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La lettre du fiduciaire

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See also [the ECB website](#)

Specific features of the Europa-series €100 and €200 banknotes

The Europa-series €100 and €200 banknotes incorporate new and innovative security features. As with the other denominations, these can be easily identified using the “feel, look and tilt” method. New features: **at the top of the silvery stripe a satellite hologram shows small € symbols** that move around the number and become clearer under direct light. The silvery stripe also shows the portrait of Europa, the architectural motif and a large € symbol.

The new banknotes feature **an enhanced emerald number**. Unlike those on other Europa-series notes, **this version shows € symbols inside the numerals**. In addition to the security features that can be seen with the naked eye, **euro banknotes also contain machine-readable features**. These have been upgraded and new ones added, to speed up processing and authentication times.



The other denominations in the Europa series

	Date of first issuance
€5	2 May 2013
€10	23 September 2014
€20	25 November 2015
€50	4 April 2017
€100 and €200	28 May 2019



A different size

The new €100 and €200 banknotes differ in size from those in the first series. They are the same length (the longer the note, the higher the value), **but their height has been reduced** to allow them to fit more easily into people's wallets, and to make them longer-lasting as they are less likely to be folded or torn.

The new banknotes are the same height as the €50: 77 mm (instead of 82 mm for the current €100 and €200). Their length will remain unchanged at 147 mm for the €100 and 153 mm for the €200.

How to check the security features

The new features will be detected automatically by the authentication devices in machines accepting, distributing or processing banknotes. The general public will also be able to recognise them manually using the simple “feel, look and tilt” method.

FEEL

Raised print

Feel the banknote. On the front, there is a series of short raised lines on the left and right edges. The architectural motif, the lettering and the large value numeral also feel thicker. This makes the banknote easier to identify for the visually impaired.



LOOK

Portrait watermark

Look at the banknote against the light. An image becomes visible on the front left side showing a portrait of Europa, part of the main motif and the value of the banknote.

When held against the light, the watermark appears as a dark image against a light background.

If you put the banknote on a dark surface the light areas become darker and the dark areas become lighter



Portrait window

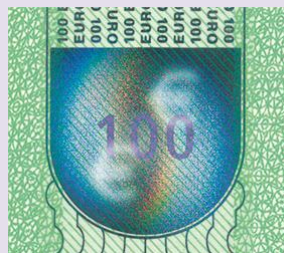
Look at the banknote against the light. The window in the hologram (the silvery stripe on the front right side) becomes transparent and reveals a portrait of Europa which is visible on both sides of the note.



TILT

Portrait hologram

Tilt the banknote. The hologram reveals, from top to bottom: the value of the banknote, the € symbol surrounded by rainbow-coloured triangles, the architectural motif and the € symbol.



Satellite hologram

The satellite hologram only appears on the €100 and €200 notes and is located at the top of the silvery stripe. When you tilt the note, you can see small € symbols that move around the number.



Emerald number

Tilt the banknote. The shiny number on the front of the banknote, in the bottom left corner, changes colour from emerald green to deep blue. It also displays an effect of the light that moves up and down. On the new €100 and €200 banknotes, tiny € symbols appear inside the numerals.

Authentication training for the new banknotes

The Banque de France offers professional cash handlers (people handling notes or third-party trainers) free authentication training on the security features of the new €100 and €200 banknotes. Additional training modules on the security features of the first series and on fitness sorting are also available on request.

Training on banknote authentication and fitness sorting is mandatory for staff issuing or receiving banknotes manually at a counter. In the event that a bank has been granted permission to recirculate banknotes by the Banque de France due to exceptional circumstances affecting banknote distribution,¹ all bank staff members carrying out manual authentication activities must also receive mandatory training.

The Banque de France is not a certified training body and as a result may not award an official diploma. However, it can provide an attendance certificate for its training courses. Requests for training should be sent by email to: euro-formation@banque-france.fr.

