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*Strong Customer Authentication  
and common and secure  
communication under PSD2*

**PSD2 in a nutshell**

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# Summary

On August 12, the EBA has issued the long-awaited draft of the Regulatory Technical Standards (RTS) in the area of Strong Customer Authentication (SCA) and open and secure communication standards, which continues to address the technical issues underlying the PSD2 Directive, implementing the comments and feedback received so far from stakeholders regarding the discussion paper published previously, but also proposing new questions on issues still open.

The most striking innovation introduced by the RTS draft, also in relation to market expectations that the Directive and the consultation paper created, is that in order not to constrain the future technological progress a centrally and shared single standard for the dialogue between the ASPSP, PISP and AIS will **not** be defined.

## Issues to be addressed



Use of certificates



Security measures



Exemptions



Service Level



Data exchange

Each ASPSP will make appropriate communication interfaces available that adopt the ISO 20022 standard (implicitly allowing the use of API!) and are exhaustively documented on its website, consequently PISP and AIS will have to customise their own applications for the interview with the specific ASPSP.

Additional clarifications are undertaken in relation to:

- the necessary requirements for the identification and security of the communication session between ASPSP, PISP and AIS, based on authentication certificates and encrypted messages;
- the safety requirements to be adopted (dynamic link, real-time fraud detection and prevention, etc.), with special focus for card-based payments and used to protect the confidentiality and integrity of customised security credentials;
- the identified exemptions for the adoption of the SCA;
- the need to align the service levels and the completeness of the information available for AIS services to those paid directly by ASPSP to its customers;
- the processing of sensitive customer data.

EU Member States will have to transpose the Directive by January 13th, 2018 and the full implementation of the components related RTS in analysis is not expected before the second half of 2018.

# Focus on open standards and secure communication

The main innovations introduced in the draft, related to the discussion and definition of interfaces between ASPSP, PISP and AISP, can be summarised as follows:

## Talking Interfaces

In the management and definition of interfaces, for which EBA advocates the adoption of the ISO 20022 standard (*see BOX Data Model for the interoperability of systems*), the ASPSP must:

- i. make interfaces available that enable identification, authentication and implementation of the activities for AISP, PISP and for card-based payment services;
- ii. make free comprehensive technical documentation available on their websites, in order to allow the integration with TPP systems;
- iii. make infrastructures and support available to allow the test end to end of the TPP applications;
- iv. advertise any technical modification at least 3 months in advance of the production start.

In this regard, ASPSPs, through the responses to the discussion paper, seem to require a “governing entity” responsible for supervising the design, development and maintenance of an interface standard of communication

## Service levels

Service levels and related support shall be warranted as services directly provided by ASPSP to its customers.

