

Madrid, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011

## INFORMATION NOTE

# Iberpay completes the launching of its new platform for the exchange, clearing and settlement of interbank operations

*Iberpay has successfully completed the updating of the national interbank infrastructure with the introduction of a new technical platform which permits the processing of both national payment instruments (credit transfers, direct debits, cheques and bills of exchange) and European instruments (SEPA<sup>1</sup> credit transfers and SEPA direct debits) in the most efficient, secure and economical way.*

With this new milestone, the process to adapt and bring into line the Spanish infrastructure with the European practices related to payment systems has been completed. This route commenced with the launching of SEPA Credit Transfers (SCT) and the linking of Iberpay with other international Clearing Houses. It continued with the introduction of the two versions of SEPA Direct Debit (SDD) schemes and it has recently been concluded with the centralisation of all operations processed by the national interbank clearing system, managed by Iberpay using this new platform.

This later phase of adaptation, recently concluded, was initiated in February with the cheques and it was finished last week with the changeover of credit transfers and direct debits. As an immediate advantage for Iberpay's participants, payment processing between the Banks and the Clearing House has been significantly simplified, with a notable increase in the efficiency of the processing and a reduction in the operative risks. Additionally, the centralisation procedure through the new platform guarantees a more flexible handling of the information, a cost reduction in each transaction and the opportunity to provide new value added services.

The new Iberpay payment platform has been named **CICLOM**, which stands for *Cámara de Intercambio, Compensación y Liquidación de Operaciones Minoristas*, Clearing House for the Exchange, Clearing and Settlement of retail operations. This platform provides innovative solutions regarding the management and information of the operation processing and about the technical architecture, base software and topology of the communication network, according to the following:

- **SNCE Operations:** In its current configuration, **CICLOM** is ready to exchange, clear and settle over 1,7 billion operations currently processed by SNCE, with a value of 1,7 trillion euros, reaching on peak days above 25 million transactions being exchanged by its 200 participants through its specific modules:
  - a. Credit Transfers Module;
  - b. Direct Debits Module;
  - c. Cheques Module;
  - d. Bills of Exchange Module;

- e. Exchange of Images Module; and
  - f. Other Operations Module.
- **SEPA Operations:** **CICLOM** is also prepared to process the following SEPA operations exchanged by both Spanish and European Banks, using the following specialised modules:
    - a. SEPA Credit Transfers (SCT) Module;
    - b. Immediate Credit Transfers Module<sup>2</sup> ; and
    - c. SEPA Direct Debits (SDD) Module: Core and B2B<sup>3</sup>.

**CICLOM** enables the international connection of Iberpay with other Clearing Houses, both under the EBA and EACHA standards. Iberpay also provides a *Conversion tool to XML* to facilitate the migration to SEPA of its participants.

