

CBI CONSORTIUM

**CUSTOMER TO BUSINESS INTERACTION:**

*System management of services related to corporate banking and e-invoicing*



**CONSORZIO**CBI  
customer to business interaction

## The CBI Consortium

### Mission

The **“CBI - Customer to Business Interaction”** Consortium defines the technical and regulatory standards for the Financial Institutions to use the Interbank Corporate Banking Service. It governs the technical infrastructure linking all the Consortium Members with their customers to route Service-related order, information and document flows.

The CBI Consortium coordinates a vast community of stakeholders (financial institutions, institutional organisations, public authorities, enterprises, sector associations, software vendors, service providers, etc.), to maintain constant alignment between customers' business needs and the Service standards.

In line with changing market needs the CBI Consortium manages the “CBI Gateway Service” allowing the Central Public Administration to access the CBI Network, streamlining and simplifying accounting relations with all the Financial Institutions.

To guarantee maximum quality of the service provided, the CBI Consortium liaises directly with the technical organisations that encourage access to the infrastructure (both Consortium Members and customers) by coordinating System activities. Particularly important also is the focus on creating information and education activities to improve awareness of the services among all stakeholders.

These characteristics make the CBI Service an internationally-recognised best practice.

### The Consortium members

The following may participate in the Consortium: the ABI, banks, Financial Intermediaries and other entities authorised to operate - under Italian laws and European regulations - in the payment services area in Italy and in the European Union.

## The CBI Consortium organisation

The universal influence of the Consortium Members is represented by the **General Meeting**, the resolutions from which, decided in compliance with law and the Statute, are binding to all Consortium Members.

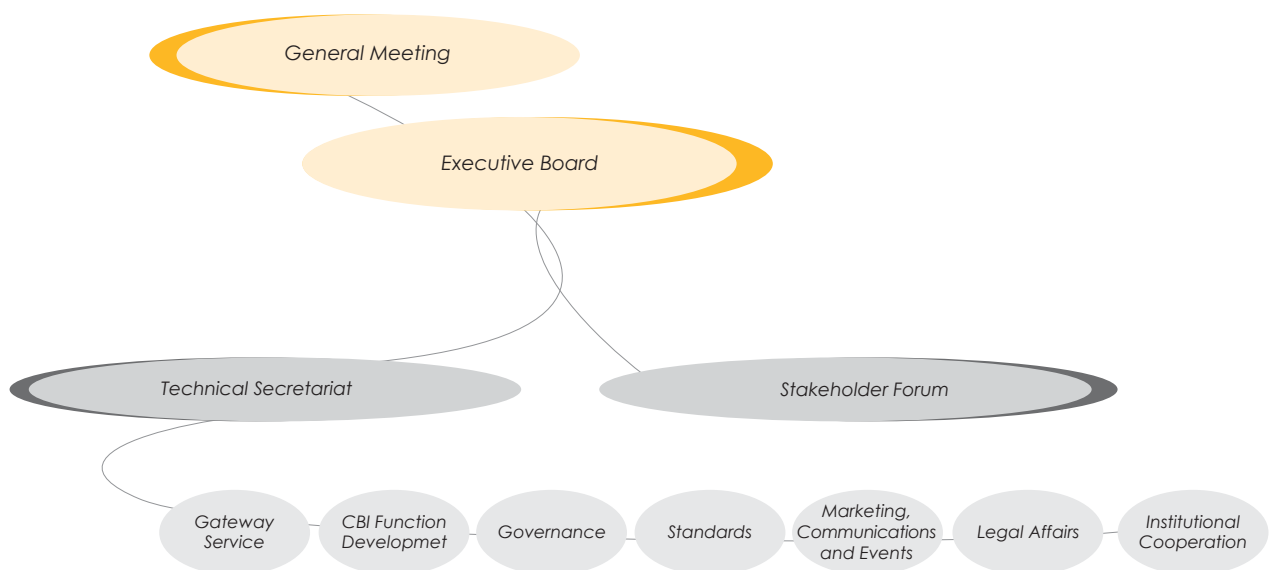
Consistent with the guidelines and general directives established by the General Meeting, the **Executive Board** promotes, coordinates and audits Consortium activities, approves CBI Service regulations and manages and protects the CBI trademark. In addition to the President and Vice President, the Executive Board has fifteen members appointed according to their capacity to economically and commercially represent all consortium members.

The **President** represents the Consortium at all levels and supervises business activities. If the President should be absent or unavailable, the Consortium is represented by the **Vice President**.

