

The €5, the first banknote in the new Europa series

The new €5 note, the first denomination in the second series of euro banknotes, will come into circulation on 2 May 2013. The ECB unveiled a full image of the banknote and its various security features on 10 January. These details can be accessed online at www.new-euro-banknotes.eu.

Why the Europa series?

The new series gets its name from Europa, a princess in Greek mythology whose portrait has been incorporated into some of the security features on the new euro banknotes. Europa was chosen because she gave her name to the European continent, but also to add a human touch to the banknotes, which was notably lacking from the first series.

Why a second series of banknotes?

The ECB and the national central banks (NCBs) of the Eurosystem are tasked with maintaining the integrity of euro banknotes. Under this role, they have developed a second series of euro banknotes incorporating enhanced security features, to help make the banknotes even more secure and maintain public trust in the currency. A new substrate is also being used for the two smallest denominations, to make them more resistant to wear and tear.

Gradual launch

The banknotes in the Europa series will be introduced gradually over a number of years, in ascending order. The new €5 note will thus be followed by the €10 and so on up to the €500. Successive banknotes will be issued at intervals of up to a year, although the largest denominations may be issued simultaneously.

Parallel circulation

In order to use up remaining stocks, many euro area countries will continue to issue old €5 notes alongside the new ones for a number of months. The two series will thus circulate in parallel as legal tender. The date when the first series ceases to be legal tender will be announced well in advance. After this date, first series banknotes will be exchangeable for an unlimited period at Eurosystem NCBs.



The Europa series incorporates the "architectural ages and styles" theme from the first series, but has been given a more modern look and up-to-date security features.

What changes have been made to the security features on the new €5 note?

The security features on the new €5 note have been brought up to date and new elements added, notably the portrait of Europa which appears in the watermark and the hologram.

As with the series issued in 2002, the new Europa series will be easy to authenticate using the FEEL, LOOK and TILT method (see over).



FEEL

Feel the banknote. The paper is crisp and firm.

Raised print: the main image, the lettering and the large value numeral feel thicker to the touch.

- **What's changed:**
a series of short raised lines has been added on the left and right edges.



LOOK

Watermark: hold the banknote against the light. A faint image becomes visible, showing the value of the banknote and a gateway.

- **What's changed:**
on the new banknote, a portrait of Europa is also visible.



Security thread: hold the banknote against the light. The security thread appears as a dark stripe. The value of the banknote can be seen in tiny white lettering.

- **What's changed:**
on the new banknote, the euro symbol (€) can also be seen, while the word "Euro" has been removed.



TILT

Hologram: tilt the banknote. The silvery stripe on the right reveals the value of the banknote and the euro symbol.

- **What's changed:**
on the new banknote, the silvery stripe also contains a portrait of Europa and a window.



- **Emerald number (new):**
tilt the banknote. The shiny number in the bottom left-hand corner displays an effect of light that moves up and down. The number also changes colour from emerald green to deep blue.

Training in how to authenticate the new banknote

The Banque de France is offering professional cash handlers (people handling notes or third-party trainers) free training courses on how to authenticate the new banknotes. Available from 11 January, these will initially focus on the new security features incorporated into the Europa series €5 note (ES2). Those attending will also be able to ask for existing modules on the security features of the first series (ES1) and on fitness sorting.

Until the new €5 note comes into circulation on 2 May 2013, it will only be possible to handle it during training sessions held on the Banque de France's own premises. Sessions held on credit institutions' premises will not include real banknotes, but will use specially designed training materials. These materials, which include a slideshow on the security features and a teacher's training guide on the ES2 €5 note, will be made available to third-party trainers, who will be able to use them in their own sessions.

Note that training on banknote authentication and fitness sorting is mandatory for all professionals depositing or receiving banknotes at bank counters, as well as for those handling cash in accordance with article 7 of decision ECB/2010/14, amended by ECB/2012/19, with the authorisation of the Banque de France. 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 euo-formation@banque-france.fr. Alternatively, contact Jean-Louis Massonnet on +33 1 42 92 94 92.

Availability of €5 notes prior to circulation

To help operators prepare for the launch of the €5, the Eurosystem is giving professional cash handlers the chance to obtain the new note in advance, as of 11 January 2013. This procedure is open to banknote equipment manufacturers, cash-in-transit companies, banks, banking associations and distributors of banknote handling equipment.

Professionals wishing to apply for this service should send a request to: pret-billetsES2@banque-france.fr

Applicants will receive a guaranteed loan contract. Once they have completed the necessary administrative and financial formalities, they will be able to pick up their banknotes (in packets of 100, up to a maximum of 1,000 banknotes) from the Banque de France branch in Nanterre according to the instructions provided once their application has been validated. Cash handlers will be able to keep the notes indefinitely after the official circulation date, in exchange for the loan guarantee.

Acquisition of test notes

Banks, cash-in-transit companies, equipment manufacturers and test centres for the certification of anti-theft devices can also purchase test banknotes from now until the end of the year. These have all the mechanical characteristics of genuine banknotes, but none of the design or security features.

To buy test notes, please contact Jean-Marc Hesel

(jean-marc.hesel@banque-france.fr, +33 4 73 17 40 59)

or Christelle Contamine (christelle.contamine@banque-france.fr,
+33 4 73 17 43 14).

Equipment tests

Since October 2012 and in accordance with decision ECB/2010/14, amended by ECB/2012/19, Eurosystem central banks have been carrying out tests on handling equipment that has been adapted for the new banknotes, at the request of manufacturers. As of 11 January 2013, the [ECB website](#) will gradually be updated to show which equipment has been tested successfully with ES2 banknotes.

The Banque de France is allowing manufacturers or distributors to use its test platform to try out the listed handling equipment. It is also letting all cash handling professionals use its platform to test equipment that is not listed by the ECB (e.g. cash dispensers).

Contact: lionel.lepicier@banque-france.fr

Circulation of the banknote

Bank branches will not be frontloaded with the new ES2 €5 notes prior to the issuance date. Credit institutions will need to order the number they require using the usual procedure via Interop, without specifying the series (ES2 will appear by default on the order screen), on 30 April for delivery on 2 May.

To boost the market penetration of the new banknote, Banque de France branches will distribute the ES2 €5 notes almost exclusively for the first three months after launch, except where specifically requested otherwise: for example, in the event of a delay in the adaptation of handling equipment, a credit institution might exceptionally need to order only ES1 €5 notes for a limited period. In this case, it will need to contact its local Banque de France branch to set up a specific, temporary arrangement, and only where this is possible.

From August 2013 onwards, the Banque de France will deliver €5 notes from both ES2 and ES1 (separately), until all remaining stocks of the first series have been used up (new or valid ES1 €5 notes).

ES1 €5 notes that are returned to the Banque de France may be submitted in mixed bundles (i.e. 1,000 banknotes comprising a mix of both ES1 and ES2 €5 notes).

ES1 €5 notes that have been checked for authenticity and fitness by private handlers who have signed a recycling agreement can be put back into circulation.