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Technical Specification - Foreign
payments



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3rd edition

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Foreword

This ÍST Technical Specification was developed in accordance with “ÍST Reglur um tækniforskriftir, tækniskýrslur og vinnustofusamþykktir” (e. IST rules on Technical Specifications, Technical Reports and Workshop Agreements). The TS (Technical specification) was prepared by the technical committee TN-FMÞ (The Technical Committee on Financial Services) that operates within FUT (Sector committee for ICT standardization) following a public call for participation within TN-FMÞ. The final draft was approved by TN-FMÞ on the 2022-11-30 approved by FUT on the 2023-01-06. The text of ÍST TS-313 was submitted to IST for publication on 2023-01-14.

The accompanying OpenAPI 3.0.1 definition “IOBWS3.1.yaml” located at <https://github.com/stadlar/IST-FUT-FMTH/tree/master/Deliverables>, should be viewed as an integral part of ÍST TS-313.

The document “ÍST TS 313_2023 Foreign payments.md” is the source of this rendition, and versions of that document will be used for future errata and clarifications per the procedures to be laid out in the workshop agreement ÍST WA-316, IOBWS 3.x Technical Guidelines. The rules are outlined in the README.md accompanying the Github Git repository and are accepted by the participants in TN-FMÞ alongside this specification. These guidelines establish the workgroup TN-FMÞ-VH-7 as in charge of monitoring submitted issues and pull requests made to the repository when they fall outside the purview of other regular workgroups. TN-FMÞ-VH-7 will evaluate if changes are ready to be accepted into the repository and when or if they warrant patches or minor releases to the specification. Versioning will adhere to the Semantic Versioning[7] scheme and each minor release will require a workgroup agreement under the “ÍST reglur” referenced above.

The work on the ÍST TS-313 was primarily funded by Arion Banki, Íslandsbanki and Landsbankinn, with participation by Alskil hf, Eignaumsjón hf, Payday ehf, Wise lausnir ehf and Seðlabanki Íslands.

ÍST TS-313 is not subject to any patent rights. The underlying OpenAPI specification is derived from version 1.3.8 of the Berlin Group’s NextGenPSD2 Framework and therefore also distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Public License (CC BY).

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The Technical Committee’s participants have made every effort to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the technical and non-technical content of ÍST TS-313, but this does not guarantee its correctness, explicitly or implicitly. Users of ÍST TS-313 should be aware that neither the TN-FMÞ nor ÍST can be held liable for damages or losses of any kind which may arise from its application. Users of ÍST TS-313 do so on their own responsibility and at their own risk.

Introduction

This Technical Specification (TS) presents version 3.1 of the Icelandic Online Banking Services (IOBWS) for foreign payments.

Version 3.1 represents a minor update to the previously released v3.0 of ÍST TS-313. The reason for the update are inconsistencies in properties within the YAML that represent the same remittanceInformationStructuredArray.

Previous versions of IOBWS, released in 2007 and 2013 respectively, used the OASIS SOAP standards which were current at the time to define common web service interfaces for the Icelandic commercial and savings banks. This enabled software vendors, enterprises, and service providers to integrate their accounting, payment, and information systems with the bank's services, allowing them to act on behalf of the customers and with full access to their data.

Most of the banks offered comparable web services for foreign payments and associated transactions. Until the work on the IOBWS version 3.0 started, a common specification had not been in scope for the IOBWS work. As the underlying cross-border payment mechanisms are quite similar, the TN-FMP decided to include payment functionality and the associated account and transaction information retrieval in the form of this shared specification.

The participants in the TN-FMP reviewed existing and emerging specifications in the global and European financial industries to look for ways to merge the various domestic schemas with a more widely adopted framework.

The Open Banking regulation in the UK along with the PSD2 regulation issued by the European Parliament, has triggered initiatives to standardize access to payment functionality and account information on behalf of customers by third parties. One such effort, the NextGenPSD2 Framework developed by the Berlin Group [4], has been broadly accepted in the EEA. The data model references ISO 20022 [2] and is close enough to the direction of the Icelandic market to make it suitable as the new base for the IOBWS, instead of maintaining an independent lineage of API specifications.

Another goal of the original IOBWS version 3.0 charter, which was set forth by TN-FMP and achieved by adopting the NextGenPSD2 Framework, is the transition from SOAP to a REST-like API, which is defined by a recent iteration of the Open API Specification [3]. Along with support for modern authentication and authorization standards, this should address some of the perceived complexity in adapting IOBWS to various use cases, platforms, and programming languages that have come to the forefront after the release of the previous IOBWS versions.

