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Consultation on a retail payments strategy for the EU

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

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Consumers and companies make payments to fulfil their everyday needs and activities. Today, in Europe, they have at their disposal a broad range of payment options, but digitalisation and innovation bring new opportunities to make payments faster, easier, more transparent, and affordable, in particular in cross-border situations.

In accordance with its Work Programme for 2020, the Commission will adopt a Strategy on an integrated EU Payments Market (hereinafter "Retail Payments Strategy for the EU" or "RPS"). It is to be submitted alongside the Digital Finance Strategy, which will be adopted to promote digital finance in Europe while adequately regulating the risks, and in light of the mission letter of Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis.

This strategy will be an important contribution to reinforcing the international role of the euro. Payments are strategic: where decisions are made, where data is stored, where infrastructures are located are of considerable importance in terms of the EU's sovereignty. This strategy will aim at both strengthening Europe's influence and consolidating its economic autonomy. Safe and efficient payment systems and services can also make a strong contribution to improving the EU's ability to deal with emergencies such as the Covid-19 outbreak. Contactless payments in shops can help to contain the spread of viruses. Innovative, non-cash, payments solutions can enable all Europeans to make the purchases they need even if they are confined at home. This crisis is further accelerating the digitalization of the economy and, consequently, of payments. Instant payments are in this context becoming more strategic than ever before.

This consultation, together with the consultation on a new Digital Finance Strategy, is a key step towards the adoption of a Retail Payments Strategy for Europe.

Payments are vital to the economy and to growth, while the smooth functioning of payment systems is paramount to financial stability. The use of non-cash means of payment has consistently increased over the years in the EU and this trend is expected to continue with digitalisation.

EU legislation in the payments sphere has played a key role in promoting a fair, transparent, innovative, and competitive payments market in the EU. The E-money Directives (<u>EMD1 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32000L0046</u>) and <u>EMD2 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009L0110</u>)) and the first Payment Services Directive (<u>PSD1 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32007L0064</u>)) introduced a licensing regime that allowed for the issuance of E-money and the provision of payment services by non-bank financial institutions. This prompted the development of a number of FinTechs operating in the payments sphere, a trend

that further accelerated due to the changes introduced by the second Payment Services Directive (<u>PSD2 (https://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32015L2366)</u>) which enabled new business models based on the sharing of data, such as payment initiation services (PIS) and account information services (AIS). At the same time, PSD2 elevated the general level of the security of payment transactions through the implementation of strong customer authentication (SCA). PSD2 has become a worldwide reference in terms of open banking and secure transactions. The EU regulatory framework in the payments sphere supports the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), whose objective is to make cross-border payments in euro as cost-efficient and safe as domestic payments, in particular through <u>Regulation 924/2009 on cross-border payments (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32009R0924)</u>.

Technology has also shaped the evolution of the retail payments market. Indeed, payments are a dynamic, constantly evolving business, heavily relying on technology. Over the last decade, they have been influenced by an unprecedented development of a broad range of technologies. In an increasingly connected world, consumer expectations are also evolving, making speed, convenience and ubiquity the new expected normal, at no expected additional cost. European citizens also count on the benefits of a truly integrated Single Market, which should allow them to make cross-border payments in the EU as easily and as fast as at home.

As for many sectors, digitalisation and the use of innovative technologies bring new opportunities for payments, such as: a more diverse offering of services enabled by access to mobile and internet networks; systems enabling payments credited to beneficiaries in just a few seconds (the so-called "instant payments"); potentially fully automated payments associated with the development of the Internet of Things; and the execution of smart contracts in a blockchain environment. Other technologies, such as those supporting e-ID, can also be leveraged to facilitate customer on-boarding and payments authentication in domestic and cross-border contexts.

The size of the Single Market also offers opportunities for payment businesses to scale-up beyond the domestic sphere, for pan-European payment solutions to emerge, and potentially for European-scale champions in payments to become competitive globally. This would also facilitate payments in euro between the EU and other jurisdictions and reduce EU dependency on global players, such as international card schemes, issuers of global "stablecoins" and other big techs. The Commission launched in December 2019 a <u>public consultation to gather information and inputs regarding the regulation of cryptoassets, including stablecoins (https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/finance-consultations-2019-crypto-assets_en).</u> The present consultation will therefore not include questions on this topic, as payment related aspects were also included in that consultation.

However, digitalisation also brings potential new risks, such as heightened opportunities for fraud, money laundering and cyber-attacks (in this regard, the Commission launched a <u>public consultation on improving resilience against cyberattacks in the financial sector (https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/finance-consultations-2019-financial-services-digital-resilience_en) in December 2019). It also has an impact on competition and market structures in view of the growing role played by new market actors currently outside the scope of payments legislation, such as big tech companies benefitting from a large customer base. Also, the possible impact of "stablecoins" on monetary sovereignty has prompted many central banks to investigate the issuance of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs). Nor should we neglect the potential risks, in a digital world, of financial exclusion – including with regard to the access to basic payment services, such as cash withdrawals.</u>

Other challenges arise from a yet incomplete roll-out of instant payments in Europe. It will be important to avoid outcomes that re-create fragmentation in the Single Market, when a substantial degree of harmonisation has been achieved in the framework of SEPA.

