EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

ECB-RESTRICTED

22 September 2025

OUTCOME OF THE
TIPS CONSULTATIVE GROUP

25 June 2025, 09:00 – 16:30 CEST

via MS Teams & on-site (Danish Central Bank)

1 Introductory remarks and approval of the agenda

The Chair will welcome the participants to the meeting and invite TIPS-CG members to approve the draft agenda.

TIPS-CG members are invited to approve the agenda.

Outcome:

The Chairperson welcomed the participants to the twenty-first meeting of the TIPS Consultative Group (TIPS-CG). In its introductory remarks, the Chairperson warmly thanked the Danish Central Bank and the Danish colleagues for hosting this hybrid meeting in Copenhagen.

Afterwards, members were reminded to share topics they consider relevant for the TIPS-CG meetings. To facilitate this, as usual an email had been sent out a few weeks prior to the meeting to gather ideas and input.

The Agenda was then approved.

2 Outcome of the last meeting

TIPS-CG members are invited to approve the outcome of the previous TIPS-CG meeting.

Background documentation (for information or approval without discussion):

A. Outcome of the ad-hoc TIPS-CG April meeting and Action Points

Outcome:

The TIPS-CG Secretary indicated that the Outcome of the previous meeting was shared with the members via written procedure and that the add-on made has been accepted.

Regarding a comment in the draft outcome that was shared, it was clarified that the intention was to determine whether there is a risk of rejection during the two-hour period when the message router is being updated. It was confirmed that a minor risk of rejection does exist during this period, depending on the timestamp format used and the status of the software upgrade. Upon a question, it was mentioned that the release scenario to be applied will follow Schema 2, as presented in October 2024 (see slide 4). To provide clarity on the process, timeline and potential impacts of the deployment for TIPS

*R2025.OCT, it was agreed that 4CB will prepare a short communication with the objective to illustrate the potential sources of message rejections during the upgrade period[1]. **(Action Point (AP-105)).** It was also noted that, for the previous TIPS major release, scenarios for potential rejections during the upgrade period were presented and that a communication was shared with the TIPS users regarding the deployment plan. This practice will be maintained going forward.*

With the opening of a dedicated Action Point addressing the comment left in the draft outcome, and as no objections were raised, the draft Outcome was endorsed and will be published on the ECB Website under the TIPS Consultative Group documentation section.

3 Debriefings

The members of the TIPS-CG will be debriefed on the outcome and key takeaways of:

- *TIPS-WG meeting (4 June 2025)*
- *MIB June meeting (11 and 12 June 2025)*
- *EPC CSM calls*

Outcome:

TIPS-WG meeting (4 June 2025) & MIB June meeting (11 and 12 June 2025):

The relevant topics addressed during the above-mentioned meetings are included in the meeting's agenda.

EPC CSM calls:

The EPC representative highlighted that, as part of regular calls, CSMs are reporting their readiness for the October 2025 release, and the EPC has implemented bi-weekly monitoring to track progress. It was noted that user testing will open to PSPs in July 2025. The main challenges identified lie on the PSPs side, particularly regarding the new timeout condition (where the payer's PSP, the payee's PSP and the CSM have a total of nine seconds to process the transaction and make the requested funds available in the payee's payment account) and the restoration of funds by the payer's PSP if the transaction cannot be completed within the new maximum execution time.
The Chairperson emphasized that, on TIPS side, there is no need to enhance the platform's performance, as the end-to-end TIPS internal process is completed within just a matter of milliseconds.
A 4CB representative added that, in addition to the regular testing campaign, an end-to-end volume testing will be organised for TIPS users (see also agenda item 7.3 A), during which the response times of participating PSPs will be monitored.
It was also noted that the frequency of the internal TIPS sweeper has been reduced to two seconds (and not one second as wrongly reported during the meeting) to ensure that pending transactions for which no reply has been received from the Beneficiary PSP are rejected within 7-9 seconds from the start of the Acceptance Date and Time tag at the latest . Furthermore, as part of the testing campaign, checks will be conducted to confirm whether the current "Beneficiary offset" parameter, set to "0", is functioning as intended or whether it needs to be adjusted to a few milliseconds.
The Chairperson concluded that a decision on this matter will be made once data from the user testing campaign becomes available.

[1] The document "Analysis concerning potential sources of message rejections during the shortened rolling upgrade of the message routers" was shared with the TIPS-Consultative Group members and then published on the ECB website

4 Welcoming DKK currency in TIPS and in T2

4.1 Celebrating the onboarding of DKK currency to TIPS and T2 on the Easter weekend 2025

The members will be debriefed on the onboarding of Danish currency (DKK) to TIPS and T2 which took place over the Easter weekend.