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1 Scope

ÍST TS-313 defines web application programming interfaces implemented by Icelandic commercial and savings banks to expose shared functionality and information for foreign payments, under the Icelandic Online Banking Web Services (IOBWS) framework of specifications.

Other ÍST Technical Specifications exist which address related but discrete units of the overall IOBWS framework, either as new additions or upgrades to the previous specifications. Some crosscutting guidelines and shared concerns are addressed in the workshop agreement ÍST WA-316. As the consumption and implementation of each part of IOBWS are optional, the documents aim to be independent of each other.

However, due to the origin of the underlying OpenAPI specification in the Berlin Group NextGenPSD2 Framework, ÍST TS-310 on Domestic Payments and Deposits and ÍST TS-313 on Foreign Payments overlap quite significantly. Both are based on the “IOBWS3.1.yaml” definition document and share schema type and API service definitions. They will still be treated as separate entities, but stakeholders are advised to reference the other document if more context is required.

The focus in ÍST TS-313 is the following: the domestic adaptations to the relevant parts of the NextGenPSD2 framework; as well as the information needed to tie that to earlier IOBWS versions or other such implementations, including the Core Banking systems involved.

The intended audience for the specification document ÍST TS-313 is those who are implementing banking services and systems that will consume them as API clients. The reader is expected to have a basic understanding of the Icelandic financial products involved. Further documentation on business aspects of those products will be available from each bank, as they may involve service agreements and the end customers' contractual preferences and benefits.

Consequently, the ÍST TS-313 specification avoids the unnecessary repetition of information found in the technical contract IOBWS3.1.yaml. Instead, the rest of the document focuses on the information needed to understand the domestic context of services, schema types and service flows in relation to the NextGenPSD2 framework, as well as what constitutes the common core required to implement ÍST TS-313.

2 Normative references, definitions, and symbols

2.1 Normative references

The following documents are referenced in ÍST TS-313, as part of their content constitutes the requirements of this document. If newer editions exist, only the edition cited applies.

ISO 13616-1:2020. *Financial services - International bank account number (IBAN). Part 1: Structure of the IBAN.*

ISO 20022. *Financial services - universal financial industry message scheme.*

NextGenPSD2 v1.3.8. *The Berlin Group NextGenPSD2 Access to Account Framework.*

OpenAPI v3.0.1. The OpenAPI Specification (OAS) by the OpenAPI Initiative, a Linux Foundation Collaborative Project.

2.2 Terms and definitions

- **Berlin Group** is a pan-European payments interoperability standards and harmonization initiative with the primary objective of defining open and common scheme- and processor-independent standards in the interbanking domain between Creditor Bank (Acquirer) and Debtor Bank (Issuer), complementing the work carried out by e.g. the European Payments Council. As such, the Berlin Group has been established as a purely technical standardization body, focusing on detailed technical and organizational requirements to achieve this primary objective.
- **Clearing and Settlement Mechanisms (CMS)** refers to the processes or systems used in the exchange between two payment service providers. In Iceland, the Central Bank acts as the interbank mediator in this scope.
- **Core Banking Systems (CBS)** is the umbrella term for those systems handling payments and transaction accounts in relation to this specification.
- **Electronic IDentification, Authentication and trust Services (eIDAS)** refers to regulation 910/2014 [9], which replaced previous directive 1999/93/EC. It was introduced to Iceland law through act no. 2019/55 [6].
- **ISO 20022** is an ISO standard [2] for electronic data interchange between financial institutions.
- **Kennitala** (often abbreviated as **KT**) is the unique national identification number issued by the Registers Iceland (ic. Þjóðskrá Íslands) and used by governmental bodies and enterprises to identify individuals, and through a comparable schema under the Iceland Revenue and Customs (ic. ríkisskattstjóri), legal entities in Iceland.
- **Kröfupotturinn** (often identified as **IK**) is the domestic billing and claim system supported by all current financial institutions in Iceland. Through the system, claims can be issued against any *kennitala*, and the functionality is similar to the intended *request-to-pay* system in Europe, though services in IK extend beyond that scope.
- **NextGenPSD2 Access to Accounts Framework (NextGenPSD2 Framework or just NextGenPSD2)** is the framework established by *the Berlin Group* to define a common PSD2 compliance interface [4]. Since then, parts of the framework have extended beyond compliance and into other Open Banking aspects.
- **The OpenAPI Specification (OAS)** defines a programming language-agnostic interface description for HTTP APIs, which allows both humans and computers to discover and understand the capabilities of a service without requiring access to source code, additional documentation, or inspection of network traffic.