The Consortium has a **Technical Secretariat**, coordinated by the **Secretary General**, the duty of which is to assist the President in supervising Consortium activities. The Technical Secretariat has the task of coordinating and maintaining relations with Consortium Members, preparing periodic analyses, studies and special communications on the activities completed, and organises the implementation of Executive Board resolutions.

The Technical Secretariat also coordinates specific Working Groups of experts from the various lines of business.

At the beginning of 2004 the **Stakeholder Forum** was also established, formed from several round tables through which the CBI can present and communicate CBI Service developments, gather feedback from all stakeholders in the chain and share service proposals requested by the market.



### Business areas:

CBI Consortium activities are divided into various lines of business:

- a) **Gateway Service:** develops the banking system access services for Central Public Administration entities in relation to specific projects and needs of the institutional stakeholders.
- b) **CBI Function Development:** gathers the needs of businesses and P.A., guaranteeing the development of new services at national and international level in terms of functional requirements shared with the entire CBI community.
- c) **Governance:** responsible for all activities that the CBI is expected to provide to users of the technology architecture to guarantee performance and correct operation of the infrastructural components, with particular focus on the service levels of Consortium Members.
- d) **Standards:** has the objective of producing and aligning system standards in a manner consistent with market needs and the requirements defined at domestic and international level, also guaranteeing full compliance with regulatory developments.
- e) **Marketing, Communications and Events:** organises external communications and relations through the Italian and international press, manages the Consortium's web portal, and coordinates the organisation of conferences and initiatives in support of the promotion of CBI operations and standards.
- f) **Legal Affairs:** responds to the needs for certainty and up-to-date information through the prompt definition of duties, obligations and responsibilities of the CBI Service entities and through constant updating of the CBI's Interbank Regulations at domestic and EU level.
- g) **Stakeholder Forum:** guarantees the exchange of information between the Consortium and the various stakeholder representatives to obtain development input from service users and guarantee constant alignment between Consortium development output and the real needs of the market.
- h) **Institutional Cooperation:** guarantees constant supervision of activities linked to current projects by participation in institutional working parties at national and international level.

