

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002683/25
to the Commission
Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew)
(2 July 2025)**

Subject: Challenges and institutional support for Bulgaria's transition to the euro

The introduction of the euro in Bulgaria has raised serious concern among the public, mainly in connection with potential price rises. The experience of other Member States shows that such fears are not unjustified, especially in the absence of any effective control over commercial practices. Clear consumer protection mechanisms based on good European practices need to be implemented in order to avoid any speculative price increases.

Moreover, a smooth transition to the euro calls not only for political will but also strong financial and technical support from the EU institutions. This is particularly important for countries with less-developed economies, such as Bulgaria, which need resource support to help adapt their systems and businesses.

1. This situation begs two important questions: what measures does the Commission recommend to limit any irregular appreciation of prices after the introduction of the euro?
2. What financial and technical support can be provided to Bulgaria to ensure a successful transition to the euro?

Submitted: 2.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(5 August 2025)**

The Commission is aware that many people in Bulgaria fear that the introduction of the euro will bring with it higher prices. And those fears are further fuelled by disinformation.

There are historical examples of all the past changeovers, most recently in 2023 in Croatia. In all those cases, the impact of the changeover on prices was minimal.

The three most important steps to limit abusive price increases in the changeover period include the dual display of prices, which will start on 8 August 2025, following the Council decision of 8 July 2025 on the introduction of the euro in Bulgaria for 1 January 2026, and will end only on 31 December 2026, thereby giving ample time to compare prices in both currencies.

The other two elements are the monitoring and control performed by consumer protection and competition authorities to ensure businesses do not engage in abusive price rises during the changeover and a clear and widespread communication campaign that reaches all citizens.

Those measures have proven successful in the past. The Commission as well as the European Central Bank have already provided technical support in the practical arrangements of the changeover.

Furthermore, the Commission has worked closely with the national authorities in developing the communication campaign to be implemented.

As in previous cases, the Commission is also planning to co-finance this campaign and stands ready to provide further technical assistance in case this is requested by the national authorities.
