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MONEY



THE NEW €20 BANKNOTE



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
EUROSYSTEM

www.new-euro-banknotes.eu
www.euro.ecb.europa.eu

INNOVATIVE, MORE SECURE EURO BANKNOTES

The new €20 banknote is the third banknote of the Europa series. It represents a breakthrough in banknote technology because it contains an **additional innovative security feature: the portrait window in the hologram. When the banknote is held against the light, the window becomes transparent and reveals a portrait of Europa which is visible on both sides of the note.**

The portrait is also included in the watermark. Europa is a figure from Greek mythology and the origin of our continent's name.

The new €20, like the new €5 and €10, includes an emerald number. All these innovations make the new series of euro banknotes even more difficult to counterfeit and boost confidence in the currency.

The Eurosystem – that is, the ECB and the euro area national central banks – has a duty to safeguard the integrity of euro banknotes by regularly improving their security features, making them more difficult to counterfeit. Like the new €5 and €10 notes, the new €20 banknote is printed on cotton paper because Europeans prefer the traditional feel of paper money.¹

Today 338 million Europeans in 19 countries across Europe share the euro. They are stronger together, thanks to their trust in the euro, which has proved to be a reliable global currency.

Over time, the Eurosystem will gradually replace the first series of euro banknotes. The new €5 was issued on 2 May 2013, followed by the new €10 on 23 September 2014. The new €20, after its unveiling at the European Central Bank on 24 February 2015, will start circulating across the euro area on 25 November 2015.

For further information, please contact the press offices of the ECB and the national central banks of the Eurosystem (see page 12). Full details of all euro banknotes are available at www.new-euro-banknotes.eu



¹ Focus groups across the euro area indicated they wanted to keep the same texture for the new banknotes as for the first series.

338 MILLION EUROPEANS – STRONGER TOGETHER WITH THE EURO

The new €20, like all the existing euro banknotes, will be a powerful symbol of integration. As with the first series issued in 2002, the Europa series of banknotes shows architectural styles from different periods, as well as bridges and a map of Europe, all of which symbolise how the currency connects people across the euro area.

The window in the hologram in the new €20 is a major innovation in banknote technology. Like the emerald number, it is the result of years of extensive research and development.

There are around 17 billion euro banknotes currently in circulation with a combined face value of around €1,000 billion. The introduction of the Europa series aims to maintain people's trust in euro banknotes by further improving their security and robustness.



THE €20 BANKNOTES

THE EUROPA SERIES €20

WHAT'S NEW



Front



Back

The new euro banknotes feature the “ages and styles” design of the first series and use the same predominant colours, but have been slightly modified to accommodate the enhanced security features. This also makes them easy to distinguish from the first series. An independent banknote designer, Reinhold Gerstetter, based in Berlin, was selected to refresh the design of the notes. They now take into account the countries that have joined the EU since 2002. For instance, the map of Europe shows Malta and Cyprus, “euro” is written in Cyrillic in addition to the Latin and Greek alphabets, and the initials of the ECB appear in nine – instead of five – linguistic variants.

THE FIRST SERIES €20



Front



Back

> EASY TO CHECK

The Europa series, like the first series of euro banknotes, is easy to check using the “FEEL, LOOK and TILT” method.

1 FEEL

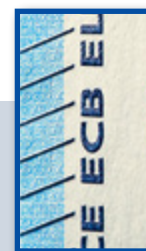


Feel of the paper – Feel the banknote. It is crisp and firm.

Raised print – The main image, the lettering and the large value numeral feel thicker.

> What's new

There is a series of short raised lines on the left and right edges.



2 LOOK



Watermark – Look at the banknote against the light. A faint image showing the value of the banknote and the main image become visible.

> What's new

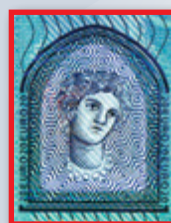
– Portrait watermark

A portrait of Europa is also visible.



– Portrait window in the hologram

Against the light, the window near the top of the hologram becomes transparent and reveals a portrait of Europa on both sides of the note.



3 TILT



Hologram – Tilt the banknote. The silvery stripe on the right reveals the value of the banknote and the € symbol.

> What's new

– Emerald number

This shiny number displays an effect of the light that moves up and down. The number also changes colour from emerald green to deep blue.



– Portrait window in the hologram

The window near the top of the hologram shows a portrait of Europa. When the banknote is tilted, the window also shows rainbow-coloured lines around the value numeral. On the back, rainbow-coloured value numerals appear in the window.



EUROPA: THE PRINCESS IN THE WINDOW

> A technological breakthrough

Portraits have traditionally been used in banknotes all over the world, and research shows that people tend to recognise faces intuitively. Europa, a figure from Greek mythology, was chosen to feature on the new notes because she gave her name to the continent of Europe.

The portrait used here was taken from a vase in the Louvre in Paris. It is over 2,000 years old and was originally found in southern Italy. The new €20 notes have used new technology to depict Europa in an innovative way, placing her inside a distinct "portrait window" in the hologram.

