

# Status Update on SCT Inst Scheme

## June 2025 ERPB Meeting



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### 1. Background

At its 2 December 2024 meeting, the ERPB:

- Took note of the EPC update on the implementation of and adherence to the SCT Inst scheme;
- Reiterated support for the timely implementation of the Instant Payments Regulation (IPR) and related legislative amendments to the Settlement Finality Directive and to the Payment Services Directive (PSD2);
- Although progress is continuing to be made by the industry in anticipation of the various deadlines set out in the IPR, the ERPB stressed the importance of completing the work in its entirety. Full compliance by all is important as rejected payments could be detrimental to the end-user uptake of instant payments;
- Welcomed the further work on the specifications of the QR-code standard, with the hope that it will be smooth, and expecting to have the new standard published by end 2025 or early in 2026;
- Reminded its members of the upcoming milestones of the high-level communication strategy for end-users of instant payments endorsed by the ERPB in its June 2024 meeting. It was stressed that the effectiveness of this strategy is reliant on the efforts of all ERPB members to disseminate the material to their respective members within the agreed timeframe.

### 2. Adherence status and compliance criteria from the SEPA Regulation

#### A. Across SEPA

As of June 2025, there are 2.765 registered SCT Inst scheme participants representing a share of 78 percent of all SCT adherents (i.e. 3.550) in all SEPA countries (88 percent for the EU and 91 percent for the EU euro area). The SCT Inst transaction volumes are close to 25 percent of the total credit transfer volume (SCT + SCT Inst), as further detailed in the dedicated section below.

It must be noted that the 78 percent of Payment Service Providers (PSPs) that already joined the SCT Inst scheme generally encompasses all the PSPs having the most significant payment volumes and representing the vast majority of payment accounts. The EPC Secretariat assumes that the ar. 400 PSPs which today offer SCT but not yet SCT Inst scheme-based services in the EU are either exempted from the IPR obligation to adhere to the SCT Inst scheme, or are located in EU non-eurozone countries.

The current list of SCT Inst scheme participants can be consulted on the [Register of Participants webpage](#). 36 Clearing and Settlement Mechanism (CSM) organisations have already disclosed to be SCT Inst scheme compliant. These CSMs are listed on the [Clearing and Settlement Mechanisms webpage](#).

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### B. Within the EU

Article 4 of the SEPA Regulation stipulates that euro-denominated payment schemes must ensure that the PSPs being a participant to such schemes must a) constitute a majority of PSPs within the EU and b) represent a majority of PSPs within a majority of EU Member States.

The table below shows the SCT Inst scheme adherence status compared to the SCT scheme adherence in the EU as of June 2025. Based on these adherence figures, the first and second conditions of the SEPA Regulation are now fully met.

Country	SCT Inst	SCT	Percentage of SCT Inst scheme participants vs. SCT scheme participants
<b>Euro</b>	<b>2.673</b>	<b>2.933</b>	<b>91%</b>
AUSTRIA	387	398	97%
BELGIUM	30	39	77%
CROATIA	20	20	100%
CYPRUS	20	24	83%
ESTONIA	10	12	83%
FINLAND	11	11	100%
FRANCE	199	246	81%
GERMANY	1.118	1.191	94%
GREECE	16	23	70%
IRELAND	182	188	97%
ITALY	346	371	93%
LATVIA	14	15	93%
LITHUANIA	56	86	65%
LUXEMBOURG	47	56	84%
MALTA	21	33	64%
NETHERLANDS	30	40	75%
PORTUGAL	33	34	97%
SLOVAKIA	11	14	79%
SLOVENIA	13	13	100%
SPAIN	109	119	92%
<b>Non-euro</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>22%</b>
BULGARIA	12	26	46%
CZECH REPUBLIC	5	14	36%
DENMARK	6	45	13%
HUNGARY	1	20	5%
POLAND	3	23	13%
ROMANIA	2	19	11%
SWEDEN	5	10	50%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2.707</b>	<b>3.090</b>	<b>88%</b>

### 3. SCT Inst transaction evolution

The EPC collects on a quarterly basis the SCT Inst transaction volume statistics from all SCT Inst scheme compliant CSMs. The share of SCT Inst transactions in the total volume of SCT and SCT Inst transactions was 24,74 percent in the first quarter of 2025 compared to 17,34 percent in the first quarter of 2024.

The latest quarterly SCT Inst transaction volume percentage is available on the [EPC homepage](#).

Given these increases in transaction volume and in scheme adherence with the latter bringing additional transaction volume, the EPC regularly reminds all SCT Inst scheme participants to proactively guarantee a resilient production and back-up infrastructure and necessary extra processing capacity to process and screen higher volumes of transactions and related r-transactions including in peak traffic times.

### 4. Expected SCT Inst scheme adherence applications

The IPR stipulates that eurozone-based PSPs (except Payment Institutions (Pis) and Electronic Money Institutions (EMIs)) must offer the service of receiving instant euro credit transfers by 9 January 2025, and offer the service of sending instant euro credit transfers by 9 October 2025.

The impact of the IPR on the SCT Inst scheme adherence evolution is already shown under section 2 of this document. The EPC does not expect another large wave of SCT Inst scheme adherence applications in 2025.

The next large wave of adherences is expected by July 2027 at the latest when also Pis, EMIs, and the EU non-eurozone-based PSPs, must offer the service of receiving and sending instant euro credit transfers.

