Article 3: Definitions and payment roles

Council first-reading position 8543/1/26 REV 1, 4 November 2026. Verified 19 November 2026. Final wording and numbering may change.

Application
The Council position provides for general application 21 months after eventual entry into force under Article 124. Final Official Journal text and calendar dates remain to be checked.

Provision
Article 3, points 3-6, 37, 43, 45, 59, 60 and 64

Requirement
A payment service user may be the payer, recipient or both. The payer places or allows the order from its account, or places the order where there is no account; the recipient is the intended recipient of funds. The account-servicing provider maintains the account; an initiation provider places orders at the user’s request for an account held elsewhere. Authentication verifies identity or validity of instrument use, while strong authentication has the specified independent elements.

Responsible
Every team classifying participants, recording evidence or selecting duties must use the defined role that applies to the service.

Timing
Apply the definitions at intake and whenever the facts or services change. The business-day definition depends on provider opening for execution of transactions other than instant credit transfers.

Conditions and exceptions
One legal person can perform more than one role. A consumer acts outside trade, business or profession. These definitions do not themselves decide authorisation, loss allocation or provider licensing.

PSD2 comparison
PSD2 Article 4 is the principal predecessor, with reordered and new definitions. Use each Council definition point and its exact wording.

Source: Council of the European Union, 8543/1/26 REV 1. Updated article card.

What it means for the fraud function

- Keep the payer, recipient, account-servicing provider and initiation provider in separate case fields.

- Distinguish authentication logs from evidence of payer consent.

- Use the defined business day when calculating refund and complaint clocks.

Common misreadings

- The recipient and the recipient’s bank are different legal roles.

- Authentication does not mean the same thing as transaction authorisation.

Episodes: Archive lesson 2. Links on the updated HTML card.