

REPLIES OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE SPECIAL REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

“THE EU INSTITUTIONS AND COVID-19: RESPONDED RAPIDLY, CHALLENGES STILL AHEAD TO MAKE THE BEST OF THE CRISIS-LED INNOVATION AND FLEXIBILITY”

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1 – Include long-term disruptions and interinstitutional cooperation in the business continuity plans

The CJEU accepts the recommendation.

Since its BCP already included scenarios for long-term interruptions, such as in the event of a pandemic, the CJEU welcomes this first recommendation, which it has started to implement, and will maintain this practice in future updates of its BCP.

In addition, the CJEU is ready to take part in and promote any inter-institutional exchange aimed at formalising inter-institutional cooperation in the event of a crisis, since the intensive cooperation that took place in various forums during the pandemic proved particularly valuable.

Recommendation 1 – Further develop the digitalisation of administrative services

The CJEU accepts this recommendation.

The CJEU prides itself, thanks to the robustness of its IT system, its capacity for innovation and the acceleration of the ambitious digitalisation initiatives launched before the crisis, on having already advanced on the areas covered by this recommendation.

The recourse to electronic invoicing was part of the CJEU's standard processes before the crisis and continues to show a rapid progression. By the same token, the CJEU's has introduced ARES/Han in its workflows and has extended it to all administrative departments, thus offering them an easy access to electronic (including qualified) signature. As for the judicial activity, it is worth mentioning that qualified electronic signature has been operational since April 2022.

The CJEU intends to consolidate this approach, which demonstrates its commitment to seizing the opportunities offered by digitisation in the context of all its activities.

Recommendation 2 – Assess the suitability of new ways of working in the post-COVID-19 environment

The CJEU accepts the recommendation.

In the judicial field, it has learnt the lessons of remote working practices resulting from the crisis, in particular with regard to the use of remote pleading or the introduction of webstreaming of hearings (as of April 2022).

In its administrative capacity, the CJEU also tackled some aspects of teleworking after assessing its efficiency and potential impact on the workload (e.g. to rationalise and optimise the extended recourse to emails that results from remote working).

The real estate policy chosen by the CJEU proves very efficient and ensures that it will be able to consider, with serenity and agility, any changes in the future that could be deemed appropriated to the situation created by the new working methods. The CJEU will continue to monitor the effect of such new ways and adapt its policy accordingly.

In this context, the CJEU has started to reflect on how to take into account the impact of these new working methods as accurately and effectively as possible in the context of its environmental policy and will continue to do so in preparation for the renewal of its EMAS registration in 2022.

3 June 2022