### 5. Reported SCT Inst processing issues

All SCT Inst scheme participants are regularly invited to submit any concrete SCT Inst processing issues they may have. No new concrete issues had been reported requiring the attention of the ERPB.

### 6. 2025 SCT Inst scheme rulebook roll-out monitoring

2025 is a challenging year for the EPC, the EPC payment scheme participants and the various technical players supporting these scheme participants. The 2025 rulebook for the SCT Inst scheme (and for the four other EPC payment schemes) will have to be implemented by 5 October 2025 which is about six weeks earlier than customary.

The EPC monitors on a frequent and structural basis the progress made in the roll-out of the rulebook versions concerned. It regularly sends requests for a written status report to and holds regular meetings with representatives from the EPC payment scheme participants and the EPC payment scheme compliant Clearing and Settlement Mechanisms (CSMs).

At this stage, the reported status is Green (*i.e. ready in time*) for the very large majority of the national PSP communities. Two national PSP communities reported an Orange status (*i.e. ready in time with critical issues to solve*) as a community position.

Two other national PSP communities reported a green status for the majority of their PSPs, with either a few PSPs in the community concerned reporting an orange situation; or the community itself just reporting an issue with respect to the Verification Of Payee (VOP) scheme implementation.

There are no national PSP communities which have reported a Red status (*i.e. not ready in time*).

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### 7. REMINDER - unstructured address format no longer possible as of November 2026

The EPC reminds that as of 22 November 2026 (and as of 03h30 CET for the SCT Inst scheme), only the use of the structured address and of the hybrid address will be allowed for Inter-PSP EPC payment messages where applicable, and for Payment Service Users (PSUs) when they send electronic Customer-to-PSP files based on ISO 20022 standard-based XML payment messages in accordance with at least the relevant EPC Customer-to-PSP Implementation Guidelines of the EPC payment schemes concerned.

The use of an unstructured address will no longer be allowed and will hence lead to rejects. For more information, reference is made to the EPC guidance document - Provision of Addresses under the EPC Payment Schemes ([EPC153-22](#)) published on the EPC website.

Although the 2025 EPC payment scheme rulebooks support the hybrid address alongside the structured and unstructured address formats (the latter only until 22 November 2026), the EPC nevertheless recommends that EPC payment scheme participants and PSUs use the time up to November 2026, as an opportunity to start right away with the switch from unstructured addresses directly to fully structured addresses.

The use of structured addresses in payment transactions, gives the potential to reduce errors in payment processing, regulatory screening, and reconciliation, thereby increasing the straight-through-processing of EPC payment transactions.

Linked to the activities reported under section 6, the EPC also monitors the national PSP community measures with respect to the phase-out of the unstructured address format. The feedback the EPC collected so far is:

- In general, the communication will be done at a bilateral basis between each PSP and its PSUs.
- Active communication at this point in time varies a lot between communities and between individual PSPs within communities. Certain communities and/or individual PSPs have already started to communicate about this change to their PSUs, some are currently working on a concrete communication plan, whereas others have not yet undertaken any action or plans at all.
- A few PSP communities have not yet considered this topic as they are now fully focused on the 2025 rulebooks' roll-out for October 2025.
- For the time being, there is a limited uptake of the EPC recommendation that EPC payment scheme participants and PSUs use the time up to November 2026 as an opportunity to start with the switch from unstructured addresses directly to fully structured addresses.

It is easier to move from unstructured addresses to hybrid addresses. The change-over directly from unstructured to structured addresses demand significant adjustments for PSPs, PSUs and other actors in the payment chain such as ERP system providers and other software companies. Furthermore, it is up to each PSUs to choose which address format it wishes to provide as of November 2026.

### 8. 2026 SCT Inst scheme rulebook change management cycle

The next rulebook change management cycle for the SCT Inst scheme (and for the four other EPC payment schemes) will take place in 2026. Scheme participants and other stakeholders are invited to submit change requests for the EPC payment scheme rulebooks by 31 December 2025 by completing a [dedicated template](#).

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These change requests will be considered for the rulebook versions and associated IGs to be published in November 2026 and taking effect in November 2027. A three-month public consultation on these change requests will take place in the Spring of 2026.

### 9. Mobile initiated SCT Inst: standardisation of QR-codes

As communicated by the EPC for the December 2024 ERPB meeting, the EPC was working on the amendments made by some communities represented in CEN to the QR-codes specifications for QR-codes. Furthermore, the EPC assessed and accepted an amendment suggested by the ECB in view of adapting the specifications to the needs of the Digital Euro project.

On 29 January 2025 the EPC, according to the CEN procedure, submitted the final version of specifications to the CEN Management Centre (CCMC) for initiating the Enquiry stage within the TC 225 - "AIDC technologies" (Automatic Identification and Data Capture).

After CEN internal work (among others, translation and preparation of national publication), CEN opened a 12-week Enquiry ballot among the TC 225 communities, lasting until 31 July.

In parallel, the EPC encouraged the members of the EPC Board and of the EPC Mobile, Cards and POI WG (MCWG) to liaise with the representative in CEN of their communities for a positive vote.

The CEN time plan will continue with reviewing the comments in collaboration with the EPC, followed by 8-week final ballot and publication. If no major comments will be made during the Enquiry ballot, the EPC targets the finalisation of the process and publication by the End of 2025.