This window becomes transparent when held against the light, revealing a portrait of Europa on both sides. When tilted, rainbow-coloured lines appear around the value numeral on the front and rainbow-coloured value numerals appear on the back. It represents a breakthrough in banknote technology and makes the banknotes more difficult to counterfeit.



KEY FACTS ABOUT THE EUROPA SERIES

- The Europa series includes new and enhanced security features which offer better protection against counterfeiting.
- The new euro banknotes are being introduced gradually over several years, in ascending order. The new €5 started circulating in 2013 and the new €10 in 2014. They will be followed by the new €20 on 25 November 2015. The denominations remain unchanged: €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200 and €500.
- The exact timing of the issuance of the other denominations will be announced in due course.
- Banknote equipment manufacturers and other suppliers have been involved in the development of the Europa series, enabling them to prepare for the introduction of the new banknotes.
- In order to use up remaining stocks, the €20 banknotes of the first series will continue to be issued alongside the new €20 banknotes. For each denomination, both series will circulate in parallel.
- The date when the first series of euro banknotes ceases to be legal tender will be announced well in advance. However, the banknotes of the first series will always retain their value; they can be exchanged for an unlimited period of time at any Eurosystem national central bank.



➤ Suitable for visually impaired people

All euro banknotes have been designed so that the higher the value of the note, the larger it is, so blind people can organise their wallets accordingly. Cooperation with visually impaired users during the design phase of the Europa series has led to the inclusion of features in the banknotes which enable those users to handle the notes with greater confidence. On the front, for example, there are bolder, large letters as well as tactile marks near the edges. The predominant colours of the notes of the first series are being retained for the Europa series, although the colours are stronger to make it easier to distinguish between the notes.

TIMELINE OF THE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

The main objective of the €20 information campaign is to inform the public and cash handlers about the new banknotes and their security features.



> Images of euro banknotes

The images of euro banknotes are digitally protected. Organisations with a legitimate interest in reproducing euro banknote images should request unprotected images. To obtain them, users must first sign a confidentiality declaration, which can be obtained by writing to info@ecb.europa.eu

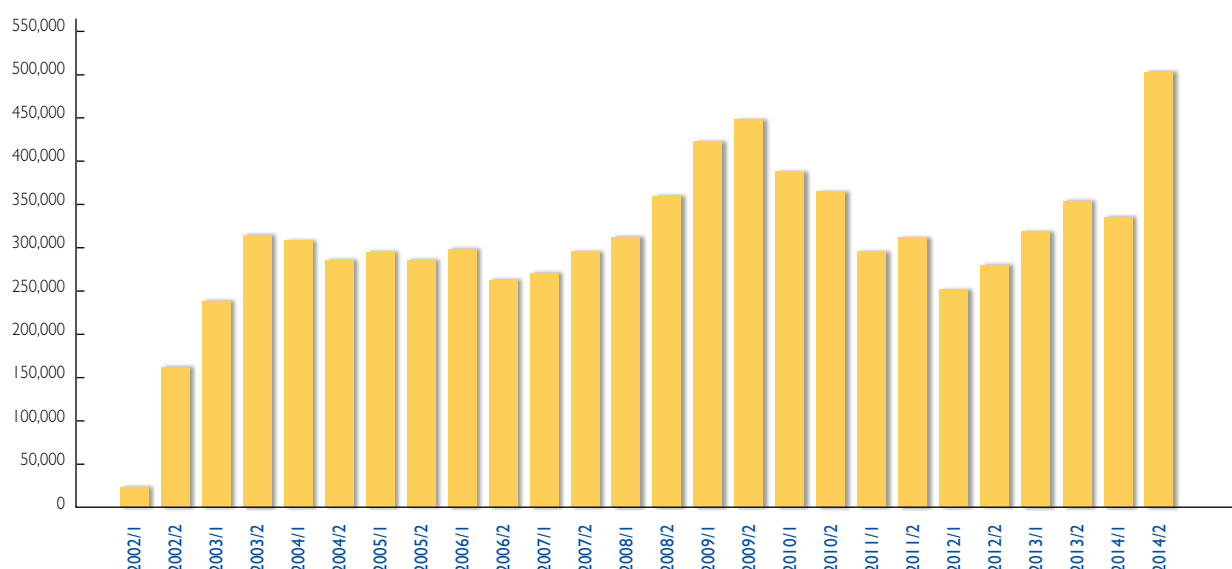
Further information is available at www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/html/hires.en.html.

PROTECTING EURO BANKNOTES

> Effective anti-counterfeiting measures

The Eurosystem invests considerable effort in ensuring that the public and professional cash-handlers know how to recognise a counterfeit banknote. It also ensures that banknote-handling and processing machines can reliably identify and withdraw counterfeits from circulation.

Number of counterfeit euro banknotes recovered from circulation between 2002 and 2014



The ECB also cooperates closely with the European Commission (which is responsible for providing information about counterfeit euro coins), as well as with national police forces, Europol and Interpol. Another essential line of defence is to ensure that the public is well informed about the new notes.



PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

As an additional support to help banknote equipment manufacturers and suppliers prepare for the introduction of the new €20 banknotes, the European Central Bank and the national central banks of the Eurosystem have provided information and made the new notes available in advance for testing purposes. They have also created a comprehensive Partnership Programme.

