

Merchant Payments Coalition Europe

November 2025



PSR: Protect European citizens instead of non-EU payment providers

A complete surcharging ban for payments – as proposed by the European Parliament – will increase costs for merchants and therefore consumers.

It will only serve the interest of more expensive non-EU payment methods, whose costs are not regulated.

Our call to MEPs:

To protect EU citizens from increasing prices instead the profits of non-EU payment providers, such as Mastercard, Visa, Paypal, American Express, MEPs should agree with the Commission and Council position which is maintaining the status quo: only surcharging bans for payment methods of which the cost is regulated.

Keeping the 1:1 relationship between surcharging bans and regulating payment costs ensures:

- a) a harmonised approach across the single market,
- b) more negotiation power for merchants, benefiting consumers and
- c) less profits for non-EU providers.

For a level playing field, respecting the link between surcharging and regulating cost and promoting further harmonisation, the member state option of a complete surcharging ban should be removed.

Complete surcharging bans force merchants to apply a weighted average of payment costs to their sales prices. This means that consumers using a cheaper (= regulated) payment method are subsidising those that use a more expensive (non-regulated) payment method.

The EU consumer federation BEUC supports the same approach:

https://www.beuc.eu/sites/default/files/publications/BEUC-X-2025-072_key_points_on_Payment_Services_Regulation.pdf

We endorse the PSR proposal in Art 28.5 that any surcharges must not exceed the direct cost to merchants of a particular payment method.

	Typical fees ranges	Commission proposal, supported by BEUC PSR 28.4/28.5 ¹	European Parliament position	Merchant Coalition position
Consumer Visa/ Mastercard cards ² , SEPA Direct Debit, SEPA Credit Transfer ³	0,2-0,8%	Surcharging banned	Surcharging banned	Surcharging banned
Commercial Visa/ Mastercard cards, American Express, Paypal, Buy Now Pay Later (e.g. Klarna), meal vouchers (e.g. Edenred/Pluxee) etc.	1,5-4%	Surcharging allowed (member state option of banning all surcharging)	Surcharging banned	Surcharging allowed (no member state option)

Merchant Payments Coalition Europe

[EuroCommerce](#), [Ecommerce Europe](#), [EACT](#), [IATA](#), [Independent Retail Europe](#) and [SME United](#) have decided to start working more closely together on the topic of retail payments. Merchants across sectors share a common ambition for the future of retail payments in the EU, but also share specific concerns such as the rising payment costs. By creating this coalition, European retail associations aim to foster the exchange of information and views on ongoing legislative and regulatory developments and innovation.

Whilst each organisation within the coalition has its own responsibility and membership, together we coordinate our actions and make the merchants' voices heard more clearly. Merchants are an essential part of the payment ecosystem, with a direct connection to consumers, and are always directly and indirectly impacted by regulatory, technical and business developments on payments. We, therefore, advocate for their views and experience to be taken into account in these developments.



¹ PSD2 Art. 62.4/62.5.

² Only the interchange part is regulated. Scheme fees (sharply increased since IFR) are not capped.

³ And in future this will include cash and the digital euro if regulations are adopted.