

AMI-PAY

07 December 2023

Review of the AMI-Pay functioning

In its May 2023 meeting, AMI-Pay participants were informed of the outcome of the Eurosystem review of the work and set-up of the AMI-Pay, as envisaged by its mandate. Based on the experience gathered since the last review there seemed to be no imminent need to change the AMI-Pay functioning at this juncture. As a follow-up, AMI-Pay participants were invited to indicate via written procedure if they had suggestions on the functioning of AMI-Pay going forward, including on possible topics to be covered.

This note presents the feedback received and suggested way forward.

AMI-Pay functioning

While expressing a positive view on the openness of the debates that can be held at the AMI-Pay, one member noted the challenge to have more interactive discussions on topics given the size of the group. In this regard, this member suggested considering the option of doing further analysis with a smaller group and report back to the AMI-Pay. For some topics this might give room for more in-depth discussions and could help to fully resolve issues or drive change.

- ⇒ This approach could be pursued for some specific topics to be agreed by AMI-Pay on a case by case basis to allow making solid progress between AMI-Pay meetings.

Potential additional topics to be considered by AMI-Pay

Regarding possible topics to be covered by AMI-Pay, one member suggested the following ones noting that some of these issues may be beyond the mandate and Terms of Reference of the AMI-Pay¹, but being of the view that it would be very fruitful to hold a dialogue within the group on some (or all) of these topics.:

- Is it desirable to aim for a 100% migration to SCT Inst?
- How to push the launch/uptake of SEPA Request-to-Pay?
- Improvement of B2B and Public Administration payments

¹ It is recalled that the AMI-Pay mandate foresees that the group “shall be responsible for exchanging views with, and advising, the Eurosystem on matters related to payments. It shall address, in line with user needs, all relevant aspects of the provision or modification of Eurosystem payment services of a strategic nature; provide advice to the Eurosystem on payment-related developments and their potential impact; and facilitate an efficient and effective interaction between the Eurosystem and the relevant financial market actors on matters of common concern”.

- E-invoicing presentment and payment (EIPP)
- Discontinuation of cheques and other paper-based payment instruments at European level
- Collaboration to fight fraud
- Environmental footprint of different payment instruments
- Fintechs' access to central bank accounts in euros

In assessing this suggestion it is noted that some of the above topics are discussed in other fora. This is notably the case of the Euro Retail Payments Board (ERPB) that has been/is dealing with a number of the above topics. In particular, for EIPP following the invitation of the ERPB, the EPC designed and submitted a request for the creation of an ISO 20022 set of EIPP servicing messages. This is also the case for the collaboration to fight fraud where an ERPB working group is currently in the process of analysing fraud patterns and developing a mapping of possible actions of stakeholders involved. This work is expected to be reported to the June 2024 ERPB meeting.

In other cases, ongoing work would have to be taken into account to consider the best timing of a possible AMI-Pay discussion. As regards the environmental footprint of retail payments, the Eurosystem is currently exploring the possibility of conducting a study on the environmental footprint of electronic retail payments by consumers in a way that allows comparability with the study carried out for euro banknotes. On fintechs' to hold central bank accounts in euros, the legislative process is ongoing with the PSD2 review, as is the Eurosystem's policy development for its access criteria.

For some topics, other parties would need to join the discussion. This is notably the case for the suggested discussion on improvement of B2B and Public Administration payments where it would seem advisable to have these parties around the table to understand their need. These are represented in the ERPB but not in the AMI-Pay.

Finally, the following topic of discontinuation of cheques and other paper-based payment instruments at European level however would seem better suited for other fora than AMI-Pay, e.g. national payments committees/a forum dealing with retail payments.

- ⇒ Considering the above, it is suggested to start discussing the following topics in AMI-Pay, taking into account work conducted in other fora not to replicate these:
- (i) What would be an appropriate uptake of SCT Inst?;
 - (ii) How to push the launch/uptake of SEPA Request-to-Pay?
- Thereafter, further of the abovementioned topics deemed suitable to the AMI-Pay mandate could be considered while ongoing related work has progressed and taking into account ongoing developments.

AMI-Pay participants are invited to discuss the suggested approach.