



SPAA MSG 009-25

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Approved

Minutes of the thirty-seventh meeting of the SEPA Payment Account Access Multi-Stakeholder Group (SPAA MSG)

Venue: Teleconference (via Microsoft Teams)

Distribution: SPAA MSG

Meeting Date: 30 April 2025 (09:00-11:00 CEST)

1 Welcome by the SPAA MSG co-chairs

Co-chair A. González Mac Dowell welcomed the members to the thirty-seventh meeting of the SEPA Payment Account Access Multi-Stakeholder Group (SPAA MSG). The group was informed that co-chair G. Boudewijn would be joining the call approximately thirty minutes later.

The list of attendees is included in Annex I.

2 Approval of the agenda (SPAA MSG 007-25)

The agenda was reordered and subsequently approved.

3 Approval of the minutes of the 36th SPAA MSG meeting (SPAA MSG 006-25)

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 24 March 2025 were approved as presented.

4 Status update on latest developments

The following updates were shared:

- The ECSAs nominated A. Widegren to replace G. Boudewijn as co-chair representing the asset holders. The Board at its 22 May 2025 meeting will be invited to approve this nomination.
- The call for candidates for the API Standardization Task Force (API STF) resulted in one nomination from K. Rasappan. In addition, Mastercard and Stet indicated that they are already represented on this task force, though not in the capacity of SPAA MSG representatives.
- A status update call has been scheduled on 12 May 2025 for the SPAA Scheme Interest Group and Module 3 participants.
- A call was held with the chair of the SPAA Communication Work Block to discuss the revision of the Terms of Reference of the related work block.

5 Presentation on the giroAPI scheme

H. Fürstenau presented a slide deck on the giroAPI scheme, which focused on the following topics:

- Governance structure.



- Sub-scheme 'Payment' covering:
 - Payment with reservation of funds and execution.
 - Payment with reservation of funds and several partial executions.
 - AIS plus for payment accounts.
 - Micro payments.
 - Confirmation IBAN access.
 - Push-notification incoming or outgoing payment.
- Sub-scheme 'Financial information' covering:
 - AIS plus for payment accounts.
 - AIS plus for savings accounts.
 - AIS plus for member accounts.
 - AIS plus for loan accounts.
 - AIS plus for card accounts.
- Scheme financing and billing
 - Fees to be determined via a bilateral agreement between asset holder and asset broker (preferred) or alternatively, fallback fees (based on market fees).
 - Option to participate as a certified billing service provider.
- Requirements for membership
 - Four adherence cycles in 2025. Currently 180 asset holders have joined and the first asset broker is expected to join in May 2025.
 - giroAPI scheme directory is based on the discovery services of the Berlin Group.
- Future outlook
 - Data scope of giroAPI and FIDA.
 - Additional sub-scheme 'Request to Pay'.
 - Expansion of sub-scheme 'Payment' – e.g. inclusion of dynamic recurring payments.

Co-chair A. González Mac Dowell commented that he did not perceive a significant gap between the SPAA and giroAPI schemes, and that both focus on services (not use cases as such). In his view, achieving full convergence would represent a significant milestone and could provide a common 'rail' for various solutions. Co-chair G. Boudewijn agreed that the focus should be on ensuring convergence but at the same time questioned why giroAPI is developing an RTP sub-scheme instead of using the existing EPC SEPA Request-To-Pay (SRTP) scheme. H. Fürstenau explained that the main reason was their preference to start small - with only two or three use cases (which are also offered by the Berlin Group) - and have the freedom to scale at their own pace.

J. Vanhautère, as chair of the EPC RTP Task Force, suggested for the German community to provide a presentation on the giroAPI RTP sub-scheme at one of the next RTP TF meetings. He moreover informed that discussions have taken place with the Italian and Spanish communities to ramp up the use of the SRTP scheme. He also believed that convergence between the two schemes could be feasible.

A. Widegren inquired whether giroAPI will incorporate the different capabilities of FIDA and highlighted that different communities appear to be adopting different approaches. M. Kuhnke responded that giroAPI works closely with DSGV's dedicated FIDA group and that the idea is to base everything on the PSD2 API.

Following a number of questions from R. Ohlhausen, H. Fürstenau confirmed that the current plan is indeed to cover the whole range of FIDA capabilities under giroAPI. The only uncertainty is related to the insurance-related part. He moreover informed that the giroAPI fees were not listed in the slide deck but can be found on the giroAPI website.



