

Press Release

KIR and Equens cooperate in SEPA payment processing

Warsaw, 1 July 2010 - KIR S.A., Poland's national clearing house, has entered into a bilateral agreement for the exchange of SEPA Credit Transfers (SCT) payments based on the EACHA* interoperability standards with the international payments processor Equens.

With this partnership Equens SE and KIR S.A. will further increase their reach in the SEPA environment. Although Poland is not currently a member of the Euro zone, the number of transactions in the EuroELIXIR system is constantly growing. As of 22 November 2010 the two companies will exchange SEPA payments on behalf of their respective clients. This landmark provides the banks of both communities with a fast, cheap and low-risk method of achieving reach with the banks of the other community and enables the simple and effective exchange of SEPA payments.

Michel Stuijt, General Manager of Market Management at Equens, says: "We are very pleased to establish this interoperability with KIR S.A. We are always aiming at improving the services for our clients. The connection to KIR's CSM community is an important step for us to gain full reach in Poland."

Zygmunt Szafranski, Vice President of the Board of KIR S.A., explains: "The cooperation of KIR S.A. with Equens in the area of SEPA payments is a logical step in our plans to improve the efficiency of our EuroELIXIR system. This direct link between our CSM communities will also further increase the importance of the EACHA framework."

Through ELIXIR® and EuroELIXIR systems, KIR S.A. processes over 1.2 billion non-cash payment transactions annually. With the introduction of the Single Euro Payment Area, a link between EuroELIXIR and STEP2 platforms has been created, guaranteeing the participants pan-European payment addressability. Since June 2009 the settlement of EuroELIXIR system has taken place on TARGET2 system platform.

KIR S.A. is intensively broadening the product portfolio aiming at diversification outside narrow interbank payment processing. It is active in many markets including electronic signature (under the SZAFIR brand), electronic content management (eArchiwum), EBPP (B2C solution with presentation in banking channels) and internet payments (PayByNet). KIR S.A. is also offering access to SWIFTNet network as a Service Bureau and a broad portfolio of professional training services.

Equens is the first pan-European, full-service payment processor. As one of the largest payment processors in Europe, it leads the market for future-proof payment and card solutions. Thanks to an extensive and competitive range of services, the company seamlessly meets the requirements and wishes of the European payments market. Equens supports the development of a single, uniform European payments market (SEPA), and is dedicated to the standardisation and harmonisation of European and global payments. With clients and partnerships in multiple European countries, it offers pan-European market coverage from offices in four countries – the Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Finland. And with an annual processing volume of 9.4 billion payments and 3.4 billion POS and ATM transactions, Equens SE has a European market share of more than 12.5%. The shares in Equens SE are held by DZ BANK, ING, ABN AMRO Bank, Rabobank, ICBPI and Fortis (NL).

*EACHA – European Automated Clearing House Association

Note for the editorial staff

For additional information on KIR, please visit www.kir.com.pl or contact tomasz.jonczyk@kir.com.pl



From the left: Götz Möller, Member of the Board of Directors Equens SE, Michael Steinbach, Chairman of the Board of Directors Equens SE, Zygmunt Szafrąński, Vice President of the Board KIR S.A., Michał Szymański, Vice President of the Board KIR S.A.