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E-003402/2025

Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.10.2025)

It is the duty of the European Central Bank (ECB) and the euro area national central banks to ensure that euro banknotes remain an innovative, secure and efficient means of payment. Developing new series of banknotes regularly is standard practice for all central banks. Beyond security considerations, the ECB is committed to reducing the environmental impact of euro banknotes, while also making them more relatable and inclusive for all Europeans¹. The Commission considers the ECB's initiative to involve the public in the euro banknote design process to be a positive approach to increasing transparency and citizen engagement in the decision-making process.

As a sign of its commitment to safeguarding cash, the Commission put forward a legislative proposal on the legal tender of cash in the 'Single Currency Package'² to ensure the widespread acceptance of and access to cash, alongside its proposal establishing the legal framework for the possible issuance in future of a digital euro.

On the introduction of the digital euro, the Commission and the ECB are committed to ensuring the highest standards of privacy and data protection. Online payments would be subject to the highest privacy standards under current Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism rules and the Eurosystem would never be able to identify individual users. The proposal furthermore requires offline payments to be offered to users as of the first issuance of the digital euro. This version of the digital euro allows users to pay in proximity, even in absence of connectivity, with transactions to be settled directly on the device and with the transactions remaining fully anonymous.

¹ https://www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/banknotes/future_banknotes/html/index.en.html.

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3501.