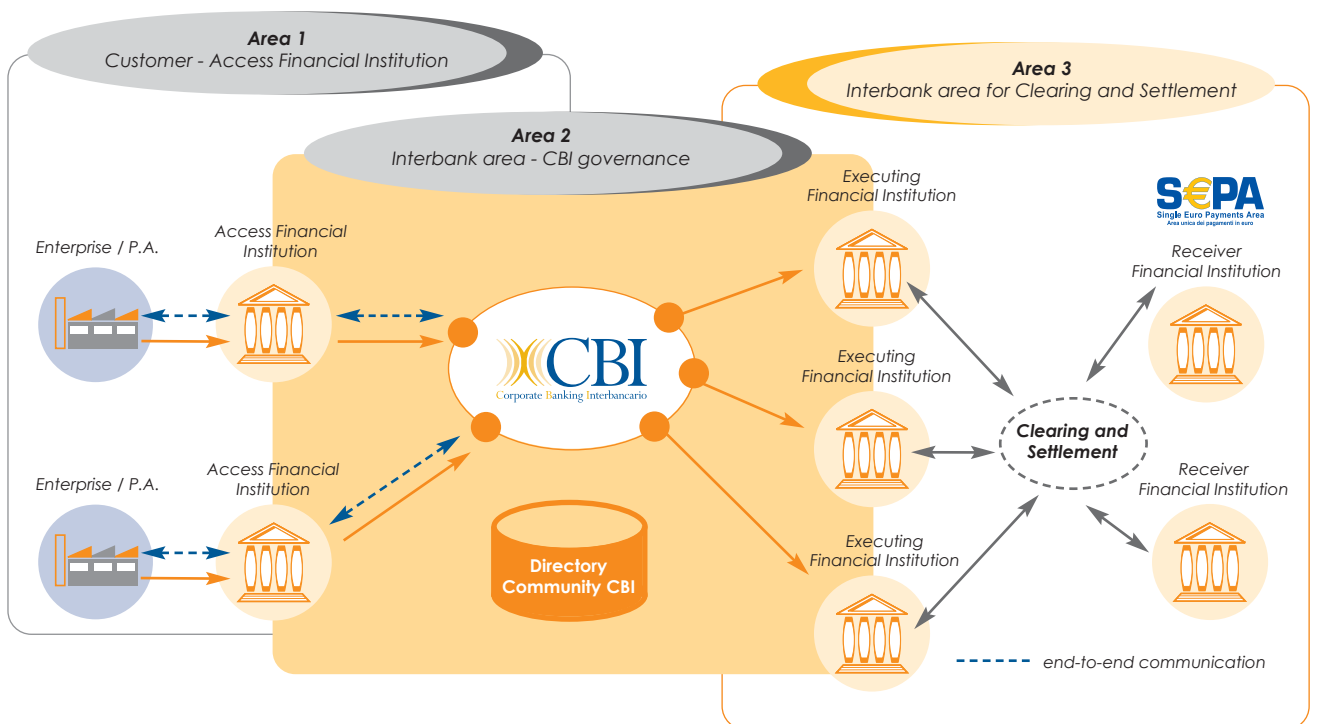
## The CBI Service

Launched in 1995 as an interbank agreement to guarantee interoperability with the business world, the **CBI Service (Interbank Corporate Banking)** was developed by gradually expanding its functions in response to new needs emerging from the targets reached (in addition to business, also Public Administration and retail).

The CBI Service allows each user (corporate or P.A.) operating through one or more Financial Institutions a single electronic access to the interbank payments system to manage current accounts even if held with different Financial Institutions. The service is competitively offered by Member Financial Institutions, in compliance with technical and regulatory rules defined by the CBI Consortium.

The main features of the CBI Service:

- offer dematerialisation of financial messaging, eliminating the need to visit the Financial Institution and lowering operating costs;
- allows all Financial Institutions to be reached through just one electronic connection;
- allows orders to be transmitted to the user's own Financial Institution and receive information rapidly and in a secure manner;
- ensures guaranteed levels of service, confidentiality and data security;
- offers integration of corporate ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) with corporate banking systems to optimise accounting, financial and administrative management.



The CBI Service is a combination of many different functions that can be considered the basis of the "bouquet" offered by each Consortium Member to its customers, which can be classified into the following areas:

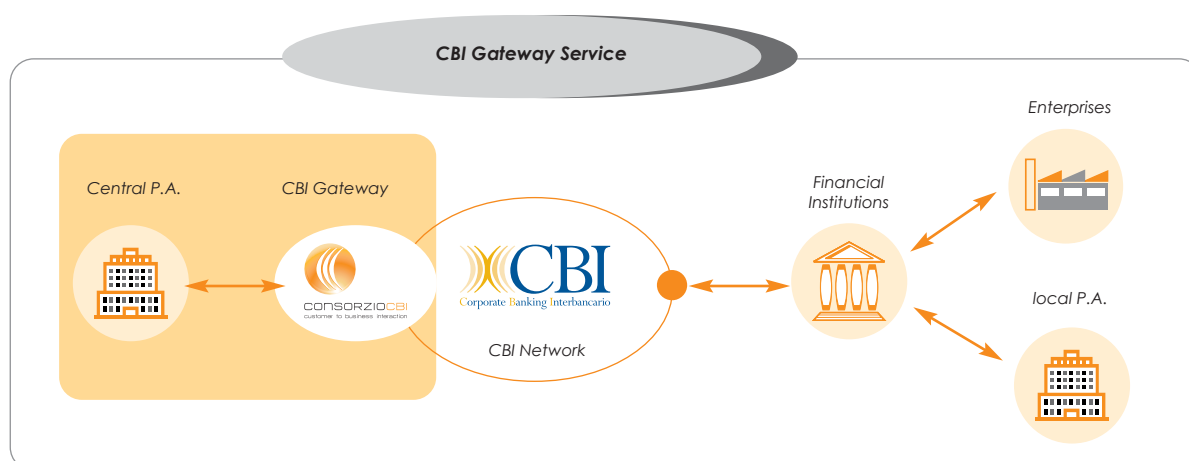
- **Collections and Payments:** included in this area are collection orders (e.g. RIBA, RID, MAV) and payment orders (e.g. bank transfers), plus advanced services (e.g. Creditor Payment Activation Request), all modelled on the needs of customers and the formats adopted in Europe for the SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area) and the PSD (Payment Services Directive);
- **Information:** all the outcome/statement services that help customers to automatically reconcile the orders made;
- **Document management:** the services in this area offer electronic document exchange between CBI consortium members. The documents exchanged can be structured, for example the sending of E2E (end-to-end) electronic invoices, or non-structured such as electronic documents in a format agreed by both parties (EDI, PDF, etc.).

## The CBI Gateway Service

The Consortium offers the CBI Gateway Service to Central Public Administrations so that they may interface more efficiently with the banking system. Through this service both the Authority and the entities interacting with it (citizen and enterprise) have easy access to integrated banking service mechanisms and information.

The use of infrastructures that are already available and widely used on the banking market therefore allows Central Public Administration to access banking services on its own behalf or as a gateway for its users.