As the emergence of new risks and opportunities accelerates with digitalisation, the development of the FinTech sector and the adoption of new technologies, the EU must adopt a strategic and coherent policy framework for payments. The RPS will be an opportunity to put together, in a single policy document, the main building blocks for the future of payments in Europe.

In line with the Better Regulation Principles, the Commission is herewith inviting stakeholders to express their views. The questionnaire is focused around four key objectives:

- 1. Fast, convenient, safe, affordable and transparent payment instruments, with pan-European reach and "same as domestic" customer experience;
- 2. An innovative, competitive, and contestable European retail payments market;

- 3. Access to safe, efficient and interoperable retail payments systems and other support infrastructures;
- 4. Improved cross-border payments, including remittances, facilitating the international role of the euro.

The outcome of this consultation will help the Commission prepare its Retail Payments Strategy, to be published in Q3 of 2020.

Please note: In order to ensure a fair and transparent consultation process only responses received through our online questionnaire will be taken into account and included in the report summarising the responses. Should you have a problem completing this questionnaire or if you require particular assistance, please contact <u>fisma-retail-payments@ec.europ eu (mailto:fisma-retail-payments@ec.europ eu)</u>.

More information:

- on this consultation (https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/finance-consultations-2020-retail-payments-strategy_en)
- on the consultation document (https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2020-retail-payments-strategy-consultation-document en)
- <u>on payment services (https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/consumer-finance-and-payments/payment-services_en)</u>
- on the protection of personal data regime for this consultation (https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2020-retail-payments-strategy-specific-privacy-statement_en)

About you

*Language of my contribution

English

*I am giving my contribution as

Business association

- *Type of business association
 - A trade organisation representing the payments industry
 - A trade association representing merchants
 - Other
- *Please specify what other type of business association

Trade association representing credit unions worldwide.

*Age range
◯ Under 15 years old
○ Between 15 and 30 years old
Between 30 and 60 years old
Over 60 years old
*First name
Panya
*Surname
Monford
*Email (this won't be published)
pmonford@woccu.org
*Organisation name
255 character(s) maximum
European Network of Credit Unions
∗Organisation size
Small (10 to 49 employees)
Medium (50 to 249 employees)
Large (250 or more)
Transparency register number
255 character(s) maximum
Check if your organisation is on the transparency register (http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do? redir=false&locale=en). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.
433841951893-57
*Country of origin
Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.
Belgium

*Field of activity or sector (if applicable):

at least 1 choice(s)
Payment services
payment initiation and account information services
Money remittance services
Acquiring services
Ancillary services to payments
Technical service provider
Payment system operator
Payments scheme
Card scheme
Fintech
Other
■ Not applicable

*Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions (https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/specific-privacy-statement en)

Section 1: Questions for the general public

Question 1. Please rate the usefulness of instant payment services – which are credited to the beneficiary within seconds – for the following different use cases:

	1	2	3	N.A
	(not useful)	(useful	(very useful)	
Person to person payments				0
Payments in a physical shop	0	0		0
Payments for on-line shopping			•	0

Payments of invoices	0	0		
Payments to public administrations	0		0	0
Cross-border payments/transfers within the EU	0	0		0
Cross-border payments/transfers to/from outside the EU	0	0	•	0
Other	0	0	0	0

Question 2. Please rank your preferences for low-value payments¹ (1 to 4, 4 being the least-preferred option) between the following means of payment:

¹ defined as payments below 30 euros, based on the definition of low-value payments in EU retail payments legislation

	1	2	3	4
Cash	0	0	0	
Paper-based (such as cheques)	0	0		0
Payment instrument with a physical support (such as cards)		0	0	0
Fully de-materialised payment instrument (such as mobile apps)	0		0	0

Question 2.1 Please explain your answer to question 2:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

For those with access to the payment system, a card based system will be preferred because of the ability to charge or generate interface fee revenue, a well developed dispute resolution process, and anti-fraud measures.

Question 3. Please rank your preferences for retail payments above 30 euros (from 1 to 4, 4 being the least-preferred option) between the following means of payment:

	1	2	3	4
Cash				

Paper-based (such as cheques)			0
Payment instrument with a physical support (such as cards)		0	0
Fully de-materialised payment instrument (such as mobile apps)			

Question 3.1 Please explain your answer to question 3:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

For those with access to the payment system, a card based system will be preferred because of the ability to charge or generate interface fee revenue, a well developed dispute resolution process, and anti-fraud measures.

