

## EPI launches Wero, its European digital payment wallet in France

*French customers will be able to send and receive money through instant account-to-account payments in less than 10 seconds, through their banking app and the Wero app.*

**Brussels, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024** - [European Payments Initiative \(EPI\)](#), a European player committed to offering a sovereign payment alternative to all consumers in the region, today announced the launch of Wero. The European instant account-to-account payment solution will be available to French customers of BNP Paribas, Groupe BPCE, Crédit Agricole, Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale, Crédit Mutuel Arkéa, La Banque Postale and Société Générale, as well as many of their subsidiaries. While most banks will initially offer Wero via their applications, La Banque Postale customers will be able to make payments using the Wero application, developed by EPI. It will be available in all smartphone application shops from the second half of October 2024. The first Wero brand campaign will be launched in France on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

The deployment calendar is as follows:

Banking groups members of EPI	Wero deployment date
BNP Paribas	Starting October 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Groupe BPCE	From September 2 <sup>nd</sup> to October 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2024
Crédit Agricole	September 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 <sup>1</sup>
Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale	From September 25 <sup>th</sup> to November 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Crédit Mutuel Arkéa	January 2025
La Banque Postale	October 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Société Générale	Starting October 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 <sup>2</sup>

The launch of the person-to-person (P2P) service will enable users with a French bank account to send and receive money simply and instantly, using just a telephone number or email address. Wero will take over from Paylib, whose 35 million registered users will be offered a simple switch to the European payment service before Paylib is discontinued in early 2025. The plan is to integrate new functionalities<sup>3</sup> later, such as the “Money Request” function and the generation of individual QR codes so that users do not have to give their phone number when making a person-to-person payment.

Following the start of the solution in Germany in July 2024, users from both countries will now be able to make cross-border payments between the already rolled-out participating banks and their customers. In Belgium, all member banks will have deployed the solution by the end of the year<sup>4</sup>. Luxemburg and the Netherlands will follow in a subsequent step.

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<sup>1</sup> Except for LCL.

<sup>2</sup> For the bank SG.

<sup>3</sup> Some banks, such as SG (Groupe Société Générale), will be integrating these two functions from the initial roll-out.

<sup>4</sup> KBC-CBC and Belfius have already made the Wero service available to their customers.



The promise of the Wero service is simple: to offer a single, secure mobile payment wallet that will eventually encompass all the payment functionalities required by a user in Europe. Thanks to its integration with member banks, consumers can use Wero via their usual banking application or the standalone application developed by EPI. Wero will give users a complete overview of their spending in real-time, enabling them to centralize all their payments simply and securely.

Beyond the P2P use case, EPI's ambition with Wero is to integrate new functionalities from 2025, as it is rolled out to merchants. This will include payment at small retailers using the Wero wallet, before online payment on merchant sites and recurring payments management (such as subscriptions). Point-of-sale payments at major retailers are also included in the wallet's development plans, with tests scheduled for 2026. Other value-added services, such as Buy Now-Pay Later (staggered payments), the integration of merchant loyalty programs, and shared spending, are also in the pipeline.

In 3 to 4 years, Wero will be a single European payment wallet offering everyone the opportunity to take greater control of their finances, simply and securely, while respecting their needs on data confidentiality and compliance with European regulations.

*"We're delighted to announce the launch of Wero in France. We aim to simplify life and payments. Wero is unique. It's a cutting-edge, sovereign solution, designed by and for Europeans, that enables all types of payment to be featured in one single payment solution, starting with person-to-person payments, while incorporating the promise of immediacy and banking security. We have arrived at the right moment in the era of digital payments, offering the solution that Europeans expect for their payments."*, says **Martina Weimert, CEO of EPI.**

*"Wero meets the strategic challenge of creating a European payment platform in a highly competitive global environment. It will offer customers more value and simplicity for their day-to-day payments in*

