



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 28th September 2026

ECPA ELECTS NEW BOARD, REINFORCING ITS COMMITMENT TO DIGITAL PAYMENT SOVEREIGNTY IN EUROPE

HUGO ARAÚJO ELECTED AS NEW CHAIRMAN

The European Card Payment Association (ECPA) has elected Hugo Araújo, representing SIBS MB, as its new Chairman, and Philippe Kempeners, representing Bancontact Company, as its new Vice-Chairman, following a unanimous vote by the Association's members.

As Chairman, Hugo Araújo will lead an association representing 8 European payment schemes, with a combined user base of more than 100 million citizens. Collectively, these schemes process over 40 billion transactions annually, playing a critical role in the development, innovation, and integration of digital payments across Europe.

Drawing on his extensive experience in the payments industry, Araújo is committed to strengthening ECPA's position as a leading voice in advancing European payment sovereignty.

The Association serves as a platform for dialogue among industry stakeholders, policymakers, legislators, and regulators, supporting the development of an integrated, competitive, resilient, and innovative European payments ecosystem. ECPA also plays a key role in promoting interoperability among European Card Schemes (ECSs), coordinating industry initiatives, supporting common standards such as CPACE which is to be used by the European Central Bank in the development of the Digital Euro, and fostering technical collaboration across the European payments landscape.

ECPA's mission is to promote a regulatory and market environment that enables European payment solutions to thrive, fostering competition, innovation, interoperability, and strategic autonomy in an increasingly digital economy. At a time when Europe is seeking to strengthen its economic resilience and technological leadership, ECPA advocates for policies that ensure a level playing field and enable European payment schemes to continue investing and innovating for the benefit of consumers, merchants, businesses, and public institutions.



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 28th September 2026

"At this critical moment for the European payments landscape, ECPA is focused on helping shape a regulatory environment that promotes innovation while strengthening the resilience, competitiveness, and interoperability of European payment solutions," said Hugo Araújo, Chairman of ECPA. "Europe has a unique opportunity to reinforce its leadership in digital payments by building on top of the strengths of the leading European card schemes. Our objective is to ensure that European citizens and businesses continue to benefit from secure, efficient, innovative, and sovereign payment solutions developed in Europe, for Europe."

ECPA will continue to engage constructively with European institutions and industry stakeholders, contributing its expertise to policy discussions and supporting the development of a coherent framework for digital payments across Europe. The Association will remain committed to promoting interoperability between European schemes, fostering innovation, and advancing solutions that strengthen Europe's digital and economic sovereignty.

"ECPA is committed to being a constructive and trusted partner in shaping the future of payments in Europe," added Araújo. "By bringing together the leading European card schemes, we can help build a more resilient, competitive, and sovereign payments landscape that supports European strategic interests while delivering tangible benefits to consumers, merchants, and businesses across the continent."

The complete elected new board can be found [here](#)

ENDS

Press contact

David Stephenson, ECPA General Secretary

general-secretary@europeancardpaymentassociation.eu

About ECPA (European Card Payment Association)

Founded in June 2014 as a non-profit international association, ECPA represents European payment schemes and organisations managing essential functions in the payment landscape mainly within the European Economic Area (EEA).

www.europeancardpaymentassociation.com