

# [CYPRUS]

# Cybercrime legislation

Domestic equivalent to the provisions of the Budapest Convention

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Version [5 May 2020]

[reference to the provisions of the Budapest Convention]

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This profile has been prepared by the Cybercrime Programme Office (C-PROC) of the Council of Europe in view of sharing information on cybercrime legislation and assessing the current state of implementation of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime under national legislation. It does not necessarily reflect official positions of the State covered or of the Council of Europe.



State:	
Signature of the Budapest Convention:	23/11/2001
Ratification/accession:	19/01/2005

Ratification/accession:	19/01/2005
BUDAPEST CONVENTION	DOMESTIC LEGISLATION
Chapter I – Use of terms	
Article 1 – "Computer system", "computer data", "service provider", "traffic data":  For the purposes of this Convention:  a "computer system" means any device or a group of interconnected or related devices, one or more of which, pursuant to a program, performs automatic processing of data;  b "computer data" means any representation of facts, information or concepts in a form suitable for processing in a computer system, including a program suitable to cause a computer system to perform a function;  c "service provider" means:  i any public or private entity that provides to users of its service the ability to communicate by means of a computer system, and ii any other entity that processes or stores computer data on behalf of	
such communication service or users of such service; d "traffic data" means any computer data relating to a communication by means of a computer system, generated by a computer system that formed a part in the chain of communication, indicating the communication's origin, destination, route, time, date, size, duration, or type of underlying service	
Chapter II - Measures to be taken at the national level	
Section 1 - Substantive criminal law	
Article 2 – Illegal access Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be	The Law L22(III) 2004 ratifying the Convention on Cybercrime had criminalised:

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necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when committed intentionally, the access to the whole or any part of a computer system without right. A Party may require that the offence be committed by infringing security measures, with the intent of obtaining computer data or other dishonest intent, or in relation to a computer system that is connected to another computer system.

Illegal access to a computer system (Article 4) A person who intentionally and without entitlement accesses all or part of a computer system by infringing security measures commits an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding EUR 34,172 or by both penalties.

## Article 3 - Illegal interception

Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when committed intentionally, the interception without right, made by technical means, of non-public transmissions of computer data to, from or within a computer system, including electromagnetic emissions from a computer system carrying such computer data. A Party may require that the offence be committed with dishonest intent, or in relation to a computer system that is connected to another computer system.

The Law L22(III) 2004 ratifying the Convention on Cybercrime had criminalised: Illegal interception of computer data (Article 5) A person who intentionally and without entitlement interferes with technical equipment on computer data not broadcast publicly, from or within a computer system, commits an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding five years or by a fine not exceeding EUR 34,172 or by both penalties.

### **Article 4 - Data interference**

- 1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when committed intentionally, the damaging, deletion, deterioration, alteration or suppression of computer data without right.
- 2 A Party may reserve the right to require that the conduct described in paragraph 1 result in serious harm.

The Law L22(III) 2004 ratifying the Convention on Cybercrime had criminalised: Illegal data interference (Article 6) A person who intentionally and without entitlement destroys, deletes, alters or conceals computer data commits an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding EUR 34,172 or by both penalties.

# Article 5 - System interference

Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when committed intentionally, the serious hindering without right of the functioning of a computer system by inputting, transmitting, damaging, deleting, deteriorating, altering or suppressing computer data

The Law L22(III) 2004 ratifying the Convention on Cybercrime had criminalised: Illegal system interference (Article 7) A person who intentionally and without entitlement seriously hinders or interrupts the functioning of a computer system by inputting, transmitting, damaging, deleting, deteriorating, altering or suppressing computer data or preventing access to these data commits an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding EUR 34,172 or by both penalties

# Article 6 - Misuse of devices

- 1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when committed intentionally and without right:
- a the production, sale, procurement for use, import, distribution or

The Law L22(III) 2004 ratifying the Convention on Cybercrime had criminalised: Misuse of devices (Article 8) This article prohibits the intentional and unauthorised production, distribution, procurement for use, import, or provision or possession by any other means of computer misuse tools and makes any such act an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding five

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otherwise making available of:

- i a device, including a computer program, designed or adapted primarily for the purpose of committing any of the offences established in accordance with the above Articles 2 through 5;
- ii a computer password, access code, or similar data by which the whole or any part of a computer system is capable of being accessed, with intent that it be used for the purpose of committing any of the offences established in Articles 2 through 5; and
- b the possession of an item referred to in paragraphs a.i or ii above, with intent that it be used for the purpose of committing any of the offences established in Articles 2 through 5. A Party may require by law that a number of such items be possessed before criminal liability attaches.
- 2 This article shall not be interpreted as imposing criminal liability where the production, sale, procurement for use, import, distribution or otherwise making available or possession referred to in paragraph 1 of this article is not for the purpose of committing an offence established in accordance with Articles 2 through 5 of this Convention, such as for the authorised testing or protection of a computer system.
- 3 Each Party may reserve the right not to apply paragraph 1 of this article, provided that the reservation does not concern the sale, distribution or otherwise making available of the items referred to in paragraph 1 a.ii of this article.

years or a fine not exceeding EUR 34,172 or by both penalties.

