

OUTCOME
**AD-HOC MEETING OF THE ADVISORY GROUP ON MARKET
INFRASTRUCTURES FOR PAYMENTS (AMI-Pay)**

20 August 2026, 16:00 – 17:00 (CEST)

via MS Teams

0. Introductory remarks and approval of the agenda

The Chair welcomed participants to the ad hoc call on the removal of the fully unstructured postal address across major market infrastructures, following a request by European industry members of the Payments Market Practice Group (PMPG). While acknowledging concerns about market readiness in some communities, he emphasised the importance of continuing efforts to meet the planned 14 November 2026 deadline to remove the fully unstructured postal address. He also noted that market readiness would be closely scrutinised by relevant authorities and stakeholders as the deadline approaches. The call aimed to formulate a contingency plan in light of ongoing developments, with any AMI-Pay advice being conditional on these developments.

Participants agreed on the agenda.

1. PMPG request regarding the removal of the fully unstructured postal address

On 4 August 2026, the European industry participants of the Payments Market Practice Group (PMPG) raised to the AMI-Pay Chair a request for the Eurosystem to consider aligning the removal of the fully unstructured postal address across major payment infrastructures. This request follows concerns on the readiness of parts of the global payments ecosystem and potential risks linked to an un-coordinated approach among major infrastructures. The ECB will present the implications of such a decision as regards T2.

AMI-Pay will be invited to review this request and agree on an advice to the Market Infrastructure Board to support its consideration of this matter.

Document:

Email from the European payments industry participants of the PMPG - Request for alignment of the removal of the fully unstructured postal address across major infrastructures

Presentation from the European payments industry participants of the PMPG – Industry request to postpone the removal of the unstructured postal address

ECB presentation – Implications of request for alignment of the removal of the fully unstructured postal address across major infrastructures

Outcome

The co-chair of the PMPG presented the request from European industry participants of the PMPG emphasising that the goal is not to change the destination in terms of final removal of unstructured postal addresses or to alter the standard but to ensure a safe transition to the target state. She clarified that concerns are not about the readiness of European participants but rather the potential issues for cross-border payments, given their importance in T2 and their relevance for corporates. Lastly, she acknowledged that if additional time is granted, the industry should expect appropriate accountability measures, which are still to be defined.

The ECB presented the implications of this market request as regards T2 and the possible options stressing that these were dependent on SWIFT and other major market infrastructures announcing a delay in removing the fully unstructured postal address. The Eurosystem remained committed to the original plans and the roll-out of the November 2026 release for all four TARGET Services as scheduled. Against this backdrop, two options to respond to the market request were proposed, provided a delay is requested by SWIFT and other major market infrastructures: (1) introduce a fix-forward via CR T2-0188 to allow fully unstructured postal address format in RTGS messages, or (2) proceed with the implementation of CR T2-0156 as originally planned.

The PMPG co-chair and AMI-Pay participants more generally thanked the ECB and 4CBs for their responsiveness and efforts on this matter. AMI-Pay participants confirmed the request raised by European industry participants of the PMPG, provided a delay is requested by SWIFT and other major market infrastructures.

Most AMI-Pay participants supported option 1 as a pragmatic approach to ensure interoperability, prevent disruptions in payments, and mitigate impacts on corporate customers and supply chains. However, a minority, while expressing a preference for option 1 over option 2, expressed concerns about the complexities option 1 could create for the banking sector and suggested exploring the implications further, including the possibility of skipping the release entirely.

The EPC representative informed participants that the PSMB will decide on the approach for SEPA schemes during its 9 September meeting, following consultations with its stakeholder groups. Meanwhile, work continues toward the originally planned 15 November deadline. The ECB emphasised that TIPS, as a compliant CSM for SCT Inst, is planning to remove the fully unstructured postal address by that deadline in line with the EPC approach for SEPA schemes, unless the EPC decides otherwise.

Following the question of a participant, the ECB explained that it is unlikely to anticipate the publication of the usage guidelines for option 1 considering the required approval process but noted that it would follow the elements outlined in the presentation, namely:

- Element “Town Name”: Multiplicity change from mandatory to optional.
- Element “Country”: Multiplicity change from mandatory to optional.
- Element “Address Line”: Multiplicity change from up to 2 optional to 3 optional occurrences.
- Reintroduce textual 'Grace Period Rules' at Usage Guideline level.

AMI-Pay advice

Based on the discussion and consensus reached, the conditional AMI-Pay advice to the MIB – should SWIFT and major market infrastructures postpone the removal of the fully unstructured postal address – would be to implement option 1 for T2 via CR T2-0188, allowing the fully unstructured postal address format in RTGS messages. This advice assumes that SWIFT's decision would apply exclusively to payments; if not, further steps would be determined accordingly.

2. AOB