

Making the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) a Reality in Malta

A National Conference to launch SEPA in Malta



Friday, 26th October 2007 | Malta Hilton



Making the Single Euro Payments Area a reality in Malta

A National Conference launching the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) project in Malta is being organised by the Central Bank of Malta, the Malta Bankers' Association, and the Financial Services Economic Group of the Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise.

What is SEPA all about? SEPA will create a single euro payments area. People will be able to make payments in euro all over Europe as easily as if they were making a payment in their home town. Not only will this be more convenient, it will also strengthen the internal market, enhance competition, improve efficiency and contribute to economic prosperity.

Following the introduction of euro notes and coins in 2002, attention has now turned to harmonising the diverse national and cross-border retail payment systems for the euro. Integrating these systems is a natural step towards making the euro a truly single and fully functioning currency.

The SEPA programme is all about harmonising millions of everyday 'retail' payments. This major harmonisation programme is supported by Europe's banks and will deliver new benefits to consumers and businesses who make euro payments. As a result, there will be a number of changes to today's commonly used payments in order to provide SEPA-wide standardised instruments. SEPA will impact credit transfers, direct debits and cards payments.

What are the benefits of SEPA? SEPA is an innovative and ambitious programme. There are many challenges associated with making it a reality. Over time, the benefits of an integrated payments market will be noticeable:

1. More efficiency. Europe will become more efficient thanks to the harmonisation of the payments involved in almost every economic transaction that takes place in society;
2. More opportunities. As barriers fall, there will be more opportunities for innovation and competition; and
3. Support for the euro as a currency. Integrated payment systems will support the development of the euro by promoting greater confidence and deeper economic relations throughout SEPA.

Who should attend? The conference is intended for the business community, operators in the financial services industry, accountants, the public sector and the payments industry.

On what date and where is the conference being held? The conference is being held on Friday 26th October 2007 at the Malta Hilton between 8.00a.m. and 12.30p.m. and registration will commence at 08.00a.m.

Programme

Time	Agenda
08.00 – 08.25	Registration and Welcome Coffee
08.25 – 08.30	Introductory Comments Mr. Shaun Wallis Chairman, Malta Bankers' Association
08.30 – 08.45	Opening Address by the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary Tonio Fenech
08.45 – 09.15	What is the Single Euro Payments Area project all about? Mr. Stewart MacKinnon Secretary General of the European Payments Council
09.15 – 09.45	The Payment Services Directive to underpin SEPA Mr. Norbert Bielefeld Deputy Director, Payments System, European Savings Banks Group
09.45 – 10.15	The SEPA Migration Project in Malta Mr. Jesmond Gatt Manager, Payments System, Central Bank of Malta
10.15 – 10.30	Question and Answer Session
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 11.20	Card offering within SEPA Mr. John Pollacco Head, Card Services, Bank of Valletta plc
11.20 – 11.40	Credit Transfers Offering within SEPA Mr. James Dunbar Cousin Head of Commercial Banking, HSBC Bank Malta plc
11.40 – 12.00	The Business Community perspective on SEPA Mr. Norman Aquilina Senior Vice President of the Malta Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise
12.00 – 12.15	Question and answer Session
12.15 – 12.30	Closure by Mr. David Pullicino Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Malta