Adaptation of existing equipment to the new €100 and €200 banknotes before the date of issuance

All authentication devices used in equipment that accepts, delivers or processes banknotes must be capable of detecting and recognising the security features of the new €100 and €200 banknotes by 28 May 2019. This will mean modifying the parameters and software of existing equipment to adapt it to the new notes.

¹ In accordance with Article 7 of Decision ECB/2010/14 as modified by Decision ECB/2012/19

Users should contact the manufacturer to find out the procedure for updating their equipment, and make sure they are aware of any scheduled upgrades. Similarly, before buying a machine that accepts, delivers or processes banknotes, professional users are invited to check with their suppliers that it accepts the new notes.

The European Central Bank (ECB) is conducting surveys to ensure that all equipment (banknote handling machines as well as small authentication devices, vending machines, parking machines at airports, etc.) will be ready to accept the new €100 and €200 notes when they are launched.

As for previous denominations, special efforts have been made to allow manufacturers and professional users a period of around 9 months prior to issuance to test whether their equipment has been properly adapted. Testing can be carried out in two ways: either at a national central bank (NCB) or on the manufacturers' premises.

Equipment tests on the NCBs' or manufacturers' premises

Since October 2012 and in accordance with Decision ECB/2010/14 amended by ECB/2012/19, manufacturers and distributors have been able to request that Eurosystem central banks include new-series banknotes when testing their handling equipment. In this case, the manufacturer brings the equipment **to the premises of the NCB, which provides a set of banknotes for testing**. The tests can also be carried out **on the manufacturer's own premises with the help of qualified NCB staff**.

The list of banknote authentication devices tested by Eurosystem central banks and accepting the new €100 and €200 banknotes is available on [the ECB's website](#). The list of banknote handling machines (equipment used for recirculation and small authentication devices) that have passed the tests is also available on [the ECB's website](#). The Banque de France provides manufacturers and distributors with access to its test platform for handling equipment eligible for listing on the ECB site. It also grants professionals access to its test platform for equipment not eligible for ECB listing (cash dispensers, cash-in machines, banknote value counters, for example).

Contact: 1259-PLATEFORME-UT@banque-france.fr

Loans of €100 and €200 banknotes prior to issuance

Since 18 September 2018, the Eurosystem has offered professional cash handlers the possibility of obtaining new €100 and €200 banknotes in advance, to allow them to prepare for their entry into circulation. This procedure is open to manufacturers of banknote handling machines and their clients (cash-in-transit and cash handling companies, banks, merchants, etc.).

Companies wishing to borrow Europa-series €100 and €200 banknotes prior to issuance should send an email to: [pret-](#)

billetsES2@banque-france.fr. You will be sent a secured loan agreement that must be signed by an authorised signatory.

A total of seven production runs have been made for the €100 banknote, and three for the €200. Banknotes may be borrowed individually, in batches of 5 or 100 or, for ATM manufacturers only, in batches of 500 (for the €100) and 1,000 (for the €200).

Number of banknotes borrowed by production run	Number of production runs (available on 18/09/2018)	Individual notes	Batches of 5	Batches of 100	ATM operators
Number of €100 notes	7	7	35	700	5x100x7 = 3,500
Number of €200 notes	3	3	15	300	10x100x3 = 3,000

Once all administrative and financial procedures have been completed, the banknotes can be collected from the Banque de France branch in Saint Denis and transported by two persons appointed by the borrowing company or by a recognised cash-in-transit company. They must be kept as described in the contract. Companies that have borrowed banknotes may keep them indefinitely beyond the term of the contract (which is one month after issuance) or return them before that date.

Date of issuance: Tuesday 28 May 2019

for all 19 euro area countries

The planned scenario for the issuance of €100 and €200 banknotes by the Banque de France is as follows:

- **For the €100:**
 - exclusive issuance of the new-series €100 banknote (ES2 or euro series 2) for four weeks as of 28 May 2019 to boost market penetration;
 - then (i.e. as of 25 June 2019), issuance of €100 banknotes from both the first and second series (ES1 and ES2) for several months until the entire stock of ES1 notes held at

the Banque de France as at 28 May 2019 has been used up;

- ES1 €100 banknotes deposited at Banque de France counters after 28 May 2019 will not be put back into circulation.

