

Position Paper



The European Business Wallet

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Background

The European Business Wallet (EBW) is a core component of the Digital Package, proposed as a harmonised digital solution to significantly simplify administrative procedures for companies and public sector bodies across the EU. Its primary goal is to provide a single, secure, and user-friendly digital identity for businesses of all sizes, including SMEs. By opting for the European Business Wallet, companies will be able to digitally verify identities, instantly share trusted documents (like licenses and certificates), sign documents, and securely delegate legal actions to others. This initiative will modernise economic activities within the Single Market by digitalising critical paperwork and communications.

This simplification allows for critical actions to be performed remotely, facilitates easy cross-border communication (reducing travel costs, especially important for SMEs which constitute 99% of EU enterprises), and speeds up data validation and submission. Building on the technical architecture of the EU Digital Identity Wallets, these measures are estimated to save up to €5 billion in administrative costs by 2029.

The Malta Case

The Malta Business Bureau (MBB) in consultation with the Maltese business community demonstrates a broad and consistent support for the introduction of an EBW at EU level. The majority of consulted businesses consider that there is a genuine need for such an instrument. This reflects a shared assessment that the current regulatory and operational environment for businesses—particularly those operating cross-border—is characterised by fragmentation, duplication, and high administrative burden.

The need for an EU Business Wallet

The MBB welcomes the introduction of such a legal instrument given that businesses in Malta also broadly agree that an EU Business Wallet would address persistent inefficiencies arising from divergent national systems, repeated onboarding and compliance procedures, and the frequent re-submission of information that is already publicly available or held in official registries. In this context, the EBW is seen as a practical tool to streamline onboarding, compliance, and verification processes, with particular benefits for SMEs and businesses operating in regulated sectors. At the same time, businesses emphasise that trust, security, robust governance, and strong data protection safeguards are essential prerequisites for successful adoption. Alignment with AML requirements and clarity on roles and responsibilities across authorities and market participants are considered especially important.

Regulation – the chosen legal instrument

MBB also welcomes the choice of legal instrument – a Regulation. Most businesses consider that a directly applicable Regulation is necessary to ensure uniform application, legal

certainty, and EU-wide interoperability. Divergent national transposition or voluntary national approaches would risk undermining the effectiveness of the initiative and perpetuate fragmentation. While some concerns are raised regarding regulatory overload and the implementation capacity of smaller Member States, the prevailing view is that a single, harmonised Regulation is preferable to multiple national measures. Clear guidance, effective enforcement, and appropriate transitional arrangements are regarded as critical to ensuring proportionate and consistent implementation across the Union.

An Optional Tool for Businesses

The MBB notes the deferring opinions on whether the EBW should be optional or mandatory for businesses. While many businesses recognise the benefits of keeping the tool optional initially in order to respect business autonomy and allow gradual adoption—especially for SMEs—others argue that a purely voluntary approach risks prolonging implementation, maintaining parallel systems, and reducing network effects. It is therefore suggested that a phased or hybrid approach is introduced instead, whereby the EBW is introduced on a voluntary basis with clear incentives and communication, followed by defined transition periods or targeted mandatory use for specific high-value or cross-border procedures.

Maximising the uptake of EBW

To maximise the uptake of the European Business Wallet (EBW) given its voluntary nature for companies, the deployment of comprehensive accompanying measures is essential. Beyond simple awareness-raising, businesses require structured technical support and practical resources, such as step-by-step tutorials, webinars, and training materials designed to help SMEs and micro-enterprises integrate the wallet into their existing digital workflows. The provision of specialized compliance toolkits will further assist these economic operators in meeting various regulatory requirements.

These support actions should be executed through close partnerships with key economic intermediaries, specifically the Chambers of Commerce and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN). By leveraging the operational expertise and trusted relationships these networks hold with entrepreneurs, the EU can build the necessary trust to drive participation and ensure a coherent rollout across the Single Market. Ultimately, positioning these organizations as empowered implementation partners will transform the EBW into a tangible driver of digital transformation, administrative simplification, and seamless cross-border interoperability.

Timeline for Application

The proposal should be on a more ambitious timelines for the application of its provisions (one year after entry into force), including in provisions enabling economic operators to identify and authenticate, sign or seal, submit documents, and send or receive notifications

by EBW (currently 24 months). This period should be shorter to be consistent with the goal of delivering the estimated cost and time savings.

For questions or more detailed information please contact Christine Cassar – Senior Projects Executive on infobrussels@mbb.org.mt

The Malta Business Bureau is the EU advisory organisation of;



and a partner of the Enterprise Europe Network;