TIPS-CG members are invited to take note

Discussion documentation:

A. *[Danmarks Nationalbank] DKK Onboarding to T2/TIPS [sent on 12.06.2025]*

Outcome:

The TIPS-CG members were debriefed on the onboarding of DKK currency to TIPS and T2, which took place over the Easter 2025 weekend. The migration was completed successfully. Key highlights included:

- *A parallel run with the legacy "Straksclearing" system ensured no downtime for instant payments during the migration.*
- *Extensive pre-migration activities - including thorough data validation, weekly follow-ups with participants and internal checklist - contributed to the smooth execution.*
- *The migration was completed faster than expected, thanks to detailed preparation and effective coordination between Danmarks Nationalbank, 4CB and participants.*
- *The first week of operations was stable and smooth, confirming the robustness of the onboarding process.*

5 Instant Payments Regulation (IPR) and upcoming legal changes

5.1 Onboarding of the non-banks to T2/TIPS and necessary legal changes

The members will be updated on the decision taken by the Governing Council to postpone the entry into force of the amended TARGET Guideline, which has an effect on the onboarding of the non-bank PSPs to TARGET Services.

TIPS-CG members are invited to take note

Discussion documentation:

A. *[ECB] Non-banks payment service providers access to T2 and TIPS [sent on 17.06.2025]*

Outcome:

The ECB representative recalled that the amendments to the TARGET Guideline, initially planned to enter into force on 16 June 2025, have been postponed to 6 October 2025 due to delays in some euro-area Member States in transposing the required amendments to the SFD and PSD2 into national legislation.
Upon a question, it was confirmed that it is currently being checked which options exist in case some national communities would still be late for the national transposition in order to mitigate the legal risk and to hopefully avoid another postponement of the TARGET Guideline amendments.
Finally, it was mentioned that non-bank PSPs have already started to approach Central Banks, with a higher concentration in specific banking communities; tests and preparation for connection already started for some of them.

6 Operations

6.1 TIPS Operational matters

The TIPS-CG members will receive an update on the most recent traffic developments and incidents since the last meeting.

TIPS-CG members are invited to take note.

<u>*Discussion documentation:*</u>

A. *[ECB] Update on TIPS Operations [sent on 17.06.2025]*

<u>Outcome:</u>

The TIPS-CG members were provided with the latest developments in terms of traffic. In April 2025, DKK currency went live in TIPS and in May 2025, i.e. after one full month of operation, TIPS settled over 47 million DKK transactions.

Regarding EUR denominated traffic, in May 2025, TIPS settled more than 74 million transactions, representing a 6% increase compared to April 2025, while for SEK, for the same period, more than 89 million SEK transactions were settled (+1.7 % increase compared to April 2025.)

Furthermore, the TIPS-CG members were informed about the outcome of survey results related to usage of the TIPS Contact Grid and the proposal of the TIPS-Working Group members to discontinue the pilot due to the low usage and low interest. In case operational contacts are needed, the PSPs can reach out to their National Service Desk. Some TIPS-CG members considered that the availability of a contact grid (either in the present form or in a more enhanced form) was crucial in order to quickly reach out to counterparties in the event of operational problems. The ECB noted that there was currently no formal obligation for PSPs to share contact details nor to be 24/7 available for such operational investigations. If such obligations were to be made (for instance as part of the adherence to the SCTinst scheme), the contact grid would become even more relevant and useful.

Following discussion at the meeting on potential alternative/external solution(s) to facilitate direct access to operational contacts between PSPs, it was agreed that a written procedure will be launched to gather ideas and proposals ***(Action Point (AP-106)).***

Finally, it was underlined that while the number of PSPs being compliant with the SCT Inst scheme and joining TIPS is increasing, the rejection ratio did not increase proportionally, which is a very good sign. This will be further monitored after the implementation of the second milestone of the Instant Payment Regulation (IPR).

7 Evolution

7.1 Go Sign Desktop Client Support and release policy (GSD)

The 4CB will provide the latest status on the Go Sign Desktop Client (GSD) software release.

TIPS-CG members are invited to take note.

