

## The new €20 banknote will be issued on 25 November 2015

The complete image of third €20 banknote in the Europa series as well as its different security features were unveiled by the ECB on 24 February 2015 in Frankfurt. Information is available on the ECB's website: <http://www.new-euro-banknotes.eu/>.

### Specific features of the new €20 Europa series

The new €20 banknote is the third banknote of the Europa series. It represents a breakthrough in banknote technology since it contains an additional innovative security feature: **the portrait window in the hologram. When the banknote is held against the light, the window becomes transparent and reveals a portrait of Europa.** This technology is the result of years of research and development. The new €20, like the new €5 and €10, includes an **emerald number**, and all the security features of the Europa series. All these innovations make the new series of euro banknotes even more difficult to counterfeit. However, contrary to the first two series, the new €20 is **not varnished**.



### 6.5 billion €20 banknotes produced for 19 countries

The €20 banknote ranks second in the euro area in terms of the number of banknotes in circulation (18.4% of total). In France, it ranks even higher since it is the most widely used denomination (41% of banknotes received or distributed by the Banque de France).

To renew the series, 6.5 billion €20 banknotes will be produced in Europe. They are manufactured in a decentralised manner by a number of central banks, that produce their allocated share, either directly if they have an internal printing works, or through other manufacturers selected by tender (not necessarily located in their country). The banknotes produced are then transported to the 19 central banks of the euro area — which expanded when Lithuania joined on 1 January 2015 — to be issued simultaneously on 25 November 2015.



Equipment manufacturers and other suppliers will be given 9 months for adaptations and tests between the unveiling of the banknote and the issuance date. The conditions for testing banknote equipment on the premises of central banks or on their own premises, as well as conditions for the issuing, recycling and parallel circulation of the two series will be similar to those of the €10 banknote.

The information and communication partnership between the ECB, the NCBs and the different cash professionals was presented on 6 February 2015 in Rome.

### Important dates

**February- March 2015:** The new €20 is made available to banknote equipment manufacturers and other suppliers to enable them to adapt machines and devices

**3 March 2015:** First information seminar specific to the 20€, at the Banque de France, aimed at third parties (cash professionals, manufacturers, etc.)

**May 2015:** Publications about the new €20 are sent by national central banks to commercial banks, police forces, chambers of commerce, professional federations etc.

**October 2015:** Leaflets on the new €20 are sent to three million points of sale in the euro area.

**25 November 2015:** Issuance of the new €20 banknote

## The security features of the new €20: "The princess in the window"

All these new features can be detected automatically by the authentication devices of the different machines that accept, distribute or process banknotes and can be recognised manually, by the general public, by using the simple feel, look, tilt method.



### **FEEL**

**Feel** the banknote: it must be crisp and firm.

### **Raised Print**

The architectural style, the initials of the ECB and the face value are discernible to the touch.

The difference in the spacing of short raised lines on the left and right edges allows each denomination to be recognised.



### **LOOK**

#### **Portrait watermark**

Look at the banknote against the light. A portrait of the princess Europa, a window and the value of the banknote become visible.



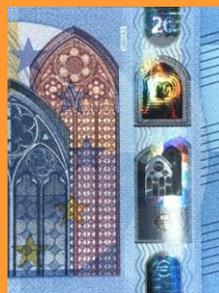
#### **Portrait window in the hologram**

Against the light, the window near the top of the hologram becomes transparent and reveals a portrait of Europa on both sides of the note.



#### **Security thread**

Against the light, the security thread appears as a dark stripe. the € symbol and the value of the banknote can be seen in tiny white lettering in that stripe



### **TILT**

#### **Portrait hologram**

On the front, when tilted, rainbow-coloured lines appear around the value numeral and rainbow-coloured value numerals appear on the back.



#### **Portrait window**

On the back, rainbow-coloured value numerals appear in the window.



#### **Emerald number**

This shiny number displays an effect of the light that moves up and down. The number also changes colour from emerald green to deep blue.

## **Authentication training for the new banknote**

The Banque de France offers free of charge to cash industry professionals (cash handlers or trainers) authentication training on the security features of the new €20 euro banknote. If requested, these training sessions, which could start as of 25 February 2015, will be supplemented by modules on the security features of the first series and on fitness sorting.

Training on banknote authentication and fitness sorting is compulsory for persons delivering or receiving banknotes manually at the bank branches or, after authorisation from the Banque de France, in the framework established by Article 7 of Decision ECB/2010/14 amended by ECB/2012/19, whereby the Banque de France may allow banks, in the case of exceptional events impairing the supply of euro banknotes, to recirculate banknotes on which their trained staff members have carried out manual checks.

Since the Banque de France is not a certified training organisation, it cannot award a diploma validating the acquired skills. It can however provide a certificate of attendance of the training session. Training requests can be made by sending an email to the following address: [euro-formation@banque-france.fr](mailto:euro-formation@banque-france.fr) or by contacting Michel Chaumon on +33 (0)1 42 92 94 92.

## Adapting the equipment to the new €20 before the issuance date

The authentication devices of machines that accept, distribute or process banknotes must be able as of 25 November 2015 to detect and recognise the security features of the €20. To ensure that this is the case, it is necessary to adapt the equipment to the new banknote, either by changing the parameters or the software.

Users must request both the procedure for adapting the equipment and the resulting schedules from their manufacturers. Similarly, before buying any machine that accepts, distributes or processes banknotes, professional users of these machines are requested to check with their suppliers that they accept the new banknotes.