In the Single Euro Payments Area, citizens and companies should be able to send and receive cross-border payments in euro from any bank account in the EU (using SEPA credit transfers or SEPA direct debits). This should be valid for all types of beneficiaries of both the public and the private sector.

Question 4. Have you ever experienced any obstacles when using your bank account in the EU to receive payments from or send payments to a public administration holding an account in another EU country?

Yes, as a consumer
Yes, in a professional capacity (e.g. business / self-employed)
No
Don't know / no oninion / not relevant

Question 5. Have you ever experienced any obstacles when using your bank account in the EU to receive or send payments from/to an account held in another EU country from/to a utilities company or other service providers?

Yes, as a consumer
Yes, in a professional capacity (e.g. business / self-employed)
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

When you buy goods or services, particularly online, you may have the option to pay via "payment initiation services" offered by a different payment service provider than your bank. These services enable you to make a payment directly from your bank account (using a credit transfer), instead of using a payment card or another payment instrument offered by your bank. In order to pay using these services, you need to use your online banking credentials to authorise the transaction.

Question 6. As a consumer, have you ever made use of such payment initiation services?

Yes
No

72020	Eddarvey - darvey
 I do not know what these services are 	
No opinion / not relevant	
140 Opinion / Not relevant	
"Account information service" providers enable you to sh manage your finance or receive for example, financial advi	nare certain data pertaining to your bank account(s) in order to ce.
Question 7. Have you ever made use of such acc	ount information services?
○ Yes	
○ No	
○ No, and I do not know what these services are	
No opinion / not relevant	
In order to deliver their services, providers of payment ini necessary data from your bank account with your consent.	tiation and account information services need to access only the
Question 8. As a consumer, would you find it us you have granted consent with the help of a sing	seful to be able to check the list of providers to which le interface, e.g. a "consent dashboard"?
○ Yes	
○ No	
○ I do not know	
No opinion / not relevant	
Question 8.1 Please explain your answer to ques	tion 8:
5,000 character(s) maximum	
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS V	Vord characters counting method.
Ougstion 9 What would be your proposals and	d recommendations to the European Commission on
payments?	a recommendations to the European Commission on
What would you expect the future Retail Payment	s Strategy to achieve?

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

ENCU recommends that the European Commission consider credit unions and small financial institutions that have not yet implemented digital technology. These institutions

need the EC to consider cost limitations when implementing a retail payments strategy. We additionally urge the Commission no particular payment system is made mandatory for credit unions. ENCU would also request that any rules and regulations put in place consider the size, complexity, and risk of the institution so that they are not over burdensome and do not put a strain on resources. We also ask that clear guidance is provided to national level regulators on any proportional guidelines that may be included.

Section 2: Questions for all stakeholders

Ensuring the EU's economic sovereignty is a priority of the Commission. The Commission's Work Programme for 2020 includes the adoption of a Communication on strengthening Europe's economic and financial sovereignty. As laid down in the <u>Commission's Communication</u> "Towards a stronger international role of the <u>euro</u>" (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/communication -

<u>towards_a_stronger_international_role_of_the_euro.pdf)</u>, supporting the international role of the euro is instrumental. Efficient payments in euro will support these objectives, and will also contribute to making our financial infrastructures more resilient to extraterritorial sanctions, or other form of pressure, from third countries.

Question 10. Please explain how the European Commission could, in the field of payments, contribute to reinforcing the EU's economic independence:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

ENCU supports a retail payments strategy that encourages a "strategic vision to ensure

that consumers and companies fully reap the benefits of an integrated market, offering

secure, fast, convenient, accessible and affordable payment services"; however, this vision should include smaller financial institutions such as credit unions. We ask that the

guidance is appropriate to size, complexity and risk of the institution, and there is flexibility

with regards timelines for implementation. Furthermore, national level discretion will remain important. We further recommend that any system have appropriate dispute resolutions and anti-fraud measures that distribute losses equitably.

Question 11. Please explain how the retail payments strategy could support and reinforce the international role of the euro:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

By implementing a fair and cohesive payments systems, the euro will be able to compete

internationally by working congruently with cross-border companies that funnel money in

and out of the EU. Unity within the EU will create ease of access and convenience. We

ask that issues surrounding financial inclusion are considered so that the underserved

and under-banked communities have access to digital developments. Credit unions are essential to the undeserved communities, therefore it is imperative that credit unions

are acknowledged when forming a payments strategy.