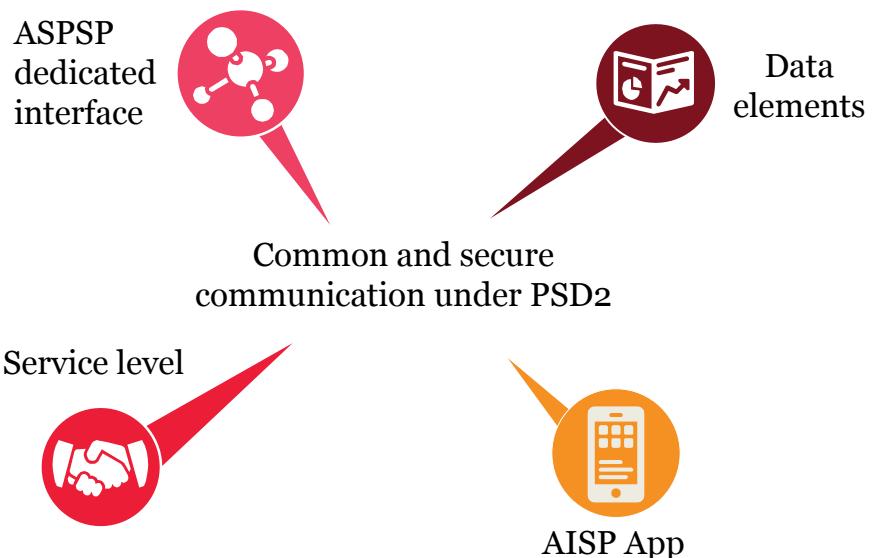
## Information Set

The interfaces for PISP and AISP should ensure the same information available to the services directly provided to the ASPSP customers, with the exception of sensitive payment data to be properly categorised and excluded from the disclosure requirement traded to the TPP.

## AISP Applications

Applications must:

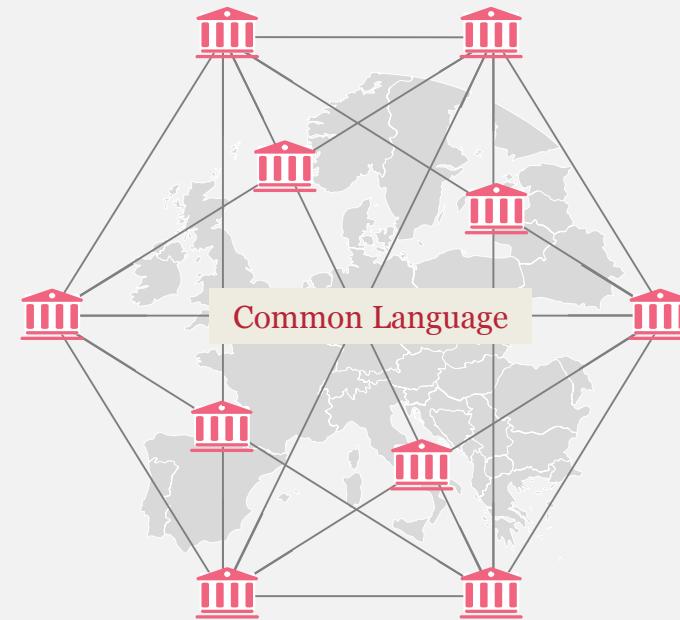
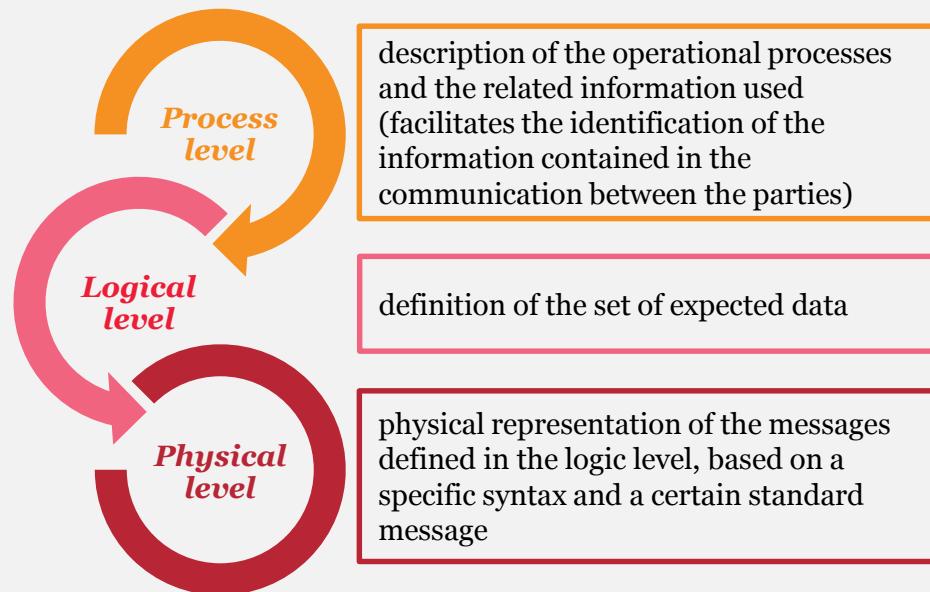
- i. allow users to limit their queries according to the explicitly provided consensus;
- ii. limit information requests not directly placed by the users to a maximum of two per day (*see BOX repetitive authorisation to data access*).



