

Liquidity provision measures for instant payments outside TARGET2 opening hours

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Background

- Inquiry by an AMI-Pay member about solutions allowing payment service providers to raise additional liquidity for instant payments outside TARGET2 opening hours in the event of unforeseen circumstances or a failure of pre-funding procedures
- Question whether a common approach across Europe could be put in place, and what this common approach could be

Issue at stake

- Instant payments infrastructures (both TIPS and ACHs) require full prefunding
- PSPs can only increase their balances in instant payments infrastructures during TARGET2 opening hours
- Insufficient prefunding would result in the inability to initiate SCT Inst transactions
- This leads to a reputational risk which increases as user expectations move towards instant as the new normal
- To prevent this, PSPs may wish to have a solution allowing them to increase their liquidity outside TARGET2 opening hours in emergency situations
- The higher the volumes and values of SCT Inst transactions, the more relevant this issue becomes

For discussion

- Extent to which the issue may materialise:
 - In the short term
 - In the medium to long term
- Potential for PSPs to prevent liquidity shortages, including by using liquidity available in TIPS in case of insufficient liquidity at an ACH
 - Potentially mandating the ACH as an instructing party to forward any SCT Inst transactions that cannot be processed within the ACH's own system to TIPS
- Possible directions for a harmonised Eurosystem approach:
 - Is there a need for a procedure to increase liquidity in **emergency situations**?
 - Is there a more general need to be able to move liquidity into and out of instant payment systems outside current TARGET2 opening hours?

Annex – overview of TIPS business day