The EPC Director General, G. Andreoli, was surprised to learn that giroAPI is now venturing into the area of RTP and has developed a scheme directory, despite the EPC having established an SRTP scheme several years ago and more recently introduced the EPC Directory Service (EDS) for EPC API based schemes. In his view, this would lead to fragmentation. He noted that ensuring convergence could be challenging, as i) it is counterproductive to first ‘diverge’ and later invest to ‘converge’ again, and ii) EPC governance rules need to be respected. Furthermore, he informed the group that the latest version of the SRTP Rulebook has been simplified following a change management cycle which included a public consultation process. He hence recommended reviewing what already exists in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

H. Fürstenau commented that the giroAPI project had started five years ago and that its scope is wider than SPAA (i.e. beyond payments). He acknowledged that achieving convergence might not be easy, but in his view, it would be feasible, provided there is commitment from both sides.

Co-chair G. Boudewijn agreed that openness and transparency are important but at the same time concurred with G. Andreoli’s position, emphasizing that a dialogue is essential to prevent further fragmentation. Moreover, he reminded the group that the EPC Board had decided to not go ‘beyond payments’ and hence the focus on convergence should for the time be limited to payments.

M. Kuhnke indicated that both DSGVO and the Berlin Group aim to establish one open banking framework. However, G. Andreoli pointed out the risk that German asset holders may implement giroAPI, while asset holders in other communities might implement a different solution based on SPAA. J. Vanhautère also highlighted that there are other APIs in the market that are fully compatible with PSD2.

K. Rassapan was of the opinion that, ultimately, it’s more about interoperability rather than convergence, noting that complete avoidance of fragmentation may not be feasible, as different markets may have distinct use cases. Co-chair A. González Mac Dowell highlighted that the strategic intent is to have one pan-European solution, which would encompass payment rails and the services/functionalities covered in the SPAA and giroAPI schemes, with the market having the possibility to build an additional layer on top. Co-chair G. Boudewijn concurred with the idea that interoperability and reachability should not hinder market competition. He added that the EPC schemes are intended to ensure pan-European interoperability, providing a foundation on which individual scheme participants can build their own solutions. Therefore, the focus is not on creating a single end-user solution.

6 Presentation on the Berlin Group initiative

W. Machielse provided a presentation titled ‘Connecting the dots – How the SPAA scheme could benefit from harmonised Berlin Group Open Finance Standards’, covering the following topics:

- The rise of digital payments
- Benefits of REST APIs in banking
- Berlin Group profile
- OpenFinance publications
- Berlin Group vision for harmonised APIs
- Berlin Group API stack qualities
- Additional benefits in testing and approvals
- Preparing for new EU regulations



In addition, one slide was dedicated to outlining how the Berlin Group could contribute to SPAA. In this context, W. Machiels reiterated that the current SPAA scheme rulebook describes business functionalities, not API services. The Berlin Group also requires clarification on the role it should play and the related resource requirements. To this end, the following options were presented whereby the Berlin Group currently favours option 1 or 3:

1. Provide preliminary guidance (prior to the process).
2. Assuming responsibility for specific aspects or parts (during the process).
3. Provide review feedback (after the process).

He furthermore highlighted that the ultimate decision on priorities and sponsorship will be left to the Berlin Group's openFinance Taskforce.

Co-chair G. Boudewijn emphasized that the Berlin Group is a pan-European initiative (i.e. not a German one) and added that even though they are currently the only initiative that has developed specifications for SPAA, there exist other API standardisation initiatives such as Stet. J. Vanhautère noted that while Stet is indeed a member of the Berlin Group, its API architecture is quite different. At this stage, it is too early to determine whether Stet would take any further action to converge to the Berlin group standard.

Co-chair A. González Mac Dowell commented that the SPAA scheme rulebook could shift from a functional to technical focus if only the Berlin Group Open Finance Standard is to be taken into account. If other initiatives are to be accommodated as well, the rulebook should remain functional in his view. W. Machiels commented that the rulebook could indeed be kept functional but in that case implementation guidelines would be required. According to J. Vanhautère, this could be a suitable topic for the API STF.

7 Clarification on governance and reporting lines (Pres EPC051-25)

Due to time constraints, this topic was not discussed.

8 Approval of the (revised) Terms of Reference (SPAA MSG 002-22; SPAA MSG 007-24; SPAA MSG 008-25)

Due to time constraints, the Terms of Reference of the SPAA Business Conditions Work Block, SPAA Communication Work Block and SPAA Rulebook Development Work Block were not discussed.

9 Next steps

The co-chairs and EPC Director general will schedule a call to continue the discussion on convergence of the SPAA scheme with the Berlin Group Open Finance Standard and giroAPI scheme. The aim is to present a proposal at the next meeting, which will be scheduled following the Board's decision on the nomination of the new co-chair.