# **Title 2 – Computer-related offences**

# **Article 7 – Computer-related forgery**

Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when committed intentionally and without right, the input, alteration, deletion, or suppression of computer data, resulting in inauthentic data with the intent that it be considered or acted upon for legal purposes as if it were authentic, regardless whether or not the data is directly readable and intelligible. A Party may require an intent to defraud, or similar dishonest intent, before criminal liability attaches.

.Law 22(III)/2004 ratifying the Convention on Cybercrime lays down rules criminalising computer - related fraud and forgery.

Computer- related forgery A person who, intentionally and without entitlement, and with intent to defraud, inputs, alters, deletes, or suppresses computer data, in such a way that non-authentic data created as a result of these interventions are presented or used for legal purposes, as if they were authentic, regardless of whether the data are directly readable and intelligible, commits an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding

#### **BUDAPEST CONVENTION DOMESTIC LEGISLATION** EUR 34,172 or by both penalties (L. 22(III)/2004, Article 9). Article 8 - Computer-related fraud Law 22(III)/2004 ratifying the Convention on Cybercrime lays down rules Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be criminalising computer - related fraud and forgery. necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when committed intentionally and without right, the causing of a loss of property Computer- related fraud A person who intentionally and without entitlement, to another person by: acting with intent to defraud, causes a loss to the property of another person by: a inputting, altering, deleting or suppressing computer data, b any any input, alteration, deletion or suppression of computer data; interference with the functioning of a computer system, with fraudulent intent or intent to procure, without entitlement, an economic benefit for oneself or for h any interference with the functioning of a computer system, another person commits an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding five years or a fine not exceeding EUR 34,172 or by both penalties (L. with fraudulent or dishonest intent of procuring, without right, an economic 22(III)/2004, article 10(a)(b)) benefit for oneself or for another person. Title 3 - Content-related offences Article 9 - Offences related to child pornography Law 91(I)/2014 had criminalised: 1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be Production of child pornography. A person who intentionally and without necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when entitlement produces child pornographic material via a computer system committed intentionally and without right, the following conduct: commits an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding ten years or a producing child pornography for the purpose of its distribution fine not exceeding EUR 42,175 or by both penalties (L. 22(III)/2004, Article through a computer system; 11(1)(a)) offering or making available child pornography through a b computer system; Offering or making available child pornographic material A person who distributing or transmitting child pornography through a С intentionally and without entitlement offers or makes available child computer system; pornography through a computer system commits an offence punishable by d procuring child pornography through a computer system for imprisonment not exceeding ten years or a fine not exceeding EUR 42,175 or by oneself or for another person; both penalties (L. 22(III)/2004, Article 11(1)(b)) possessing child pornography in a computer system or on a computer-data storage medium. Distributing or transmitting child pornography through a computer system A person who intentionally and without entitlement distributes or transmits child 2 For the purpose of paragraph 1 above, the term "child pornography" shall pornography through a computer system commits an offence punishable by include pornographic material that visually depicts: imprisonment not exceeding ten years or a fine not exceeding EUR 42,175 or by a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct; both penalties (L. 22(III)/2004, Article 11(1)(c)) a person appearing to be a minor engaged in sexually explicit

conduct;

Procuring child pornography through a computer system for oneself or for

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- c realistic images representing a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct
- 3 For the purpose of paragraph 2 above, the term "minor" shall include all persons under 18 years of age. A Party may, however, require a lower agelimit, which shall be not less than 16 years.
- 4 Each Party may reserve the right not to apply, in whole or in part, paragraphs 1, sub-paragraphs d. and e, and 2, sub-paragraphs b. and c.

another person through a computer system A person who intentionally and without entitlement procures child pornography through a computer system for him or herself or for another person commits an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding ten years or a fine not exceeding EUR 42,175 or by both penalties (L. 22(III)/2004, Article 11(1)(d))

Possessing child pornography in a computer system or on a computer-data storage medium. A person who intentionally and without entitlement possesses child pornography in a computer system or on a computer-data storage medium commits an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding ten years or a fine not exceeding EUR 42,175 or by both penalties (L. 22(III)/2004, Article 11(1)(e))

Possessing child pornography in a computer system or on a computer-data storage medium. Subject to the provisions of Article 12, anyone who obtains or possesses child pornographic material is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, is liable to imprisonment not exceeding ten years (10) years. Law 91(I)/2014, article 8(1)

Access to child pornographic material A person who knowingly accesses child pornography through information technology and communications is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, is liable to imprisonment not exceeding ten years (10) years (Law 91(I)/2014 article 8(2)) Law 91(I)/2014, article 8(3) Whoever distributes, disseminates or transmits child pornography is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, is liable to imprisonment not more than fifteen (15) years.

