



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

ISO 20022 Message Unfreeze Strategy

Status update

T2-CG Meeting
22 October 2025

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Market Infrastructure and Payments
European Central Bank



ISO 20022 message unfreeze strategy status update

- MIB agreed to update the ISO 20022 message unfreeze strategy in June 2024 due to revision of the ECMS go live date to June 2025
- ISO 20022 message unfreeze strategy foresees:
 - To implement initial step with ISO maintenance release (MR) 2024 in June 2026
 - To implement annual “real-time”* maintenance with ISO MR2026 as of November 2026
- T2 and T2S change requests for the initial unfreeze step are under implementation since October 2024 and non-binding ISO MR2024 usage guidelines have been published starting from mid-June 2025
- Work on change requests for second unfreeze step covering ISO MR2025-2026 updates is progressing
- Exceptions to ISO message unfreeze strategy continue to be feasible and to be assessed case by case, e.g. TIPS core payment messages under EPC and NPC governance to remain on ISO MR2019
- MIB approved T2 exception request for seven core payment messages in T2 RTGS which are to remain on ISO MR2019 in alignment with international market practice until November 2027

*“real-time” means that ISO maintenance release is deployed the same year as the ISO publication



Approved T2 exception

- Exception aimed at satisfying T2 request and limiting impact on other TARGET services
- Exception to ISO message unfreeze strategy limited to seven core payment messages in RTGS (i.e. pacs.002, pacs.004, pacs.008, pacs.009, pacs.010, camt.029 and camt.056)
- Exception for core payment messages aims at aligning T2 RTGS core payment messages with international market practice* stipulated by HVPS+ and CBPR+ beyond initial unfreeze step
- Version upgrade of other T2 related messages e.g. common component messages or messages exchanged with/used by other TARGET Services continue to follow two-step ISO unfreeze approach due to impact on other TARGET Services. **This includes the upgrade of the business application header in RTGS and CLM**
- Extended market testing window for RTGS core payment messages subject to detailed assessment of related T2 change request if requested by the market

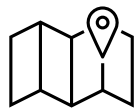
* Subject to ongoing CBPR+/HVPS+ alignment, international market practice foresees:

- ISO base message version upgrade for core payment messages to MR2025 in November 2027
- Annual base message version upgrades on “MR Year-1” basis, e.g. upgrade to MR2027 as of November 2028



T2 exception update and next steps

- T2-WG requested re-assessment of T2 CR-0147 (MR2025) due to HVPS+ decision to proceed with base message version upgrade to ISO MR2025 in November 2027 instead of November 2026
- Additional elements considered in T2 CR-147 re-assessment and approved in August 2025:
 - Seven core payment messages (pacs.002, .004, .008, .009, .010, camt.029 and camt.056) in T2 RTGS shall remain on ISO MR2019 in November 2026
 - Non-binding message usage guidelines for remaining messages impacted by ISO MR2025 are to be published in March 2026
- As a next step T2 CR-170 (MR2026) has been drafted and is under 4CB detailed assessment in view of T2 R2026.NOV



T2 roadmap for ISO 20022 unfreeze and HVPS+ driven changes

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T2 CR	Short title	Key information	2025 Nov	2026 Jun	2026 Nov	2027 Jun	2027 Nov	2028 Jun	2028 Nov
All CLM and RTGS messages									
CR0162	MyS Readiness Portal	Extension of MyStandards Readiness Portal until November 2027	●						
RTGS core payment messages (pacs.002/004/008/009/010 & camt.029/056)									
CR0146	HVPS+ UG2025	Remain on MR2019 Hybrid postal address start of grace period & introduction of hybrid option CPMI compliance & HVPS+/CBPR+ alignment	●						
CR0156	HVPS+ UG2026	Remain on MR2019 Hybrid postal address end of grace period & removal of unstructured option CPMI compliance & HVPS+/CBPR+ alignment			○				
Future CR	HVPS+ UG2027	Upgrade to MR2025 CPMI compliance requiring base message upgrade HVPS+/CBPR+ alignment					○		
Future CR	HVPS+ UG2028	Upgrade to MR2027 (MR Year-1) HVPS+/CBPR+ alignment							○
All CLM and RTGS messages excl. RTGS core payment messages									
CR0132	ISO MR2024 Upgrade	Multiple changes incl. upgrade of business application header (BAH) Note: Also BAH (head.001) used in conjunction with RTGS core payment messages to be upgraded to MR2024		●					
CR0147	ISO MR2025 Upgrade	Maintenance - ISO MR2025 CR cut off - 1 June 2024			●				
CR0170	ISO MR2026 Upgrade	Maintenance - ISO MR2026 CR cut off - 1 June 2025			○				
Future CR	ISO MR2027 Upgrade	Maintenance - ISO MR2027 CR cut off - 1 June 2026					○		
Future CR	ISO MR2028 Upgrade	Maintenance - ISO MR2028 CR cut off - 1 June 2027							○

