

Lebanon

Cybercrime legislation

Domestic equivalent to the provisions of the Budapest Convention

Version [12.05.2020]

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[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:	No
Ratification/accession:	No

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Chapter I – Use of terms

Article 1 - "Computer system", "computer data", "service provider", "traffic data":

For the purposes of this Convention:

- "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;
- "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;
- "service provider" means:
- ability to communicate by means of a computer system, and
- any other entity that processes or stores computer data on behalf of such communication service or users of such service;
- "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

ART 1 law n 81/2018: In order to apply the provisions of this law, each of the terms listed below will be defined:

Authentication services provider: any public or private entity that issues authentication certificates after putting in place security measures that provides the functions specified in article 15 of this law.

Service provider: the entity that allows users of its service the access to electronic communications network and provides direct information transfer services. These services can include the temporary "transitional storage information transmitted provided, in condition that it does not lead to any modification of the data stored, and the requirement to use this for good implementation of the service and must not exceed the time necessary for completion.

any public or private entity that provides to users of its service the Host data: Is the entity that stores Information of whatever nature, in benefit of others, for or without remuneration, and makes it accessible to the public through Direct Contact.

> Traffic data: Is any computer data relating to a communication system linked to the network, 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

Title 1 - Offences against the confidentiality, integrity and availability of computer data and systems

Article 2 - Illegal access

Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when

Article 110 law n 81/2018 :

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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.

Shall be punished with imprisonment from three months to two years and a fine of 1 million to 20 million LP or either the access to-or stay in- the whole or any part of a computer system without right, with the intention of fraud.

The penalty is imprisonment for a term from six months to three years and fine from 2 million to 40 million Lebanese pounds, if the access leads to cancel digital data or software or modifying or jeopardizing the work of the information system.

Article 3 - Illegal interception

Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be for unwires and wireless communications like phones and e-mails. 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.

Article 17 of Law No 140 - released on 27/10/1999 incriminates illegal interception

Article 4 - Data interference

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.

Article 112 law n 81/2018

1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be | Shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to three years and a fine necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law, when from three million to 60 million Lebanese pounds, or both, who enters numerical data in a system in intent of cheating and who damages, deletes, deteriorates, alters or suppresses a computer data contained in an information system.

Article 5 - System interference

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

Article 112 law n 81/2018

Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be Shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to three years and a fine from three million to 60 million Lebanese pounds, or both, who enters numerical data in a system in intent of cheating and who damages, deletes, deteriorates, alters or suppresses a computer data contained in an information system.

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:

Article 114 law n 81/2018

Shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to three years and a fine from three million to 60 million Lebanese pounds or either both who imports or produces or acquires or introduces or put at the disposal, without a legitimate reason, of hardware or software designed or adapted primarily for the purpose of

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a the production, sale, procurement for use, import, distribution or 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.

committing any of the offences established in accordance with the above Articles of this chapter.

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.

Article 121 law n 81/2018 amended the text of article (453) of the Penal Code provides as follows:

Fraud is a deliberate misrepresentation of the truth, facts, or data which is proven by an instrument or manuscript or paper or electronic pillar, or any other form of a document, motivated by material or moral harm.

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Article 8 – Computer-related fraud 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 causing of a loss of property to another person by: a any input, alteration, deletion or suppression of computer data; b any interference with the functioning of a computer system, with fraudulent or dishonest intent of procuring, without right, an economic	Art 655 Penal Code.
	nt-related offences
Article 9 – Offences related to child pornography 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, the following conduct: a producing child pornography for the purpose of its distribution through a computer system; b offering or making available child pornography through a computer system; c distributing or transmitting child pornography through a computer system; d procuring child pornography through a computer system for oneself or for another person; e possessing child pornography in a computer system or on a computer-data storage medium.	Exploitation of Minors in Pornographic Materials Article 120 law n 81/2018 Subsection (3) of Chapter II of Part VII titled: "Offences against Public Morality" of the Law issued by Legislative Decree no. 340 dated 01/03/1943 (Penal Code), shall be repealed and replaced by the following provisions: "Subsection (3) – Crimes of Minors' Exploitation for purposes of Pornography Article 535 penal code– Minors' exploitation for purposes of pornography means photographing, showing or physically depicting any minor through whatever means, such as drawings, photos, writings, films or signs showcasing the minor's sex organs or the minor himself/herself while engaging or acting as though engaging in explicit sexual activities. The Penal Code provisions shall apply to offences relating to minors' exploitation for purposes of pornography (if validated), without prejudice to the provisions of the following Article.
2 For the purpose of paragraph 1 above, the term "child pornography" shall include pornographic material that visually depicts: a a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct; b a person appearing to be a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct;	Article 536 penal code – The development or production of pornographic materials effectively involving minors is considered as a form of human trafficking, and the perpetrator of such crime shall be punished in accordance with Articles 586 (1) onwards on human trafficking of the Penal Code.

