9 November 2026

Mandate of the European Tokenisation Standards Group

1. Preamble

Tokenisation and the use of distributed ledger technologies (DLT) are a transformative trend that is expected to induce significant changes to how financial services and markets operate. If designed appropriately, DLT could be highly transformative and bring a level-shift in the efficiency and the costs of the financial ecosystem. While embracing tokenisation, European stakeholders face the challenges of overcoming fragmentation and silos that already characterise the legacy ecosystem which can prevent reaping the benefits that this new technology offers.

In its statement of July 2026, the EuroGroup stated that "…*without shared standards, the multiplication of DLT networks risks recreating and compounding the fragmentation that we have been trying hard to overcome in the EU financial and payment systems. The EU should therefore seize this historic opportunity and engage in setting common standards and promoting interoperability – both among different DLT networks and between DLTs and traditional systems*…".

The European Commission (EC) has been promoting the scaling up of tokenisation via legislative proposals by removing regulatory barriers to innovation related to distributed ledger technology (DLT). The DLT Pilot Regime Regulation (DLTPR) was introduced in 2022. In December 2025 further enhancements were proposed in the context of the Market Integration and Supervision Package. The DLTPR proposal further adapts the regulatory framework to support these technologies and relaxes limits, increase proportionality and flexibility, and provide legal certainty. To ensure that DLT market infrastructures do not fragment the Union's trading and post-trading infrastructure and that they form a part of an integrated capital market, , the proposed amendments to the DLTPR provide for the creation of an industry group for the purpose of establishing industry standards that facilitate settlement of DLT financial instruments between DLT market infrastructures.The Eurosystem's Appia roadmap published in March 2026 sets out a work programme to shape the development of an integrated, innovative and competitive European tokenised financial ecosystem. It is the cornerstone of the Eurosystem strategy to provide central bank money within innovative, tokenised wholesale financial markets that leverage technologies such as DLT. The Eurosystem has identified six building blocks for Appia, which will be developed via analytical and practical work. Under Appia Building Block 1: Asset interoperability and standards (ABB1), the Eurosystem seeks to facilitate interoperability within the DLT ecosystem via promoting standards.

The European Securities and Market Authority (ESMA), as the EU's financial markets regulator and supervisor, has a central role in shaping the regulatory and supervisory landscape for the digital ecosystem. ESMA provides advice on the evolution of the key relevant EU acts, provides guidance on their application to national markets and supervisors, closely monitors market developments and works closely with international authorities to shape EU public policy in tokenised financial services.

With a view to the above, the European Commission, ESMA and the European Central Bank agreed to set up an industry Group, the European Tokenisation Standards Group ('the Group') to advance interoperability and standardisation in the deployment of DLT in the financial ecosystem.

2. Mission

2.1 Objective

The objective of the Group shall be to promote end-to-end interoperability in the European DLT-based financial market ecosystem by reaching agreement on common market standards that facilitate settlement and holding of DLT financial instruments between DLT infrastructures and between DLT and legacy infrastructures. In addition, the Group shall create a framework for monitoring the effective use of the agreed standards, and thus ensuring the members of the Group implement the industry standards in the appropriate segments of their operations, The Group may also put forward recommendations to EU public authorities to apply measures to incentivise compliance with such standards.

The proposed amendments to the DLTPR require the creation of an industry group for the purpose of establishing industry standards that facilitate settlement of DLT financial instruments between DLT market infrastructures. To avoid duplicative structures the Group may initiate, to the extent necessary to advance the Appia roadmap, some of the industry standardisation work that will be mandated if and when the proposed amendments to the DLTPR are adopted by the co-legilators. In time, once (and in the case) the DLTPR standardisation mandate is adopted, the work that is required to be undertaken by the industry group under the DLTPR may be undertaken jointly with the Group.

2.2 Principles of the work of the Group

- **Consistency with and contribution to relevant European public policy objectives**: i) fostering an innovative, efficient, resilient, competitive, integrated and sovereign European financial system ii) strenghening European strategic autonomy and resilience, iii) supporting and reinforcing the international role of the euro.
- **Not reinventing the wheel:** Leveraging existing initiatives / work so far both in terms of existing, established 'legacy' industry standards for financial services and already developed DLT-specific standards, provided these are widely accepted and adopted and remains suitable for the new inframarket structures.