A. Fast, convenient, safe, affordable and transparent payment instruments with pan-European reach and "same as domestic" experience

Instant payments as the new normal

Digitalisation and new technologies have fostered the emergence of innovative players with new payment services offerings, based in particular on instant payment systems and related business models. As these new payment services offerings are mostly domestically focused, the landscape at EU level is very fragmented. In particular, such fragmentation results from:

- the current levels of adherence to the SEPA Instant Credit Transfer (SCT Inst.) scheme, which vary between Member States (MS);
- 2. the fact that in some MS instant credit transfers are a premium service while in others they are becoming "a new normal" and
- 3. the non-interoperability across borders of end-user solutions for instant credit transfers.

At the same time, there is a rapidly rising consumer demand for payment services that work across borders throughout Europe, and that are also faster, cheaper and easier to use.

Question 12. Which of the following measures would in your opinion contribute to the successful rollout of pan-European payment solutions based on instant credit transfers?

• • •						
	(ir rel ev an t)	(rat her not rel eva nt)	(n eu tr al)	(r at he r rel ev an t)	f ull y rel ev an t)	N A
a. EU legislation making Payment Service Providers' (PSP) adherence to SCT Inst. Scheme mandatory	0	0	0		0	0
b. EU legislation mandating the replacement of regular SCT with SCT Inst.	0	0	•	0	0	0
c. EU legislation adding instant credit transfers to the list of services included in the payment account with basic features referred to in Directive 2014/92/EU (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014L0092)	0			0	0	0
d. Development of new payment schemes, for example SEPA Direct Debit Inst. Scheme or QR interoperability scheme ²	0	0	0	•	0	0
e. Additional standardisation supporting payments, including standards for technologies used to initiate instant payments, such as QR or others	0	0	0	0	•	0
f. Other	0	0	0	0	0	

² For the purpose of this consultation, a scheme means a single set of rules, practices and standards and/or implementation guidelines agreed between payment services providers, and if appropriate other relevant participants in the payments ecosystem, for the initiation and/or execution of payment transactions across the Union and within Member States, and includes any specific decision-making body, organisation or entity accountable for the functioning of the scheme.

Please specify what new payment schemes should be developped according to you:

5,000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Please specify what kind of additional standardisation supporting payments should be developped:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

ENCU believes that financial assistance such as business grants and programs with a mission for digital advancement in the financial inclusion space, would help credit unions

improve digital and technological payment offerings, and therefore aid the EU's under banked community move to modern banking solutions. However, mandatory implementation of any digital payment system could be detrimental for credit unions.

Question 13. If adherence to SCT Inst. were to become mandatory for all PSPs that currently adhere to SCT, which of the possible following end-dates should be envisaged?

- By end 2021
- By end 2022
- By end 2023
- Other
- Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 13.1 Please explain your answer to question 13:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Implementing technological changes to a payment system not only takes time, but it takes money and resources. Not only will upgrades and changes come at a financial cost, but training and hiring relevant staff will require additional time. Credit unions often have to use outside technology vendors which can be costly to adopt.

Question 14. In your opinion, do instant payments pose additional or increased risks (in particular fraud or money laundering) compared to the traditional credit transfers?

No

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 14.1 If you think instant payments do pose additional or increased risks compared to the traditional credit transfers, please explain your answer:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The appeal of instant payments increases for criminals wanting to make quick money. It is much easier to use payment systems to reach out to many consumers instantaneously when performing certain money schemes. For instance, a criminal can hack an account and solicit contacts for money. The contacts, thinking they are receiving a request from a friend or relative, may transfer money. There is no lag time to stop this payment from happening. The creation of new technology highlights the need for dispute resolution systems to be robust and thorough.

Question 15. As instant payments are by definition fast, they could be seen as aggravating bank runs. Would an ad-hoc stopgap mechanism be useful for emergency situations, for example a mechanism available to banks or competent authorities to prevent instant payments from facilitating faster bank runs, in addition to moratorium powers (moratorium powers are the powers of public authorities to freeze the flow of payments from a bank for a period of time)?

Yes
103

No

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 15.1 If you think an ad-hoc stopgap mechanism would be useful for emergency situations, please explain your answer and specify under which conditions:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

An ad-hoc stopgap mechanism could inadvertently impede on individual rights, so there

is a fine line as to when such a mechanism would be appropriate. There needs to be appropriate checks and balances to insure that this discretion is not abused.

From a merchant's perspective, payment solutions based on instant credit transfers may require adjustments to the merchant's current IT, accounting, liquidity management systems, etc. On the other hand, current card-based payment solutions do not require such adjustments. Merchant service charges may also differ, depending on the type of payment solution offered to the merchant (card-based or SCT-based).

Question 16. Taking this into account, what would be generally the most advantageous solutions for EU merchants, other than cash?

Card-l			
∪aro-r	าลระด	SOII	unons

SCT Inst.-based solutions

Other

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 16.1 Please explain your answer to question 16:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 17. What is in your view the most important factor(s) for merchants when deciding whether or
not to start accepting a new payment method?