Law 91(I)/2014, article 8(4) Offering or making available child pornographic material Law 91(I)/2014, Article 8(5) Subject to the provisions of Article 12, anyone who produces child pornographic material is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, subject to imprisonment not exceeding twenty (20) years.

Computer- related solicitation or 'grooming' of children Anyone who causes the participation of a child in pornographic shows or recruits a child so that he/she will participate or gain profit from the child's participation in pornographic shows or exploits the child in other ways for that purpose is guilty of an offence and if convicted is liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding twenty years. (2) Forcing a child to act as mentioned in (1) above, 25 years (3) Watching

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pornographic shows, 15 years imprisonment (4) Anyone who causes or proposes through information communication technology or in person the participation of a child who has not reached the age of consent in a pornographic show for the purpose of allowing that show to be watched by either himself/herself or a third person shall be quilty of a felony and, upon conviction, subject to imprisonment not exceeding ten (10) years. (5) A person who recruits a child for or causes a child to participate in child prostitution for the purpose of gaining profit shall be guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction, subject to imprisonment not exceeding 25 years. (6) Forcing a child into child prostitution, 25 years Law 91(I)/2014 Article 7(1) Law 91(I)/2014 article 9(1) Subject to the provisions of Article 12, anyone who proposes to a child who has not reached the age of consent, through information, communication technology, to come into contact with intent to perform sexual intercourse with him/her or for the production of child pornography or for the sexual exploitation of a child, and this proposal led to actions that led to a meeting, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, subject to imprisonment not exceeding ten (10) years.

Law 91(I)/2014 Article 9(2) Subject to the provisions of Article 12, anyone who, through information communication technology, invites or approaches a child who has not reached the age of consent, and attempts to acquire, or attempts to have access, or acquires or obtains access to child pornographic material which depict that child, is guilty of a felony, and if convicted, is subject to imprisonment not exceeding ten years.

# Title 4 – Offences related to infringements of copyright and related rights

# Article 10 - Offences related to infringements of copyright and related rights

1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law the infringement of copyright, as defined under the law of that Party, pursuant to the obligations it has undertaken under the Paris Act of 24 July 1971 revising the Bern Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the WIPO Copyright Treaty, with the exception of any moral rights conferred by such conventions, where such acts are committed

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wilfully, on a commercial scale and by means of a computer system.  Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law the infringement of related rights, as defined under the law of that Party, pursuant to the obligations it has undertaken under the International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organisations (Rome Convention), the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty, with the exception of any moral rights conferred by such conventions, where such acts are committed wilfully, on a commercial scale and by means of a computer system.  A Party may reserve the right not to impose criminal liability under paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article in limited circumstances, provided that other effective remedies are available and that such reservation does not derogate from the Party's international obligations set forth in the international instruments referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article.		
Title 5 – Ancillary	iability and sanctions	
Title 5 Allemary	Title 5 - Ancillary liability and sanctions	
Article 11 – Attempt and aiding or abetting  1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when committed intentionally, aiding or abetting the commission of any of the offences established in accordance with Articles 2 through 10 of the present Convention with intent that such offence be committed.  2 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when committed intentionally, an attempt to commit any of the offences established in accordance with Articles 3 through 5, 7, 8, and 9.1.a and c. of this Convention.  3 Each Party may reserve the right not to apply, in whole or in part, paragraph 2 of this article.		
Article 12 – Corporate liability  1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to ensure that legal persons can be held liable for a criminal offence established in accordance with this Convention, committed for their		

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benefit by any natural person, acting either individually or as part of an organ of the legal person, who has a leading position within it, based on:  a a power of representation of the legal person; b an authority to take decisions on behalf of the legal person; c an authority to exercise control within the legal person.  2 In addition to the cases already provided for in paragraph 1 of this article, each Party shall take the measures necessary to ensure that a legal person can be held liable where the lack of supervision or control by a natural person referred to in paragraph 1 has made possible the commission of a criminal offence established in accordance with this Convention for the benefit of that legal person by a natural person acting under its authority.  3 Subject to the legal principles of the Party, the liability of a legal person may be criminal, civil or administrative.  4 Such liability shall be without prejudice to the criminal liability of the natural persons who have committed the offence.	
Article 13 – Sanctions and measures  1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to ensure that the criminal offences established in accordance with Articles 2 through 11 are punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, which include deprivation of liberty.  2 Each Party shall ensure that legal persons held liable in accordance with Article 12 shall be subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive criminal or non-criminal sanctions or measures, including monetary sanctions.	
Section 2 – Procedural law	
Article 14 – Scope of procedural provisions  1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish the powers and procedures provided for in this section for the purpose of specific criminal investigations or proceedings.  2 Except as specifically provided otherwise in Article 21, each Party shall apply the powers and procedures referred to in paragraph 1 of this article to:  a the criminal offences established in accordance with Articles 2 through 11 of this Convention;	

