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Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI); General Policy Requirements for Trust Service Providers

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National Foreword

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Foreword

This European Standard (EN) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ESI).

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Modal verbs terminology

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Introduction

Building trust in the online environment is key to economic and social development. Lack of trust, in particular because of a perceived lack of security, makes consumers, businesses and administrations hesitate to carry out transactions electronically and to adopt new services. Trust service providers are often an essential element to establish trust between parties transacting electronically, particularly in open public networks, and can be used, for example, to provide trusted identity information and help establish secure communications between transacting parties. Examples of such trust service providers are issuers of public key certificates, time-stamping service providers, providers of remote electronic signature generation or validation services.

For participants of electronic commerce to have confidence in the security of these trust services they need to have confidence that the trust service providers (TSPs) have established a set of procedures, processes and security measures in order to minimize the operational and financial threats and risks associated.

The present document specifies baseline policy requirements on the operation and management practices of TSP regardless the service they provide. Other standards, addressing particular type of trust service, can build on the present document to identify supplement requirements for particular type of trust service.