- **Driven by market input and work:** The work of the Group is market-driven, it should be based on contribution and agreement among market stakeholders with the facilitation and potential steering feedback as guidance from public authorities.
- **Open governance, transparency and inclusiveness:** The work should rely on input by all stakeholder Groups, including end-users of financial services (issuers / investors / payers / payees).

2.3 Tasks

The tasks of the Group are the following:

1. To develop and agree on the standardisation approach by:
    i. elaborating on the vision and definition of interoperability in DLT-based financial ecosystem to facilitate a common understanding of the areas where standardisation is necessary;
    ii. systematically cataloguing existing European and global DLT standardisation initiatives with a focus on a) the output (relevant standards and principles) by these initiatives and b) on avoiding undue overlap / redundant double-work on standards;
    iii. identifying gaps and synergies with existing and established market standards applying to the legacy financial services ecosystem, with a view to understand the relevance of those standards in a DLT environment;
    iv. based on i) to iii) above, defining the layers / domains of standardisation where standards for the DLT ecosystem need to be agreed on.
2. To develop common market standards in line with the agreed standardisation approach;
3. To monitor and foster market wide adoption of the market standards developed by the Group;
4. To engage with other standardisation fora as relevant to ensure consistency of European and global standardisation initiatives to the extent appropriate and feasible while remaining faithful to aforementioned objectives and principles;
5. To provide input / recommendations on DLT interoperability to inform the relevant European public policy making bodies for possible decisions concerning public policies, including regulatory and legal measures to advance standardisation and interoperability in the DLT-based ecosystem.

The Group shall ensure it performs the above tasks in coordination with other relevant European and global standardisation bodies. In line with the principles set out above, and to the extent feasible, the Group will

endeavor to rely and leverage its work on established market standards applying both in the legacy or the DLT-based ecosystem.

2.4 Geographical scope

The geographical scope of the work of the Group shall be the European Union (EU). Nevertheless, in its work, without prejudice to the principles set out in section 2.2, the Group shall take into account relevant work performed by bodies or stakeholders outside the EU and shall ensure, to the extent possible, that the standards developed by the Group are compatible with applicable and relevant global standards..

2.5 Deliverables and timeline

The Group shall aim to deliver the initial versions of standards relevant to the Appia roadmap as set out in section 2.3 by early 2028.

In addition to above, and in anticipation of the mandate to establish industry standards under the DLTPR, the Group may initiate work on developping industry standards that facilitate settlement of DLT financial instruments between the systems operated in EU, including standards for establishing links between those entities within the meaning of Article 2(1) point (29) of Regulation (EU) No 909/2014.

The Group shall report on its progress to the EC, ESMA and ESCB on a regular basis, as well as consult them on emerging conclusions and take their views into account. Unless specifically agreed upon by EC, ESMA and ECB otherwise, such reports will be made publicly available. The Group will ensure that at least once a year its activities and progress are summarised in reports available to the public.

2.6 Expiry

The mandate of the Group shall expire when the European Commission, ESMA and the ECB agree that its statutory tasks have been fulfilled and decide to dissolve the Group.

3. Composition

3.1 Chairperson(s)

The members of the Group shall appoint a chair and a co-chair (‘Chairpersons’) among the members of the group and consult with the EC, ESMA and ECB.

The Chairperson(s) shall have the following rights, tasks and responsibilities:

- determine the frequency, format and agenda of the meetings;
- conduct the meetings of the Group in line with the working procedures set out in Section 4;
- invite an external expert(s) to the meetings of the Group on a specific topic(s) on an ad hoc basis as observer(s), thereby taking into account that the number of observers should be limited;
- where relevant, liaise with the Chairperson(s) or leads of other relevant standardisation bodies or

initiatives with a view to ensuring coordination and no undue overlaps or duplication of standardisation work;

- report to EC, ESMA and ECB in line with section 2.5.