Like in the case of the €10, a particular effort was made to ensure that manufacturers and professional users have 9 months before the issuance date of the €20 Europa banknote to test whether the equipment is adapted to the new banknote. Tests can be conducted in two ways: either on the premises of an NCB, or on their own premises.

In the coming months, the European Central Bank will carry out surveys to ensure that equipment (banknote processing machines, as well as small authentication devices, vending machines, parking ticket machines, etc.) is ready to accept the new €20 as soon as it is launched.

## Tests of equipment on the premises of NCBs or manufacturers

Since October 2012, Eurosystem central banks have been carrying out, on the request of the manufacturer and in accordance with Decision ECB/2010/14 amended by ECB/2012/19, tests of the handling equipment including banknotes from the new series. The manufacturer brings the equipment to be tested ***to the premises of the NCB, which provides a set of banknotes for the tests.*** The manufacturer may also conduct tests ***on its own premises subject to NCB monitoring.***

The list of banknote authentication devices tested by Eurosystem central banks and accepting the new €20 is available on the ECB's website; the list of banknote handling machines tested in this way is also provided on the website. The Banque de France makes available to manufacturers and distributors its test platform for this listed handling equipment (equipment used in recycling and small authentication devices). It also makes available to all professionals its test platform for non-ECB publication type equipment (cash dispensers, cash-in machines, banknote value counters, for example).

Contact: [1259-PLATEFORME-UT@banque-france.fr](mailto:1259-PLATEFORME-UT@banque-france.fr)

## Loans of €20 banknotes before issuance

In order to facilitate the preparations of the different professionals, the Eurosystem offers them the possibility of obtaining, as of 25 February 2015, the new banknote before it is put into circulation. This procedure is available to manufacturers of banknote handling machines and their clients (cash transportation and cash handling companies, banks, merchants, etc.).

Requests to borrow Europa €20 before issuance should be sent to: [pret-billetsES2@banque-france.fr](mailto:pret-billetsES2@banque-france.fr). A secured-loan contract is then sent to applicants, which must be signed by a person authorised to sign in the name of the company wishing to conduct the tests. The banknotes can then be withdrawn (by batches of 20, 100 or 200 for 4 to 7 productions) from the Nanterre branch of the Banque de France, in accordance with the procedures announced following approval of the application.

| Number borrowed  | 20         | 100        | 200         |
|--|------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>4 productions</b><br>(available as of 25/02/15)                               | <b>80</b>  | <b>400</b> | <b>800</b>  |
| <b>5 productions</b><br>(an additional production available in March-April 2015) | <b>100</b> | <b>500</b> | <b>1000</b> |
| <b>7 productions</b><br>(last two productions available in May-June 2015)        | <b>140</b> | <b>700</b> | <b>1400</b> |

Once the administrative and financial procedures have been carried out, the banknotes can be withdrawn and transported by two specifically appointed persons or by a recognised cash transport company. Companies borrowing banknotes can keep the banknotes after the contract termination date (up to one month after the official issuance date) or may return them before.

## Purchasing dummy banknotes

Banks, transport companies, equipment manufacturers, and test centres for anti-theft device approval may also purchase as of end-July 2015 dummy banknotes with all the mechanical characteristics of real banknotes but without the design or security features, either intended for the public or readable by devices.

To purchase dummy banknotes, please contact: [christelle.contamine@banque-france.fr](mailto:christelle.contamine@banque-france.fr) or [elise.taillardat@banque-france.fr](mailto:elise.taillardat@banque-france.fr)



## Procedures for issuing the new €20 banknote

### Procedures for the first issue

In the same way as the €10 Europa banknote and contrary to the organisation for the simultaneous issuance of the seven denominations of the first euro series, banks will not be supplied with €20 Europa banknotes prior to the issuance date. As of 25 November 2015, however, the Banque de France will prioritise the distribution of the new banknotes in order to satisfy public demand and facilitate the introduction of the new series. However, the national central banks (NCBs) that still hold €20 banknotes from the first series when the second is issued will continue to provide them, along with the new banknotes, while stocks last.

### Recirculation procedures by banks for the first €20 series

€20 banknotes from the first series deposited by customers at credit institutions after the issuance date of the new €20 banknote may be recirculated by institutions that have signed a recirculation agreement with the central bank, in accordance with the procedures set out by the regulatory framework.

NCBs will not recirculate the €20 from the first series that are deposited at their counters and these banknotes will be destroyed.

### Parallel circulation of the two series

According to estimates, the introduction of the new €20 banknote and the withdrawal of the old one should be fairly rapid. Temporarily, however, the old and new ones will circulate at the same time, while NCBs deplete existing stocks and credit institutions recirculate them. Both series will jointly have legal tender. The date on which legal tender is withdrawn will be announced well in advance. After this date, first series €20 will be exchangeable at NCB counters for a limited period of time.

## Communication of information

The ECB and the NCBs encourage the communication of information and the promotion of the new €20. All cash professionals can register as a partner free of charge on the ECB website: <http://www.nouveaux-billets-euro.eu/Access-direct/PARTENAIRES>, to access a restricted area and find a range of digital media and content for reproduction.



**Let us join forces!**

An online game "Tetris new €20" was launched on 5 February 2015 and training material "Knowledge of banknotes" and "Euro Cash Academy" will be posted on line in March on [www.new-euro-banknotes.eu](http://www.new-euro-banknotes.eu). Online films about the new €20 will also be launched end-October 2015.

Other information can be found on the website [www.nouveaueuro.eu](http://www.nouveaueuro.eu)