France and partner countries. Already launched in Germany and now in France, we are delighted that Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands will soon be joining us, and we look forward to welcoming any other countries wishing to take part in this European initiative.” adds **Thierry Laborde, Delegate General Manager of BNP Paribas.**

“With Wero, Groupe BPCE is now offering all Banque Populaire and Caisse d'Epargne customers a new instant account-to-account payment solution that perfectly meets new expectations. Last December, Groupe BPCE was a pioneer when it successfully carried out the first cross-border instant payment transactions. On this occasion, we've been able to showcase our expertise in payments and, with the European banks grouped within EPI, our determination to transform the European payments landscape by developing sovereign solutions.”, says **Yves Tyrode, General Manager Digital & Payments of Groupe BPCE.**

“With European sovereignty at stake, Wero enables us to provide our customers with a simple, secure, and easy-to-use solution. Wero will offer users complete coverage of new payment uses. With Paylib, we paved the way for the use of Instant Payment, and with Wero we're going to take it to the next level.”, comments **Philippe Marquetty, General Manager of Crédit Agricole Payment Services.**

“The launch of Wero in France represents a key step towards strengthening European sovereignty in the financial sector. This initiative not only strengthens consumer confidence by offering standardized and secure payment solutions but also contributes to the growth of the European economy by facilitating faster and more reliable transactions, while promoting innovation and competitiveness on our continent.”, adds **Eric Petitgand, General Manager, Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale.**

“The launch of Wero marks a decisive step for the European payments ecosystem. As a player committed to innovation, Crédit Mutuel Arkéa fully supports this initiative, which embodies the ambition to offer a sovereign and secure instant payment solution. Wero is part of our vision of an inclusive digital future at the forefront of technological developments. It reflects not only our ability to meet the changing needs of our customers but also our role as a forerunner in banking innovation.”, says **Laurent Jurrius, Pôle Innovation et Opérations, Comex Groupe Crédit Mutuel Arkéa.**

“I'm delighted that Wero is coming to France, as a true payment hub, bringing a universal approach to Europe, opening the door to Peer 2 Peer, digital commerce, and local commerce. This universality of payment across every use case experienced by our customers will be facilitated by its simple and intuitive application, guaranteeing a fluid, unique, and consistent user experience. For several years, La Banque Postale has been pursuing a proactive policy to support the digitization of payments, aiming to develop useful, inclusive innovations, committed to our customers' purchasing power. The democratization of free Instant Payment from 2022 and our pioneering role in the Paylib and EPI projects reflect LBP's strategic interest in the development of payments.”, comments **Zakaria Moursli, Delegate General Manager at La Banque Postale, in charge of operational performance, payments and digital.**

“The Societe Generale Group is proud to be part of this fantastic collective initiative, which will provide our customers with a new European, instant and innovative payment solution. We are convinced that the banks' long-standing expertise in security, customer protection and transformation support are essential assets to ensure Wero's success.”, adds **Philippe Aymerich, Delegate General Manager, Groupe Société Générale.**

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## About EPI



*[EPI \(European Payments Initiative\)](#) was created and is supported by 16 European banks and payment service providers. They joined forces with a common goal: to offer a unified digital payment service to all European businesses and citizens, [Wero](#). The EPI aims to enable European consumers and merchants to make next-generation payments for all use cases in retail transactions via a digital wallet. Based on instant account-to-account payments, Wero will, in the future, streamline payments in Europe by eliminating intermediaries in the payment chain and the associated costs. Initially, Wero will support P2P payments. This first launch phase will be followed by P2Pro payments and e-commerce transactions features deployment. Later, Wero will feature functionalities like point-of-sale payments and value-added services such as merchant loyalty programs.*