Please rate each of the following proposals:

N.A. stands for "Don't know / no opinion / not relevant"

	(uni mpo rtant	2 (rather not importa nt)	(n eu tr al)	4 (rather import ant)	5 (fully impor tant)	N A
Merchant fee			0			
The proportion of users using that payment method	0	0	0	0		0
Fraud prevention tools/mechanisms	0	0	0	0	•	0
Seamless customer experience (no cumbersome processes affecting the number of users completing the payment)		0	0	0	•	
Reconciliation of transactions	0	0	0	0		0
Refund services	0	0	0	0		0
Other	0	0	0	0	•	0

Please specify what other important factor(s) you would foresee:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The ability of a financial institution to implement a new payment service is an important factor. There are financial implications, as well as technology capabilities or incapabilities to consider.

Question 17.1 Please explain your answer to question 17:

5,000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 18. Do you accept SEPA Direct Debit (SDD) payments from residents in other countries?
Yes, I accept domestic and foreign SDD payments
No, I only accept domestic SDD payments
○ I do not accept SDD payments at all
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Leveraging on the development of digital identities (digital ID)
The issue of use of digital ID for customer on-boarding is addressed in the digital finance consultation. However as financial services evolve away from traditional face-to-face business towards the digital environment, digital identity solutions that can be relied upon for remote customer authentication become increasingly relevant. PSD2 has introduced "strong customer authentication" (SCA), which imposes strict security requirements for the initiation and processing of electronic payments, requiring payment service providers to apply SCA when a payer initiates an electronic payment transaction. In some Member States, digital identity schemes have been developed for use in bank authentication based on national ID schemes. However until now such schemes are focused on the domestic markets and do not function across borders. On the other hand, many other "SCA compliant" digital identity solutions have been developed by financial institutions or specialist identity solution providers that rely on other means to identify and verify customers.
Question 19. Do you see a need for action to be taken at EU level with a view to promoting the development of cross-border compatible digital identity solutions for payment authentication purposes?
Yes, changes to EU legislation
Yes, further guidance or development of new standards to facilitate cross-border interoperability
Yes, another type of action
No, I do not see a need for action
Other
On't know / no opinion / not relevant
Please specif what other need(s) for action you would foresee or what other type(s) of action you would recommend:
5,000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 19.1 Please explain your answer to question 19:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The EU needs to develop a cross-border digital identity solution, not only for uniformity

but to combat cyber attacks and other digital crimes. ENCU, however, believes that EII

level regulations should be drafted with flexibility so that national level regulators can

implement the EU level regulations with some discretion. In particular, the EU needs to have an eye towards allowing smaller financial institutions such as credit unions the ability to access and operate in the system.

Promoting the diversity of payment options, including cash

Digitalisation has contributed to an increase in non-cash payments. However, a large percentage of daily payment transactions still rely on cash.

Question 20. What are the main factors contributing to a decreasing use of cash in some countries EU countries?

Please rate each of the following factors:

	1 (irrelev ant)	2 (rather not relevant)	(neut	4 (rather relevant)	5 (fully relevant)	N. A.
Convenience of paying digitally	0	0	0	0		0
The increasing importance of e-commerce	0	0	0	0	•	0
Contactless payments	0	0	0	0		0
The shrinking availability of ATMs	0	0	0		0	0
The cost of withdrawing cash	0	0	0		0	0
Digital wallets	0	0	0	•	0	0
Cash backs for card payments	0	0	0		0	0
EU or national Regulation	0	0		0		0
Other	0	0	0	0		

Please specify which EU or national regulation(s) may contribute to a decreasing use of cash in some countries in the EU:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Please specify what other factor(s) may contribute to a decreasing use of cash in some countries in the EU:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Access to physical financial institutions.

Question 21. Do you believe that the EU should consider introducing measures to preserve the access to and acceptance of cash (without prejudice to the limits imposed by Member States for large cash transactions)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 21.1 Please explain your answer to question 21:

5.000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Many people still rely on cash transactions and appreciate of the security of using a cash as an option.

Question 22. Which of the following measures do you think could be necessary to ensure that cash remains accessible and usable by EU citizens?

Please rate each of the following proposal:

(ir rel ev an t)	(ir rel er not relev	(n eu tr al)	(rat her rel ev ant	(fu lly rel ev an t)	N A	
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Promote a sufficient coverage of ATMs in the EU, including in remote areas	0			0	0	
EU legislation adding 'free-of-charge cash withdrawals' to the list of services included in the "payment account with basic features" referred to in the Payment Accounts Directive		0	0	0	0	0
Ensure that cash is always accepted as a means of payment at point of sale		0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

B. An innovative, competitive and contestable European retail payments market

The current EU legal framework for retail payments includes EMD2 and PSD2. To ensure that both Directives produce their full-intended effects and remain fit for purpose over the next years, the Commission is seeking evidence about:

- 1. PSD2 implementation and market developments;
- 2. experience with open banking;
- 3. adequacy of EMD2 in the light of recent market developments; and
- 4. prospective developments in the retail payments sphere.