<u>*Discussion documentation:*</u>

A. *[4CB] Go Sign Desktop Client Support and release policy [sent on 18.06.2025]*

<u>Outcome:</u>

Go Sign Desktop (GSD), provided by the vendor Ascertia, allows to perform the digital signature for the U2A transactions and two certified versions are currently being supported; those are available for download in the ESMIG portal. The 4CB provided details regarding the GSD versions which are supported and certified at this point in time as well as in the coming months.
Institutions currently using version 6.0.9.20 are advised to wait for the release of the new bug fixing version of 8.3.6 before upgrading to it while institutions using version 8.3.6 are encouraged to install the latest fix pack available for PROD as of 30 June 2025.
4CB recommends continuing to use version 8.3.6 until the new version is released in Q4-2025 (precise date to be confirmed).
Upon a question, 4CB agreed to check with the vendor to see whether the version build number could be part of the file name ***(Action Point (AP-107)).***

7.2 Testing status in view of the upcoming releases

The TIPS-CG will be presented with a status update around the testing activities towards TIPS Release R2025.OCT.

TIPS-CG members are invited to take note.

Discussion documentation:

A. *[ECB] Testing status for TIPS Release R2025.OCT and additional testing matters [sent on 18.06.2025]*
B. *[4CB] User testing - Enhanced automatic counterparty simulator: changes to come due to SCT Inst rulebook updates, impact of static data configuration on simulator messages responses and other relevant matters [sent on 17.06.2025]*

Outcome:

Testing status for TIPS Release R2025.OCT and additional testing matters:

An outlook for TIPS R2025.OCT was presented, including information on the timeframe for the end-to-end (E2E) Volume Testing period. The user testing environment (UTEST) will be scaled up during the last two weeks of August and a coordinated testing will be organised for 2-3 days, whereby the exact dates are still to be coordinated with participating PSPs. TIPS-CG members were strongly encouraged to make use of the user testing environment and to participate in this new window for the E2E test. A dedicated information item will be sent to share the details on this new E2E volume testing window and to get the contact details of the volunteers.
In addition to the invite to take part into the user testing and E2E volume testing, it was recalled that:

- *TIPS Service Provider and Central Banks are of course fully available during the Summer period*
- *Testing in the TIPS user testing environment (UTEST) is available until the Go Live date (i.e. until early October)*
- *TIPS user testing environment (UTEST) is available at any point in time for individual stress tests and bilateral testing, provided that the total transactions per second (TPS) stay below the threshold of 150 TPS. In case more TPS would need to be tested, an email has to be sent to the TIPS TRSG Secretariat (TIPS-TRSG_Secretariat@ecb.europa.eu) in advance*

Finally, for testing the cross-currency functionalities, while it will be primarily in the hands of the PSPs being involved in the dedicated TIPS Cross-currency business development Task Force, it was highlighted that participation is also encouraged from other PSPs; interested PSPs should liaise with their National Central Bank.

User testing - Enhanced automatic counterparty simulator: changes to come due to SCT Inst rulebook updates, impact of static data configuration on simulator messages responses and other relevant matters:

The TIPS counterparty simulator enables TIPS users to test in isolation; the simulator acts as a reachable party and it creates the corresponding messages. Some rules on how to set up the simulator, on the pre-defined acceptance and rejection BICs as well as on some concrete situations were recalled (please refer to the deck of slides for the details as well as to the dedicated Annex in the TIPS UDFS). It was also noted that the simulator already reflects the specific characteristics of the various schemes in the context of the cross-currency functionality.
Following the presentation, one member raised concerns about the complexity of using the simulator. As a result, it was agreed to organise an online training session to demonstrate how to use it effectively. ***(Action Point (AP-108)).*** *This training will include concrete examples and will display different kind of basic and complex scenarios. Also, the Chairperson confirmed that dedicated material will be prepared for the training so that all relevant information can be found in one place.*

7.3 Change and Release Management

The TIPS-CG will be presented with the latest status of the CRs, along with their Feasibility Assessment timeline and topics related to change and release management.

TIPS-CG members are invited to take note of the topics related to change and release management.

Discussion documentation:

A. *[4CB] Follow-up on FA timeline for TIPS CRs/Initiatives for 2025 and 2026 releases [sent on 17.06.2025]*
B. *[ECB- oral update] TIPS-0080-SYS - Implementation of an R-only transactions BIC functionality*
C. *[Bundesbank / Commerzbank] Draft new change request: TIPS-0098-XXX - Optional pagination of account [sent on 12.06.2025]*
D. *[ECB] Evolution of the EPC payment schemes: Submission of change requests towards SCT and OCT Inst schemes [sent on 12.06.2025]*

Outcome:

Follow-up on FA timeline for TIPS CRs/Initiatives for 2025 and 2026 releases:

The 4CB representative provided an update on the status and provisional scopes of TIPS releases for 2025 and 2026. Members were informed of the official allocation of TIPS-0072-SYS – "Alignment of TIPS Messages with ISO Maintenance Release 2020-2024" into the scope of TIPS R2026.JUN. A Feasibility Assessment exercise needs to be performed by 4CB to confirm the sustainability of the allocation of the remaining change requests once all detailed assessments, currently ongoing, are completed.
Regarding the TIPS-0041-URD – "Introduction of non-time critical instant payments in TIPS", the detailed assessment is expected within the next two weeks, pending approval from 4CB Steering Board and check for potential cross-dependencies.
Finally, for the TIPS-0071-SYS – "Quicker communication in case of incident during non-standard support hours", which can be deployed outside a regular release, the related preliminary assessment will be shared soon with the TIPS governance groups.

