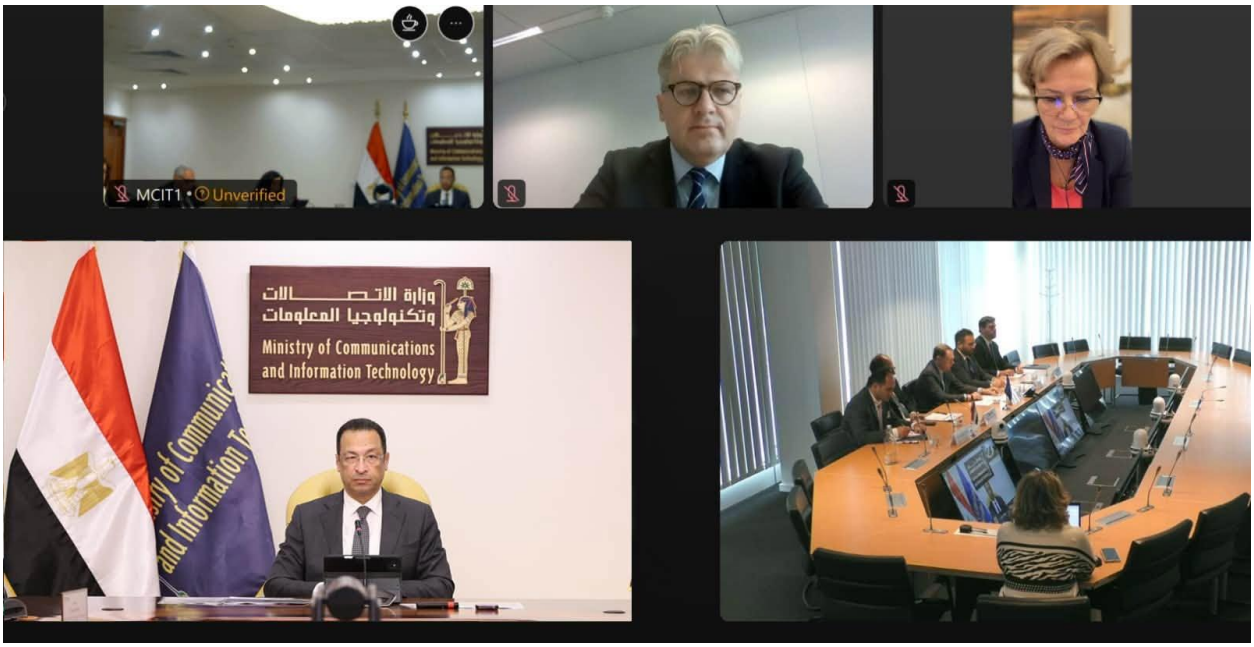
H.E. **Ambassador Ahmed Abou Zeid, Ambassador of Egypt to the European Union**, highlighted the importance of this milestone as one of the key deliverables of the EU-Egypt Summit held in Brussels in October 2025. He noted that the signing of the Administrative Arrangement provides a foundation for strengthening digital cooperation and further consolidating the partnership between the two sides. He also expressed his aspiration to build on the progress achieved and continue advancing the digital partnership as an increasingly important dimension of Egypt-EU relations.

H.E. Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, Head of the EU Delegation to Egypt, said: "Today's signing marks an important milestone in EU-Egypt digital cooperation. **Egypt has become the first country outside Europe to achieve technical alignment with the EU on electronic signatures and seals**, paving the way for its inclusion in the EU Third Countries Trusted List. This achievement demonstrates how the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership between the European Union and Egypt is translating shared ambitions into tangible results. Together, we are building a more connected, competitive and prosperous future."

Eng. Ahmed Elzaher, CEO of ITIDA, said that the Administrative Arrangement establishes a framework for continued cooperation and the exchange of technical information between the two sides. He reaffirmed ITIDA's commitment to building on this progress and advancing cooperation in digital trust services.

The arrangement provides for two main areas of cooperation. The European Commission intends to include a reference to Egypt's Trusted List in the EU Third Countries Trusted List, facilitating the validation of Egyptian electronic signatures and seals across the EU. In turn, ITIDA will reference the EU's List of Trusted Lists in Egypt's national Trusted List, facilitating the validation of electronic signatures and seals issued in the European Union in Egypt.

As Egypt's national supervisory authority for digital trust services, ITIDA regulates, licenses and monitors electronic signature and seal service providers, establishes the technical standards governing these services, and acts as Egypt's Root Certification Authority (RCA) for electronic signatures. These responsibilities support the reliability and integrity of Egypt's national digital trust infrastructure.


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