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The EPC launches the public consultation on the 2020 change requests for the SEPA Credit Transfer and SEPA Direct Debit Scheme Rulebooks

Brussels, 12 March 2020 – the European Payments Council (EPC) today launches the public consultation on the 2020 change requests for the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) Credit Transfer and SEPA Direct Debit scheme rulebooks. All stakeholders are invited to have their say on these change requests from 12 March to 9 June 2020. The change requests relate to the SEPA Credit Transfer (SCT), the SEPA Instant Credit Transfer (SCT Inst), the SEPA Direct Debit Core (SDD Core) and/or the SDD Business-to-Business (SDD B2B) schemes. This public consultation is part of the EPC's regular change-management cycle for these schemes.

The public consultation documents detail the change requests from stakeholder representatives, banking communities and EPC working and support groups and include the recommendation from the EPC working group in charge of change-management cycles for each change request.

All payment service providers (PSPs), end-users and technical players can participate in the public consultation during this three-month period. This public consultation is held to ensure that the SEPA schemes reflect the evolution of the needs of PSPs and their customers, as well as technological changes.

The window for PSPs, end-users and technical players to submit change requests to amend the rulebooks – the technical and business rules governing the schemes and followed by their participants – ended at the end of December 2019. The EPC has registered 48 change requests from various stakeholders and from the EPC itself. A significant number of change requests specifically relate to the SCT Inst and SCT rulebooks.

One common change request for all four EPC SEPA payment scheme rulebooks is to migrate all ISO 20022 XML-based messages specified under the rulebooks to the 2019 version of the ISO 20022 messaging standard in November 2022.

Stakeholders wishing to learn more about these change requests and to participate in the public consultation will find all necessary information on the EPC website, including the response template, which needs to be filled in and submitted by **9 June 2020 at 17 00 CET at the latest. The EPC will not consider any feedback received after this deadline.**



Suggestions that find broad acceptance in the overall payment community and that are technically and legally feasible will be taken forwards. In November 2020, the EPC will publish the updated rulebooks and implementation guidelines, which will enter into force one year later. This will ensure scheme participants have enough time to implement the necessary changes to their systems.



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About the European Payments Council

The European Payments Council (EPC), an international not-for-profit association, representing payment service providers, supports and promotes European payments integration and development, notably the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA). The EPC is committed to contribute to safe, reliable, efficient, convenient, economically balanced and sustainable payments, which meet the needs of payment service users and support the goals of competitiveness and innovation in an integrated European economy. It pursues this purpose through the development and management of pan-European payment and payment-related schemes and the formulation of positions and proposals on European payment issues in constant dialogue with other stakeholders and regulators at the European level and taking a strategic and holistic perspective. The primary task of the EPC is to manage the SEPA Credit Transfer and Direct Debit schemes in close dialogue with all stakeholders. The EPC is also active in the fields of cards, mobile payments, including Person-to-Person, e-invoicing-related payments, cash and payment security.