

Electricity industry approach towards payment solutions for EV charging

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The European electricity industry maintains that EV drivers shall not be restricted in the choice of their e-mobility service provider nor of the charging station accessed – neither at the point of purchase of an electric vehicle, nor before each individual charging operation. The customer shall always have the choice of contractual and ad-hoc payment.

Particularly regarding the preferred method of payment, it has to be ensured that customers have transparency and freedom of choice to access to all existing and widely used payment methods. From our perspective, such an approach leads to a customer-friendly charging process, which is safe and cost-effective. At the same time, this guarantees the free market approach and the establishment of single market solutions instead of country-specific regulation that could hamper innovation.

In the context of the upcoming review of Directive 2014/94/EU, also known as the AFI Directive, we find that the European Commission should safeguard consumers' interests as highlighted:

- As contractual payment throughout roaming agreements is widely used and accepted throughout Europe, no costly additional specific regulation should be implemented for little used ad-hoc payment, which has been a successful feature of EU charging infrastructure rules

- Specific country-by-country solutions should be avoided before the revision of the AFI Directive. In this sense, Member States should not impose a particular system not compatible with systems in other Member States.
- A uniform payment system does not require the imposition of a specific method. Customers should be offered the choice of preferred method where options can include:
a) NFC-based compliance via credit/debit cards, b) via wallets such as pre-installed smartphone apps and the phone's NFC chip or c) via web access like apps or browsers
- The revision of the AFI Directive should not mandate a specific payment system but let market forces make room for competition for the best customer experience and ensure consistency with other pieces of legislation such as the Payment Service Directive
- Requiring a specific payment (such as card-reader system) method may increase the CAPEX, OPEX and fraud risk, ultimately affecting EV drivers and governments, and undermining the fast roll-out of charging points across the EU.
- Lawmakers should not restrict innovation – Europe should avoid technology lock-ins, such as mandating ISO15118 for Plug & Charge, in order to have future proof legislation

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