

European payments: The European Commission welcomes the European Central Bank's (ECB) announcement that will ensure pan-European reach for euro instant payments by 2021

The European Commission welcomes today's important announcement of the European Central Bank (ECB) that will ensure pan-European reach for euro instant payments by the end of 2021.

The lack of interoperability of Clearing and Settlement Mechanisms (CSMs) creates a clear obstacle to the take-up of instant payments in the EU and is in breach of the SEPA Regulation. Today, in order to be reachable not only for domestic but also cross-border instant payment transactions, Payment Service Providers (PSPs) must connect to several CSMs, national and/or European, and set aside multiple liquidity pools. This is inefficient and costly.

The Commission fully supports the measures announced today by the ECB, which are expected to ensure euro-area-wide reachability of instant payments in a cost-efficient way, bringing benefits to PSPs, CSMs, as well as consumers and businesses in the EU.

The Commission believes that this decision will facilitate the adherence of payment service providers to the SEPA Instant Credit Transfer Scheme and will pave the way for the full roll out of instant payment solutions, in particular in shops and e-commerce.