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- b other criminal offences committed by means of a computer system; and
- c the collection of evidence in electronic form of a criminal offence.
- 3 a Each Party may reserve the right to apply the measures referred to in Article 20 only to offences or categories of offences specified in the reservation, provided that the range of such offences or categories of offences is not more restricted than the range of offences to which it applies the measures referred to in Article 21. Each Party shall consider restricting such a reservation to enable the broadest application of the measure referred to in Article 20.
- b Where a Party, due to limitations in its legislation in force at the time of the adoption of the present Convention, is not able to apply the measures referred to in Articles 20 and 21 to communications being transmitted within a computer system of a service provider, which system:
  - i is being operated for the benefit of a closed group of users, and
  - ii does not employ public communications networks and is not connected with another computer system, whether public or private,

that Party may reserve the right not to apply these measures to such communications. Each Party shall consider restricting such a reservation to enable the broadest application of the measures referred to in Articles 20 and 21

# Article 15 - Conditions and safeguards

1 Each Party shall ensure that the establishment, implementation and application of the powers and procedures provided for in this Section are subject to conditions and safeguards provided for under its domestic law, which shall provide for the adequate protection of human rights and liberties, including rights arising pursuant to obligations it has undertaken under the 1950 Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the 1966 United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other applicable international human rights instruments, and which shall incorporate the principle of proportionality.

2 Such conditions and safeguards shall, as appropriate in view of the nature

The right to privacy and freedom of communication are protected under Articles 15 and 17 of the Cyprus Constitution. Specific provisions for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms are also included in the relevant legislation (specified under section 3.2). Furthermore, the Processing of Personal Data Law 138(I)/2001 regulates the safeguarding of personal data.

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of the procedure or power concerned, <i>inter alia</i> , include judicial or other independent supervision, grounds justifying application, and limitation of the scope and the duration of such power or procedure.	
3 To the extent that it is consistent with the public interest, in particular the sound administration of justice, each Party shall consider the impact of the powers and procedures in this section upon the rights, responsibilities and legitimate interests of third parties.	
Article 16 – Expedited preservation of stored computer data 1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to enable its competent authorities to order or similarly obtain the expeditious preservation of specified computer data, including traffic data, that has been stored by means of a computer system, in particular where there are grounds to believe that the computer data is particularly vulnerable to loss or modification.	Law 22(III)/2004 regulates preservation of computer data
2 Where a Party gives effect to paragraph 1 above by means of an order to a person to preserve specified stored computer data in the person's possession or control, the Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to oblige that person to preserve and maintain the integrity of that computer data for a period of time as long as necessary, up to a maximum of ninety days, to enable the competent authorities to seek its disclosure. A Party may provide for such an order to be subsequently renewed.	
3 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to oblige the custodian or other person who is to preserve the computer data to keep confidential the undertaking of such procedures for the period of time provided for by its domestic law.	
4 The powers and procedures referred to in this article shall be subject to Articles 14 and 15.	
Article 17 - Expedited preservation and partial disclosure of traffic data  1 Each Party shall adopt, in respect of traffic data that is to be preserved	

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under Article 16, such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to:  a ensure that such expeditious preservation of traffic data is available regardless of whether one or more service providers were involved in the transmission of that communication; and  b ensure the expeditious disclosure to the Party's competent authority, or a person designated by that authority, of a sufficient amount of traffic data to enable the Party to identify the service providers and the path through which the communication was transmitted.  2 The powers and procedures referred to in this article shall be subject to Articles 14 and 15.	
Article 18 – Production order  1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to empower its competent authorities to order:  a a person in its territory to submit specified computer data in that person's possession or control, which is stored in a computer system or a computer-data storage medium; and  b a service provider offering its services in the territory of the Party to submit subscriber information relating to such services in that service provider's possession or control.	Law 183(I)/2007 provides only for production of stored traffic data
2 The powers and procedures referred to in this article shall be subject to Articles 14 and 15. 3 For the purpose of this article, the term "subscriber information" means any information contained in the form of computer data or any other form that is held by a service provider, relating to subscribers of its services other than traffic or content data and by which can be established: <ul> <li>a the type of communication service used, the technical provisions taken thereto and the period of service;</li> <li>b the subscriber's identity, postal or geographic address, telephone and other access number, billing and payment information, available on the basis of the service agreement or arrangement;</li> <li>c any other information on the site of the installation of communication equipment, available on the basis of the service agreement or arrangement.</li> </ul>	

