

Madrid, 21 November 2017

## Iberpay launches the Spanish interbank infrastructure for SCT Inst processing

**From early this morning, Tuesday 21 November, Spanish banks have been exchanging and settling SEPA<sup>1</sup> Instant Credit Transfers with normality through the Spanish interbank payment infrastructure managed by Iberpay (SNCE<sup>2</sup>).**

The European launch of this new SEPA payment standard is the consequence of the entry into force today of the Regulations and Specifications of the "*SCT Inst payment scheme*"<sup>3</sup>, that has been designed within the scope of the EPC<sup>4</sup> and complements the traditional SEPA Credit Transfer operating in the SNCE since 2008.

The aim of the new SEPA Instant Credit Transfer, which is immediate because it makes funds available in the beneficiary's account in real time, at any time of any day of the week (available 24/7/365), is to provide the European market with a more agile and efficient payment instrument for specific uses. Other relevant features are: the maximum amount of 15,000 euros per transaction; settlement between credit institutions in real time through Eurosystem's TARGET2 platform; and the use of XML and ISO 20022 message standards.

Iberpay has made an important effort to offer this service from the very beginning to the Spanish financial entities participating in the SNCE and is one of the first European infrastructures prepared to process instant payments. "Reachability"<sup>5</sup> for SNCE entities to the rest of European entities in the SEPA area is guaranteed through the connection with EBA Clearing's RT1 platform, a connection that has also been launched today. Thereby, Spanish entities may exchange, clear and settle instant credit transfers, end to end and in few seconds, with other European entities participating in the SCT Inst scheme.

At the same time, Iberpay is already working on the project to extend the number of European entities reachable in this new payment standard, through the SNCE's connection with the new system TIPS, which the Eurosystem will launch in November 2018, as well as through the connection of the SNCE with other European ACHs closest to Iberpay.

Once the basic infrastructure that allows the traffic of instant credit transfers has been put in place, European credit institutions are expected to adopt the new standard gradually. It will require some time for its general use since the entities, eventually, need to invest and undertake further developments to be able to offer their customers added value services so as to benefit from this new payment standard. Among other things, interested entities must first formally apply to participate in the SCT Inst scheme of the EPC and then connect to a "payment system", such as the SNCE.

Spanish banks have consistently encouraged the adoption of the new European standard and several of them have started today, the date it comes into force, using the service as normal, exchanging and settling these transactions with their counterparts in Europe. In the coming weeks, the rest of Spanish entities planning to offer instant credit transfers to their customers will be incorporated into the initiative and to the basic infrastructure provided by the SNCE.

This completes another important milestone for the Spanish payment system and for the construction of an efficient and competitive payment system in Europe that can be used with total guarantee and security by both citizens and companies.

---

<sup>1</sup> Acronym for Single Euro Payments Area

<sup>2</sup> Acronym for Sistema Nacional de Compensación Electrónica

<sup>3</sup> "SCT Inst" payment scheme, according to "Regulation (EU) No 260/2012 establishing technical and business requirements for credit transfers and direct debits in euro and amending Regulation (EC) No 924/2009"

<sup>4</sup> Acronym for the European Payments Council

<sup>5</sup> Capability to send and receive credit transfers to and from other entities in the 34 SEPA countries

You may contact us on: [+34 91 567 2218](tel:+34915672218) or by email at [iberpay@iberpay.es](mailto:iberpay@iberpay.es)