This programme – similar to that for the new €10 in 2013, which brought together more than 300 industrial partners across Europe – aims to ensure that banknote machines and devices throughout the euro area are ready in time.

As the €20 is one of the banknotes that circulates most widely, the Partnership Programme for the Europa series banknote will be extended to other professional organisations such as banking associations or entities able to distribute ECB materials to the public.

The €20 Partnership Programme was launched at a Eurosystem seminar at the Banca d'Italia in Rome on 6 February 2015. The programme provides a wide range of educational tools and materials, most of which are available in the official languages of the EU, for banknote equipment manufacturers and suppliers, as well as clients and users.

Under the Partnership Programme, the ECB and the 19 national central banks of the Eurosystem will:

- provide information about adapting cash-handling machines and authentication devices so that they will accept the new banknotes;

- organise a series of events and activities to raise awareness ahead of the launch of the new €20;

- provide electronic and print media on the new banknotes, in 23 official European Union languages, to help the partners communicate with their target groups;

- make the new €20 notes available for in-house testing as well as for on-site adaptation of machines and devices with effect from February/March 2015, after the unveiling.

Banknote equipment manufacturers and other suppliers are expected to start preparing their machines for adaptation as soon as possible. The users of banknote handling machines and authentication devices are also expected to contact their suppliers or manufacturers in order to start preparing their devices for adaptation. Anyone planning to purchase a banknote handling machine and/or authentication device should check with their supplier that the device can be adapted to accept the new banknotes.

Lists of banknote authentication devices and handling machines which have been officially tested by the Eurosystem central banks for their ability to recognise the new €5 and the new €10 banknotes are available on the ECB's website (www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/cashprof/cashhand/devices/html/results.en.html). The lists will be updated to include the new €20 banknote following further tests of the machines and devices by the Eurosystem central banks. These will be published on the website in 2015.



KEY DATES FOR THE NEW €20

2015

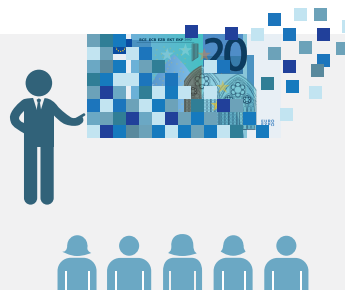
06
Feb.

Eurosystem seminar for banknote equipment manufacturers and suppliers is held at Banca d'Italia in Rome.



24
Feb.

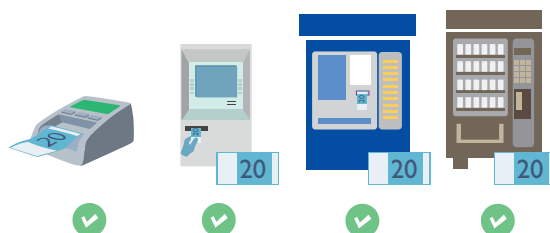
The new €20 is unveiled at the ECB in Frankfurt.



Press Release



New €20 banknotes are lent to banknote equipment manufacturers and suppliers so that they can adapt machines and authentication devices.

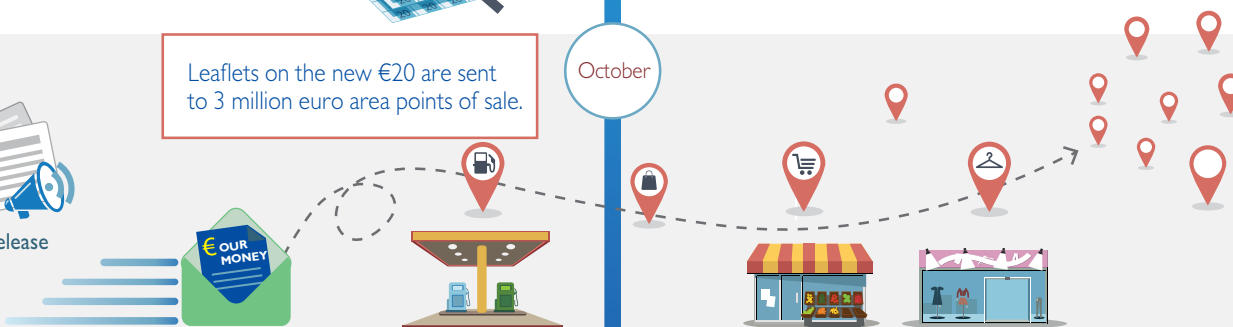


October

Leaflets on the new €20 are sent to 3 million euro area points of sale.



Press Release

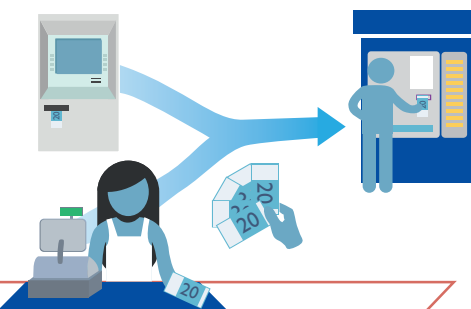


25
Nov.

The new €20 is issued across the euro area.



Press Release



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