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- conduct
- 3 For the purpose of paragraph 2 above, the term "minor" shall include al 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.

realistic images representing a minor engaged in sexually explicit If minors are not effectively involved in such pornographic material, the perpetrator shall be punished by imprisonment for one to three years and by a fine of five hundred thousand to two million Lebanese pounds.

> Any person who delivers, communicates, reproduces, displays, disposes of, distributes, exports, imports, posts, transmits or promotes minors' pornography by whatever means, shall be punished by imprisonment for one to three years and by a fine of five hundred thousand to two million Lebanese pounds. Penalties set forth in this article are increased in accordance with Article 257 (Penalties) in case of the use of an electronic communication network such as

the internet, radio or TV broadcasting to publish or distribute minors' pornography to an unspecified audience.

The same penalties shall apply to attempts to commit the crimes set forth in the preceding subsections.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any person who regularly takes or displays pornographic materials involving minors, via radio/TV broadcast, a communication service targeting the general public, or any other means, or deliberately holds any such materials, shall be punished by imprisonment for no more than one year and/or a fine not exceeding two million Lebanese pounds.

The provisions of this article shall be applied to pornographic images of any person looking like a minor.

In case the criminal offence set forth in this article are committed by a legal entity, it shall be suspended from work for one month at least and two years at most.

Title 4 - Offences related to infringements of copyright and related rights

Article 10 - Offences related to infringements of copyright and related | Offences related to infringements of copyright and related rights are subject to rights

Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law the Article 128 law n 81/2018 : 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 wilfully, on a commercial scale and by means of a computer system.

law number 75 dated 3-4-1999

The following subsection shall be added to Article (51) of the Consumer Protection Law no. 659 dated 04/02/2005:

- Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law the (34), (35) and (38) of the Electronic Transactions and Personal Data Law. infringement of related rights, as defined under the law of that Party, pursuant to the obligations it has undertaken under the International Convention for Article 129 law n 81/2018 : 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.

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Electronic contracts shall be concluded pursuant to the provisions of Articles (33),

Article (55) of the Consumer Protection Law no. 659 dated 04/02/2005 shall be repealed and replaced by the following provision:

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, any consumer who enters into a contract in accordance with this Chapter may reverse their decision to buy/hire goods or benefit from a service within a period of ten days starting from the date of concluding the contract for services or delivery date for goods, unless the parties agree to longer periods under the contract.

However, the consumer may not exercise the right set forth in the preceding subsection in the following events:

- 1- If they benefit from the service or use the goods before the elapsing of the tenday period.
- 2- If the contract includes goods made to order or according to specifications defined by the consumer.
- 3- If the contract involves video tapes, discs or CDs: In case their covers have been removed.
- 4- If the contract involves the purchase of newspapers, magazines and other publications.
- 5- In case the goods become defective due to bad maintenance by the consumer.
- 6- If the contract involves accommodation, transport, food or entertainment services delivered on a specific date or periodically at agreed-upon intervals.

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	7- If the contract involves the purchase of software services online, except when the software is not downloaded or functional.
	Article 130 law n 81/2018 :
	Article (59) of the Consumer Protection Law no. 659 dated 04/02/2005 shall be repealed and replaced by the following:
	Any professional who uses indirect or electronic means for sale or lease shall abide by the provisions of this Law, particularly in relation to deceptive advertising, promotion and public safety.
Title 5 – Ancillary	liability and sanctions
	Article 115 law n 81/2018 - The attempt is also punishable for the crimes set in
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 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 power of representation of the legal person; b an authority to take decisions on behalf of the legal person;	Art 3 law n 81/2018 - The provisions in order with the law are applicable, unless stipulated in this law or contradict its provisions. (which allows the application of the measures stipulated in the Lebanese penal code for corporate liabilities, extradition and other national and international measures).

an authority to exercise control within the legal person.

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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; 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 to which it applies the	

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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:
 - 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 of the procedure or power concerned, *inter alia*, 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 2 law n 81/2018:

Information technology is at the service of every person provided that it did not affect the individual identity, rights or privacy or individual freedoms or the public

Article 66 law n 81/2018:

The communication to the public by digital means is free within the respect of the requirement of the Constitution and national security and fundamental human rights and freedoms, or by special legal provisions.

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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 to loss or modification.
- 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.

