

# THE EPC IN A SNAPSHOT



# WHO IS THE EUROPEAN PAYMENTS COUNCIL?






**The European Payments Council (EPC)** is a European association dedicated to payments, open to all licensed payment service providers (PSPs) and their associations.

It is currently composed of **83** members and **1** associate member, i.e. individual PSPs, European PSP associations or national PSP associations from across Europe.

## WHAT ARE THE EPC'S PURPOSE AND MISSION?

The purpose of the EPC, as one representative of the European PSPs' sector, is to **support and promote European payments integration and development**, notably the **Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA)**.

The mission of the EPC is to contribute to safe, reliable, efficient, economically balanced and sustainable, convenient payments supporting an **integrated European economy**, its end-users' needs as well as its competitiveness and innovation goals:

-  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 European level;
-  Taking a **strategic and holistic perspective**, based on a dynamic vision.

The EPC offers one focal point and voice for the PSPs' sector on all European payment issues, driven by a single vision.



## WHAT ARE THE EPC'S MAIN ACTIVITIES?



To maintain, manage and evolve the EPC payment and payment related schemes that the EPC has created and owns (namely SEPA Credit Transfer (SCT), SEPA Instant Credit Transfer (SCT Inst), SEPA Direct Debit (SDD) Core and SDD Business-to-Business (B2B), SEPA Request-to-Pay (SRTP), SEPA Payment Account Access (SPAA)), One-Leg Out Instant Credit Transfer (OCT Inst), Verification Of Payee (VOP));



To participate actively in multi-stakeholder bodies like the Euro Retail Payments Board (ERPB) and the European Payments Stakeholders Group (EPSG) and support their activities;



To define positions and make proposals on payment aspects of European policies, legislation and regulations, which can also be used by its members in their own activities.



## HOW DOES THE EPC OPERATE?

All EPC Members are represented on the **EPC's General Assembly** which meets at least twice a year according to the following modus operandi:



Formal morning session which covers the areas where the General Assembly decides, the Board's report on its main activities and plans as well as any other relevant topic;



Afternoon's business session which informally addresses a specific topical theme with the participation of outside speakers and includes a debate with the General Assembly members.

**The Board** is the EPC's main decision-making body except for what is the preserve of the General Assembly or has been delegated to a Scheme Management Body. All communities of Members are directly or indirectly (through coalitions) represented on the Board. It focuses on **new developments, strategic issues and ERPB-related matters** essentially related to all payment domains other than the existing SEPA schemes (these activities are collectively called 'Module 2' with 'Module 1' being the scheme management activities under the Payment Scheme Management Board's authority).

**The Payment Scheme Management Board (PSMB)** - directly or indirectly representing scheme participant member communities - manages the existing SEPA payment schemes (i.e. SCT, SCT Inst, SDD Core, SDD B2B), under a delegated authority granted by the Board.

Both the Board and the PSMB are supported by **Working Groups, Support Groups and Task Forces** which are established by the Board or the PSMB, are open to all member communities and act upon a formal (permanent or temporary) mandate and against an approved work plan (with clearly articulated deliverables, timelines and benefits).

## WHAT ARE THE EPC'S MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE?



Five EPC payment schemes, namely SCT, SCT Inst, SDD Core, SDD B2B and OCT Inst which facilitate about **50 billion transactions per year** as well as two payment-related schemes, i.e. SPL and SRTP throughout **38 countries**;



Contribution to a 'SEPA for cards' in particular in the standardisation domain;



Recognition and trust as an expert industry voice on European payment issues within the PSP sector and by other European stakeholders including European authorities.



## WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED EPC'S FOCUS IN THE FEW COMING YEARS?



Evolution, security and quality of the existing payment schemes in line with market requirements;



Further development and active promotion of the new SPAA and OCT Inst schemes;



Market implementation of the SEPA Request-to-Pay scheme;



Interoperability of SCT Inst-based mobile-payment solutions for Person-to-Person (P2P) and Point of Interaction (POI) payments;



- ✓ Cyber security and fraud prevention;
- ✓ Impact of revision of PSD2;
- ✓ Digital euro;
- ✓ E-identity.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF EPC MEMBERSHIP?

- ✓ Participation in the **strategic management** of the SEPA schemes
- ✓ Participation in and access to all information regarding the **development process** for any new SEPA scheme
- ✓ Participation in definition of positions towards **external bodies** (e.g. the ERPB and the EPSG)
- ✓ Access to all activities and deliverables of **Module 2**
- ✓ Participation in **strategic and governance-related decisions** relating to the SEPA schemes
- ✓ Participation in setting the **strategy, work plan and budget**
- ✓ Participation in review of all **positions** to be taken by the EPC
- ✓ **Networking and exchange of experiences/best practices** with peers from across Europe active in the payments area

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO BE AN EPC MEMBER?

**EPC Membership fee:** 11,000 euros per year

**Module 2 participation fee:** about 13,500 euros per year (the actual amount depends on the number of Module 2 participants and the planned Module 2 activities)

