

ERPB Secretariat

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ERPB priorities for 2020

In June 2019, the ERPB took note of the report prepared by the ERPB Working Group on a SEPA API Access Scheme. While the ERPB saw the need for further work as outlined by the working group, it took note of the concerns raised by part of the working group and acknowledged resource constraints for some of the relevant stakeholders due to ongoing efforts to implement and test PSD2 interfaces by the deadline of 14 September 2019. The ERPB therefore agreed to consider possibly resuming this work after the PSD2 implementation.

In this regard, this note considers (i) whether conditions have evolved so as to enable the ERPB to resume work on a SEPA API Access Scheme and if not (ii) whether to launch work on its other biennial work plan priorities.

Evolution of the conditions to resume the work on a SEPA API Access Scheme

Since the last ERPB discussion, the deadline for implementing the PSD2 RTS has now passed. Yet, some remaining implementation issues require attention from relevant actors and strong PSD2 implementation efforts are still ongoing.

While these questions are not related to the work on a SEPA API Access Scheme, it is noted that these would require efforts from members of stakeholder associations that would also be involved in the SEPA API Access Scheme work.

On this basis, it does not seem that the conditions to resume the work on a SEPA API Access Scheme at the ERPB level materialised for the time being. The situation could be assessed again in the next ERPB meeting in June 2020.

Possible launch of other priorities from the biennial ERPB workplan

The ERPB adopted its biennial workplan end-2018¹ and launched work on its first priorities, namely (i)

¹https://www.ecb.europa.eu/paym/groups/erpb/shared/pdf/10th-ERPB-meeting/Update_of_the_ERPB_workplan.pdf?c6f1974812dd95cd6db6af85c4d80766

the continuation of the work on Electronic invoice presentment and payment (EIPP), with the creation of an ISO 20022 set of EIPP servicing messages and the analysis of the request-to-pay functionality from a broader perspective and (ii) a work stream on instant payments at the point of interaction (POI), to help foster the broader setting up of an integrated pan-European instant payment landscape. The ERPB further identified two priorities to be considered once the first ones would be tackled, i.e. (i) a workstream on transparency for retail payments end-users and (ii) a workstream on access to cash.

While all the workstreams launched as first priority will complete their mandate and report to the November ERPB meeting, some would still require follow-up work involving ERPB stakeholders. This is in particular the case for the workstream on instant at the POI where a number of follow-up actions to be conducted in a multi-stakeholder context have been identified by the working group.

Among the priorities to be covered in the second phase of the biennial ERPB workplan, the workstream on transparency for retail payments users would also contribute to addressing one of the barriers identified by the ERPB working group on instant at POI. To recall, the working group identified the recognition of the beneficiary (brand/trade) name as one of the barriers to enable a pan-European usage of instant payments at the POI. The working group recognised that this issue is of a wider nature than instant payments at POI and is related to the topic of transparency for retail payments users which is part of the current ERPB workplan.

Considering that the workstream on transparency for retail payments users would also contribute to addressing a barrier for the take-up of pan-European instant payments, which is the main priority of the ERPB, it could be envisaged to launch this workstream before the one on access to cash. This would be supported by the fact that evolutions as regards access to cash are of a long term nature (as already noted end-2018).

Still, the exact scope of a possible workstream on transparency for payment users would need to be further refined. It is therefore suggested to invite volunteer members to prepare a proposal for the scope of such a workstream in view of the June 2020 ERPB meeting.

ERPB members are invited to consider the above proposal and agree on the way forward.