



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

Evolution of the EPC payment schemes

Submission of change
request towards SCT
Inst scheme

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target | TIPS
services

Submission of change request towards SCT Inst scheme

Sharing of operational contacts at scheme level

As mentioned during the TIPS-CG meeting held in June, we reached out to the **European Payments Council (EPC)** to seek further clarifications on the business case for single CSMs to share a list of operational contacts, specifically in cases where a PSP encounters an issue with a counterpart.

The following points were discussed:

1. Institutions adhering to the SCT Inst scheme to share their contact information with one another
2. Institutions adhering to the SCT Inst scheme to be available 24/7 to address exceptional operational issues
3. Information on the contact details to be easily accessible by the PSPs → to have a centralised solution at scheme level where the information could be provided

→ The EPC expressed openness to the idea of creating a centralised tool for listing operational contacts, similar to the approach already implemented for the VoP and EDS.

→ The EPC indicated that raising an EPC change request is not the right approach in this case and that they will follow up on the idea outside of the evolution of the EPC payment schemes (ongoing discussion)

Submission of change request towards SCT Inst scheme

Optional use of Unique End-to-end Transaction Reference (UETR) (1/4)

Arguments to support it:

- UETR is already used with CBPR+ (SWIFT) and OCT Inst scheme → to include UETR in a payment instruction is becoming more and more common. This change would close a gap to other schemes, market practices and implementation
- Beyond tracking, UETR is valuable for identifying specific transactions during exception handling and investigations, simplifying back-end processing, especially for cross-currency transactions
- Other institutions are supportive and already submitted a similar change request (Swiss banking community)
- Instant Payments Plus (IP+) Working Group: UETR is mandatory, at least in their draft messages

→ During the TIPS-CG meeting in June, the market was not in favor of this change request

→ Despite the lack of market support, on the ECB side, including the UETR as an optional field in the SCT Inst scheme is still seen as beneficial. This would align the SCT Inst scheme with the OCT Inst scheme, thereby ensuring consistency with cross-currency payment practices.

Another supporting argument is the analysis of the current use of UETR and one of the workarounds adopted by some TIPS users (see next slides)

Submission of change request towards SCT Inst scheme

Optional use of Unique End-to-end Transaction Reference (UETR) (2/4)

One of the workarounds used by some TIPS users for the ones making use of the UETR:

Regular UETR

e008b020-59c5-41e9-be4c-d45102fc201e → example regular, fixed value “4” at 15th position

123456789012345678901234567890123456 → length 36 characters, reference does not fit into transaction identification (maxLength: 35)

Vs.

Workaround UETR length → As UETR is not officially used, in this case the UETR reference is put in the transaction identification (free text) which is the “txId”

e008b02059c541e9be4cd45102fc201e → example workaround, without hyphens/minus and Fixed value “4” at 13th position

12345678901234567890123456789012 → length 32 characters, truncated reference fits into transaction identification (maxLength: 35)

Submission of change request towards SCT Inst scheme

Optional use of Unique End-to-end Transaction Reference (UETR) (3/4)

Outcome of the analysis regarding the number of TIPS users which made use of the above-presented workaround:

Figures, extracted from PROD data, relating to the EUR community in the month of July 2025:

- Total number of EUR denominated IP transactions settled: **85,109,548**
- Number of IP transactions matching the format of UETR workaround: **5,110,944**
- IP transactions matching the format of UETR workaround (percentage): **~6.01%**

→ It seems that already more than 6% of all domestic instant payments contain an UETR as of today

Submission of change request towards SCT Inst scheme

Optional use of Unique End-to-end Transaction Reference (UETR) (4/4)

Way forward:

1. Draft the EPC change request asking for adding the UETR as an optional field in the SCT Inst scheme. The change request will include:
 - i. Adding UETR as an optional field
 - ii. Requesting the EPC to monitor usage of the UETR workaround(s)
 - iii. Requesting the EPC to draft & publish a short explainer to outline how the workaround(s) for using the UETR work. This would ensure that those interested in using the UETR have clear guidance and that the use of these workaround(s) can be harmonised across stakeholders
2. EPC change request to be raised by TIPS-Working Group (TIPS-WG)

Thank you for your attention!

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