2.3 Payment service directive terms

As the ÍST TS-313 owes much of its core to the NextGenPSD2 framework, the terms found in the OpenAPI specification and this document may reflect that background. Some of the main definitions are included here for context.

- **Payment Services Directive 2 (PSD2)** was instituted by the European Parliament as EU 2015/2366 [8] and meant to further open up payment services on the internal EEA market. It was introduced to Iceland law through act no.

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2021/114 [5]. PSD2 contains regulations of new services to be operated by so-called Third-Party Payment Service Providers on behalf of a Payment Service User, by leveraging Strong Customer Authentication. Due to the lineage connecting PSD2 with IOBWS v3.1, the main terms are described:

- **Account Information Service Provider (AISP)** are *TPPs* with permission to connect to a transaction account and use the information to provide a **Account Information Services (AIS)** as defined in article 67 of EU 2015/2366 [8].
- **Confirmation of the Availability of Funds Service** is used by Payment Instrument Issuing Service Provider (PIISP) TPP as defined by article 65 of EU 2015/2366 [8].
- **Payment Initiation Service Provider (PISP)** can, given customers' consent, initiate payments and transactions on their behalf from their bank account, thereby providing **Payment Initiation Service (PIS)** as defined by article 66 of EU 2015/2366 [8].
- **Payment Service User (PSU)** is the end-user of payment services and customer of the bank in the IOBWS context.
- **Strong Customer Authentication (SCA)**, in the scope of PSD2, refers to an authentication mechanism based on the use of two or more elements that are independent; a breach of one does not compromise the others. The recognized elements or factors can be based on:
 - 1) Knowledge: something only the user knows, e.g. a password.
 - 2) Possession: something only the user possesses, e.g. a particular cell phone and number.
 - 3) Inherence: something the user is or has, e.g. a fingerprint or iris pattern.
- **Third Party Provider (TPP)** refers in the scope of PSD2 to the party that uses the API to initiate operations or request information on behalf of the end-customer (PSU).

2.4 Data elements

The International Bank Account Number (IBAN) format for Icelandic accounts should follow the specification set forth in ISO 13616-1:2020 [1] as shown in Table 2.1 below. Description of the implementation of the checksum calculation is outside the scope of this document but should be discernable from the ISO standard and examples available online.

Table 2.1: Icelandic IBAN with example.

	Country Code	Check Digits	National Bank Code	Branch ID	Account type	Account Number	Account Holder's Kennitala
Description	IS	2 digits	2 digits	2 digits	2 digits	6 digits	10 digits
Example	IS	14	01	59	26	007654	5510730339

3 Implementation

3.1 Service Overview

When TN-FMP-VH-1 on Business Requirements and TN-FMP-VH-2 on Technical Requirements decided to adopt the NextGenPSD2 framework, the intent was to stay as true to the original specification as possible.

However, as with other European adaptations of NextGenPSD2 for domestic use, additional functionality was needed to support payment operations and account information expected by the Icelandic market. The original workgroup did this by extending existing schema types in the NextGenPSD2 OpenAPI contract, while removing elements and services not directly applicable to IOBWS. The intention was to streamline the specification, but developers with previous exposure to NextGenPSD2 found it challenging to understand the implications of the changes. Furthermore, the overall implementation details remained opaque for those migrating from earlier IOBWS versions, so more transparency was needed.

Therefore, workgroup TN-FMP-VH-8 was charged with revising the 3.0 version of IOBWS. The group tried to address two primary concerns: Clarify how the foreign payments products fit into NextGenPSD2, and simplify comparison against later releases by the Berlin Group. Additionally, the result should make it straightforward to adapt future updates and consider replacing current domestic adaptations in the IOBWS with newer NextGenPSD2 data elements.

The decision by the TN-FMP-VH-8 was to keep most of the original NextGenPSD2 OpenAPI definition intact, including those services and types that are not currently applicable to the Icelandic context or intended uses of the IOBWS. The foreign payments products (see section 3.2.1 and Table 3.2 below) are defined separately with applicable JSON schema types, leaving the original, e.g. SEPA message types, intact. They share the generic data elements and the 'native' payment types, reusing the services and operations for payments that are at the core of the NextGenPSD2 specification.

The Table 3.1 below lists the implications for the OpenAPI YAML contract. It contains the Consents and Signing Basket services, as removing or commenting those out would have impacted the contract structure. They will not be implemented as part of this specification.

