



ISO 20022

For Corporate Actions

Updated in July 2022

REGULATORY EVOLUTION

Different streams lead Securities Industry to move to ISO20022 :

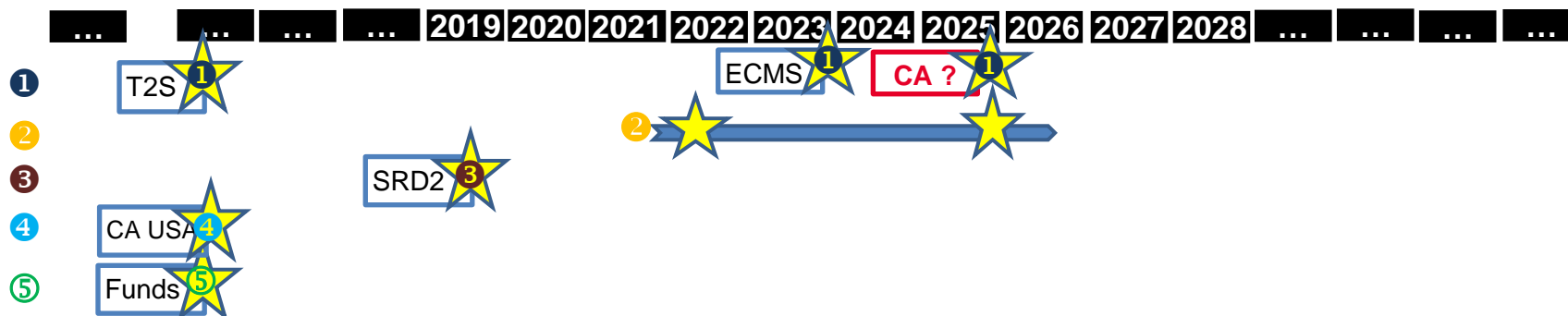
- 1 - 1 ECB develops Eurosystem's infrastructures with ISO20022 format. The first stone was settlement with Target 2 Securities, the second is the merger of T2 and T2S leading to a general move of cash systems in the world (cf point 2), the 3rd one is the launch of the strategic platform ECMS for liquidity management in Europe. This last stone has a major impact on Collateral Management and Corporate Actions to exchange with the ECMS by November 2023 and more broadly for Corporate Actions management around 2025 even if this date is matter of debate and needs clarification.
- 2 - 2 Cash payment is implementing ISO2022 messages with a first step in November 2022 with the Eurosystem's impulsion (result of T2/T2S merger) followed by different migration leading to the adoption of this format by more than 80 currencies in the world by November 2025 including the main ones.
- 3 - 3 SRD2 has defined different standards for Corporate Actions, Identification of Shareholders and General Meetings leading to use ISO format for messaging more specifically ISO 20022 for the two latest topics.
- 4 - 4 Corporate Actions are managed in the USA under a ISO20022 format between DTCC and its participants.
- 5 - 5 Funds industry uses ISO20022 for order execution and confirmation

FOCAL POINTS

T2S created a new set of requirements draft by the CMH TF (Collateral Management Harmonization Task Force) in view of ECMS that leads to a three phases adoption of ISO20022 format : on ECMS launch for parties involved in ECMS transactions, Nov. 2025 in theory for all intermediaries in the T2S zone. This date is conditioned to full adoption of ISO20022 in the world by the securities industry in November 2028 at the latest. However the SWIFT community does not agree for such a migration leading to an unclear situation on the adoption of ISO20022 for Corporate Actions.

ISO 20022 is the chosen standard for Identification of Shareholders and General Meeting messages/
 ISO 15022 is the current format for messages for Corporate Actions. It permits a high level of STP .
 USA are specific. The adoption is limited to few major custodians that use private or 15022 protocols to interact with their clients.

Some cases remain in other formats showing that a full adoption of ISO20022 is not obvious.



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- Last AMISECO did not permit to have clarification regarding the timeline of ISO20022 adoption (November 2025?)
- June 22 AFTI Board gave its greenlight to set up an AFTI project working group to coordinate the migration

STATEMENT

- ❑ **ISO 20022 adoption timeframe still be unclear** : SCORE standard 15 officially refers to November 2025 for a European adoption of ISO20022 format to process Corporate Actions (*)
- ❑ **AFTI “GEO” first study led to request the set up of an AFTI project working group.** It will coordinate the migration to the ISO20022 format on corporate actions business of AFTI stakeholders with a target date in January 2026

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

- ❑ **SCORE Standard 15** : this standard requests to process Corporate Events (i.e. Corporate Actions and General Meetings) in a ISO20022 format at least in November 2025. Corporate events of securities shall be primarily processed via ISO20022 messages (announcement, expression of rights, results of the corporate event etc). If not, involved securities will not be eligible to ECMS and potentially to any collateral arrangement.

The date of November 25 has been agreed with a precondition that supposes that Corporate Events in the world has to be processed under an ISO20022 format since 2028 to avoid a long period of coexistence between, the “new ISO 20022 and the former ISO15022 formats. This 2028 date has not been agreed by the SWIFT community leading to a foggy situation regarding the November 2025 milestone.

Furthermore this date was set up before the postponement of ECMS launch from 2022 to 2023;

- ❑ **November 2025** can be considered as a “Damocles Sword” to deal with.
- ❑ **January 2026** : is the current target date set up by AFTI to process corporate actions under an ISO20022 format. General Meetings messages are already using ISO20022 format.
- ❑ **ISO20022** messages being richer than ISO15022 messages, the orientation is to adapt Euroclear CA Form to the new format to improve “straight through processing” rate.

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