

## **IX. ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT AND ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE**

In 2003 continued the activity of CRC regarding the obligations assumed under the Electronic Document and Electronic Signature Act enforced in 2001. During the year the procedures for approval of registration documents of Information service AD and Bankservice AD as providers of universal electronic signature were closed. By Decision № 260/27.03.2003 Information service AD began the provision of certification services, and the second provider – Bankservice AD was registered by decision № 1113 dated September 25, 2003.

This established prerequisites for realization of the project for electronic representation in Bulgaria. The availability of regulations and developed infrastructure enabled the performance of the Strategy for electronic representation, adopted by the Council of Ministers at the end of 2002. That gave the opportunity for electronic provision of some of the 20 basic administrative services, planned in the Strategy, concerning relations among the state administration, the civil and business society. Regardless the achievements in this field by that moment and the existence of a legal regulation framework harmonized with the EU one, many specific problems here remain unsolved, including those related to the exchange of electronic documents between various authorities under conditions of heterogeneous information environment within the government administration. With respect to the above, CRC representatives participated in various working groups, including the inter-department working group, established by Decision № 771/06.11.2003 of the Council of Ministers concerning the legal settlement of receiving and issuing electronic documents, signed with universal electronic signatures in the judicial system.

In 2003 reference to the CRC obligation to control the Certification-Service-Providers as to the reliability and security of their services, CRC started a regular control of the web pages of these providers. At the end of the year a draft version of the Methods for control of Certification-Service-Providers was developed and is to be applied in the overall audits of providers.