

PRESS RELEASE

Justice: ABI, banks and institutions discuss e-Justice

The stages of electronic civil proceedings, the progress of the project in the courts, regulatory and technological innovations regarding procedures. These are the topics of a conference being held today in Rome, organised by ABI and focused on e-justice. In the three year period 2007/2009, the banks have invested € 4.4 million in setting up electronic civil proceedings

The project to digitalise civil justice has become reality. After Verona, also Milan, Brescia, Genoa and Padua have been added to the Courts already “on-line”. They will soon be joined by those of Rome, Turin and Bologna. This and other topics were discussed today at the workshop organised by ABI entitled “electronic civil proceedings and progress of works in the courts” attended by representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the Presiding Judges of eight Courts that already operate on the web.

The project – linked to developing executive procedures on-line and aimed at enabling trial documents to be sent electronically and the integrated management of all information regarding proceedings – was set up following the signature of an agreement in November 2006 by the Ministry of Justice and the Banking Association which, for the start-up phase of electronic civil proceedings, made available resources of € 3.4 million for the three year period 2007/2009.

“The extension of electronic civil proceedings – emphasised ABI’s Central Director, Enrico Granata – is important both in terms of the efficiency of the justice system, particularly as regards reducing the duration of proceedings, and in terms of the transparency of procedures. We hope – added Granata – that the banks will encourage the use of on-line tools in relations with their legal counsels”.

At the conference, the debate focused on the organisational experience acquired during the experimental stage, regulatory and technological innovations in terms of procedures and the progress of works in the Italian Courts that have officially started to operate via the web. Following the launch of on-line proceedings in Verona on 15 November last, since 1 December, lawyers and court clerks at Courts in Milan, Brescia, Genoa and Padua may also register deeds and send correspondence electronically without having to wait in long queues at the offices of the courts. Moreover, there will no longer be any need for physical archives and deeds transmitted electronically will have the same legal value as those drawn up on paper.

One of the new features presented today during the course of the seminar was the new remote training programme ‘ABIfor-eJustice’, set up by ABI in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, and launched at the ‘Justice Convention’ held in Rimini. It is a project set up to be used on-line, which through a multi-service portal, will also involve other EU Member States to create a common virtual learning environment. The project already boasts the support of the German and Austrian Ministries of Justice and will enable an exchange of information and organisational practice that can be used by all justice operators of Countries that join the initiative.

Roma, Palazzo Altieri, 18 December 2009