Art 72 law n 81/2018 - An IT service provider shall save the traffic data of all the persons using their services, the data that help identify such persons and other technical data of communications, for three years as of the service delivery date.

After notifying the competent judicial authority, the judicial police may request there are grounds to believe that the computer data is particularly vulnerable the IT service providers, as part of its criminal investigations, to store additional technical data on a given incidence or specific individuals, other than the data prescribed in subsection (1) of this Article, for no more than thirty days considering the urgent nature of this data and the potential loss or modification thereof. Furthermore, such data may only be submitted to the Judicial Police upon a decision by the competent judicial authority.

> The IT service provider may not invoke any technical failure causing the technical data not to be saved and shall take the appropriate technical measures as defined in a decision by the Minister of Telecommunications.

The IT service provider shall be bound by professional secrecy to preserve the confidentiality of the technical data. However, the IT service provider may not invoke such secrecy before the competent judicial authority to the extent that the investigations and trials require the disclosure of such confidential data.

The data storage obligation set forth in subsection (1) does not include any stored or transferred content that expresses the views of its author, such as exchanged correspondences or content of stored/transferred information or websites.

The mechanism for saving/deleting traffic data and the nature of such data shall be defined by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers upon a proposal by the Minister of Justice.

data

- 1 Each Party shall adopt, in respect of traffic data that is to be preserved under Article 16, such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to:
- 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.

Article 17 - Expedited preservation and partial disclosure of traffic Art 72 law n 81/2018 - An IT service provider shall save the traffic data of all the persons using their services, the data that help identify such persons and other technical data of communications, for three years as of the service delivery date. After notifying the competent judicial authority, the judicial police may request ensure that such expeditious preservation of traffic data is available the IT service providers, as part of its criminal investigations, to store additional regardless of whether one or more service providers were involved in the technical data on a given incidence or specific individuals, other than the data prescribed in subsection (1) of this Article, for no more than thirty days considering the urgent nature of this data and the potential loss or modification thereof. Furthermore, such data may only be submitted to the Judicial Police upon a decision by the competent judicial authority.

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Articles 14 and 15.

The IT service provider may not invoke any technical failure causing the technical 2 The powers and procedures referred to in this article shall be subject to data not to be saved and shall take the appropriate technical measures as defined in a decision by the Minister of Telecommunications.

> The IT service provider shall be bound by professional secrecy to preserve the confidentiality of the technical data. However, the IT service provider may not invoke such secrecy before the competent judicial authority to the extent that the investigations and trials require the disclosure of such confidential data.

> The data storage obligation set forth in subsection (1) does not include any stored or transferred content that expresses the views of its author, such as exchanged correspondences or content of stored/transferred information or websites.

> The mechanism for saving/deleting traffic data and the nature of such data shall be defined by a decree issued by the Council of Ministers upon a proposal by the Minister of Justice.

Article 18 - Production order

- necessary to empower its competent authorities to order:
- computer-data storage medium; and
- provider's possession or control.
- 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:
 - the type of communication service used, the technical provisions taken thereto and the period of service;
 - 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;
 - any other information on the site of the installation of communication equipment, available on the basis of the service agreement or arrangement.

Art 76 law n 81/2018 - IT service providers shall collaborate with the competent 1 Each Party shall adopt such legislative and other measures as may be court and authorities stated in Law no.99/140 to the extent needed to uncover the truth in investigations and pending lawsuits.

a person in its territory to submit specified computer data in that The competent court and authorities identified in Law no. 99/140 and to the extent person's possession or control, which is stored in a computer system or a permitted by said law, require the IT service provider to submit any data they store or control in case it is deemed helpful in any investigation or pending lawsuit, a service provider offering its services in the territory of the Party to in accordance with the obligations stipulated in Articles (72) and (74) above.

submit subscriber information relating to such services in that service The IT service provider, upon a decision by the competent court or judicial authorities stated in Law no. 99/140 and to the extent permitted by said law, shall immediately provide such authority with traffic data and other technical data as set forth in Articles (72) and (74) herein and grant them real-time access to any communication performed through the provider's network.

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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 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:
- seize or similarly secure a computer system or part of it or a computer-data storage medium;
 - make and retain a copy of those computer data;
 - maintain the integrity of the relevant stored computer data;
 - 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 A copy of the seized data/software may be given to the concerned person at the in paragraphs 1 and 2.
- 5 The powers and procedures referred to in this article shall be subject to Articles 14 and 15.

Article 124:

Seizure of data and software shall be conducted in a manner not compromising the rights of goodfaith persons and the person directly involved, by copying the seized data and software only. In other terms, the hardware containing the seized data and software shall not be seized, especially when such hardware is used for other legitimate purposes.