The topic of open banking is also included, from a broader perspective, in the Digital Finance consultation referred above.

PSD2 implementation and market developments

Two years after the entry into force of PSD2 and without prejudice to its future review, it is useful to collect some preliminary feed-back about the effects of PSD2 on the market.

Question 23. Taking into account that experience with PSD2 is so far limited, what would you consider has been the impact of PSD2 in the market so far?

Please rate the following statements:

	disagree	2 (rather disagre e)	(ne utr al)	4 (rathe r agree)	5 (fully agre e)	N A
PSD2 has facilitated access to the market for payment service providers other than banks	0		•	0	0	0
PSD2 has increased competition	0	0	0		0	0
PSD2 has facilitated innovation	0	0		0	0	0
PSD2 has allowed for open banking to develop	0	0		0	0	0
PSD2 has increased the level of security for payments	0	0	0	•	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

Question 23.1 Please explain your answer to question 23:

5,000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 24. The payments market is in constant evolution. Are there any activities which are not currently in the list of payment services of PSD2 and which would raise specific and significant risks not addressed by current legislation?

Yes

No

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 24.1 Please explain your answer to question 24:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 25. PSD2 introduced strong customer authentication to mitigate the risk of fraud or of unauthorised electronic payments. Do you consider that certain new developments regarding fraud (stemming for example from a particular technology, a means of payment or use cases) would require additional mitigating measures to be applied by payment services providers or users?

Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 25.1 Please explain your answer to question 25 and specify if this should be covered by legislation:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

As innovations in technology grow, so do innovations in fraud. As criminals become more savvy, their is a need to constantly add mitigation measures to digital payment systems.

Question 26. Recent developments have highlighted the importance of developing innovative payment solutions. Contactless payments have, in particular, become critical to reduce the spread of viruses.

Do you think that new, innovative payment solutions should be developed?

Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 26.1 If you answered yes to question 26, please explain your answer:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

It is important to always move forward in ways that will provide better access to financial services, and innovations that cut down on environmental impacts such as paper, transportation, building development, and heavy use of other natural resources.

Furthermore, without innovative payment solutions, many of us would not have been able

to work or function during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Question 27. Do you believe in particular that contactless payments (based on cards, mobile apps or other innovative technologies) should be further facilitated?

Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 27.1 Please explain your answer to question 27.

(Please consider to include the following elements: how would you promote them? For example, would you support an increase of the current ceilings authorised by EU legislation? And do you believe that mitigating measures on fraud and liability should then be also envisaged?):

5 000	character(s)	maximum
0,000	Cital actel (3)	πιαλιπιαπ

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Improving access to payment accounts data under PSD2

Since 14 September 2019, the PSD2 Regulatory Technical Standards on Strong Customer Authentication and Common and Secure Standards of Communication are applicable, which means that account servicing payment service providers (ASPSPs) must have at least one interface available to securely communicate – upon customer consent – with Third-party providers (TPPs) and share customers' payment accounts data. These interfaces can be either a dedicated or an adjusted version of the customer-facing interface. The vast majority of banks in the EU opted for putting in place dedicated interfaces, developing so-called Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). This section will also consider recent experience with APIs.

Some market players have expressed the view that in the migration to new interfaces, the provision of payment initiation and account information services may be less seamless than in the past. Consumer organizations have raised questions with regard to the management of consent under PSD2. The development of so-called "consent dashboards" can, on the one hand, provide a convenient tool for consumers who may easily retrieve the information on the different TPPs to which they granted consent to access their payment account data. On the other hand, such dashboards may raise competition issues.

Question 28. Do you see a need for further action at EU level to ensure that open banking under PSD2 achieves its full potential?

\/ ₋ -
VAC
100

No

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

28.1 If you do see a need for further action at EU level to ensure that open banking under PSD2 achieves its full potential, please rate each of the following proposals:

	(ir rel ev an t)	2 (rathe r not releva nt)	(n eu tr al)	(rat her rele vant	full y rel eva nt)	N A
Promote the use of different authentication methods, ensuring that the ASPSPs always offer both a redirection-based and an embedded approach				0	0	

Promote the development of a scheme involving relevant market players with a view to facilitating the delegation of Strong Customer Authentication to TPPs	0	0				0
Promote the implementation of consent dashboards allowing payment service users to manage the consent to access their data via a single interface	0					0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	

Question 29. Do you see a need for further action at EU level promoting the standardisation of dedicated interfaces (e.g. Application Programming Interfaces – APIs) under PSD2?

Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

5 000 character(s) maximum

Question 29.1 Please explain your answer to question 29:

including spa	ces and line breaks, i.	e. stricter than the MS	Word characters co	unting method.	

