



# 8<sup>th</sup> ECPA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

of Regional Card Schemes and Retail  
Financial Market Infrastructures

Tirana, Albania  
3 - 6 November 2026



## GLOBAL FAIR PAYMENTS

**Fast – Accessible – Interoperable – Resilient**

An international conference on global payments developments, innovations, the future of cards, and fast payments. Co-organized by the European Card Payments Association (ECPA) and the World Bank Group (WBG), and hosted by Bank of Albania (BoA) in this iteration.

**03** November,  
2026

## Day 0

18:30 – 20:30

### Pre-Conference Cocktail

Bank of Albania Headquarters No. 2, including a visit to the exhibition “Money Talks: 100 Years of Life and Events, Bank of Albania”



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**04** November,  
2026

Maritim Hotel Plaza, Queen  
Geraldine Conference Room

# Day 1

*Part I (Morning): Regional Spotlight, Cards, and  
Other Payments Innovations*  
*Part II (Afternoon): Innovation & Resilience*

## PART I

### Regional Spotlight, Cards, and Other Payments Innovations

08:30 - 09:00

#### Registration & Welcome Coffee

09:00 - 09:05

#### Welcome Remarks

- **Juan Carlos Martin**, Chair, ECPA

09:05 - 10:00

#### Keynotes

- **Edi Rama**, Prime Minister of Albania
- **Gent Sejko**, Governor, Bank of Albania
- **Antonella Bassani**, Vice President,  
Europe and Central Asia, World Bank

10:00 - 11:00

#### Panel: The Next Generation of Issuing & Acquiring

- **Robert Kraal**, Co-founder Silverflow, The Netherlands
- **Panagiotis Kriaris**, Senior Consultant, Unzer
- **TBD**
- **TBD**
- Moderator: **Gijs Boudewijn**, Project Manager, ECPA

11:00 - 11:30

#### Coffee & Networking Break

11:30 - 12:30

#### Panel: Regional/Domestic Card Schemes: Is There a Future?

- **Esam Alkhashnam**, CEO, K Net, Kuwait
- **Ozan Deniz**, CEO, BKM Troy, Turkey
- **Oliver Hommel**, CEO, Girocard, Germany
- **TBD**
- Moderator: **Panagiotis Kriaris**, Senior Consultant, Unzer



12:30 – 13:30

## Panel: The Evolution of Merchant Payments in Europe

- **Nuno Epifanio**, European Commission, DG FISMA
- **Atze Faas**, Payments Advisor, Eurocommerce
- **Kim Fuglsan Kristoffersen**, Head of Payment Strategy & Strategic Partnerships, Vipps Mobile Pay
- **Piotr-Jan Pietrzak**, New Markets Lead, EPI Company
  
- Moderator: **Arjan Bol**, Manager of the Dutch Payments Association

13:30 – 14:30

## Lunch & Networking

## PART II

### Innovation and Resilience

14:30 – 15:30

## Panel: Global Perspective on Operational Reliability in Payment Systems

- **Marjan Delatinne**, Managing Director of Sales Europe, Eastnets
- **Lionel Grosclaude**, CEO, FIME
- **Kjeld Herreman**, Head of Strategy Advisory, Paylume
- **TBD**

Moderator: **Francesco Di Salvo**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank

15:30 – 16:00

## Coffee & Networking Break

16:00 – 16:45

## Keynote: The Role of AI in Payments

- **Dave Birch**, Author/International Public Speaker

19:30 – 22:30

## Albanian Cultural Evening & Dinner

(Remarks by **Juan Carlos Martin**, Chair, ECPA)

### *Illuminatum Residence*

*Ura e Peshkatarit, Petrelë, E852, Tiranë 1034*



[GET DIRECTIONS](#)

**05** November,  
2026

Maritim Hotel Plaza, Queen  
Geraldine Conference Room

# Day 2

## Fast Payments and Other Global Developments

08:30 - 09:00

### Keynotes

- **Piero Cipollone**, Executive Board Member, European Central Bank
- **Xiaoqing Yu**, Division Director for Western Balkans, World Bank

