



Mr José Manuel Campa
Chairperson
European Banking Authority
EUROPLAZA
20 Avenue André Prothin
92927 Paris La Défense
France

2 June 2020

Dear Chairman, dear Mr Campa,

Payment Services Directive: Strong Customer Authentication and Covid-19

I write to you regarding the impact of Covid-19 on the implementation of the Strong Customer Authentication (SCA) requirements of the Payments Services Directive (PSD2) for online card payments.

BusinessEurope supports the overall objective of SCA to reduce fraud and enhance the security of online payments and welcomes the flexible approach taken by the European Banking Authority in relation to setting timetables for implementation.

However, the current Covid-19 situation is impacting merchants across Europe, disrupting their ability to manage risks and to support their customers. Businesses are currently focused on getting critical funds to keep operating, having to prioritise operational issues over SCA implementation.

Covid-19 has reduced the capacity for merchants to prepare for these new requirements and has pushed them to focus their efforts on business continuity. BusinessEurope supports industry calls for granting an extension to the December 2020 deadline as allowing more time for the industry to prepare for SCA would help prevent disruption in online payments and would allow participants in the payment chain get ready to use these new requirements.

BusinessEurope is therefore calling on the European Banking Authority to consider granting at least an additional 6 months across EU Member States to allow the market to be SCA ready. A unified implementation date will ensure participants in the payment chain can focus on their Covid-19 response and will minimise disruption to consumers.

We hope that you share these concerns and remain at your disposal should you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

Markus J. Beyrer