3.2 Secretary

The Secretary shall be an experienced member of staff of the ECB, ESMA or EC].

The Secretary shall have the following tasks and responsibilities:

- coordinate the organisation of the meetings and relevant documents;
- support the Chairperson(s) in the preparations for the Group's meetings;
- draft outcomes of the meetings;
- coordinate the Group's interaction with other Appia fora or relevant external bodies or stakeholders;
- where relevant, liaise with the Chairperson(s) or leads of other relevant standardisation bodies or initiatives with a view to ensuring coordination and no undue overlaps or duplication of standardisation work;
- support the Chairperson(s) in preparations for reporting to EC, ESMA and ECB.

3.3 Members

The members of the Group shall be appointed jointly by the EC, ESMA and ECB, based on a public call for nominations where nominees demonstrate interest in the focus of this Group, and preferably experience in standard setting work.Nothwithstanding the principles of composition included in this section, if considered necessary by the EC, ESMA and ECB, additional members may be appointed to the Group after its initial formation.

The Group shall have a broad and balanced composition and aim to adequately represent a wide variety of stakeholders. No particular stakeholder group (as defined by business model, technology or industry segment) shall have a dominant representation in the group. […]

Membership shall in addition be granted to entities eligible to form membership of the industry group provided for under the proposed amendments to the DLTPR.

Each member of the Group shall:

1. have an appropriate level of expertise in technical or business standardisation work or practical application of standards in financial services and relevant background processes;
2. have sufficient time to be actively involved in the Group's work and actively contribute to, and / or participate in, meetings and the preparation of the Group's deliverables;
3. be able to commit their organisation to actions arising from the Group's work;

4. mobilise adequate resources for achieving progress within a short time period and in order to contribute to the objectives and tasks of the Group set out in section 2.

The Chairperson(s) may invite observers to individual agenda items or meetings if conducive to the objectives of the Group. The number of observers shall be kept to the minimum. ECB, the EC and ESMA shall be permanent observers in the industry group.

Observers may participate in the discussion but their views are not taken into account by the Chairperson(s) when they assess the level of consensus achieved (see 4.1) unless such view is expressed by either ECB, EC or ESMA.

3.4 Participation

Each member can be replaced by an alternate in exceptional circumstances. Alternates shall be appointed in advance and their participation notified to the Secretary sufficiently in advance.

The Chairperson(s) may raise to the attention of the […] to reconsider the membership of members who are not actively contributing.

The Chairperson(s) may invite additional participants to individual agenda items or meetings if conduicive to the objectives of the Group.

4. Working procedures

4.1 Principles of working procedures

The Group shall aim to reach agreements by consensus as defined by ISO1. The Chairperson(s) will determine whether consensus has been reached. Major Group deliverables and final agreement on reports should be discussed in meetings. If considered feasible, written procedures may be applied.

4.2 Meetings

The Group should meet as regularly as required to fulfil its mandate. The exact frequency and form of the meetings shall be decided by the Chairperson(s).

The Chairperson(s) shall propose the agenda for each meeting.

The Secretary shall circulate meeting documentation sufficiently in advance of the meetings, i.e. aiming to complete circulation five working days prior to the meeting and, at the latest, three working days prior to the meeting under exceptional circumstances.

[1] ISO defines consensus as ‘’general agreement, characterised by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments. Consensus need not imply unanimity’’ (ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 Standardization and related activities – General vocabulary)

The Group shall normally hold its meetings via teleconference or in person at the premises of the EC, ESMA, or the ECB.

4.3 Substructures

The Group may establish technical expert Groups to support its work in an efficient manner. The Group shall define the mandate / deliverables of such expert Groups. The Group shall make sure that the tasks of its technical expert Groups do not create any undue overlap with the work carried out by other relevant standardisation fora.

4.4 Interaction and information exchange

To maximise synergies and leverage on existing standards and ongoing standardisation work, the Group shall co-operate with public authorities and industry initiatives currently working on standards relevant for the DLT-based ecosystem and, where relevant, shall use their work as input for its own analysis and deliverables.

4.5 Transparency

By default, the ECB shall make all Group documents and information available to the public (via the ECB's website or by other means).