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EPC

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## SEPA Payment Account Access (SPAA) Scheme : Status Update to the 25 June 2025 Meeting of the Euro Retail Payments Board (ERP/2025/004)

### 1 Background

At its 24 November 2021 meeting, the EPC Board accepted the invitation of the ERPB to act as Scheme Manager for a new SEPA Payment Account Access (SPAA) scheme. To develop the scheme, the EPC Board established the SPAA Multi-Stakeholder Group (SPAA MSG).

The first formal version of the SPAA scheme rulebook was published on the EPC website on 30 November 2022, followed by an updated version 1.1 on 26 June 2023. The related SPAA scheme business conditions were published on 23 November 2023.

The SPAA MSG has largely fulfilled its initial ERPB mandate and is entering into a new and more operational phase. This next stage includes the launch of a pilot program, scheme implementation by scheme participants and the maintenance and further development of the SPAA scheme. To align with this new reality, the SPAA MSG has adopted an updated version of its Terms of Reference, which the EPC Board endorsed at its November 2024 meeting.

To date, five scheme participants from the demand-side (asset brokers) have been included in the SPAA scheme register. No applications have been received as yet from the supply side (asset holders).

### 2 SPAA MSG related activities since the last ERPB meeting

The EPC Board approved the new SPAA MSG composition at its March 2025 meeting. The SPAA MSG, under its new mandate and composition, met on 24 March 2025 and 30 April 2025.

The SPAA MSG concurred to work on the further development of the scheme. To this end, the group is planning to launch a change management cycle after summer.

One of the group's objectives is to further align the SPAA scheme rulebook with the Berlin Group's openFinance API Framework, considering that the Berlin Group is currently the only standardisation initiative that has developed relevant API specifications for SPAA.

Additionally, the SPAA MSG is expected to assess how to achieve functional convergence with the giroAPI<sup>1</sup> scheme developed by the German banking industry, which is also based on the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://die-dk.de/en/giroapi-scheme/> - The giroAPI scheme is open to non-German participants, and may thus have pan-European reach.

aforementioned Berlin Group standard. In this context, it is to be determined if and how interoperability can be ensured, and how market fragmentation can be prevented.

For the SPAA scheme pilot, the main challenge at this point is gaining practical traction to initiate the pilot phase. While several asset brokers are ready to start piloting, no asset holder has come forward.

On 12 May 2025, a call was held to provide the SPAA Scheme Interest Group participants with a status update on the activities of the SPAA MSG and offer an opportunity for input and questions.

### 3 Next steps

The next SPAA MSG meeting is scheduled for 19 June 2025. The main agenda topics include:

- Review and approval of the revised Terms of Reference of several SPAA related work blocks. For example, the SPAA Business Conditions Work Block is expected to assess how to cater for future iterations of the Default Fees to ensure, within a robust and transparent recalibration model, that they remain fit for purpose and aligned with market and regulatory developments.
- Assess how to achieve 'functional' convergence between SPAA, the Berlin Group openFinance standard and giroAPI, and ensure alignment with the Payment Service Regulation.

At its September 2025 meeting, the Board is expected to be invited to approve the publication on the EPC website of a call for change requests, related to version 1.1 of the SPAA scheme rulebook.

Additionally, further assessment is needed on the possibility of establishing a 'coalition of the willing' for the SPAA pilot.