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The French National Payments Committee Emphasizes its Commitment to Users' Freedom of Choice

The French National Payments Committee (the CNMP) reaffirms its commitment to users' freedom to choose their preferred means of payment at all times and in all places.

Regarding cash payments, the CNMP has been informed of isolated incidents where cash has been refused by stores open on Sundays. The CNMP reminds that cash is legal tender in France and must therefore be accepted by merchants every day, including on Sundays, as well as during events such as festivals or sports events. The Ministry of Finance and the Banque de France will pay close attention to compliance with these legal requirements. Merchant associations participating in the CNMP are also committed to raise awareness among their members on this matter.

Regarding electronic payments, the CNMP reminds that France has historically developed an integrated acceptance policy for different payment card networks and encourages market players to preserve this achievement in both physical environments (points of sale, ATMs) and digital environments (mobile, e-commerce), as it contributes to the freedom of choice for consumers and merchants and fosters open competition between networks.

The Committee also welcomes the confirmed launch of the European Payments Initiative (EPI). This solution will contribute to achieving a key objective of the national payments strategy 2019-2024. As a European solution for retail payments based on instant credit transfer technologies, EPI will offer a credible and serious alternative to existing solutions on the market and thus participate in increasing users' freedom of choice in the future. Therefore, the CNMP invites French market players to contribute actively to the success of EPI.

This press release is available on the CNMP website: www.comite-paiements.fr.

The National Payments Committee (CNMP) was created through the merger of two French payments oversight bodies: the National Cashless Payments Committee (CNPS) and the Steering Committee for the Cash Industry (CP2F). The CNMP draws on all of this experience and on the diversity of its members to encourage and coordinate national initiatives for the modernisation of French and European payments.

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