At the time of seizure, in case of downloading or transferring data/IT evidence from a website or a computer, the source thereof shall be specified.

Any data or digital evidence stored in an IT system located in the Lebanese territories may be seized if access thereto is possible from the IT system falling with the search warrant scope.

Any data stored in an IT system may be accessed and seized, whether they are in Lebanon or abroad, if they are made available to the public or in case the legally authorized person approves of disclosing such data through an IT system in the Lebanese territories.

When the IT evidence is seized, the Public Prosecution or the judicial authority examining the case may decide that the process of downloading, transferring or copying data/software shall be done in the presence of the relevant person or any specialized technician appointed by the relevant person under a written authorization.

Where appropriate, the scene where the search operations are conducted or the location of the electronic medium containing the data/software shall be closed and sealed pending the arrival of the technician within the specified time limit. Otherwise, the search operations may take place in the presence of two relatives of the concerned person, their lawyer or two witnesses. Nevertheless, the competent judicial authority may decide that their presence is not necessary.

time of seizure, by decision of the judicial authority taking such action.

The judicial authority may request any person who knows how to operate the IT system or protection measures thereof, to provide the investigator in charge with the required information to access the requested data and software.

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	It may also request any person having data or software that could serve as IT evidence, to make and hold a copy thereof until seizure is decided.
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. 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 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.	the truth in investigations and pending lawsuits. The competent court and authorities identified in Law no. 99/140 and to the extent permitted by said law, require the IT service provider to submit any data they store or control in case it is deemed helpful in any investigation or pending lawsuit, in accordance with the obligations stipulated in Articles (72) and (74) above. The IT service provider, upon a decision by the competent court or judicial authorities stated in Law no. 99/140 and to the extent permitted by said law, shall immediately provide such authority with traffic data and other technical data as set forth in Articles (72) and (74) herein and grant them real-time access to any communication performed through the provider's network.
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:	Law No 140-released on 27/10/1999.

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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 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.

Art 15-26 penal code.

BUDAPEST CONVENTION 4 This Convention does not exclude any criminal jurisdiction exercised by

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

a Party in accordance with its domestic law.

Article 24 - Extradition

- 1 a This article applies to extradition between Parties for the criminal offences established in accordance with Articles 2 through 11 of this 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 year, or by a more severe penalty.
- b 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 1 of this article.
- 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 article as extraditable offences between themselves.
- 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 on which the requested Party may refuse extradition.

Art.30-36 Penal Code.

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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 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.

Bilateral cooperation:

Lebanon signed several bilateral agreements aimed at strengthening cooperation in the field of cybercrime, cyber security and transnational organized crimes, especially with France and with the Arab countries.

Multilateral cooperation:

Lebanon signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on 18 December 2001 and ratified it on 5 October 2005.

It has not signed any international conventions against Cybercrime such as the Budapest Convention and the Arab Convention on Combatting Information Technology Offences. Lebanon is a member of Interpol.

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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 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.	

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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 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.

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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	
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 29 Confidentiality and limitation on use	
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:	
response to a request dependent on the condition that it is:	

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request for mutual assistance for the search or similar access, seizure or

BUDAPEST CONVENTION DOMESTIC LEGISLATION 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 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. In addition, a request for preservation may only be refused if: the request concerns an offence which the requested Party considers a political offence or an offence connected with a political offence, or the requested Party considers that execution of the request is likely to prejudice its sovereignty, security, ordre public or other essential interests. Where the requested Party believes that preservation will not ensure the future availability of the data or will threaten the confidentiality of or otherwise prejudice the requesting Party's investigation, it shall promptly so inform the requesting Party, which shall then determine whether the request should nevertheless be executed. 4 Any preservation effected in response to the request referred to in paragraph 1 shall be for a period not less than sixty days, in order to enable the requesting Party to submit a request for the search or similar access, seizure or similar securing, or disclosure of the data. Following the receipt of such a request, the data shall continue to be preserved pending a decision on that request. 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

Disclosure of traffic data under paragraph 1 may only be withheld if: the request concerns an offence which the requested Party considers a

the requested Party considers that execution of the request is likely to

political offence or an offence connected with a political offence; or

prejudice its sovereignty, security, ordre public or other essential interests.

transmitted.

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Article 31 – Mutual assistance regarding accessing of stored 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.	

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Article 34 – Mutual assistance regarding the interception of content data 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,	

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paragraph 3, Article 14, paragraph 3, Article 22, paragraph 2, Article 29,	
paragraph 4, and Article 41, paragraph 1. No other reservation may be made.	