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**Public**

## **Javier Santamaría is re-elected as Chair of the European Payments Council for a two-year mandate**

**Brussels, 16 December 2020 – the General Assembly of the European Payments Council (EPC), a representative body of European payment service providers, has re-elected Javier Santamaría as its Chair and Narinda You as its Vice-Chair. Their mandates take effect immediately and will run for the next two years – a period in which exciting changes are expected in the payments industry.**

Javier Santamaría has chaired the EPC since June 2012 and has been actively involved in the EPC since its creation in 2002. In several decades in the banking world, Mr Santamaría has accumulated broad and balanced expertise in the intertwined dimensions of payments – business-related, operational, technical – across different client segments and product lines, in the legacy and the innovative spheres. He now builds on those skills as an independent professional. Besides payments, he is interested in other banking fields and continues to be engaged actively in academic matters.

The forthcoming two years of Javier Santamaría’s new mandate promise to be challenging, with the expected growing of the SCT Inst scheme, coupled with the development of the new SEPA payment-related schemes such as SEPA Request-to-Pay (SRTP) and other initiatives that augment the potential of real-time payments, and ultimately enhance the competitiveness of the European economy.

“It is an honour and a privilege to have been nominated by the General Assembly to serve as a Chair of the EPC and I would like to thank you for your votes of confidence. The EPC has been and remains at the forefront of the modernisation of European retail payments, therefore I am convinced we will witness critical developments in the sector in the next two years. I am honoured by this new challenge and I am excited about what the next chapter holds for us,” declared Javier Santamaría upon his re-election.

The central role of the Chair is to lead the two main governance bodies of the EPC (its Board and General Assembly) and to represent it externally, in particular in talks with European institutions.

Narinda You is Head of Strategy and Market Practice at Crédit Agricole Payment Services. She is also re-instated in her role as Vice-Chair. She adds: “I undertake this new role with joy and enthusiasm, and I look forward to working further with Javier to help the EPC and its members meet the challenges of the next two years.”



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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.