

EN

E-002402/2026

Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.8.2026)

The Commission proposal¹ grants the digital euro, as a new, digital form of the single currency, legal tender status. This is similar to the legal tender status of euro banknotes and coins, which also entails mandatory acceptance. The mandatory acceptance of the digital euro is necessary to ensure the effective use of the euro as the EU's single currency, which is the very objective of Article 133 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The mandatory acceptance will allow the digital euro to enjoy a sufficiently uniform level of acceptance throughout the euro area. In the absence of this acceptance requirement, there would be a risk that the digital euro is accepted only selectively, leading to a fragmented usability of the digital euro, which stands in contrast to the aim of Article 133 TFEU.

According to the case law of the Court of Justice, the concept of monetary policy is not limited to its operational implementation by the European System of Central Banks, but also entails a regulatory dimension intended to guarantee the status of the euro as the single currency. The legal basis for that purpose is Article 133 TFEU, with the aforementioned objective². Any impact of the acceptance requirements on market- and contractual structures is therefore an inherent consequence of the monetary law provisions. In that context, it should also be highlighted that the proposal provides for duly justified and proportionate exceptions to the general acceptance obligation, for instance for small merchants that only accept euro banknotes and coins. Furthermore, it is worth underlining that the contractual freedom is not unduly affected by the digital euro's acceptance requirements, as payer and payee can agree on a different means of payment.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52023PC0369>.

² Judgment of 26 January 2021, *Dietrich and Häring*, Joined Cases C-422/19 and C-423/19, EU:C:2021:63, paragraphs 37 to 42.