# Model data for interoperability of the systems

EBA encourages, even if not indicating a precise standard to be used, the adoption of communication standards developed by European or International bodies and of ISO 20022 in particular, which contemplates the use of both XML (eXtensible Markup Language) and ASN.1 (Abstract Syntax Notation One) for the definition of data structures at a high level.

This scenario, similar to what was achieved for SEPA systems, leads to the adoption of structured data models for XS2A systems (Access To account) in the PSD2 perimeter structured in three different levels:



ISO 20022 also contemplates the presence of a "dictionary" containing the semantic description of the objects provided by the data model. Currently, about 700 business components and more than 300 "message definitions", are managed by "ISO 20022 Registration Authority (RA)".

This type of diagrams (as for example: MT103 and ISO15022 used in swift, ISO 8583 used for transactions with credit and debit cards, etc.), introducing the possibility to carry out comparisons and find similarities on business concepts described in defined data patterns (although differently structured), allow mutual mapping with other standards used in the financial world.

# Focus on safety requirements and exemptions

Below are the main points of attention highlighted in the draft, in relation to security issues:

## The identification of TPP

EBA aims to strengthen security and confidence of consumers on transactions using the Internet. Thus, it becomes necessary to promote the implementation of measures to identify the players involved (ASPSP, AISP and PISP) which must take place through the use of certificates and e-IDAS. This allows to generate a list of selected payment service providers.

Underlying this idea is the creation of a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) to allow the actors to interact with an adequate level of safety. Prerequisite for the provision to be applied would be the establishment of a certification authority e-IDAS. Given the stringent timing the consultation paper requires stakeholders to propose alternative solutions.



### Use of certificates

- *Electronic ID & Trust Services (eIDAS)*
- *Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)*



### Data exchange

- *ISO27001*
- *Sensitive payment data protection*



### Security measures

- *Dynamic link*
- *Fraud detection and prevention mechanisms*
- *SCA*

## User authentication

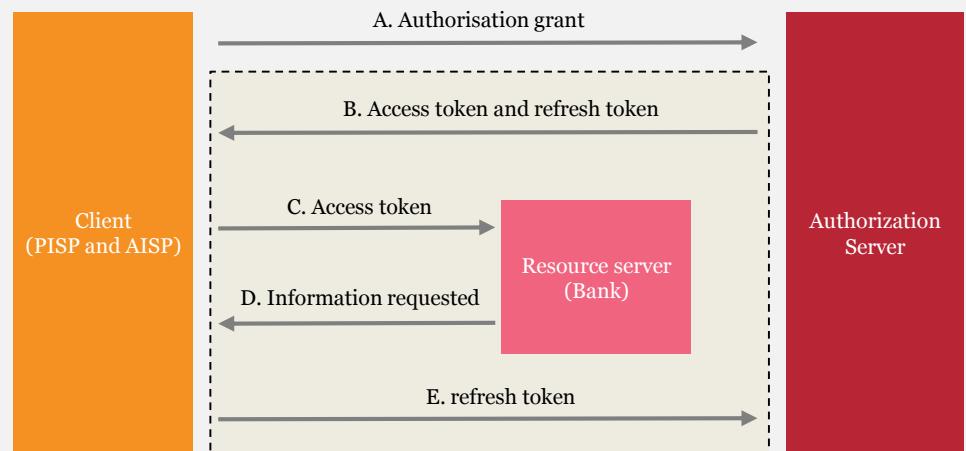
RTS clarifies the obligations and exemptions of the players involved, and, in relation to the theme of strong customer authentication, the Banks will have the burden to define the authentication procedures to be applied when a transaction is initiated through third-party services. In addition as to previously defined, it opens the possibility for the TPP to take charge of the authentication process but only in case of a particular preventive contractual agreement with the Bank. The process must also contemplate the generation of an authentication code which would allow to limit the claims of non-arranged information from users directly to a maximum of two accesses per day (*cf. repetitive Authorisation to access to data BOX*).