TIPS-0080-SYS - Implementation of an R-only transactions BIC functionality:

The members were orally debriefed with the feedback received regarding the introduction of a separate pricing model for the implementation of an R-only transactions BIC functionality. They were also informed of the fact that TIPS-WG members agreed that (i) there will be no dedicated pricing for the use of the to-be introduced functionality and that (ii) as part of the future review of the TIPS pricing, it will be checked how a de-registration fee could be introduced which would cover inter alia the above-mentioned functionality.

Draft new change request: TIPS-0098-XXX - Optional pagination of account:
The representatives from Bundesbank and from Commerzbank presented the change request TIPS-0098-XXX "Optional pagination of account statements". This new change request aims at introducing optional pagination for account statements in TIPS to address concerns about the increasing size of reports, which can reach up to 1GB compressed (and significantly larger when decompressed) due to growing instant payment volumes in the future (e.g. impact of IPR, SCT transactions transformed into SCT Inst ones, possible introduction of non-time critical payments). This functionality, already implemented in T2 with a maximum file size of 32 MB, would help mitigate challenges faced by PSPs in processing large files for reconciliation or archiving (some in-house interfaces/applications might indeed not support a too high size report whether it is compressed or not) and towards MQSeries restrictions. To ensure flexibility, the pagination would be optional, configurable via the report setup screen, with the maximum file size potentially set at 32 MB or higher, depending on transaction volumes.
The representative from 4CB flagged that the solution developed for T2 need to be adapted for TIPS because TIPS account statements can contain information on multiple accounts while T2 statements always refer to one account only. The requirement therefore needs to be revised and specified as to how this difference should be taken into account.
It was pointed out that the participants' internal systems are processing both the reports from TIPS and T2. In fact, as part of the ISO unfreeze strategy, reports from different TARGET Services will be aligned in terms of Maintenance Release. However, since these reports serve fundamentally different purposes, it is important to evaluate whether, how, and which reports should adapt to the format of the other in the interest of harmonisation.

Evolution of the EPC payment schemes: Submission of change requests towards SCT and OCT Inst schemes:
The members were reminded about the process for the submission of a change request towards the EPC, for the SCT Inst and OCT Inst schemes, as well of the status of the already submitted change requests.
On two potential change requests proposed for the SCT Inst scheme, members were asked for their view and did not see the need to raise them. The Chairperson indicated that the Group's point of view had been noted down.
With regards to the OCT Inst scheme, as no comment was raised during the meeting, the Chairperson concluded that more time will be given to the members to think about it and that as a consequence a dedicated written procedure will be launched ***(Action Point (AP-109)).***

7.4 Non-time Critical Payments

The TIPS-CG will be presented the final report of the NTC Task Force on Non-Time Critical Payments. Moreover, they will be provided with a status update and summary of the focus session held on June 3rd.

TIPS-CG members are invited to take note.

Discussion documentation:

A. *[ECB] Non-time critical payments: status update [sent on 16.06.2025]*
B. *[CG Task Force] Final report on NTC payments [sent on 12.06.2025]*

Outcome:

Members were provided with an update on the strategic roadmap for NTC, with a brief presentation on the takeaways of the NTC Focus Session held on 03 June 2025 and with a short recap on the work of the NTC Task Force (TF), where the member who proposed this TF was warmly thanked. It was recalled that non-time critical payments are not only useful for batch corporate payments (i.e., pension or salary payments) but also because:

- *they remove complexity in the chain linked to rejected payments; costs relating to this issue are also removed.*
- *they protect the reputation of the banks as rejections are avoided – it is thus seen as a very powerful tool towards corporate batch/bulk payments*

As a next step on this topic, a survey will be launched soon to collect the views on NTC of the market.

Upon questions, it was clarified that NTC would be part of an Additional Optional Service (AOS) under the SCT scheme, as it is done today in the Netherlands with their dedicated AOS. Also, it was confirmed that NTC payments would not create any problem in terms of compliance with the Instant Payment Regulation.

