



SEPA Payment Account Access (SPAA) Scheme

Next step towards a successful implementation of 'open banking' in Europe

'Elevator Pitch'

Background



- **PSD2** is the EU's first **major step towards 'open banking'**.
- Now that the legal and regulatory requirements of PSD2 have established the **'baseline'** and a stimulus for **further innovation** has been created it is expected that new market driven actions may lead to **enhanced returns on the investments made**.
- Initial findings suggest the following **drivers for the success of 'open payments'** beyond PSD2 (also valid for 'open finance' and beyond):
 - A **commercial incentive** to invest and innovate for all actors in the ecosystem based on the principle of a fair distribution of value and risk.
 - A **shared vision and development roadmap** for a scalable and efficient innovation ecosystem with broad acceptance in Europe will enhance the overall value created.
 - An **agile and balanced governance system** where all interests are represented and successfully integrated.
- **An industry-led approach is the most efficient way** to implement the above findings.
- For that purpose, the ERPB set up the **SEPA API Access Scheme WG** to study the feasibility of creating such an industry led initiative.
- At the June 2021 ERPB meeting, the **EPC was invited to take up the role of SPAA scheme manager**.
- The Board is expected to take a **final decision at its 24 November 2021 meeting**.

Need for SPAA scheme?



- Europe is moving towards an ‘open data society’ which if implemented the right way can create a **wealth of innovation opportunities**, a whole set of **completely new client experiences** accompanied by **new additional revenue streams for market actors**.
- As a first step on that journey, the **SPAA MSG as an industry-led initiative**, aims to drive ‘open payments’ in the EU through a scheme-based approach that unlocks and creates value whilst allowing for a **fair distribution of value and risk between actors**.
- Key ideas behind the **SPAA scheme**:
 - It **builds on investments done** in the context of PSD2 and is in line with **EU legislation**.
 - **Managed by the EPC** (also scheme manager of SEPA payment (related) schemes), **supported by the relevant EU institutions and developed collaboratively by the retail payment industry** (supply and demand) as represented in the ERPB.
 - ‘Asset Holders’ (typically banks) expose information and transactions through the scheme to ‘Asset Brokers’ (typically fintechs) for a fee, with prior user consent.
 - It enables **‘basic’ services** within the boundaries of PSD2 as well as **‘premium’ payment services** beyond PSD2 in a way ensuring harmonisation, interoperability and reachability across Europe. Examples of potential ‘premium’ services include payments to multiple counterparties, IBAN validation and Personal Finance Management (PFM) related automated transfers.
 - It is expected to **cooperate with the major European standardisation initiatives active in the field of ‘PSD2 APIs’** to ensure that any SPAA scheme ‘implementation guidelines’ that will be created are in line with the scheme's functional requirements and the respective API specifications.
 - It could be a **stepping-stone** towards ‘open finance’ beyond payments and ‘open data’ beyond finance.

Why should EPC take up the role of SPAA scheme manager?



- **Consensus among ERPB stakeholders** in favour of launching a scheme and an invitation to the EPC to become the Scheme manager for the payments sub-domain.
- In line with the **EPC's mission and purpose**, contribution to **the harmonisation and development of payments** (and payment-related areas) in Europe.
- **Leverage PSPs' investments and assets** (“unlocking” value / innovations) and help **strengthen their strategic position in payments**, through a market-based approach also providing for the setting of business conditions.
- **Complementarity** and **potential synergies** with existing SEPA schemes (SCT, SCT Inst, SRTP, SPL).
- Support to EC's overall **'open banking / 'open finance' / 'open data' vision for the EU** through a market-based approach.