

Payments within Europe

It should be simple to send payments within Europe. Just as simple as in your own country. Collaboration between the EU and the banks in Europe has made this possible. Both you and your company can now send and receive euro payments in a simpler way.

Advantages for your company

- Lower processing costs – your company can process its payments via a single euro account.
- Lower prices – in the future it is expected that the prices for euro payments will decrease because of increased competition.
- More efficient liquidity management – cash flows and liquidity planning can be improved by automating the company's payment functions.

Payments within Europe

The aim of the collaboration between the EU and the European banks is to create a single payment market for the euro. It should be just as simple to send money between countries as it is within your own country. You and your company can now send invoices and receive euro payments in a simpler way. You can also have direct debits in euro.

Payments in euro

When making euro payments within Europe (SEPA Credit Transfer) it is possible to include your own reference information. This reference information can be a useful addition to reporting used for reconciliation. It becomes even easier to keep track of a payment.

By fulfilling a number of criteria, a payment will be automatically classified as a euro payment within Europe (SEPA Credit Transfer). Such criteria include the requirement for the payer to include both the beneficiary's account number in the IBAN¹-standard and the BIC².

¹ International Bank Account Number. An international standard for account numbers. Used primarily in Europe.

² Bank Identifier Code. Unique bank code to identify a bank.

Euro direct debit

- Beneficiary – To be able to obtain payment via direct debit in euro (SEPA Direct Debit), i.e. to be able to debit your customer's account, it is necessary for you and your customer to complete a payment mandate. The appearance of the mandate varies dependent on whether your customer is an individual or a company. This service can be used if you have an account in Germany. The bank that your customer uses must participate in the collaboration between the EU and the European banks (SEPA).
- Payer – When you want to use direct debit in euro (SEPA Direct Debit) to pay bills or invoices in euro you must first sign a mandate. This is necessary so that the company who will receive payment has the right to debit money from your account. This service can be used if you have an account in Germany, France, the Netherlands or Finland.

More information

If you would like to know more about payments in Europe, please contact your local Handelsbanken branch. You can also visit www.handelsbanken.com/sepa.

What is SEPA?

SEPA – Single Euro Payment Area – is the result of collaboration between the EU Commission, the European Central Bank and the European banks. The collaboration is led by the EPC – European Payments Council.

SEPA encompasses all 27 EU member states, EEA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway plus Monaco and Switzerland. During 2008 all banks in the SEPA area adapted their services for euro payments to a common standard.