

ERPB Secretariat

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Topics for the ERPB strategic discussion

In its December 2024 meeting, the ERPB discussed the review of its functioning and agreed *inter alia* to hold once a year a high-level strategic discussion articulating a medium to long-term vision keeping in mind the ERPB focus. In addition, it agreed to hold one or more exchanges at expert level per year.

In preparation of this year's discussion, ERPB stakeholder associations were invited to submit suggestions for topics on the basis of which an exchange was held in the 25 June 2025 ERPB meeting at technical level (the list of topics and outcome of the discussion is annexed to this note).

On this basis, and taking into account further interactions, it is suggested to focus the upcoming ERPB discussion on the following questions designed to prompt a forward-looking, strategic conversation that aligns with the ERPB's mandate to foster an integrated, innovative and competitive euro retail payments market.

- What are the main challenges facing the European retail payments landscape today and how can the ERPB support European stakeholders to address these challenges and benefit from opportunities?
- What actions are required to strengthen Europe's strategic autonomy in retail payments while fostering competition and innovation within the ecosystem? And how could the ERPB facilitate to be a platform that aims to maximize the synergies between initiatives like digital euro and private solutions by a coherent action plan?
- Considering past challenges around meeting deadlines of systemic changes¹, are there coordination gaps that would need to be addressed to ensure smooth implementation and a timely roll out of any forthcoming changes? Which potential forthcoming changes could benefit from such a ERPB-sponsored coordination (examples could be the potential adoption, testing, and implementation of a 'common acceptance layer' by solution providers; the early adoption and embedding of new pan-European initiatives such as the EUDIW to increase security and efficiency in retail payments)?
- Going beyond 'domestic' euro payments within SEPA, what additional actions are needed to support cross-border payments having in mind efforts already underway (for instance possible actions regarding the take up of the OCT Inst scheme)?

¹ e.g. SEPA migration end-date, PSD2 requirements for SCA and for API Interfaces, ISO20022 version for SEPA schemes, VoP, and bulk payments (instant) for corporates.

The intention is to have a discussion that could serve as a basis for articulating a medium to long-term vision based on the above set of questions, ensuring that the discussion is broad yet focused on aspects of relevance to the ERPB. While the discussion may lead to some follow-up work at the ERPB level (e.g. in a dedicated technical session/workshop), it is not meant to be a discussion on the ERPB workplan itself. The recent "Digital Euro Fit-in-the-Ecosystem" report, developed within the context of the ERPB, can serve as valuable input to further support and enrich the discussion.

Annex – main topics covered in the June 2025 ERPB session at technical composition in preparation of the November 2025 ERPB strategic discussion

Based on the feedback received from ERPB stakeholder associations, and having in mind the ERPB mandate and ongoing work (notably digital euro technical sessions, follow-up to report on fraud prevention, follow-up to instant payments related workstreams on a QR-code standardisation and high-level communication strategy for end-users), the following topics were covered based on short introductions by the relevant stakeholder association:

- Instant payments at the point-of-interactions:
 - o Possible further ERPB work (ETPPA)
 - o How to leverage synergies between initiatives (EPC)
- European payments infrastructure or 'common acceptance layer' (EuroCommerce)
- Digital euro – interaction with existing payments products and existing standards (EMA and EPIF)
- Standardisation initiatives: how to better coordinate and avoid fragmentation in API-based schemes (EPC)
- Competition and strategic autonomy in payments (EACT)
- A European industrial policy (EuroCommerce)
- Digital id – supporting the deployment of the EUDIW framework (EMA and EFIP)

These topics were not intended as a definitive list that would be covered by the ERPB in November

Participants highlighted that the ERPB should focus on clearly identifying strategic priorities where it can add value, and that any new topics proposed should be carefully scrutinised. Additionally, participants stressed the need to consider synergies from discussions of related topics in other fora, as well as the need to further detail – together with the relevant proposing stakeholder association – the objective and necessity for work at ERPB level on the topics retained.