- **For the €200:** exclusive issuance of ES2 banknotes as of 28 May 2019.

Instructions for depositing banknotes at the Banque de France

Due to the size difference between first and second-series €100 and €200 banknotes, **it will not be possible to include notes from both series in packets of 100 or in bundles:** all bundles and 100-note packets of €100 and €200 banknotes will have to be single-series only.

The modernised cash centres will be able to accept boxes or bags containing a mixture of 100-note packets of ES1 €100, ES2 €100, ES1 €200, ES2 €200 and ES1 €500 (at all other cash centres, ES1 and ES2 packets will have to be deposited separately).

End of issuance of the €500

- On 4 May 2016 the ECB Governing Council decided to stop issuing the €500 and to exclude it from the second series of euro banknotes.
- The date set by the Board of Directors for **the discontinuation of issuance is 26 January 2019.**

Orders for €500 banknotes may be collected from Banque de France counters up to 26 January 2019 but not beyond this date. On 26 January, the €500 order function on the Interop portal will be deactivated over the course of the day.

Only the central banks of Germany (Deutsche Bundesbank) and Austria (Österreichische Nationalbank) will be able to continue fulfilling client orders after this date, and for an additional period of three months.

- **Although it will no longer be issued, the €500 will remain legal tender:** €500 banknotes in circulation on 26 January 2019 may still be used as a means of payment and store of value.
- Banks, cash-in-transit firms and bureaux de change will be allowed to continue recirculating existing €500 notes.
- Like all other euro banknotes, the €500 will always retain its value; **you will be able to exchange it for other denominations at euro area NCBs for an unlimited period of time.**

Changes to the e-signature tool on the INTEROP portal and to the types of certificate used

INTEROP clients will need to switch to a different e-signature tool before 1 April 2019. They will also have to use signature certificates kept on physical devices, as well as separate authentication certificates.

Discontinuation of the INTEROP signature tool

Since their launch, the INTEROP portal (which manages cash orders and deliveries) and ONEGATE portal have relied on a unique e-signature certificate tool based on an application supplied by web browsers (Java applet). This application is to be discontinued at the end of December 2018.

The Banque de France is not a software developer and does not install software on its clients' computer systems. Clients using the INTEROP and ONEGATE portals are therefore invited to equip themselves with one of the e-signature tools available on the market.

Several developers currently offer proprietary "U to A" signature solutions that meet the technical specifications listed on the INTEROP portal (General and Detailed External Specifications).

To give clients a reasonable time to adapt, there will be a transition phase up to 01/04/2019 during which they will still be able to use the existing service.

Individual acceptance tests are being organised to check that each client's chosen signature device functions correctly.

Change in types of certificate

Due to new security regulations introduced by the Banque de France's Head of IT Security, the authentication and signature policy for the INTEROP portal is being updated.

1. Use of a signature certificate kept on a physical device.

This change concerns bank users with a "treasurer" profile (ability to sign or cancel an order).

Under INTEROP's new signature policy, they will now have to use signature certificates kept on a physical device (smart card or USB token):

- All certification authorities other than the Banque de France were already required to comply with this policy.
- At the Banque de France, certificates must now comply with this security requirement:
 - all certificates not on a physical device, and software certificates, must be renewed **before the end of 2020**;
 - clients are advised to renew certificates before they expire and in any case before the deadline.

2. Separate authentication and signature certificates

Under INTEROP's signature policy, clients will have to switch to using separate authentication and signature certificates by 2021 at the latest. The Banque de France strongly advises users to comply with these requirements as soon as possible.

For further details:

- Please contact the INTEROP support service on +33 (0)1 42 92 33 44 or by email at INTEROP_ASSISTANCE@banque-france.fr
- See the section on INTEROP on the [Banque de France website](#).