



## European Automated Clearing House Association - EACHA

On 28th September 2006, representatives from 20 Automated Clearing Houses and retail payment processors drawn from 17 countries formed themselves into the European Automated Clearing House Association, or EACHA, under Belgian law.

Retail payment clearing companies have met bi-annually for over 10 years on an informal basis and the numbers of participants to these industry discussions has steadily grown in recent years.

These industry players believe that with the development of SEPA, the time has come to create a formal association. This will allow EACHA to make a contribution to SEPA discussions and implementation projects, in the best interests of its members' clients, i.e. the banks. By active participation EACHA can support the self regulatory efforts which the banking sector, through the EPC, is undertaking to create the SEPA.

The association is open to all institutions within Europe that perform the functions of an ACH. It is thus not specifically limited to countries or organizations within the Euro-zone. However, with the focus on the SEPA implementation issues being largely in the Euro-zone, EACHA's efforts are likely to follow the industry's focus.

EACHA has over the past year already developed working relations with the EPC, the ECB and other players. For example, EACHA participates in the testing strategy working group of EPC.

The association is a not for profit organisation and will not perform any commercial or operational role in payments processing.

EACHA aims to:

- be a forum for the sharing of information amongst its members.
- advance the views of its members on issues of general interest to the payment industry.
- work on specific issues as and when they arise e.g. developing common standards for SEPA interbank clearing and settlement activities.

A specific topic, on which EACHA is working currently, is the harmonized application of standards which will ensure that the new SEPA retail payments instruments (SEPA Credit Transfer, SEPA Direct Debit) can be processed by infrastructures in an interoperable way facilitating end-to-end payment processing. An interim report on the subject was released to banks, EPC, and ECB at the end of August 2006, and further work will proceed toward a completed report in early 2007.

The founding members of EACHA are:

Banca d'Italia, Italy; BBS, Norway; BGC, Sweden; CEC, Belgium; Deutsche Bundesbank, Germany; DIAS, Greece; Equens (Interpay + TAI), Netherlands/Germany; FINA, Croatia; GIRO, Hungary; Iberpay, Spain; KIR s.a., Poland; PBS, Denmark; SIA, Italy; SIBS, Portugal; SIC AG, Switzerland; SSB, Italy; STET, France; Voca Ltd, UK.

The Directors of EACHA are Mr Dirco van de Pol (Equens), Mr José Luis Langa (Iberpay), Mrs Antonella Vanara (SSB), Mr Jad Khallouf (STET) and Mr Richard Jones (Voca),

Chairman of EACHA is Mr J. Khallouf.

Requests for further information may be made as follows:

By mail at: [eacha@stet-its.com](mailto:eacha@stet-its.com)

A website dedicated to EACHA will be accessible before the end of the year.

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