

22 September 2025

Mandate of the digital euro scheme Rulebook Development Group

1. Mission and Objective

The digital euro scheme Rulebook Development Group (“digital euro RDG”) was established by the Digital Euro HLTF at its meeting of 19 January 2023. The digital euro RDG will operate until otherwise directed by the Digital Euro HLTF.

The digital euro RDG assists the Eurosystem in developing the digital euro scheme rulebook – building on the design decisions taken by the Governing Council of the ECB.

2. Deliverables

The digital euro RDG assists the Eurosystem in developing the draft digital euro scheme rulebook which will consist of a set of rules, procedures and standards that will allow the distribution of the digital euro through PSPs participating in the scheme by means of

- a) Access management i.e., lifecycle management of digital euro end-users and their payment instruments.
- b) Liquidity management i.e., funding and defunding of end-users’ digital euro holdings from/to commercial bank sources or cash.
- c) Transaction management i.e., digital euro initiation, authentication, validation, settlement instructions and post settlement activities incl. reconciliation.

The digital euro RDG will also advise the Eurosystem regarding a scheme development plan which takes into account the prioritised use cases as provided by the Governing Council.

The final draft of the initial version of the digital euro scheme rulebook will be subject to a public consultation. Subsequently, the final draft of the initial version of the digital euro scheme rulebook will be

submitted for consideration and subsequent approval by the Governing Council prior to its publication on the ECB website.

In addition, the digital euro RDG will support the Eurosystem in reflecting on a future governance model for the digital euro scheme for once it becomes fully operational.

All intellectual property rights, copyright and rights of development and disposal related to the deliverables of the digital euro RDG shall reside exclusively with the ECB.

3. Key guiding working principles

- 1) The digital euro RDG shall assist the Eurosystem in drafting the digital euro scheme rulebook based on the design decisions taken by the Governing Council or any delegated body.
- 2) The digital euro RDG shall take into consideration the interests of all stakeholders – on both the demand and supply sides – to the extent possible when developing the digital euro scheme rulebook.
- 3) The digital euro RDG shall aim to foster innovation through the design of the digital euro scheme rulebook, by enabling the market to develop optional and value-added services for the digital euro.
- 4) The digital euro RDG shall leverage and build upon existing open standards and scheme solutions to the degree possible, while not limiting the Eurosystem's freedom of choice in the further development of the digital euro.

4. Group Composition

The digital euro RDG will be composed of 28 representatives¹ from the public and the private sector as follows:

14 representatives from the Eurosystem:

- Chair of the digital euro Rulebook Development Group
- Secretary of the digital euro Rulebook Development Group

¹ The final number of members may slightly deviate depending on the outcome of the calls for interest.

- ECB: 3 members
- National Central Banks: 9 observing members

14 European representatives from the private sector

- consumer organisations: 2 members
- corporate treasurers: 1 member
- small and medium sized businesses: 1 member
- retailers with a physical presence: 1 member
- online retailers: 1 member
- acquirers: 1 member
- credit institutions: 3 members
- European Payment Council: 1 member
- payment institutions: 1 member
- e-money institutions: 1 member
- third party providers: 1 member

Additionally, observing members from the European Commission, European Parliament and Presidency of the Council of the EU may attend meetings. Members of the ECB digital euro project team may attend the meetings of the digital euro RDG and have access to its documentation.

In 2022, a call for candidates for the representatives of the private sector was initiated by the digital euro rulebook secretariat and published on the ECB website. A call for candidates for the representatives of the Eurosystem NCBs was also released to the Digital Euro HLTF and the Digital Euro PSG.

The composition of the digital euro RDG shall seek to achieve a fair and diverse representation of relevant stakeholders and types of players while considering the mission and objectives of the digital euro RDG. The Digital Euro HLTF shall decide on the final composition. Experts can be invited by the Chair to meetings of the digital euro RDG as need be.

The nominated members from the private sector are expected to be senior experts in the field of electronic payments with managerial responsibilities in retail payments and qualifications required to perform in the role, such as (i) experience in scheme development, (ii) experience in the alignment of the stakeholder association they represent, (iii) commitment to the success of the digital euro in general and the delivery of the rulebook development in particular. They should have the ability and mandate to properly represent their nominating stakeholder association, be able to devote the necessary time to the digital euro RDG and be proficient in English as the working language.

The digital euro RDG will be chaired by the digital euro scheme rulebook manager (The Chair). The Chair is responsible for proactively guiding the digital euro RDG in meeting its deliverables and ensuring coherence with its objectives.

The Chair reports to the digital euro programme manager.

The Secretariat of the digital euro RDG will be provided by the ECB. The Secretariat supports the Chair and is accountable for ensuring compliance with ECB processes.

5. Group Organisation

The digital euro RDG will meet physically or by telephone/video conference, according to the needs. Calls for meetings will be issued by the Chair at least two weeks in advance barring for exceptional cases. In principle, the digital euro RDG will meet every 6 weeks. Members of the digital euro RDG are encouraged to participate in all meetings. A participation of at least 75% of the members in meetings for the digital euro RDG is desired.

The Secretariat will share the draft agenda and all supporting material at least 1 week ahead of meetings. Exceptionally, documents shared less than 1 week ahead will be considered as “table documents”.

The draft outcome will be prepared by the Secretariat and shared with all members. Comments by members of the digital euro RDG are to be provided in writing ahead of the next meeting. The outcome will then be published on the ECB website.

The Chair can decide to set up workstreams for the elaboration of the agreed deliverables requiring specific skills and knowledge. The digital euro RDG will designate the leads (or co-leads) of such workstreams and outline the deliverables and timeline of these workstreams. The workstreams are expected to work agile and fast-moving. They will report to the digital euro RDG.

The digital euro RDG will strive to develop its proposals based on broad consensus. Recommendations may be adopted by written procedure, with a minimum notification period of five working days.

In circumstances where such consensus is not achievable, the Chair decides on the recommendation to be submitted to the digital euro program manager. When reporting the outcome of digital euro RDG's deliberations, reference will be made to both majority and minority positions in case they exist. To that end, RDG members expressing minority views shall be invited to succinctly explain them to the Chair.

6. Confidentiality, transparency, and publication of materials

Most materials shared will be available for discussion within the members' constituencies, while on an exceptional basis some documents might only be available to members of the RDG and a limited group of experts on a need-to-know basis. The material shared will be marked accordingly. The material shall not be shared beyond the above-described restrictions, unless permitted explicitly.

The ECB digital euro programme manager and Chair may decide to publish progress updates on the ECB website. Meeting agendas and outcomes will be published on the ECB website.

Upon the end of their term, RDG members shall delete or destroy any RDG-related documentation not made public by the ECB, unless otherwise instructed by the ECB.

7. Data Protection

Attendees to the digital euro RDG meetings shall refrain from processing any personal data accessed or obtained through their membership of the digital euro RDG, unless and to the extent required to fulfil their digital euro RDG membership duties, as described in the present Mandate.

8. Resources and remuneration

Members in the RDG are expected to contribute human and financial resources as far as reasonable to the RDG. Participation in activities undertaken by the RDG and its workstreams is not remunerated by the RDG. Members, active participants, observers, and ad hoc invitees do not receive any reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses in connection with their attendance at the RDG meetings.