Table 3.1: Service support in ÍST TS-313.

Payment Initiation Service (PIS)	Supported by all implementors of TS-313, in accordance with the specification (see later notes on Periodic Payments).
Account Information Service (AIS)	Supported by all implementors of TS-313, in accordance with the specification.
Confirmation of Funds Service (PIIS)	Supported by all implementors of TS-313, in accordance with the specification.
Consent Service	Explicitly not part of the TS-313 specification, but included for comparison and compatability with the NextGenPSD2 OpenAPI contract.
Signing Baskets Service (SBS)	Explicitly not part of the TS-313 specification, but included for comparison and compatability with the NextGenPSD2 OpenAPI contract.

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3.2 Payment Initiation Service

3.2.1 Overview

The foreign payments products supported by ÍST TS-313 are shown in Table 3.2 below. They are defined as JSON objects. Other payment types are not supported by the specification.

Variations in procedures for foreign payments will apply within each bank, e.g. concerning routing or acceptance flows. Accordingly, service consumers should expect all of the available life-cycle statuses for payment processing per the specification.

Table 3.2: Foreign payment products.

SEPA - Credit Transfers	Payments using the Single European Payment Area Credit Transfer (SEPA) schema.
Cross-Border - Credit Transfers	Cross-Border Payments, using the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) Network.

The support for payment services for each of the payment products is shown in Table 3.3. At this time, behavior for periodic payments is not supported by the ÍST TS-313 for foreign payments.

Table 3.3: Payment services available.

payments	Supported by all implementors of TS-313, in accordance with the specification, for domestic adaptation of foreign payment products.
bulk-payments	Supported by all implementors of TS-313, in accordance with the specification, for domestic adaptation of foreign payment products.
periodic-payments	Explicitly not part of the TS-313 specification, but included for comparison and compatibility with the NextGenPSD2 OpenAPI contract.

3.2.2 Domestic Payment Product Data Elements

The elements listed in Table 3.4 are used in the domestic payment products under scope for ÍST TS-313. The schema type *paymentInitiationDomestic_json* should be used to define JSON data instances.

Table 3.4: Data elements for foreign payments.

Data Element	SEPA - Credit Transfers	Cross-Border - Credit Transfers
endToEndIdentification	N/A	N/A
instructionIdentification	Optional	Optional
debtorAccount	Mandatory	Mandatory
debtorId	N/A	N/A

Data Element	SEPA - Credit Transfers	Cross-Border - Credit Transfers
chargesAccount	Optional	Optional
ultimateDebtor	N/A	N/A
ultimateDebtorId	N/A	N/A
instructedAmount	Mandatory	Mandatory
creditorAccount	Mandatory	Mandatory
creditorAgent	N/A	Optional
creditorAgentName	N/A	Optional
creditorAgentAddress	N/A	Optional
creditorName	Mandatory	Mandatory
creditorId	N/A	N/A
creditorAddress	Mandatory	Mandatory
ultimateCreditor	N/A	N/A
ultimateCreditorId	N/A	N/A
icelandicPurposeCode	N/A	N/A
chargeBearer	N/A	Optional
remittanceInformationUnstructured	Optional	Optional
remittanceInformationStructured	N/A	N/A
requestedExecutionDate	N/A	N/A
partialPayment	N/A	N/A
serviceLevel	N/A	Optional
centralBankPurposeCode	Mandatory	Mandatory

To elaborate on the use of particular attributes, Table 3.5 contains additional information on top of the schema definitions. Notes on individual data elements or usage patterns follow in the subsections. Should further information be required, consult the matching section in the ÍST TS-310 on Domestic Payments specification.

Table 3.5: Detailed description of ÍST TS-313 payments properties.

Field	Description
centralBankPurposeCode	An element mandated by the Central Bank of Iceland. This uses a domestic coding schema [see 10] that does not match any ISO 20022 references, such as the ExternalPurpose1Code used by the purposeCode element available in the NextGenPSD2 framework, but not used by ÍST TS-313.

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Field	Description
serviceLevel	Applies to SWIFT Payments and is constrained by ISO 20022 ExternalServiceLevel1Code. However, only URGP is suggested for use by domestic banks, which means payment will be executed as an urgent transaction cleared through a real-time gross settlement system, which is typically identified as a wire or high value transaction. The use might be further constrained, so it is best to consult the product documentation specific to each bank and its implementation of IST TS-313.