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## **About BNP Paribas**

BNP Paribas is the European Union's leading bank and key player in international banking. It operates in 63 countries and has nearly 183,000 employees, including more than 145,000 in Europe. The Group has key positions in its three main fields of activity: Commercial, Personal Banking & Services for the Group's commercial & personal banking and several specialised businesses including BNP Paribas Personal Finance and Arval; Investment & Protection Services for savings, investment and protection solutions; and Corporate & Institutional Banking, focused on corporate and institutional clients. Based on its strong diversified and integrated model, the Group helps all its clients (individuals, community associations, entrepreneurs, SMEs, corporates and institutional clients) to realise their projects through solutions spanning financing, investment, savings and protection insurance. In Europe, BNP Paribas has four domestic markets: Belgium, France, Italy and Luxembourg. The Group is rolling out its integrated commercial & personal banking model across several Mediterranean countries, Turkey, and Eastern Europe. As a key player in international banking, the Group has leading platforms and business lines in Europe, a strong presence in the Americas as well as a solid and fast-growing business in Asia-Pacific. BNP Paribas has implemented a Corporate Social Responsibility approach in all its activities, enabling it to contribute to the construction of a sustainable future, while ensuring the Group's performance and stability.

## **About BPCE**

Groupe BPCE is the second largest banking group in France. With 100,000 employees, it serves 35 million customers worldwide, including individuals, professionals, businesses, investors and local authorities. It is present in retail banking and insurance in France through its two major networks, Banque Populaire and Caisse d'Epargne, as well as Banque Palatine and Oney. It also operates worldwide in asset and wealth management through Natixis Investment Managers, and in corporate banking through Natixis Corporate & Investment Banking. The Group's financial strength is recognised by four rating agencies, with the following senior preferred LT ratings: Moody's (A1, stable outlook), Standard & Poor's (A+, stable outlook), Fitch (A+, stable outlook) and R&I (A+, stable outlook).

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## **About Crédit Agricole**

The Crédit Agricole Group is the leading partner of the French economy and one of the largest banking groups in Europe. It is the leading retail bank in Europe as well as the first European asset manager, the first bancassurer in Europe and the third European player in project finance. Built on its strong cooperative and mutual roots, its 154,000 employees and the 27,000 directors of its Local and Regional Banks, the Crédit Agricole Group is a responsible and responsive bank serving 54 million customers, 11,8 million mutual shareholders and 800,000 individual shareholders. Thanks to its universal customer-focused retail banking model – based on the cooperation between its retail banks and their related business lines –, the Crédit Agricole Group supports its customers' projects in France and around the world: day-to-day banking, home loans, consumer finance, savings, insurances, asset management, real estate, leasing and factoring, and corporate and investment banking. Crédit Agricole also stands out for its dynamic, innovative corporate social responsibility policy, for the benefit of the economy. This policy is based on a pragmatic approach which permeates across the Group and engages each employee.

## **About Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale**

Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale is a leading bank in France, with 77,000 employees serving nearly 31 million customers. It offers a full range of services to individuals, local professionals and businesses of all sizes, through nearly 4,300 sales outlets.

Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale, the first bank to adopt the status of a company with a mission, groups together the Crédit Mutuel branches of the Centre Est Europe (Strasbourg), Sud-Est (Lyon), Ile-de-France (Paris) and Savoie-Mont Blanc (Annecy) federations, Midi-Atlantique (Toulouse), Loire-Atlantique and Centre Ouest (Nantes), Centre (Orléans), Normandie (Caen), Dauphiné-Vivarais (Valence), Méditerranéen (Marseille), Anjou (Angers), Massif Central (Clermont-Ferrand), Antilles-Guyane (Fort-de-France) and Nord Europe (Lille).

Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale also includes Caisse Fédérale de Crédit Mutuel, Banque Fédérative du Crédit Mutuel (BFCM) and all its subsidiaries, notably CIC, Euro-Information, Assurances du Crédit Mutuel (ACM), TARGOBANK in Germany, Cofidis, Beobank in Belgium, Banque Européenne du Crédit Mutuel (BECM), Banque Transatlantique, Banque de Luxembourg and Homiris.

