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1	SEB	1	1.1 BACKGROUND	General	General Comment	<p>SEB group is deeply engaged in instant payments development in several countries in the European market. On the European market SEB is connected to payments infrastructure in Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Poland. Beyond engagement in several instant payment projects in non-euro countries SEB is also an active founding member of the EBA Clearing Instant Payments project with SEPA in scope. This initiative has since a long time been perceived as a general pan-European market infrastructure solution for instant payments in euro with start in November 2017 at the same time as the EPC SCT Inst rulebook will enter into force. SEB is already connected to EBA Clearing for SCT and SDD services. EBA Clearing is also the major provider of SEPA clearing services to SEB peer banks. The presentation from ECB in January proposing a new infrastructure, TIPS, that beyond settlement should also support payments based on the EPC SCT Inst rulebook, was kind of unexpected.</p> <p>With this background it is hard for SEB to have a clear opinion to give at this stage regarding TIPS, and as well regarding national euro payment infrastructure initiatives also being presented from national central banks and others, as a consolidated euro instant payment processing is aimed for.</p> <p>Regarding user requirements wide reach and interoperability between different instant payment providers are general key features as a base for well-functioning service offerings according to our opinion. As a bank operating in several European, euro as well as non-euro, countries, it would also be interesting to take part of further elaborations on the ambitions for multi-currency functionality.</p> <p>SEB has also actively been involved in preparations of answers to the TIPS requirements consultation to be sent in by European Payments Council, European Banking Federation and national banking associations/ payment organisations where we are members and we give our general support to these responses.</p>