

21.02.2007 D/000450

**Subject: Call for participants for SEPA conference on 8 May 2007  
concerning SEPA implementation in public sector**

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

You are all aware of SEPA, the European initiative to create a Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA). This market-driven initiative is in line with the Member States commitment under the eGovernment agenda<sup>1</sup> and is designed to support the Lisbon agenda, stimulate economic growth, and encourage business activity across the Single Market.

In promoting SEPA, the European Finance Ministers (ECOFIN), the European Commission and the Eurosystem, together with industry, have stressed the importance of the early engagement by all relevant stakeholders, in particular the public sector. The SEPA initiative has a similar level of complexity as the introduction of the euro notes and coins in 2002 and will require a high level of public sector commitment.

I am writing to you to ask for your support in engaging the public sector and making SEPA a success. Since SEPA will happen in the period 2008-2010 and beyond, now is the time for the public sector and its bodies and agencies – especially those in the euro area – to make concrete preparations.

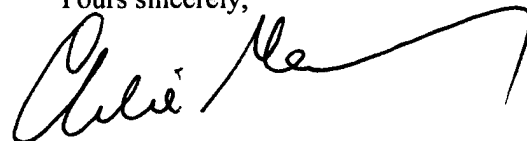
To focus these efforts, the European Commission will organise in close co-operation with the European Central Bank and the European Payments Council a conference for public administrations on SEPA on 8 May 2007 in Brussels. I am honoured that Mrs. Tumpel-Gugerell, Member of the Executive Board of the ECB will participate in this discussion. It would be a great pleasure for me to welcome participants from public administrations and financial service providers from all Member States.

Public sector involvement will be vital to bring critical mass to the new SEPA payment instruments and deliver the promised efficiency and cost gains. Given the large number of payments generated by and towards the public sector, early adoption can make a significant contribution towards building economies of scale and meeting the eGovernment agenda.

There is also an economic side to this, public administrations will benefit considerably from the use of the new SEPA services. A cost-benefit study by an independent research group on behalf of the Commission is currently estimating the efficiency gains from automation of tax, pension, health and procurement processes in public administrations.

I look forward to our discussion at the conference and I would be grateful if you could submit a proposal of participants to [markt-sepa-conference@ec.europa.eu](mailto:markt-sepa-conference@ec.europa.eu).

Yours sincerely,



Charlie McCreevy

Encl.: ECOFIN Resolution on SEPA (October 2006)

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<sup>1</sup> The eGovernment initiative is set in the context of i2010 initiative of the European Commission and the relevant e-procurement legal framework. See also the Declaration of the Ministerial eGovernment Conference from November 2005 in Manchester.