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Article 19 – Search and seizure of stored computer data  1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to empower its competent authorities to search or similarly access:  a a computer system or part of it and computer data stored therein; and b a computer-data storage medium in which computer data may be stored in its territory.  2 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to ensure that where its authorities search or similarly access a specific computer system or part of it, pursuant to paragraph 1.a, and have grounds to believe that the data sought is stored in another computer system or part of it in its territory, and such data is lawfully accessible from or available to the initial system, the authorities shall be able to expeditiously extend the search or similar accessing to the other system. 3 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to empower its competent authorities to seize or similarly secure computer data accessed according to paragraphs 1 or 2. These measures shall include the power to:	The Code of Criminal Procedure regulates search and seizure of information systems/computer data.
a seize or similarly secure a computer system or part of it or a computer-data storage medium; b make and retain a copy of those computer data; c maintain the integrity of the relevant stored computer data; d render inaccessible or remove those computer data in the accessed computer system.  4 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to empower its competent authorities to order any person who has knowledge about the functioning of the computer system or measures applied to protect the computer data therein to provide, as is reasonable, the necessary information, to enable the undertaking of the measures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.  5 The powers and procedures referred to in this article shall be subject to Articles 14 and 15.	
Article 20 - Real-time collection of traffic data	National law does not allow for real-time interception/collection of traffic/content

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- 1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be data. necessary to empower its competent authorities to:
  - a collect or record through the application of technical means on the territory of that Party, and
- b compel a service provider, within its existing technical capability:
  - i to collect or record through the application of technical means on the territory of that Party; or
  - ii to co-operate and assist the competent authorities in the collection or recording of, traffic data, in real-time, associated with specified communications in its territory transmitted by means of a computer system.
- Where a Party, due to the established principles of its domestic legal system, cannot adopt the measures referred to in paragraph 1.a, it may instead adopt legislative and other measures as may be necessary to ensure the real-time collection or recording of traffic data associated with specified communications transmitted in its territory, through the application of technical means on that territory.
- 3 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to oblige a service provider to keep confidential the fact of the execution of any power provided for in this article and any information relating to it.
- 4 The powers and procedures referred to in this article shall be subject to Articles 14 and 15.

# Article 21 - Interception of content data

- 1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary, in relation to a range of serious offences to be determined by domestic law, to empower its competent authorities to:
- a collect or record through the application of technical means on the territory of that Party, and
- b compel a service provider, within its existing technical capability:

ito collect or record through the application of technical means on the territory of that Party, or

ii to co-operate and assist the competent authorities in the collection or recording of, content data, in real-time, of specified communications in its

National law does not allow for real-time interception/collection of traffic/content data.

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territory transmitted by means of a computer system.

- 2 Where a Party, due to the established principles of its domestic legal system, cannot adopt the measures referred to in paragraph 1.a, it may instead adopt legislative and other measures as may be necessary to ensure the real-time collection or recording of content data on specified communications in its territory through the application of technical means on that territory.
- 3 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to oblige a service provider to keep confidential the fact of the execution of any power provided for in this article and any information relating to it.
- 4 The powers and procedures referred to in this article shall be subject to Articles 14 and 15.

# Section 3 - Jurisdiction

### Article 22 - Jurisdiction

- 1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish jurisdiction over any offence established in accordance with Articles 2 through 11 of this Convention, when the offence is committed:
  - a in its territory; or
  - b on board a ship flying the flag of that Party; or
  - c on board an aircraft registered under the laws of that Party; or
  - d by one of its nationals, if the offence is punishable under criminal law where it was committed or if the offence is committed outside the territorial jurisdiction of any State.
- 2 Each Party may reserve the right not to apply or to apply only in specific cases or conditions the jurisdiction rules laid down in paragraphs 1.b through 1.d of this article or any part thereof.
- 3 Each Party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish jurisdiction over the offences referred to in Article 24, paragraph 1, of this Convention, in cases where an alleged offender is present in its territory and it does not extradite him or her to another Party, solely on the basis of his or her nationality, after a request for extradition.
- 4 This Convention does not exclude any criminal jurisdiction exercised by a Party in accordance with its domestic law.

Under Law 22(III)/2004, Article 22 of the Budapest Convention applies to jurisdiction with regard to cybercrime acts committed outside the territory of Cyprus. Additional provisions on jurisdiction are also included in Law 147(i)/2015 transposing Directive 2013/40/EU on attacks against information systems identical to those included in the Directive.

