

Review of the ERPB functioning

The June 2024 meeting of the ERPB marked the 10th anniversary since its first meeting in May 2024. In this context, members started reflecting on the work accomplished to date and challenges ahead. Following this preliminary exchange, ERPB members were invited to provide feedback to the Secretariat on the review of the ERPB functioning around two questions:

- Looking back at the work of the ERPB over the past 10 years, what worked well/shall be continued?
- Based on experience/upcoming challenges for the ERPB, what should be done differently?

This note presents the main feedback received and possible resulting adjustments.

1. Main feedback received

Looking back, ERPB members identified **3 main strengths** of the ERPB based on the experience so far:

- Its **composition**, allowing a balanced and equal representation of the demand and supply side of the euro retail payments market and enabling the engagement of stakeholders that would otherwise be less represented (noting in particular the case of consumers);
- **Creating the right conditions for parties to collaborate and pursue common goals**. The ERPB enabled a space for dialogue, with a spirit of cooperation facilitating consensus on topics where stakeholders have divergent interests.
- The **tangible results** that the ERPB fostered, with a positive role on the integration and harmonisation of payment services. The work of the ERPB created the conditions to move to concrete initiatives and realities.

Looking forward, ERPB members suggested **possible adjustments relating to**:

- The **ERPB's mission/scope of work**:
A number of members supported recalibrating the role of the ERPB, taking a more bottom-up/strategic approach, articulating a medium to long-term vision of EU strategic objectives, focusing on the 'why' and 'what' rather than the 'how'. In this regard, some noted that ERPB recommendations should facilitate market development and not add to the regulatory over-burden.

In addition, some saw the need to contextualise the work in the broader ecosystem in which payments take place while keeping the focus of the ERPB work on payments (as was done for the work in the case of the ERPB working group on fraud prevention work). In addition, a few members noted that the objectives of the ERPB could be clarified and that it could be used as a sounding board for Eurosystem policies.

- **The organisation of ERPB meetings:**

A number of members supported adopting a more flexible and inclusive approach to setting the agenda before finalisation, some suggesting that pre-calls of technical experts could be organised in this regard. In addition, some would see benefits in having subject matter experts discussing topics before the ERPB meetings, including with sector specific dialogue.

Most members would favour more open and dynamic discussions during the ERPB meetings, also questioning the approach to have a pre-meeting version of the statement circulated to stakeholders in preparation of the discussions. A few suggested a longer consultation on agenda items and reviewing the way the roles of ERPB members/technical experts work.

- **The organisation of ERPB workstreams:**

A number of members called for a more inclusive approach to define the ERPB work programme, possibly with pre-calls of technical experts. Some noted that stakeholder resources should not slow down the work, while others were in favour of more systematic approach to new initiatives with an ex ante analysis of resource demands and expected benefits. Some suggested to set up ad hoc workshops where newly emerging challenges could be discussed more quickly than in a formal group, possibly liaising with the EFIP, while others questioned whether more detailed topics should be addressed to existing multi-stakeholder groups. Some members saw the need to re-confirm the rules of procedures of working groups, noting the case of the fraud prevention working group whose report then was shared with relevant authorities for their feedback on the recommended actions before finalisation. Some would favour more support from the ECB for working groups with a strong consumer focus, helping for instance with the secretariat role. Finally, it was also suggested to clarify the role of guests.

2. Reflection on the feedback received and proposals of adjustments

Overall, the feedback received does not call for major changes to the ERPB functioning but rather some evolutions and adjustments.

Taking into account the feedback received from members, the **following proposals of adjustments** to the ERPB functioning are proposed:

- Consider a high-level strategic discussion once a year¹ with in addition one or more frequent exchanges at 'technical expert' level including possibly dedicated technical workshops on a specific topic as done for e-identity and accessibility;
- Consider increasing the interactions with the EFIP on relevant topics;
- Recall the possibility for members to comment on the meeting agenda envisaged in the ERPB mandate when circulating draft agendas ahead of the meetings;

¹ Should this approach be confirmed, the impact on NCBs' participation on a rotating basis would have to be considered.

- Offer bilateral exchanges of the secretariat with subject matter experts to exchange on the meeting agendas and topics (including the workplan update for which it is recalled that in preparation of the workplan update discussion, ERPB members are invited to provide suggestions for possible items).
- Try the option to work without pre-meeting statement. It is recalled that the pre-meeting statement was aimed to help stakeholder associations' preparation of their position in the discussions to ensure they represent the view of the stakeholder association they represent. To facilitate preparations in the absence of a pre-meeting statement, an annotated agenda detailing the envisaged main aspects of the discussion could be circulated ahead of the meetings;
- Revisit the approach for the meeting statements, focusing them on the strategy and achievements which should also support more open discussions.

The ERPB is invited to discuss and provide feedback on the Secretariat proposal.