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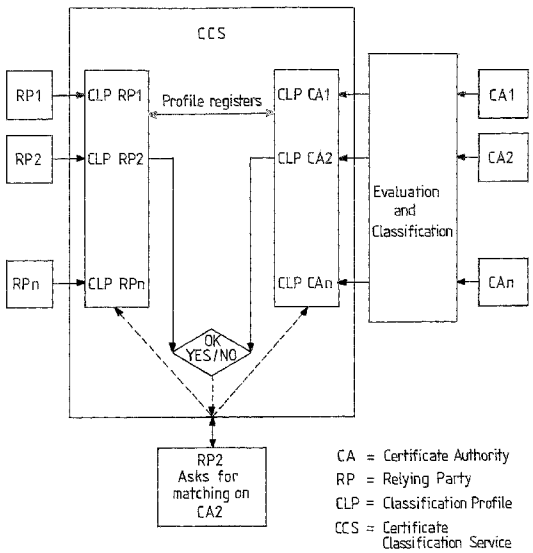
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(54) Title: A METHOD AND SERVICE FOR THE AUTHENTICATION OF A PUBLIC KEY CERTIFICATE BY MEANS OF QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS



(57) Abstract: A method is described for the authentication of a public key certificate by a relying party that must decide upon trust in the certificate. The method includes to perform an assessment of the quality of the certificate and the Certificate Authority that has issued the certificate according to well-defined criteria, to describe the quality requirements of the relying party according to the same criteria, to compare the said quality assessment and the relying party's quality requirements, and if the quality of said certificate is equal to or exceeds said quality requirements to authenticate said certificate.

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