## Repetitive authorisation to access to data

One of the main changes introduced by RTS regards the possibility for the user to authorise the AISP to automatically question its own checking account. An AISP can access automatically maximum twice a day and for not more than one month after the last day in which strong customer authentication was carried out.

This requirement suggests the generation of an authentication Token with temporary validity which, once verified by the ASPSP, enables the AISP to access services without further interaction by the user.

A possible way to implement the service, widely used to authorise access to external applications to “protected” contents, might anticipate the use of OAuth 2.0 framework, which involves the use of a token exchanged through TLS channel (RFC 6749) to be associated the correct security principals, providing the encryption of tokens and / or the achievement of the appropriate security certifications (eg PCI-DSS and / or ISO 27001) with regard to the systems in scope.

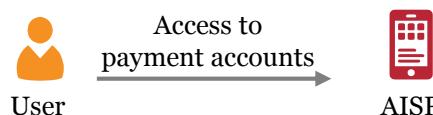


- The client initiates the authorisation process using the credentials previously acquired by the user through the services made available from the ASPSP
- If credentials are valid, the token and (if any) the refresh token are returned
- The client requests access to the service
- If the token is valid, the Bank returns what is requested  
Points C and D can be repeated as long as the token is valid
- The client uses the refresh token obtained in step B to restart the authorisation process. The process starts again from step B

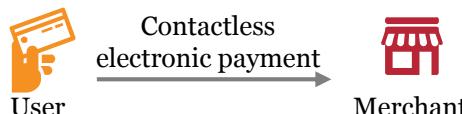
## Exemptions from SCA

RTS details the cases in which the adoption of measures of strong customer authentication is not required<sup>1</sup>. In particular, the adoption of such measures is at the discretion of the institution in the event of:

- Consultation access to the information of the user account. First access authentication is still contemplated and will have a validity of one month maximum. For longer validity re-authentication of the client will be needed;



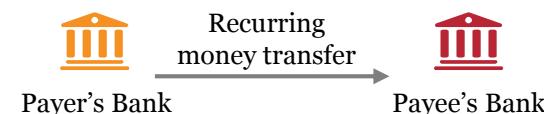
- Payments with contactless cards at retail stores with individual purchase amounts not exceeding 50 € and with a maximum cumulative value of 150 €;



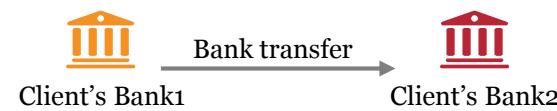
- Transactions to beneficiaries included in a whitelist created with the Bank in which the bank account is rooted. The application of strong authentication measures is required in the process of the creation of the beneficiaries list and for any subsequent modification by the user;



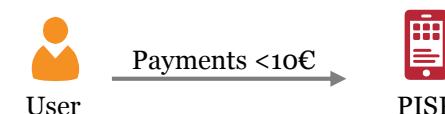
- Continuous transfers of the same amount and to the same beneficiary, excluding the first launch of the series of wire transfers and in case of a change of the amount and / or beneficiary;



- Transfers made on current accounts of the same bank or at two different banks, made payable to the same person or entity;



- Payment via remote channel with a maximum amount of 10 €, and the cumulative value of 100 €.



The implementing provisions, once in force, will replace the "Guidelines for the security of payments via Internet" issued by the EBA December 19, 2014 and adopted the 16th update of Circular no. 285 of 17 May 2016, strengthening their effectiveness.

<sup>1</sup> The possibility that the above-mentioned exemptions are mandatory for the ASPSP and not only applicable, in order to promote a more homogeneous application of them in the market, are being studied.

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