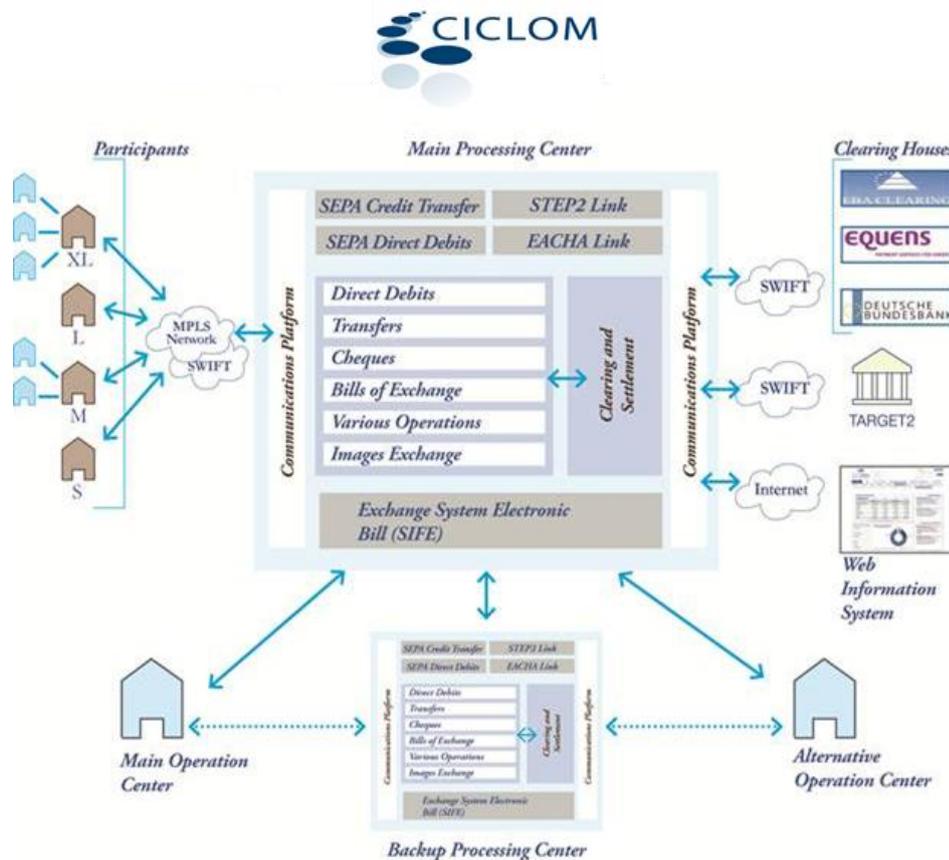
- **E-invoicing:** Following the recommendations issued by European authorities and with the aim of facilitating the innovative effort of some public and private bodies, **CICLOM** is also ready to exchange e-invoices among banks and other e-invoicing platforms, using several formats, including the national standard *facturae*. This is the aim of the SIFE Module that follows the rules established in a specific Rulebook designed by experts in this field.
- **Scalable and highly available Architecture:** **CICLOM** platform is designed to be operational in open technical environments (Unix), with a scalable design (from 4 to 64 processors), full redundancy, great capacity and continuous availability, to ensure parallel processing, fault tolerance and minimize operative risks. Communication with participant banks, International Clearing Houses and TARGET2 is guaranteed by connections with secure, redundant and high capacity networks (MPLS, SWIFT and Web Services).

**CICLOM** offers a powerful tool for the management and planning of procedures, providing real time information to monitor the operations using internet, and is also adapted for tablets and smartphones.

These features allow **CICLOM** to process, in its current configuration in Spain, around 1 million SNCE standard transactions per minute and 100,000 SEPA<sup>4</sup> standard transactions per minute.

The technical architecture of **CICLOM**, together with the comprehensive portfolio of payment instruments prepared to be processed, make this platform easily adaptable to different financial environments, being particularly useful and economical for all kinds of Clearing Houses and *payment factories*.

Mr. Miguel Molina, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Iberpay has stated that “the launching of this new payment platform represents a historic milestone for our Financial System and it is going to put Iberpay in a position to remain as a leading European Clearing House both in terms of innovation, efficiency and level of services. This platform will also provide a unique opportunity to develop innovative products and services highly appreciated by its banks”.



## About Iberpay ([www.iberpay.es](http://www.iberpay.es)):

The Spanish Payment System Company, Iberpay, was founded by law in June 2005 on the basis of a tradition which started in 1923 with the setting up of the first Clearing Houses in Spain. Iberpay is responsible for the management of the Spanish Electronic Clearing System (SNCE), the retail payment system created in 1987. Apart from the management of the SNCE, Iberpay provides its banking community with other kinds of services including the Auxiliary Deposit Service for the provision of notes, or the platform to exchange e-invoices (SIFE). In 2010, IBERPAY processed around 1.7 billion transactions, reaching on peak days above 25 million transactions. The value of the transactions processed by IBERPAY in 2010 amounted to around EUR 1,7 trillion. IBERPAY and the entire Spanish Banking Community are heavily committed to fully comply with SEPA objectives. Iberpay is also committed to maintain the cooperation with its participant Banks aiming to provide the highest efficiency, reliability and security in the processing of retail payment instruments.

For further information, please contact:

Mr José-Luis Langa  
 Phone: +34 91 567 22 41  
[jlanga@iberpay.es](mailto:jlanga@iberpay.es)

<sup>1</sup> SEPA, Single Euro Payments Area

<sup>2</sup> Available in the core platform

<sup>3</sup> B2B, Payments between Companies

<sup>4</sup> Real data in peak days for the delivery of operations