

EN

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Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
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Euro cash has legal tender status in the euro area under EU Law. Its continued existence and availability is guaranteed by the Treaties, as long as there is demand for it. On 28 June 2023, the Commission put forward a legislative proposal on the legal tender of cash aiming at ensuring the widespread acceptance of and access to cash.

This proposal seeks to ensure that euro cash remains widely accepted for payments and easily accessible for people, businesses and public entities across the euro area. It obliges Member States to monitor and report on the situation and take measures to address any problems identified in relation to cash acceptance and access. The proposal will ensure that everyone in the euro area is free to choose their preferred payment method and has access to basic cash services, thereby also ensuring the financial inclusion of vulnerable groups who tend to rely more on cash payments.

The Communication on the European Preparedness Union Strategy¹ adopted by the Commission on 26 March 2025 sets out a comprehensive approach to preparedness calling for involvement of public authorities, society and individuals in building a culture of resilience to crises, whether they be natural or man-made disasters or conflicts. In these circumstances the role of cash and the cash infrastructure is key, thus it is essential to ensure that Member States are prepared appropriately to respond in different exceptional circumstances where the demand for cash could rapidly increase or cashless payments are significantly disrupted.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/preparedness_en.