3.3 Bulk Payments

Bulk payments are supported for all IST TS-313 payment types. For a bulk payment, all collected payments shall be based on the same payment product and initiated from the same debtor account, consistent with the approach of the NextGenPSD2 framework for native bulk types. The *bulkPaymentInitiationDomestic_json* schema type should be used for the top-level bulk initiation, according to IST TS-313 and the *paymentInitiationBulkElementDomestic_json* type for the child payments contained in an array on the parent.

No debtor or charge accounts should be specified on child bulk payment elements; batch booking applies to all cross-border payment bulks, implying that there is only one withdrawal on the debtor side.

Table 3.6: Description of domestic bulk payment main body.

Data Element	Type	Condition	Description
batchBookingPreferred	Boolean	N/A	All foreign payments are implicitly processed as bulk payments, so this element should not be included or set to true.
debtorAccount	Account Reference	Mandatory	No child payments may contain a debtor account, only this top parent bulk element.
paymentInformationId	Max35Text	Optional	Unique identification assigned by the sending party to unambiguously identify this bulk. Note: This attribute might be considered mandatory in future versions of the specification.
requestedExecutionDate	ISODate	N/A	Not applicable to foreign payments.
payments	Bulk Entry	Mandatory	The Bulk Entry is a JSON Type, which mirrors the supported domestic payment products for single payments, excluding the data elements: debtorAccount, requestedExecutionDate, and chargesAccount.

Data Element	Type	Condition	Description
chargesAccount	Account Reference	Optional	Set if fees applicable to foreign payments should be debited to another account than the debtorAccount.

3.4 Payment Bulk Errors

The NextGenPSD2 framework [4] has a structured approach to messages that convey information related to specific HTTP return codes. These should be largely transparent to consumers of IST TS-313 services implementations. The domestic adaptation, however, defines comparable message properties on the status response for bulk payment data elements in *bulkPaymentInitiationElementDomesticWithStatus*.

IST 310 should be referenced for further information on how errors are displayed.

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4 Accounts Service

Transaction information retrieval bears a strong resemblance to the previous versions of IOBWS, although it is adapted from the Berlin Group NextGenPSD2 framework. The canonical source for the Account Service is ÍST 310.

5 Payment processing flow

The NextGenPSD2 framework [4] includes a handful of authentication methods that can be combined into authorization flow, mostly geared toward intermediary service providers acting on behalf of end-users. ÍST TS-313 has added an “IOBWS” method for confirming authorization and defining it as the only supported transaction flow when authorizing payments. It deviates from the previous IOBWS standards by separating payment initiation and authorization. This makes it possible for consumers of IOBWS version 3 to implement variations in their business logic through a two-step process: no payments created with an initiation request will be automatically authorized and processed without an explicit confirmation in a later step. The main scenarios supported are: e.g. an immediate authorization after initiation, which will be executed using straight-through processing (STP); as well as a variation of the decoupled flow where the authorization takes place in the UI of the mobile app or online banking Web interface offered by the bank.

To simplify API usage and distinguish the IOBWS approach from e.g. the NextGenPSD2 Decoupled transaction flow, ÍST TS-313 considers the authorization resources associated with a payment initiation to be implicitly created at the time of the original initiation request. This means payments can be directly confirmed without an intermediary step to create an authorization resource, which would trigger straight-through processing for an initiated payment. ÍST TS-313 does not include specific authorization for cancelling payments.

In decoupled IOBWS scenarios, payments would be available for confirmation in the appropriate user interface immediately after initiation. This matches the decoupled SCA method in the NextGenPSD2 framework, but without having to explicitly create the authorization resources. The end result also closely aligns with how most banks handle similar cases in support of earlier IOBWS versions.

Figure 5.1 shows an example of an accounting system using the IOBWS flow. The system would use OAuth 2.0 Client Credentials Grant Flow and authenticate itself over the transport using mutual TLS (mTLS) with an eIDAS compliant certificate, identifying the legal entity or person the system is representing. Certificates issued by Auðkenni ehf. under the “Traustur búnaður” intermediary issuing certificate are supported by all IOBWS service providers.

The first initiation would receive a response in line with the one below, with the header ASPSP-SCA-Approach containing the method “IOBWS”.

