

Press release

Leading EU-headquartered digital payments specialists launch new EU trade body: The European Digital Payments Industry Alliance - EDPIA

Brussels, 7 May 2020 – Today, Ingenico Group, Nets, Nexi, and Worldline are announcing the launch of an EU advocacy alliance bringing together Europe’s leading independent payment services providers. The “European Digital Payments Industry Alliance” (EDPIA)’s vision is for Europe to become a global leader in digital payments, which can fuel the completion of the Digital Single Market for the benefit of consumers, businesses and the public sector. It will do so by engaging in EU policy discussions impacting the EU payments sector, and by helping bring instant, secure and frictionless payments closer to EU citizens, businesses, and public bodies.

The EDPIA believes in a strong and properly enforced European policy framework that enables intense competition between transparent and market-based solutions that compete for trust of payment services users.

Gilles Grapinet, Chairman and CEO of Worldline, and the first President of the EDPIA, outlines: *“I am very excited about this major initiative. The EDPIA will give a voice to the incredible technology and engineering behind Europe’s payments industry. Europe has a wealth of world-class payments firms which have become strongholds of Europe’s fintech environment. We want to help demystifying our industry and offer European society a better understanding of what is behind the payments terminals and online payments engines it uses daily. The proven reliability and flawless availability of payments infrastructure during the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis is a good reminder of the critical importance for our society of the European digital payment industry. By launching the EDPIA, we intend to emphasise our role through constructive dialogue with policy makers and other stakeholders that determine Europe’s payments landscape.”*

Whilst the EDPIA joins an already busy landscape of EU payments trade bodies, the EDPIA is the only trade body that represents specialised digital payment services providers that are all headquartered in Europe and do not engage directly in banking services. Bo Nilsson, CEO of Nets Group and Vice-President of the EDPIA: *“As payments specialists we offer a European perspective, and valuable insights into the payments ecosystem. Alongside our work with banking communities and other financial institutions we want to empower retailers to fully embrace secure and efficient digital payments solutions. Together, we can enable businesses to reap the benefits of digitization providing further growth across industries in Europe.”*

To support a rules-based competitive single market in which innovation thrives, the EDPIA believes the payments sector needs a better ecosystem. As Paolo Bertoluzzo, CEO of Nexi and Vice-President of the EDPIA explains: *“The development of digital payments is a fundamental driver for innovation, modernisation and growth in Europe, with a strong positive social, economic and environmental impact. This development is key to enable modern, effective and secure omnichannel commerce for all merchants - including small ones - who represent a strategic sector for the European economy. The EDPIA will work with all key stakeholders and policy makers to build a world-class payments ecosystem, boosting digitalization in Europe for the benefit of all European citizens, enterprises and public administrations. This ecosystem certainly includes banks, who are and will remain essential.”*

To stimulate an innovative payments ecosystem, the EDPIA believes the EU should build on the EU’s SEPA project, which will allow new technologies like account-to-account payments to thrive, including on a cross-border basis. Though card payments will remain important in the future, these new technologies bring welcome diversity.

The EDPIA is looking forward to inviting relevant stakeholders to a physical launch event in Brussels once the COVID-19 crisis is over. Nicolas Huss, CEO of Ingenico Group and Vice-President of the EDPIA: *“We are launching our alliance in a period that is unprecedented in modern history. As this health crisis unfolds, cashless and contactless payments are developing stronger than ever as they foster safety for customers and merchants. As we make our way out of this crisis, payments will be crucial to Europe’s recovery. Through EDPIA, Europe’s key industry players are committing to make sure digital payments become a building block for a better, stronger European project.”*

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About: The European Digital Payments Industry Alliance (EDPIA, edpia.eu) represents the interests of independent Payment Services Providers headquartered in Europe. Its purpose is to contribute to EU policy debates that define the business environment for electronic payments, and to strengthen the visibility and understanding of the European payments industry amongst policy makers and society as a whole. Its founding members are:

ingenico
GROUP

Headquarters: Paris, France
Founded in: 1980
Staff: 8,500 (approx.)
Active in: 170 countries

nets

Headquarters: Ballerup, Denmark
Founded in: 1968
Staff: 4,100 (approx.)
Active in: 20 countries

nexi

Headquarters: Milan, Italy
Founded in: 2017
Staff: 3,000 (approx.)
Active in: Italy

Worldline

Headquarters: Bezons, France
Founded in: 1970
Staff: 12,000 (approx.)
Active in: 30+ countries