# **BUDAPEST CONVENTION** DOMESTIC LEGISLATION When more than one Party claims jurisdiction over an alleged offence established in accordance with this Convention, the Parties involved shall, where appropriate, consult with a view to determining the most appropriate jurisdiction for prosecution. **Chapter III – International co-operation** Article 24 - Extradition The Ministry of Justice and Public Order is the central authority for receiving, 1 a This article applies to extradition between Parties for the criminal sending and deciding on requests for surrender/ extradition. A formal request offences established in accordance with Articles 2 through 11 of this for extradition needs to be sent either directly or through diplomatic channels. Convention, provided that they are punishable under the laws of both Parties concerned by deprivation of liberty for a maximum period of at least one No specific procedures or conditions need to be fulfilled for requests related to cybercrime. Urgent requests are treated with priority. year, or by a more severe penalty. Where a different minimum penalty is to be applied under an arrangement agreed on the basis of uniform or reciprocal legislation or an extradition treaty, including the European Convention on Extradition (ETS No. 24), applicable between two or more parties, the minimum penalty provided for under such arrangement or treaty shall apply. 2 The criminal offences described in paragraph 1 of this article shall be deemed to be included as extraditable offences in any extradition treaty existing between or among the Parties. The Parties undertake to include such offences as extraditable offences in any extradition treaty to be concluded between or among them. 3 If a Party that makes extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty receives a request for extradition from another Party with which it does not

have an extradition treaty, it may consider this Convention as the legal basis for extradition with respect to any criminal offence referred to in paragraph

4 Parties that do not make extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty shall recognise the criminal offences referred to in paragraph 1 of this

5 Extradition shall be subject to the conditions provided for by the law of the requested Party or by applicable extradition treaties, including the grounds

6 If extradition for a criminal offence referred to in paragraph 1 of this article is refused solely on the basis of the nationality of the person sought, or

article as extraditable offences between themselves.

on which the requested Party may refuse extradition.

1 of this article.

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because the requested Party deems that it has jurisdiction over the offence, the requested Party shall submit the case at the request of the requesting Party to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution and shall report the final outcome to the requesting Party in due course. Those authorities shall take their decision and conduct their investigations and proceedings in the same manner as for any other offence of a comparable nature under the law of that Party.

7 a Each Party shall, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, communicate to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe the name and address of each authority responsible for making or receiving requests for extradition or provisional arrest in the absence of a treaty.

b The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall set up and keep updated a register of authorities so designated by the Parties. Each Party shall ensure

# Article 25 – General principles relating to mutual assistance

1 The Parties shall afford one another mutual assistance to the widest extent possible for the purpose of investigations or proceedings concerning criminal offences related to computer systems and data, or for the collection of evidence in electronic form of a criminal offence.

2 Each Party shall also adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to carry out the obligations set forth in Articles 27 through 35.

3 Each Party may, in urgent circumstances, make requests for mutual assistance or communications related thereto by expedited means of communication, including fax or e-mail, to the extent that such means provide appropriate levels of security and authentication (including the use of encryption, where necessary), with formal confirmation to follow, where required by the requested Party. The requested Party shall accept and respond to the request by any such expedited means of communication.

4 Except as otherwise specifically provided in articles in this chapter, mutual assistance shall be subject to the conditions provided for by the law of the requested Party or by applicable mutual assistance treaties, including the

Law 23(I)/2001 on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters is the national law applicable to MLA requests. In addition, MLA is carried out on the basis of bilateral agreements and conventions such as the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, Law 2(III)/2000 and the Convention on Cybercrime Law 22(III)/2004.

The Ministry of Justice and Public Order is the central authority for receiving and sending requests for mutual legal assistance. For the purpose of simplifying and improving international cooperation a Unit for International Legal Cooperation has been established within the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. A written letter of request must be sent by email, fax or post.

The Ministry of Justice and Public Order receives incoming requests from abroad and sends out MLA requests. Incoming requests are evaluated by the Ministry and forwarded for execution to the competent judicial authority in Cyprus. Regarding outgoing requests, the Ministry also collects requests received internally and sends them abroad.