Listing 5.1: Example of a response containing a link to the confirmation resource.

```

1  {
2    "transactionStatus": "RCVD",
3    "paymentId": "1234-b2b-983",
4    "_links":
5      {
6        "self": {"href": "/v1/payments/cross-border-credit-transfers/1234-b2b-983"},
7        "status": {"href": "/v1/payments/1234-b2b-983/status"},
8        "scaStatus": {"href": "/v1/payments/1234-b2b-983/authorisations/123auth456"},
9        "confirmStraightThroughProcessingAuthorisation": {"href": "/v1/payments/1234-b2b-983/authorisations/123auth456"}
10     }
11  }
```

Confirmation of the payment initiation takes the form of a PUT update to the authorization resource, using the “iobwsAuthorisationConfirmation” type. The confirmation message is an optional description that can potentially be used by service implementors for display in a UI available to users, e.g. for decoupled authorizations to communicate the method used to approve these payments.

Listing 5.2: Example of an IOBWS authorization confirmation,

```

1  {
2    "confirmationMessage": "Confirmed by the automatic ERP system."
3  }
```

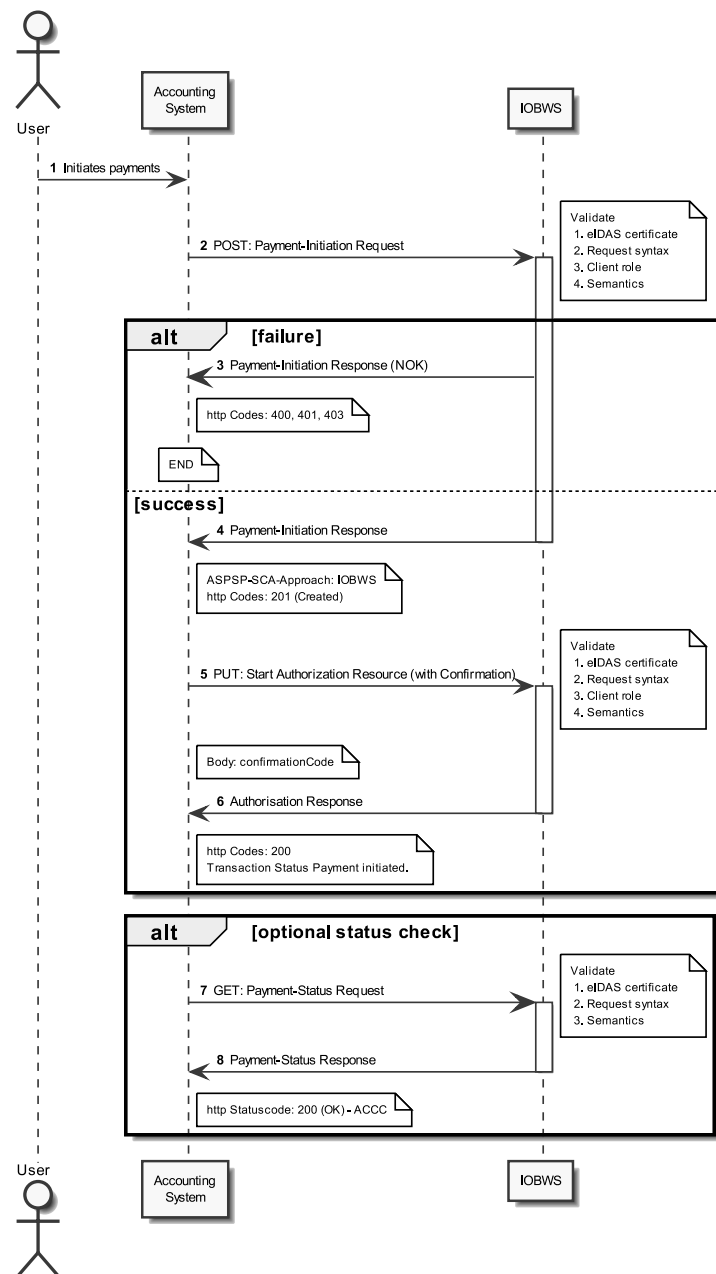


Figure 5.1: IOBWS authorization flow with confirmation

The response to the confirmation is shown below:

Listing 5.3: Example of authorization confirmation return.

```
1  {  
2    "scaStatus": "finalised",  
3    "_links": {  
4      "status": { "href": "/v1/payments/cross-border-credit-transfers/1234-b2b-983/status" }  
5    }  
6  }
```

Optionally, the links provided can be used to check the status of payments, resulting in the response below. The expected transaction status is "ACSC", which stands for "AcceptedSettlementCompleted", indicating the debtor's accounts has been settled. As mentioned before, the full range of codes are available and could potentially apply.

Listing 5.4: Example of a payment status query response.

```
1  {  
2    "transactionStatus": "ACSC"  
3  }
```

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