

PRESS RELEASE

**ABI: more efficient services in Italy with 'electronic' justice**

*ABI seminar today in Milan on issues related to the digitalisation of the law, and concrete initiatives to make it more easily accessible, faster, less expensive and to offer more efficient services. Presented during the meeting the ABIfor-eJustice web platform produced together with the Ministry of Justice*

Simpler procedures, reduced timeframes, and more efficient services at lower prices to provide greater support for the socio-economic development of the country. These are the most important results to stem from the gradual transition of civil law from "a paper to a digital format", as established at today's Milan meeting promoted by ABI, which was attended by President of the Court of Milan, Livia Pomodoro, President of the Milan Bar Association, Paolo Giuggioli, and Central Director of the Italian Banking Association Enrico Granata, together with institutions and operators in the sector. During the workshop the debate sought to explore the opportunities that derive from "electronic justice", as well as focusing on: modernising the judicial-technological apparatus of civil and criminal law, a key sector for the economic development of the country; the positive consequences for the competitiveness of companies; organisational aspects regarding the spread of electronic civil proceedings, highlighting the level of application in Italian courts.

This important "electronic revolution" has long been supported by the commitment and work carried out by the Ministry of Justice with the active collaboration of ABI. The project, designed to enable trial documents to be sent electronically and the integrated management of all information regarding proceedings, was developed as part of the agreement – to consolidate and disseminate electronic civil proceedings – signed by the Ministry and the Banking Association in November 2006.

Electronic civil proceedings are now a concrete reality in Italy, and allow for the online exchange of digital trial documents signed with digital signatures between lawyers, judges and court clerks, the sending of digital summons, and the dematerialisation of paper documents and archives. The transition from paper to digital documents and judicial proceedings will result in simplified procedures, and the greater efficiency and speed of the service, accelerating administrative procedures and reducing the operating costs of services. Electronic civil proceedings have already been introduced and have legal value in the Courts of Verona, Brescia, Genoa, Milan, Padua, Rome, Bologna and Turin. By the end of the year they will also be introduced in Catania, Monza, Palermo, Florence, Bari and Naples.

With the support of the Ministry of Justice, ABI has developed an e-learning training programme for magistrates, court clerks, lawyers and all judicial sector operators to promote the knowledge and adoption of electronic civil proceedings instruments and, more generally, all electronic legal services. The main goals of the ABIfor-justice site, presented by Luigi Capaldo, Head of the Justice Office at ABI, on 3 December at the Justice Convention, include transferring the necessary knowledge and expertise for the correct use of IT tools in electronic civil proceedings, contributing to the exchange of information and best practices between

professionals in the sector, and contributing to the creation of an Italian electronic justice culture.

The initiative can be accessed online through the [ABIforejustice.it](http://ABIforejustice.it) multi-service electronic portal, which enjoys the support of the Ministry of Justice, the Italian National Forensic Council, the National Board of Italian Civil Law Notaries, Unione Triveneta Bar Association, the Bar Associations of Milan, Verona, Bologna, Naples, and the Bologna Bar Foundation. The web platform also offers an electronic point of access (ABIGIUSTIZIA PoA) that enables the transmission of trial documents to offices of the courts and is designed to support the development of electronic civil proceedings in Italian courts.

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