The agenda topics not covered due to time constraints will be put on the agenda of the next meeting.

10 AOB

No other topics were discussed.

11 Closure of meeting

Co-chair G. Boudewijn announced that this was his final meeting as SPAA MSG co-chair and conveyed his thanks to A. Widegren for his willingness to take over his role (subject to EPC Board approval). He added that in his new role as EPC chair, he will be able to continue monitoring the SPAA MSG's activities.



The co-chairs closed the meeting at around 11:08 CEST and thanked the SPAA MSG members for the constructive meeting.



Annex I: List of attendees

Name	Institution	Category	Country	Attendance
Co-Chairs				
Arturo González Mac Dowell	Inespay (nominated by the three ENCAs)	Asset Broker	EU	Yes
Gijs Boudewijn	Dutch Payments Association (nominated by the three ECAs)	Asset Holder	EU	Yes
Members				
Agori Michopoulou ¹	EPIF	Asset Broker	EU	Yes
Andreas Widegren	Nordea (nominated by Finance Sweden)	Asset Holder	SE	Yes
Angel Salamanca	Adyen	Asset Holder	NL	Yes
Chris Harris	Mastercard	Asset Broker	UK	Yes
Fanny Rodriguez	Fintecture	Asset Broker	FR	Yes
Géraldine Debost	Crédit Agricole S.A. (nominated by the French banking community)	Asset Holder	FR	Yes
Hermann Fürstenau	Association of German Public Banks (VÖB) (nominated by GBIC)	Asset Holder	DE	Yes
Ian Morrin	Tink	Asset Broker	UK	Yes
Jack Wilson	TrueLayer	Asset Broker	IE	Apologies
Jacques Vanhautère	STET (nominated by the French banking community)	Asset Holder	FR	Yes
João Sarilho	SIBS (nominated by Association of Portuguese Banks)	Asset Holder	PT	Yes
Luca Vanni	Unicredit (nominated by ABI)	Asset Holder	IT	Yes
Michael Kuhnke	DSGV (nominated by ESBG)	Asset Holder	EU	Yes
Miguel Torres Vila	Redsys Servicios de Procesamiento	Asset Holder	ES	Yes
Niels Pranger	Dutch Payments Association (DPA)	Asset Holder	NL	Yes
Oscar Berglund	Trustly	Asset Broker	SE	Yes
Ralf Ohlhausen	ETPPA	Asset Broker	EU	Yes
Robert Sullivan	Token	Asset Broker	UK	Yes

¹ Alternate for N. Reinhardt



Ruth Mitchell	Electronic Money Association (EMA)	Asset Broker	EU	Yes
Observers				
Alessio Castelli	CBI S.c.p.a.		IT	Yes
Jayakumar Gopalakrishnan	Volante Technologies Limited		UK	Apologies
Kannan Rasappan	Banfico		UK	Yes
Kerstin Junius	European Central Bank		EU	Yes
Larisa Tugui	European Commission		EU	Apologies
Guest				
Wijnand Machielse	SRC (representing the Berlin Group)		DE	Yes
EPC secretariat				
Christophe Godefroi				Yes
Giorgio Andreoli				Yes (partly)
Silvia Di Lillo				Apologies



Annex II: Action points

Ref.	Action	Owner	Status/Target
29.4	Schedule a call with DG FISMA in relation to the possible impact of the PSR on SPAA	SPAA MSG co-chairs	In due course
29.5	Invite the LSG to assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether instant payments could be considered to be a payment guarantee premium functionality (and hence charged on that basis). - what regulatory changes would be needed to make refunds work within the context of SPAA 	S. Di Lillo/LSG	In due course
35.4	Schedule a call with R. Ohlhausen and O. Berglund to prepare some first ideas on the topic of harmonisation	A. Widegren	In due course
35.5	Provide further clarity on the expected EDS cost for SPAA scheme participants	EPC secretariat	In due course
36.7	Contact the ECSAs to create awareness around the SPAA pilot project (with involvement of the SPAA Communication WB)	Co-chair G. Boudewijn & SPAA COM WB	In due course
36.8	Issue a new call for candidates for the SPAA Communication Work Block	EPC secretariat	In due course
37.1	Publish the latest approved SPAA MSG minutes and agenda on the EPC website	SPAA MSG secretariat	12 May 2025
37.2	Co-chairs and Director General to continue the discussion on convergence in order to prepare a proposal for the next meeting	SPAA MSG secretariat	22 May 2025