The CBI Gateway Service therefore offers direct access to the CBI Network by institutional users (i.e. Central Public Administration) to transmit payment initiation flows to the banking system (or the related return dataflows) according to standardisation needs, for which interoperability with the banking system is guaranteed.



## The CBI Network

**Since 2007 the banking system has invested in a new and modern infrastructure, the governance of which is entrusted to the CBI Consortium.** Development of this network has allowed Consortium Members to upgrade their product mix with CBI services to work alongside the traditional functions of collections, payments and statements, i.e. value-added functions, particularly with regard to document management and related financial services (e.g. Invoice Financing Requests).

These services were developed as consistent with the needs expressed by all stakeholders and are in line with international standards (ISO 20022) and SEPA (Single Euro Payments Area) developments. The technology architecture, based on **XML standard**, meets **reconciliation, tracking/tracing, security (digital signatures), speed, compatibility and flexibility** needs through direct contact between the various Consortium Members of the CBI community.

Specifically, the key aspect of the network infrastructure is that it is managed in peer-to-peer mode, i.e. with direct communication between Consortium Members. The exchange of flows is therefore not only between customers and Consortium Members, but also between the CBI circuit customers via their respective Members access points (**end-to-end communications**). The authenticity and integrity of flows within the network is also guaranteed by the option of applying **digital signatures** in accordance with current regulations. To guarantee interoperability of signature certification within the CBI Service and ensure compliance with anti-money laundering regulations during the process of identifying signature owners, the List of CBI Certifiers was created, on which "approved" certifiers pursuant to art. 29 of the Code of Digital Administration (d.lgs 82/2005), may be registered provided they meet the highest levels of service envisaged in the CBI Trademarks Regulation.

The **new CBI network** is characterised by the following new elements:

- greater flexibility of the Consortium Member-Network application interfaces through widely used standard technology such as Message Queuing and Web Services, which allow business-oriented interface building and service orchestration;
- greater flexibility in management the network components in that the Consortium Member, based on operating cost-benefit assessments, can decide whether to use the Logical Network access components from home or via partial or full decentralisation to a remote location;
- international geographic area cover guaranteed through strategic alliances with other network providers;
- improved overall performance of the network services and service support in real time;
- option of developing common centralised and integrated Business Process Management-type services;

- *centralised Directory model with extensions relating to the type and quantity of data managed and in consideration of the public and private dynamic management rules as seen by each Consortium Member;*
- *centralised governance model that provides the Consortium with coordinated monitoring tools for the various components, allowing web-based verification at any given time of the actual condition and use of the network.*

## CBI legal frameworks

### The Statute

*The basic rules governing the CBI Consortium are contained in the Statute. The related specifications were prepared according to an advanced logic, based on EU regulations (including the PSD, Payment Services Directive), of which confirmation is found, for example, in the option of Consortium membership even for non-banking entities.*

### The Legal Framework Coordinated Text

*The Coordinated Text of CBI Legal Framework contains the regulation on CBI Trademarks with related graphics characteristics, the CBI Service Regulations and the reference contract formats (freely adaptable by the contracting parties) for Financial Institute-Customer and Financial Institute-Technical Organisation trade relations.*

*In practice, the Text governs interbank relations in their widest sense - i.e. between banks, payment agencies, technical organisations, customers - within the sphere of CBI.*

*Not only Consortium Members and technical organisations registered on the related list (ESTEC - the list of CBI technical organisations - published on the Consortium portal) are required to abide by the Text, but also all those interacting with such entities in the cases specified in the Text itself.*

### The Trademarks

*There are two CBI Consortium trademarks: the CBI Consortium trademark and the CBI Service trademark.*

*The ownership of both the trademarks belongs solely to the CBI Consortium. Since we are dealing with collective trademarks, every Consortium Member is allowed to use them without particular burdens, but always in obedience to the technical characteristics of trademarks reproduction (easily provided by the CBI Consortium upon request), as well as in obedience to the disciplinary legal framework available in the Coordinated Text of the CBI Legal Framework - Regulation of CBI Trademarks.*

*For those who are not Consortium members, use of the trademarks is possible but subject to issue of a trademark user licence, which can be requested from the CBI Consortium.*

### *Intellectual Property Rights - IPR*

*The Consortium has defined and deposited its policy on usage methods, including by third parties, of CBI standards and - in more general terms - the documents produced by CBI, with the ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation). The text of the Intellectual Property Rights - IPR can be consulted on the Consortium portal, and its acceptance is indispensable for access to its reserved areas.*



[www.cbi-org.eu](http://www.cbi-org.eu)

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