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grounds on which the requested Party may refuse co-operation. The requested Party shall not exercise the right to refuse mutual assistance in relation to the offences referred to in Articles 2 through 11 solely on the ground that the request concerns an offence which it considers a fiscal offence.	
5 Where, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, the requested Party is permitted to make mutual assistance conditional upon the existence of dual criminality, that condition shall be deemed fulfilled, irrespective of whether its laws place the offence within the same category of offence or denominate the offence by the same terminology as the requesting Party, if the conduct underlying the offence for which assistance is sought is a criminal offence under its laws.	
Article 26 – Spontaneous information  1 A Party may, within the limits of its domestic law and without prior request, forward to another Party information obtained within the framework of its own investigations when it considers that the disclosure of such information might assist the receiving Party in initiating or carrying out investigations or proceedings concerning criminal offences established in accordance with this Convention or might lead to a request for co-operation by that Party under this chapter.	
2 Prior to providing such information, the providing Party may request that it be kept confidential or only used subject to conditions. If the receiving Party cannot comply with such request, it shall notify the providing Party, which shall then determine whether the information should nevertheless be provided. If the receiving Party accepts the information subject to the conditions, it shall be bound by them.	
Article 27 - Procedures pertaining to mutual assistance requests in	
the absence of applicable international agreements  1 Where there is no mutual assistance treaty or arrangement on the basis of uniform or reciprocal legislation in force between the requesting and requested Parties, the provisions of paragraphs 2 through 9 of this article shall apply. The provisions of this article shall not apply where such treaty,	
arrangement or legislation exists, unless the Parties concerned agree to	

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apply any or all of the remainder of this article in lieu thereof.

- 2 a Each Party shall designate a central authority or authorities responsible for sending and answering requests for mutual assistance, the execution of such requests or their transmission to the authorities competent for their execution.
- b The central authorities shall communicate directly with each other;
- c Each Party shall, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, communicate to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe the names and addresses of the authorities designated in pursuance of this paragraph;
- d The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall set up and keep updated a register of central authorities designated by the Parties. Each Party shall ensure that the details held on the register are correct at all times.
- 3 Mutual assistance requests under this article shall be executed in accordance with the procedures specified by the requesting Party, except where incompatible with the law of the requested Party.
- 4 The requested Party may, in addition to the grounds for refusal established in Article 25, paragraph 4, refuse assistance if:
- a the request concerns an offence which the requested Party considers a political offence or an offence connected with a political offence, or
- b it considers that execution of the request is likely to prejudice its sovereignty, security, *ordre public* or other essential interests.
- 5 The requested Party may postpone action on a request if such action would prejudice criminal investigations or proceedings conducted by its authorities.
- 6 Before refusing or postponing assistance, the requested Party shall, where appropriate after having consulted with the requesting Party, consider whether the request may be granted partially or subject to such conditions as it deems necessary.
- 7 The requested Party shall promptly inform the requesting Party of the outcome of the execution of a request for assistance. Reasons shall be given for any refusal or postponement of the request. The requested Party shall also inform the requesting Party of any reasons that render impossible the execution of the request or are likely to delay it significantly.
- 8 The requesting Party may request that the requested Party keep confidential the fact of any request made under this chapter as well as its

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subject, except to the extent necessary for its execution. If the requested Party cannot comply with the request for confidentiality, it shall promptly inform the requesting Party, which shall then determine whether the request should nevertheless be executed.  9 a In the event of urgency, requests for mutual assistance or communications related thereto may be sent directly by judicial authorities of the requesting Party to such authorities of the requested Party. In any such cases, a copy shall be sent at the same time to the central authority of the requested Party through the central authority of the requesting Party.  b Any request or communication under this paragraph may be made through the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol).  c Where a request is made pursuant to sub-paragraph a. of this article and the authority is not competent to deal with the request, it shall refer the request to the competent national authority and inform directly the requesting Party that it has done so.  d Requests or communications made under this paragraph that do not involve coercive action may be directly transmitted by the competent authorities of the requesting Party to the competent authorities of the requested Party.  e Each Party may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, inform the Secretary General of the Council of Europe that, for reasons of efficiency, requests made under this paragraph are to be addressed to its central authority.	
Article 28 – Confidentiality and limitation on use  1 When there is no mutual assistance treaty or arrangement on the basis of uniform or reciprocal legislation in force between the requesting and the requested Parties, the provisions of this article shall apply. The provisions of this article shall not apply where such treaty, arrangement or legislation exists, unless the Parties concerned agree to apply any or all of the remainder of this article in lieu thereof.  2 The requested Party may make the supply of information or material in response to a request dependent on the condition that it is:  a kept confidential where the request for mutual legal assistance could not be complied with in the absence of such condition, or  b not used for investigations or proceedings other than those stated in	