09:00 – 10:00

### Panel: Emerging Capabilities and Use Cases in Fast Payments

- **Clarence Blay**, Head of Payment Systems Department, Central Bank of Ghana
- **Azleena Idris**, Senior Director, Paynet Malaysia
- **Maxim Neshcheret**, Regional Director, Asia Pacific & Central Asia, CMA
- **National Payments Corporation of India**

Moderator: **Holti Banka**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank

10:00 – 11:00

### Panel: CBDC, Stablecoins, Tokenization, and the Interaction with Fast Payments

- **Bernardo Barradas**, Executive Director, Payments Industry Advocacy, JPMorgan
- **Rita Camporeale**, Senior Adviser, International Affairs and Payments, Italian Banking Association
- **Carlo Palmers**, Business Solutions Architect, Market Infrastructures, SWIFT
- **Evelien Witlox**, Program Director, Digital Euro, European Central Bank

Moderator: **Martha Licetti**, Practice Manager, World Bank

11:00 – 11:20

### Coffee & Networking Break

11:20 – 12:30

## Panel: Fast Payments in the Western Balkans

- **Holta Zecaj**, Deputy Governor, Bank of Albania
- **Jasmina Selimovic**, Governor, Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Ahmet Ismaili**, Governor, Central Bank of Kosovo
- **Igor Velichkovski**, Vice Governor, National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia

Moderator: **Massimiliano Paolucci**, Country Manager for Albania, World Bank

12:30 – 13:15

## Lunch & Networking

13:15 – 14:15

## Governance and Pricing in Fast Payments

- **Michelle Doyle**, Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Barbados
- **Ricardo Mourao**, Head of Licensing and Resolution, Bank of Brazil
- **Naphongthawat Phothikit**, Senior Director, Payment Systems and Financial Technology Policy Department, Bank of Thailand
- **Bank of West African States - BCEAO** (TBC)

Moderator: **Ledia Bregu**, Director of Payment Systems Department, Bank of Albania

14:15 – 15:15

## Panel: The Importance of Cross Border Fast Payments and the Role of the G20 Roadmap

- **Giorgio Andreoli**, Director General, European Payments Council
- **Mehdi Maana**, CEO, Buna
- **Andrew McCormack**, CEO, Nexus Payments
- **Harish Natarajan**, Practice Manager, World Bank

Moderator: **Thomas Lammer**, Deputy Head of Secretariat, Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures

15:15 – 15:30

## Coffee & Networking Break

15:30 – 16:30

## Panel: Safety in Fast Payments

- **Anton Jan Cozijnsen**, Area Lead External Fraud, Rabobank
- **Dorothee Delort**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank
- **Julien Lasalle**, Deputy Director, Cash and Retail Payments Policy and Oversight, Banque de France
- **Kimo Sorammaki**, Founder and CEO, FNA

Moderator: **Gijs Boudewijn**, Project Manager, ECPA

16:30-17:30

## Open Source, AI, and Cloud in the Context of Fast Payments: Opportunities and Challenges

- **Matthew Van Burstik**, Co-CEO, Hummingbird
- **Steve Haley**, Global Director, Mojaloop
- **Michelle Semple**, Head of Growth and Operations, Tazama
- **FedNow**

Moderator: **Maria Teresa Chimienti**, Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank

17:30 – 17:45

## Closing remarks

- **Harish Natarajan**, Practice Manager, World Bank
- **Gijs Boudewijn**, Project Manager, ECPA

**06** November,  
2026

# Day 3

09:00 - 12:00

## Tirana City Tour



# Contacts

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[www.worldbank.org/en/topic/paymentsystemsremittances](http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/paymentsystemsremittances)

[www.fastpayments.worldbank.org](http://www.fastpayments.worldbank.org)

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