Adapting EMD2 to the evolution of the market and experience in its implementation

Since the entry into force of EMD2 in 2009, the payments market has evolved considerably. This consultation is an opportunity to obtain feedback from stakeholders with regard to the fitness of the e-money regime in the context of market developments. The aspects related to cryptocurrencies are more specifically addressed in the <u>consultation on crypto-assets including "stablecoins" (https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/finance-consultations-2019-crypto-assets en)</u>

Question 30. Do you consider the current authorisation and prudential regime for electronic money institutions (including capital requirements and safeguarding of funds) to be adequate?

Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 30.1 Please explain your answer to question 30:

5,000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

30.3 Please specify what are the other factor(s) make the prudential regime for electronic money institutions not adequate:

5,000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
indicating spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the two vord characters counting metrica.
Under PSD2 and EMD2, the authorisation regimes for the provision of payment services and the issuance of E-money are distinct. However, a number of provisions that apply to payment institutions apply to electronic money institutions mutatis mutandis.
Question 31. Would you consider it useful to further align the regime for payment institutions and electronic money institutions?
Yes, the full alignment of the regimes is appropriate
 Yes, but a full alignment is not appropriate because certain aspects cannot be addressed by the same regime
○ No
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 31.1 Please explain your answer to question 31:
5,000 character(s) maximum
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Payment solutions of the future
As innovation is permanent in the payments sphere, this consultation also considers potential further enhancements to the universe of payment solutions. One of them is the so-called "programmable money", which facilitates the execution of smart contracts (a smart contract is a computer program that runs directly on a blockchain and can control the transfer of crypto-assets based on the set criteria implemented in its code). In the future, the use of smart contracts in a blockchain environment may call for targeted payment solutions facilitating the safe execution of smart contracts in the most efficient way. One of the relevant potential use cases could be the automation of the manufacturing industry (Industry 4.0).
Question 32. Do you see "programmable money" as a promising development to support the needs of the digital economy?
○ Yes
O No

C. Access to safe, efficient and interoperable retail payment systems and other support infrastructures

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

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In Europe, the infrastructure that enables millions of payments every day has undergone significant changes over the last decade, most notably under the umbrella of SEPA. However, some issues remain, such as: ensuring the full interoperability of European payment systems, in particular those processing instant payments and ensuring a level playing field between bank and non-bank payment service providers in the accessibility of payment systems. Furthermore, some Member States have put in place licensing regimes for payment system operators in addition to central bank oversight, while others have not.

Interoperability of instant payments infrastructures

With regard to SCT and SDD, under EU law it is the obligation of operators or, in absence thereof, of the participants in the retail payment systems, to ensure that such systems are technically interoperable with the other retail payment systems.

Question 33. With regard to SCT Inst., do you see a role for the European Commission in facilitating solutions for achieving this interoperability in a cost-efficient way?

Yes	
○ No	
Don't know / no opinion / not relevant	
Question 33.1 Please explain your answer to question 33:	
5,000 character(s) maximum	
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	

Ensure a fair and open access to relevant technical infrastructures in relation to payments activity

(This topic is also included, from a broader perspective, in the <u>digital finance consultation</u> (<u>https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/finance-consultations-2019-digital-payments-strategy_en</u>)).

In some Member States, legislation obliges providers of technical services supporting the provision of payment services to give access to such technical services to all payment service providers.

Question 34. Do you agree with the following statements?

	(stro ngly disa gree)	(rat her disa gre e)	(n eu tr al)	(r at he r ag re e)	f ull y ag re e)	N A
Existence of such legislation in only some Member States creates level playing field risks						
EU legislation should oblige providers of technical services supporting the provision of payment services to give access to such technical services to all payment service providers		0		0	0	
Mandatory access to such technical services creates additional security risks	0	0	0		0	

Question 34.1 Please explain your answer to question 34:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

More research is required before determining if technical services should be provided to all service providers. Fees, cost, type of service and compliance burden are

factors we would need to explore before settling on an answer.

34.2 If you think that EU legislation should address this issue, please explain under which conditions such access should be given:

b,000 cnaracter(s) maximum
ncluding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method

Facilitating access to payments infrastructures

In a competitive retail payments market, banks, payment and e-money institutions compete in the provision of payment services to end users. In order to provide payment services, payment service providers generally need to get direct or indirect access to payment systems to execute payment transactions. Whereas banks can access any payment system directly, payment institutions and e-money institutions can only access some payment systems indirectly.

Question 35. Is direct access to all payment systems important for payment institutions and e-money institutions or is indirect participation through a bank sufficient?