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the request.  3 If the requesting Party cannot comply with a condition referred to in paragraph 2, it shall promptly inform the other Party, which shall then determine whether the information should nevertheless be provided. When the requesting Party accepts the condition, it shall be bound by it.  4 Any Party that supplies information or material subject to a condition referred to in paragraph 2 may require the other Party to explain, in relation to that condition, the use made of such information or material.	
Article 29 – Expedited preservation of stored computer data  1 A Party may request another Party to order or otherwise obtain the expeditious preservation of data stored by means of a computer system, located within the territory of that other Party and in respect of which the requesting Party intends to submit a request for mutual assistance for the search or similar access, seizure or similar securing, or disclosure of the data.  2 A request for preservation made under paragraph 1 shall specify:  a the authority seeking the preservation;  b the offence that is the subject of a criminal investigation or proceedings and a brief summary of the related facts;  c the stored computer data to be preserved and its relationship to the offence;  d any available information identifying the custodian of the stored computer data or the location of the computer system;  e the necessity of the preservation; and  f that the Party intends to submit a request for mutual assistance for the search or similar access, seizure or similar securing, or disclosure of the stored computer data.  3 Upon receiving the request from another Party, the requested Party shall take all appropriate measures to preserve expeditiously the specified data in accordance with its domestic law. For the purposes of responding to a request, dual criminality shall not be required as a condition to providing	
such preservation.  4 A Party that requires dual criminality as a condition for responding to a request for mutual assistance for the search or similar access, seizure or similar securing, or disclosure of stored data may, in respect of offences other than those established in accordance with Articles 2 through 11 of this	

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Convention, reserve the right to refuse the request for preservation under this article in cases where it has reasons to believe that at the time of disclosure the condition of dual criminality cannot be fulfilled.  5	
Article 30 – Expedited disclosure of preserved traffic data  1 Where, in the course of the execution of a request made pursuant to Article 29 to preserve traffic data concerning a specific communication, the requested Party discovers that a service provider in another State was involved in the transmission of the communication, the requested Party shall expeditiously disclose to the requesting Party a sufficient amount of traffic data to identify that service provider and the path through which the communication was transmitted.  2 Disclosure of traffic data under paragraph 1 may only be withheld if: a the request concerns an offence which the requested Party considers a political offence or an offence connected with a political offence; or b the requested Party considers that execution of the request is likely to prejudice its sovereignty, security, ordre public or other essential interests.  Article 31 – Mutual assistance regarding accessing of stored	

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computer data  1 A Party may request another Party to search or similarly access, seize or similarly secure, and disclose data stored by means of a computer system located within the territory of the requested Party, including data that has been preserved pursuant to Article 29.  2 The requested Party shall respond to the request through the application of international instruments, arrangements and laws referred to in Article 23, and in accordance with other relevant provisions of this chapter.  3 The request shall be responded to on an expedited basis where:  a there are grounds to believe that relevant data is particularly vulnerable to loss or modification; or  b the instruments, arrangements and laws referred to in paragraph 2 otherwise provide for expedited co-operation.	
Article 32 – Trans-border access to stored computer data with consent or where publicly available  A Party may, without the authorisation of another Party:  a access publicly available (open source) stored computer data, regardless of where the data is located geographically; or  b access or receive, through a computer system in its territory, stored computer data located in another Party, if the Party obtains the lawful and voluntary consent of the person who has the lawful authority to disclose the data to the Party through that computer system.	
Article 33 – Mutual assistance in the real-time collection of traffic data  1 The Parties shall provide mutual assistance to each other in the real-time collection of traffic data associated with specified communications in their territory transmitted by means of a computer system. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2, this assistance shall be governed by the conditions and procedures provided for under domestic law.  2 Each Party shall provide such assistance at least with respect to criminal offences for which real-time collection of traffic data would be available in a similar domestic case.	
Article 34 – Mutual assistance regarding the interception of content data	

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The Parties shall provide mutual assistance to each other in the real-time collection or recording of content data of specified communications transmitted by means of a computer system to the extent permitted under their applicable treaties and domestic laws.	
Article 35 – 24/7 Network  1 Each Party shall designate a point of contact available on a twenty-four hour, seven-day-a-week basis, in order to ensure the provision of immediate assistance for the purpose of investigations or proceedings concerning criminal offences related to computer systems and data, or for the collection of evidence in electronic form of a criminal offence. Such assistance shall include facilitating, or, if permitted by its domestic law and practice, directly carrying out the following measures:  a the provision of technical advice; b the preservation of data pursuant to Articles 29 and 30; c the collection of evidence, the provision of legal information, and locating of suspects.  2 a A Party's point of contact shall have the capacity to carry out communications with the point of contact of another Party on an expedited basis.	
b If the point of contact designated by a Party is not part of that Party's authority or authorities responsible for international mutual assistance or extradition, the point of contact shall ensure that it is able to co-ordinate with such authority or authorities on an expedited basis.  3 Each Party shall ensure that trained and equipped personnel are available, in order to facilitate the operation of the network.	
Article 42 – Reservations  By a written notification addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, any State may, at the time of signature or when depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, declare that it avails itself of the reservation(s) provided for in Article 4, paragraph 2, Article 6, paragraph 3, Article 9, paragraph 4, Article 10, paragraph 3, Article 11, paragraph 3, Article 14, paragraph 3, Article 22, paragraph 2, Article 29, paragraph 4, and Article 41, paragraph 1. No other reservation	

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may be made.	