MFSA MALTA FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

Circular

16 November 2026

European Tokenisation Standards Group (ETSG) - Call for Nominations

Introduction

The Malta Financial Services Authority ("MFSA" or the "Authority") would like to draw the attention of all authorised persons, market participants and other relevant stakeholders to a recent initiative launched jointly by the European Central Bank (ECB), the European Commission and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), concerning the establishment of the European Tokenisation Standards Group (ETSG).

The ETSG is intended to bring together industry stakeholders with the objective of developing common standards to support an interconnected and interoperable tokenised financial ecosystem within the European Union. The initiative reflects growing recognition that the adoption of distributed ledger technology ("DLT") and tokenisation across financial markets requires common standards and interoperability arrangements in order to avoid fragmentation and facilitate efficient cross-market interaction.

Background

Tokenisation and the use of DLT are increasingly reshaping financial services and market infrastructures. The European authorities sponsoring the initiative have highlighted that, while these technologies offer significant opportunities to enhance efficiency, resilience and innovation, the absence of common standards may result in fragmented market infrastructures and reduced interoperability across platforms and jurisdictions.

The ETSG forms part of broader European efforts aimed at supporting the development of integrated tokenised financial markets, including initiatives under the Eurosystem Appia programme and proposed amendments to the DLT Pilot Regime Regulation (DLTPR).

Objectives of the ETSG

According to its mandate, the ETSG will seek to:

- Promote end-to-end interoperability across the European DLT-based financial market ecosystem;
- Develop common market standards facilitating the settlement and holding of tokenised financial instruments between DLT infrastructures and between DLT and traditional market infrastructures;

- Create mechanisms for monitoring market adoption and compliance with agreed standards;
- Engage with relevant European and international standard-setting initiatives to promote consistency and compatibility; and
- Provide recommendations to European authorities on measures that may encourage the adoption of such standards.

The ETSG's work will be industry-led, with the ECB, European Commission and ESMA participating as observers.

Eligibility and Participation

The call for nominations is open to a broad range of stakeholders, including:

- Financial market infrastructures;
- Credit institutions;
- Investment firms;
- Asset managers;
- Industry associations;
- FinTech and RegTech providers;
- Technology and infrastructure providers;
- Other organisations active in tokenisation and DLT-based financial services; and
- Relevant public authorities and public sector bodies.

Nominees are expected to possess relevant expertise in financial services standardisation, technical interoperability, DLT-related market infrastructures, or the practical implementation of standards within financial services. Participating organisations should also be able to actively contribute to the work of the Group and commit adequate resources to support its objectives.

The ETSG is expected to commence its activities in January 2027, with initial standards targeted for delivery by early 2028.

Submission of Nominations

Interested stakeholders are invited to review the relevant documentation published by ESMA and submit their applications through the process established by the sponsoring authorities.

The deadline for the submission of applications is **27 November 2026**.

Further information is available in the following publications:

- EU seeks nominations for stakeholder group on tokenisation standards in finance
- Mandate of the European Tokenisation Standards Group

- Background and Call for Nominations - European Tokenisation Standards Group

Queries regarding the nomination process may be directed to ETSG@ecb.europa.eu.

MFSA Expectations

The Authority encourages stakeholders engaged in digital finance, capital markets, securities services, market infrastructures, tokenisation projects and related DLT activities to assess the relevance of this initiative to their business and consider participating in the ETSG where appropriate.

Active engagement in European standard-setting initiatives can contribute to ensuring that Malta's financial services sector remains aligned with emerging European market practices and interoperability standards for tokenised financial services and infrastructures.

Contacts

Any queries in relation to this Circular may be addressed to the Authority via email on MarketInfrastructures@mfsa.mt.