To conclude, a member underlined that there will be the need to see if/how the two AOSs could be aligned and whether the EPC could play a role here.

7.5 Verification of Payee

The TIPS-CG will be presented with a status update on the Verification of Payee service provided by the Banco de Portugal and Latvijas Banka.

TIPS-CG members are invited to take note.

Discussion documentation:

A. *[Banco de Portugal] VoP service by Banco de Portugal: status update [sent on 13.06.2025]*
B. *[Latvijas Banka] VoP service by Latvijas Banka: status update [sent on 12.06.2025]*

Outcome:

VoP service by Banco de Portugal & by Latvijas Banka: status update:

The representatives of Banco de Portugal and Latvijas Banka provided a status update on the Verification of Payee service, covering aspects such as documentation/support, testing, legal framework, timeline and challenges. They clarified that their milestones are progressing as planned; both institutions noted that they had received requests following the dedicated Focus Session.

7.6 TIPS On-boarding

The participants will be informed on recent and upcoming/possible non-EUR onboardings to TIPS.

TIPS-CG members are invited to take note.

Discussion documentation:

A. *[ECB] TIPS Non-EUR on-boardings [sent on 12.06.2025]*

Outcome:

The TIPS-CG members were provided with an update of TIPS Non-EUR on-boardings which are progressing positively, with all involved institutions currently at green status.

Danmarks Nationalbank has successfully completed its migration to both T2 and TIPS during the April migration weekend, with DKK operations running smoothly in production.

Norges Bank is advancing with the implementation phase, with one change request approved by TIPS governance groups and two under drafting, with a go-live planned for Q1 2028.

Meanwhile, Seðlabanki Íslands (CBI) is finalising its Feasibility Assessment Report and actively engaging with the ECB and 4CB in assessing both the TIPS Currency Participation Agreement and the compatibility of Iceland's internal payment model with Eurosystem policies.

7.7 TIPS Cross-currency

TIPS-CG members will be informed about the most recent developments regarding the TIPS cross-currency roadmap (Phases 1, 2, and 3).

TIPS-CG members are invited to take note.

Discussion documentation:

A. *[ECB] Status update on Phase 1 & 2 – First cross-currency solution and Cross-currency for TIPS hosted currencies [sent on 16.06.2025]*

Outcome:

The members were provided with a status update on Phases 1 and 2 of cross-currency for TIPS hosted currencies. For Phase 1, implementation of first TIPS cross-currency settlement service, the current focus is on getting testing candidates; the dedicated change request is now deployed in PROD. TIPS-CG members are invited to reach out to their National Central Banks for more information on testing and usage in PROD.

For Phase 2, implementation of enhanced linked transaction (ELKT) settlement model, members were reminded that the TIPS-CG Taskforce on TIPS cross-currency Business Development has been created with those PSPs that sent a Letter of Intent, i.e. which formally expressed interest in supporting the implementation of the TIPS cross-currency service by participating in several activities organised by the central banks involved and the TIPS service provider. Ongoing discussions refer to how to test the dedicated change request in view of the start of the user testing and what could be the potential future enhancements of the service.

Finally, for Phase 3B, bilateral and multilateral links, TIPS-CG members were informed that the feasibility assessment is progressing well regarding the possible establishment of a link with India's UPI and with Nexus.

8 Any Other Business

Action points:

- TIPS-CG Action Points [DARWIN /ASTRA]

TIPS-CG members are invited to approve the current status of the action points.

Upcoming meeting:

- Hybrid TIPS-CG meeting to be held on 21 October 2025 in Frankfurt.

Outcome:

Organisation of Focus Session in second half of the year:

The Chairperson invited the members to share any potential idea / need they may have regarding any specific topic which could be covered as part of a dedicated Focus Session. Previous Focus Sessions presented diverse topics such as: Non-time critical payments, TARGET Services: A glance into the future, Verification of Payee Service, Cross-border payments: TIPS for getting there, Instant Payments: TIPS for getting there. A dedicated written procedure will be launched to collect ideas and areas that the members would like to explore more in depth ***(Action Point (AP-110)).***

TIPS-CG Action Points:

In preparation of the meeting, the status of each action point had been updated. This and the new Action Points stemming from the meeting will be part of the written procedure on the draft Outcome. The members are invited to share any objection on the status of the Action Points, via the dedicated feedback form.

Hybrid TIPS-CG meeting to be held on 21 October 2025 in Frankfurt:

The members were reminded about the upcoming TIPS-CG October meeting on 21 October 2025. The meeting will be held as usual in a hybrid format and at the ECB premises.

To conclude, members have been informed that the dates for the 2026 meetings will be circulated soon.