○ Subject to CR detailed (re-)assessments

● CR allocated to release



Postal address options*

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Preferred

Fully structured

- 14 ISO 20022 structured address elements
- NO unstructured “AdrLine” allowed
- No co-mingling of data

```
<Cdtr>
  <Nm>John Smith</Nm>
  <PstlAdr>
    <StrtNm>Hoogstraat</StrtNm>
    <BldgNb>6</BldgNb>
    <BldgNm>Premium Tower</BldgNm>
    <Flr>18</Flr>
    <PstCd>1000</PstCd>
    <TwnNm>Brussels</TwnNm>
    <Ctry>BE</Ctry>
  </PstlAdr>
</Cdtr>
```

Unstructured

- ONLY maximum 3 lines of 35-character “AdrLine”
- Difficulty to interpret data due to co-mingling of address information
- MT unstructured (Debtor and Creditor):
 - :50K:/GB12CITI08330078493433
ERIC STOWERS
GRANGE ROAD,50
LONDON,SNW28 1EU
 - :59:/GB12MID40051587235467
DESK SUPPLIES PLC
MILL ROAD,48
LONDON, GB, SE 58 76E

```
<Cdtr>
  <Nm>JOHN SMITH</Nm>
  <PstlAdr>
    <AdrLine>HOOGSTRAAT 6, PREMIUM</AdrLine>
    <AdrLine>TOWER, 18TH FLOOR</AdrLine>
    <AdrLine>1000 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM</AdrLine>
  </PstlAdr>
</Cdtr>
```

New

Hybrid (semi-structured)

- Combination of structured ISO 20022 structured address elements and up to 2 lines of 70-character “AdrLine” allowed
- Elements available in structured format must be mapped into the respective structured element (minimum: TownName & Country)
- Structured elements must not be repeated in the AdrLine element(s)

```
<Cdtr>
  <Nm>JOHN SMITH</Nm>
  <PstlAdr>
    <PstCd>1000</PstCd>
    <TwnNm>BRUSSELS</TwnNm>
    <Ctry>BE</Ctry>
    <AdrLine>HOOGSTRAAT 6, 18th floor</AdrLine>
  </PstlAdr>
</Cdtr>
```

Nov 2025

Nov 2026

Fully structured and unstructured allowed

All three options allowed ('grace period')

Unstructured not allowed anymore

* Source: PMPG - [Hybrid Postal Address](#)



Annex A: Deployment calendar*

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			2025			2026												2027														
		Service	Exception	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
EAC	T2			MR2019	R2025.NOV	MR2024	(Dropped - R2026.FEB)					R2026.JUN			MR2026	R2026.SEP		R2026.NOV			R2027.FEB				R2027.JUN				R2027.SEP		R2027.NOV	
		HVPS/CBPR	MR2019												T2 exception											MR2027	R2027.SEP					
	T2S		MR2019		MR2024									MR2026												MR2027						
	TIPS		MR2019		MR2024									MR2026												MR2027						
	ECMS		MR2019		MR2024									MR2026												MR2027						
				seev	MR2025									MR2026												MR2027						
UTEST	T2			MR2019					MR2024						MR2026													MR2027				
		HVPS/CBPR	MR2019												T2 exception												MR2025					
	T2S		MR2019					MR2024							MR2026												MR2027					
	TIPS		MR2019					MR2024							MR2026												MR2027					
	ECMS		MR2019					MR2024							MR2026												MR2027					
				seev	MR2025									MR2026												MR2027						
PROD	T2			MR2019									MR2024					MR2026													MR2027	
		HVPS/CBPR	MR2019												T2 exception																MR2025	
	T2S		MR2019										MR2024					MR2026													MR2027	
	TIPS		MR2019										MR2024					MR2026													MR2027	
	ECMS		MR2019											MR2024					MR2026												MR2027	
				seev	MR2024	MR2025												MR2026													MR2027	

* Subject to CR detailed (re-)assessments



Annex B: Status of TARGET Services CRs on ISO 20022 message unfreeze strategy

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ISO MR	TARGET Service	CR number	Status	DA delivery date
MR2024	T2S	CR-0809	Allocated to R2026.JUN	-
	T2	CR-0132	Allocated to R2026.JUN	-
	ECMS	CR-0099	Allocated to R2026.JUN	-
	TIPS	CR-0072	Allocated to R2026.JUN	-
MR2025	T2S	CR-0841	Allocated to R2026.NOV	-
	T2	CR-0147	Allocated to R2026.NOV	-
	ECMS	CR-0100	DA to be started	-
	TIPS	CR-0097	DA completed, provisionally scoped in R2026.NOV	-
MR2026	T2S, T2, ECMS, TIPS	To be raised from Sept 2025	1st CR DA in Q4 2025* 2nd CR DA in Q1 2026*	1st CR DA end-Dec 2025* 2nd CR DA end-Feb 2026*

* Tbc – Current planning subject to discussion