



E-COMMERCE AND ONLINE PAYMENTS INDUSTRIES URGE EU POLICY-MAKERS TO ALLOW FOR INNOVATION IN DIGITAL PAYMENT SECURITY

BRUSSELS [13th March 2015]: The European Digital Media Association (EDiMA), Ecommerce Europe, the European Payments Institutions Federation (EPIF), The Computer And Communications Industry Association (CCIA) and the Electronic Money Association (EMA) have joined forces to call on European policy-makers to rethink their approach to digital payment security in the revised Payments Services Directive (PSD2).

If adopted in its current form, the PSD2 – currently under negotiation between the Council of the EU and the European Parliament – would stifle innovation in the area of remote authentication mechanisms for digital payments. It would oblige EU payments providers to deploy a historical form of authentication known as “two factor authentication”¹, described in the latest draft of PSD2 as the “strong authentication” method.

More advanced and equally secure methods of payment authentication, based on modern technologies, are already available. These methods can guarantee a high level of security of digital payment transactions without causing friction to the customer experience when shopping online. These methods are not reflected in the definition of strong customer authentication in the current draft PSD2.

“Security of customers when they pay online is a number one priority for e-commerce and payment service providers in Europe” said Zuzana Púčiková, chair of the EDiMA Payments Working Group, “but it is equally important to ensure that customers can pay easily and conveniently, otherwise they simply won’t shop online. This would harm the customer choice as well as Europe’s economy and competitiveness at large.”

“The definition of strong customer authentication fails to acknowledge the emergence of a host of remote authentication mechanisms that are used by innovative financial service providers to deliver increased levels of integrity and authenticity protection to electronic transactions with reduced impact to the customer experience. The one size fits all approach that the PSD2 currently mandates would put the brakes on digital payment innovation, leaving Europeans with an obsolete security system while the rest of the world moves forward.” said Thaeer Sabri, CEO of the Electronic Money Association.

Paul Alfing, chair of the Payments Committee at Ecommerce Europe, added: *“for online business, trust is crucial. But, a monolithic and uniform authentication system - as the PSD2 proposal suggests - leaves EU consumers more vulnerable. If hackers only have a single system to work their way around, once they break into the systems there will be a domino effect impacting all the EU payment service providers at once with huge negative consequences for trust”.*

¹ *“Two factor authentication” is a process in which the user provides two means of identification, one of which is typically a physical token (e.g. a card) and the other is something memorized (e.g. a password). Therefore, the definition of two-factor authentication is the use of two authentication elements categorized as knowledge, possession and inherence (i.e. something you know, something you have and something you are).*



Sarah Sheehan, Chair of EPIF, stated that: *“To ensure regulations supports innovation, EU policy makers should allow the industry to look at new technologies in payment authentication and use them by demonstrating to their home regulators that these new authentication methods will keep consumers adequately protected. At the moment, the PSD2 text does not allow them that flexibility”.*

James Waterworth, Vice-President, Europe for CCIA, concluded: *“Just as the Commission asserts that payments are the oil in the wheels in the internal market, innovation in the online payments space oils the wheels of the digital single market. Without new ideas that make payments faster, more seamless and more secure we risk those wheels grinding to a halt”.*

ENDS

Notes to editors

CCIA is a nonprofit membership organization for a wide range of companies in the computer, Internet, information technology, and telecommunications industries, represented by their senior executives. Created over four decades ago, CCIA promotes open markets, open systems, open networks, and full, fair, and open competition.

Ecommerce Europe is the association representing 25,000+ companies selling products and/or services online to consumers in Europe. Founded by leading national e-commerce associations, its mission is to advance the interests and influence of e-commerce in Europe through advocacy, communication and networking.

EDiMA is the European trade association representing online platforms. It is an alliance of new media and internet companies whose members include Allegro, Amazon EU, Apple, eBay, Expedia, Facebook, Google, LinkedIn, Microsoft, Nokia, Netflix, Twitter, Linked-In and Yahoo! Europe.

The Electronic Money Association (EMA) is the trade body for electronic money issuers and innovative payment service providers including payment institutions, banks and payment schemes. We provide members with a forum to share issues that impact new means of payment, and provide a means for pursuing these to resolution.

EPIF is the European trade association representing the interests of more than 200 authorized Payment Institutions at the European level. EPIF brings together European and international companies covering a wide range of business models regulated by the Payment Services Directive (PSD). EPIF has further positions on the PSD2 and other topics which can be found on its website www.paymentinstitutions.eu.