

E-Justice: Korean Experience and EU-Korea Relations

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■ Korean experience

- The Supreme Court IT Center was established in 2008. E-filing service for patent cases was commenced in 2010. The E-filing system was extended to the proceedings of civil cases in 2011, family and administrative cases in 2013, insolvency cases in 2014.
- The E-filing system allows litigants and their attorneys to file and manage cases, as well as access court information and procedures electronically. This system also allows judges and court officials to manage cases much more efficiently by viewing electronic case records and checking case statuses in a speedy manner.
- Due to privacy and security reasons, access to electronic case files is available to litigants and their attorneys but not to the public. However, the online judgment search service for the decisions of the Supreme Court as well as the lower courts' opinions is accessible to the public.
- In the beginning, judges and lawyers did not use the e-filing system willingly. It seemed to be hard for them to get accustomed to the new system. But it did not take long time before they realized the convenience and accuracy of the e-filing system. Now almost all lawyers are using e-filing system and ask the Supreme Court early introduction of the e-filing service for criminal cases.

■ EU-Korea Relations

- EU and South Korea signed a Free Trade Agreement (entered into force in 2015), a Framework Agreement covering political cooperation (entered into force in 2014), a Crisis Management Participation Agreement (entered into force in 2016). Korea is the only country in Asia with which these three agreements covering economics, politics, and security have entered into force.
- EU-Korea security relations got a particular boost during the Trump presidency.
- EU-Korea cooperation has made important advances in cybersecurity since North Korea has continued hacking attacks against both South Korean and European targets. Bilateral cooperation at different levels and between the various agencies that deal with cybersecurity issues in the EU and Korea has been developed, and proved fruitful, along with the development of joint cybersecurity exercises.