More information on [creditmutuelalliancefederale.fr](https://creditmutuelalliancefederale.fr)

## **About Crédit Mutuel Arkéa**

The Crédit Mutuel Arkéa cooperative group is made up of the Crédit Mutuel de Bretagne and Sud-Ouest federations and their member local banks, as well as some forty specialised subsidiaries (Fortuneo, Monext, Arkéa Banque Entreprises et Institutionnels, Arkéa Investment Services, Suravenir, etc.). Crédit Mutuel Arkéa has over 11,400 employees, 2,600 directors and a total of more than 5.1 million members and customers. The bank holds €191.6 billion in total assets.

The first banking group to adopt a "Raison d'être" (corporate purpose) in 2019, Crédit Mutuel Arkéa became an "Entreprise à mission" (mission-driven company) in 2022 and is committed, through its strategic plan "Transitions 2024", to providing finance that serves the regions and their stakeholders in order to position itself as the agile and innovative financial partner for the coming transitions.

With a nationwide presence, Crédit Mutuel Arkéa has chosen to keep its decision-making centres in the regions. It is a major player in job creation in its regions and relies on a continuous recruitment drive. The Group is convinced that local development can only be achieved by combining financial and

non-financial aspects. This is why Crédit Mutuel Arkéa is the first French bank to have developed a unique method for calculating overall performance. This enables it to take into account all the financial, social, societal and environmental impacts of its activities and those of its stakeholders.

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### **About La Banque Postale**

Together with its subsidiaries, including CNP Assurances, La Banque Postale forms a major international bancassurance group, ranking 11th in the region in terms of balance sheet size. Its diversified business model enables it to serve 20 million individual, business, institutional and local public sector customers in France. A subsidiary of the La Poste group, La Banque Postale is a local bank, present throughout the country with 17,700 points of contact, including almost 7,000 post offices.

With its strategic plan 'La Banque Postale 2030', it has set itself the ambition of becoming the preferred bank of the French and the leader in impact finance, with a comprehensive and omnichannel range of bancassurance services, built around its two brands: La Banque Postale, its day-to-day bank and Louvre Banque Privée, its wealth bank.

La Banque Postale is stepping up its diversification strategy and developing its areas of expertise, particularly in asset management, insurance, consumer credit and corporate and local development banking.

As a strong corporate citizen, La Banque Postale is working towards a just transition by integrating environmental and social impact objectives into the heart of its governance. A company with a mission since March 2022, La Banque Postale aims to achieve zero net emissions by 2040. It is one of the leading non-financial rating agencies.

### **About Société Générale**

Societe Generale is a top tier European Bank with more than 126,000 employees serving about 25 million clients in 65 countries across the world. We have been supporting the development of our economies for 160 years, providing our corporate, institutional, and individual clients with a wide array of value-added advisory and financial solutions. Our long-lasting and trusted relationships with the clients, our cutting-edge expertise, our unique innovation, our ESG capabilities and leading franchises are part of our DNA and serve our most essential objective - to deliver sustainable value creation for all our stakeholders.

The Group runs three complementary sets of businesses, embedding ESG offerings for all its clients:

- **French Retail, Private Banking and Insurance**, with leading retail bank SG and insurance franchise, premium private banking services, and the leading digital bank BoursoBank.
- **Global Banking and Investor Solutions**, a top tier wholesale bank offering tailored-made solutions with distinctive global leadership in equity derivatives, structured finance and ESG.
- **Mobility, International Retail Banking and Financial Services**, comprising well-established universal banks (in Czech Republic, Romania and several African countries), Ayvens (the new ALD I LeasePlan brand), a global player in sustainable mobility, as well as specialized financing activities.

Committed to building together with its clients a better and sustainable future, Societe Generale aims to be a leading partner in the environmental transition and sustainability overall. The Group is included in the principal socially responsible investment indices: DJSI (Europe), FTSE4Good (Global and Europe), Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index, Refinitiv Diversity and Inclusion Index, Euronext Vigeo (Europe and Eurozone), STOXX Global ESG Leaders indexes, and the MSCI Low Carbon Leaders Index (World and Europe).

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