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Dutch Payments Association Established

The Dutch Payments Association (Betaalvereniging Nederland) was recently established. Its tasks include facilitating the transition of its members to a European electronic payment system, and associated activities such as fraud prevention and public awareness. It is focused on the further development of social efficiency and the security of the Dutch payment market. The Payments Association intends to create a support base for its activities by actively and periodically consulting consumer and business representatives, to find out where their concerns lie. This differentiates it from the Dutch Banking Association (Nederlandse Vereniging van Banken), which is a branch organisation, and Currence, the owner of numerous Dutch payment schemes such as iDEAL and Incasso.

Broader national collaboration offers all-round benefits

The payments market is becoming increasingly European. The Netherlands is switching from national to European payment products and services. Nonetheless, as far as the infrastructure is concerned, national collaboration between banks, payment institutions and electronic money institutions, remains essential. After all, the Dutch payment market must remain socially efficient, secure and reliable. The Payments Association plays an important role in this. It organises a large number of affairs that support security and reliability, standards and fraud prevention, in the field of the electronic payment market. The Payments Association supports all parties that provide payment services and independently introduce payment products for end users onto the Dutch market, such as banks, payment institutions and electronic money institutions.

Piet Mallekoote, Managing Director, Dutch Payments Association: *"In the Netherlands, we have an extremely efficient and high-quality payment system. To enable us to expand this further within the European payments market, we require a high level of knowledge. Through the Payments Association we are now able to bundle this knowledge and provide our members with a better service."*

The Dutch Banking Association is one of the founders. Managing Director, Wim Mijs: *"The Dutch Banking Association carried out a number of more operational tasks related to the payment market that don't necessarily fit within the work of a branch organisation. We have therefore transferred these tasks to the Payments Association."*

As payment systems play an increasingly important role within society, the Payments Association will actively involve end user representatives in its work, through open dialogue and by regular consultation. This will ensure that decisions regarding the Payments Association's operations are well supported. Everyone in the Netherlands will benefit from this.

Bart Combee, Managing Director at the Dutch Consumer Organisation (Consumentenbond) commented: *"We regard the payment system as having a utility function ; therefore it is great that the Payments Association takes the needs of end users on board."*

In this pivotal role, the Payments Association acts as a key expert in areas relating to the Dutch payment infrastructure, also within Europe. For Henk Kok, Managing Director of the Dutch Retail Association (Detailhandel Nederland), the advantages are clear: *"As more and more parties become involved, the payment chain is becoming increasingly complex. Because of this, we're happy that the Payments Association will be able to provide more direction to, for example, the whole payment chain for debit card transactions ("pinnen"). This will make the payment system even more efficient."*

The Board of the Payments Association

The Board of the Payments Association is made up of nine members, three of which are independent, including the President, Henk Brouwer (former Managing Director of the Dutch Central Bank (De Nederlandsche Bank)). The other two independent members are Henk van den Broek (former Director of the Dutch Retail Association) and Mijntje Lückers-Rovers (Professor of Corporate Governance, Nyenrode Business University). The remaining six board members represent the members. Representing the banks, Bart Schlatmann (COO ING Nederland), Ineke Bussemaker (Director Payments and Savings, Rabobank), Frans van der Horst (Senior Managing Director ABN AMRO), Bart de Ruigh (COO SNS Bank) and Gert van Wakeren (Member of the Board of The Friesland Bank). The remaining seat will be filled by a representative from a payment institution. The Director of the Dutch Payments Association is Piet Mallekoote. He is also the Director of Currence.

Dutch Payments Association's Office

The Dutch Payments Association is located in the World Trade Centre, Beethovenstraat 300, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

The Dutch Payments Association organises the collective tasks in the national payment system for its members. Members are providers of payment services on the Dutch market: banks, payment institutions and electronic money institutions. The collective tasks of the members relate to payments infrastructure, standards and common product features.

Note from the Editor (not for publication):

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