

The European Cards Stakeholders Group to become the European Payments Stakeholders Group

The European Cards Stakeholders Group (ECSG), the industry association for card standardisation in the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), has decided to expand the scope of its activities to cover other non-card retail payments.

The association made the decision, which was formally endorsed by its General Assembly on 1st December 2022, based on the increasing relevance of non-card retail payment methods at proximity and e-commerce businesses. To reflect this important evolution, the association will change its name to **European Payments Stakeholders Group (EPSG)**.

The new EPSG reckons that the payments ecosystem will highly benefit from having one single **multi-stakeholder organisation** to develop and maintain the necessary requirements enabling a harmonised acceptance as well as the co-existence, transparency, and choice across the different electronic payment means present on the market.

This new work will be performed in close co-ordination with other actors, in particular with the **European Payment Council (EPC)**.

The new association welcomes the participation of all members from the five industry sectors (PSPs, Schemes, Processors, Vendors, and Retailers) to strengthen the work on card payments and build-up the activities on non-card retail payments.

Carmen Carnero, Chair of the ECSG, and Jean Philippe Joliveau, Vice-Chair, commented:

“We are very proud to announce the publication of the Royal Decree by the Belgian authorities, which was the last formal step needed to start expanding the scope of our association. We are now ready to welcome members from non-card retail payment organisations belonging to any of the five industry sectors that we serve: PSPs, Payment Schemes, Processors, Vendors, and Retailers. We are very excited about this development, and we look forward to significant achievements that will benefit all the stakeholders.”

More information about the ECSG consultation can be found on its [website](#).

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About the European Cards Stakeholders Group

The European Cards Stakeholders Group (ECSG) is a multi-stakeholder association promoting card harmonisation in the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA). The ECSG is made up of organisations from five sectors of the card payment chain: retailers/wholesale, vendors (card, payment devices, related IT systems), processors of card transactions, card schemes, and payment service providers. The ECSG is an international not-for-profit association. The objective of the ECSG is to contribute to making it possible for EU citizens to use their cards for payments and ATM withdrawals with the same ease and convenience throughout SEPA as in their own country, and to help remove technical, practical and commercial barriers to card harmonisation for the benefit of industry participants. It pursues this goal through the maintenance and evolution of the SEPA Cards Standardisation Volume (the Volume), a key document for the card industry defining guidelines for cards standardisation, interoperability and security in Europe. As a self-regulatory initiative, the ECSG also promotes conformance of the card industry to the Volume. The ECSG is not part of the EU institutional framework, yet its creation is supported by European Union institutions, which participate in its work as observers.