Yes, direct participation should be allowed
No, indirect participation through banks is sufficient
On't know / no opinion / not relevant
Question 35.1 Why do you think direct participation should be allowed?
You can select as many asnwers as you like.
 Because otherwise non-banks are too dependent on banks, which are their direct competitors Because banks restrict access to bank accounts to non-banks providing payment services Because the fees charged by banks are too high Other reasons
Question 35.2 Please specify the other reason(s) why you think direct participation should be allowed:
5,000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Credit unions deserve direct access to all payment systems.
Please add any relevant information to your answer(s) to question 35 and sub-questions:
5,000 character(s) maximum
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Question 36. As several – but not all – Member States have adopted licensing regimes for paymen system operators, is there a risk in terms of level playing field, despite the existence of central bank oversight? 5,000 character(s) maximum
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

D. Improved cross-border payments, including remittances, facilitating the international role of the euro

While there has been substantial progress towards SEPA, cross-border payments between the EU and other jurisdictions, including remittances, are generally more complex, slow, opaque, inconvenient and costly. According to the World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide database, the <u>average cost of sending remittances currently stands at 6.82% (https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/en)</u>. Improving cross-border payments in general, including remittances, has become a global priority and work is being conducted in the framework of international fora such as the Financial Stability

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Board and the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures to find solutions to reduce that cost. The United Nations Sustainable Development goals also include the reduction of remittance costs to less than 3% by 2030. Reducing the costs of cross-border payments in euro should also contribute to enhancing the international role of the euro.

Question 37. Do y	ou see a need f	or action at El	J level on	cross-border	payments	between tl	he EU	and
other jurisdictions	?							

Yes

No

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 37.1 Please explain your answer to question 37:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

There is a need for EU level action on cross-border payments where there are regulatory gaps at the national level in order to effectuate efficiency and fairness, as well as opportunities to decrease remittance prices.

Question 38. Should the Commission play a role (legislative or other) in facilitating cross-border payments between the EU and the rest of the world?

Yes

O No

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 39. Should the Commission play a role in facilitating remittances, through e.g. cost reduction, improvement of services?

Yes

O No

Don't know / no opinion / not relevant

Question 39.1 Please explain your answer to question 39 and specify which role the Commission should play – legislative or non-legislative:

5,000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

ENCU supports the European Commission's involvement in facilitation remittances where

they feel there are gaps, loopholes and deficiencies. It would be beneficial for the provision of additional guidelines where there is a lack of clarity, and legislation where there are gaps in the law. However, we believe national level regulators should be given some flexibility in the implementation of guidelines and regulations. As stated before, we urge that any guidance or legislation be accompanied with proportional rules tailored to the size, risk, and complexity of the financial institution.

Question 40. Taking into account that the industry is developing or implementing solutions to facilitate cross-border payments between the EU and other jurisdictions, to what extent would you support the following actions:

N.A. stands for "Don't know / no opinion / not relevant"

	(irr ele va nt)	(rather not releva nt)	(n eu tr al)	(rath er relev ant)	full y rele vant)	N A
Include in SEPA SCT scheme one-leg credit transfers				0	0	0
Wide adoption by the banking industry of cross-border payment trackers such as SWIFT's Global Payments Initiative		0	0			0
Facilitate linkages between instant payment systems between jurisdictions	0		0	0		0
Support "SEPA-like" experiences at regional level outside the EU and explore possible linkages with SEPA where relevant and feasible	0	0		0	0	0
Support and promote the adoption of international standards such as ISO 20022	0		0	0		0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

Please specify what other action(s) you would support:

5,000 character(s) maximum	
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	

Question 40.1 Please explain your answer to question 40:

5,000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 41. Would establishing linkages between instant payments systems in the EU and other jurisdictions:

 Reduce the cost o 	of cross-border payments between the EU and other jurisdictions?
Increase the costs	of cross-border payments between the EU and other jurisdictions?
 Have no impact or 	n the costs of cross-border payments between the EU and other jurisdictions?
Don't know / no op	pinion / not relevant
Question 41.1 Please ex	xplain your answer to question 41:
5,000 character(s) max	
5,000 character(s) max	timum

Additional information

Should you wish to provide additional information (e.g. a position paper, report) or raise specific points not covered by the questionnaire, you can upload your additional document(s) here:

Useful links

More on this consultation (https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/finance-consultations-2020-retail-payments-strategy_en) (https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/finance-consultations-2020-retail-payments-strategy_en)

Consultation document (https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2020-retail-payments-strategy-consultation-document_en) (https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2020-retail-payments-strategy-consultation-document_en)

More on payment services (https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/consumer-finance-and-payments/payment-services_en) (https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/banking-and-finance/consumer-finance-and-payments/payment-services_en)

Specific privacy statement (https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2020-retail-payments-strategy-specific-privacy-statement en) (https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/2020-retail-payments-strategy-specific-privacy-statement en)

More on the Transparency register (http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do?locale=en) (http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/homePage.do?locale=en)

Contact

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