

## ISSUANCE OF THE NEW €100 AND €200 BANKNOTES

The new series of banknotes has been introduced gradually across the euro area over the past few years, in ascending order. The unveiling of the €100 and €200 at the ECB on 17 September 2018 will complete the Europa series. The new banknotes are planned to enter circulation on 28 May 2019.



## WHY WE NEED NEW BANKNOTES

The ECB and the Eurosystem have a duty to safeguard the integrity of euro banknotes and continue to improve banknote technology. The Europa series offers better protection against counterfeiting, making euro banknotes even more secure. The new €100 and €200 banknotes benefit from the same security features as the €50 banknote, such as a portrait in the watermark and in the hologram, plus new and upgraded ones that make them harder to counterfeit but still easy to check:

- **Satellite hologram:** this brand new feature can be found at the top of the silvery stripe. When you tilt the banknote, you can see small € symbols moving around the number. The € symbols become clearer under direct light.
- **Emerald number:** when you tilt the banknote, the shiny number in the bottom left corner displays an effect of the light that moves up and down, while the number changes colour from emerald green to deep blue. The new €100 and €200 banknotes also show € symbols inside the number.

In addition to the security features for the public, the new banknotes contain new and upgraded features for authentication by machines and devices.

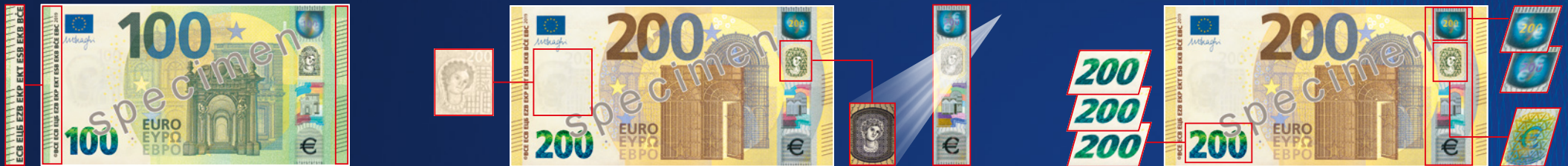
## EASY TO CHECK

### FRONT

**FEEL**  
Raised print

**LOOK**  
Portrait watermark   Portrait window

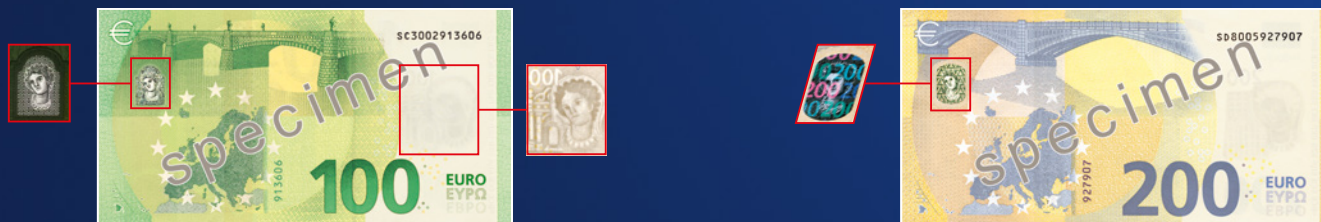
**TILT**  
Emerald number  
Satellite hologram   Portrait hologram  
Portrait window



### BACK

**LOOK**  
Portrait window   Portrait watermark

**TILT**  
Portrait window



Security features of the €100 and €200 banknotes [www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/banknotes/security/html/index.en.html](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/banknotes/security/html/index.en.html)

More information on the €100 banknote [www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/banknotes/denominations/html/index.en.html#es2-100](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/banknotes/denominations/html/index.en.html#es2-100)

More information on the €200 banknote [www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/banknotes/denominations/html/index.en.html#es2-200](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/banknotes/denominations/html/index.en.html#es2-200)

## THERE ARE MORE €100 BANKNOTES IN CIRCULATION THAN €10 BANKNOTES

The €100 and €200 banknotes are widely used, both as a means of payment and as a store of value. At the end of June 2018, there were 2.7 billion €100 banknotes in circulation (accounting for 13% of all euro banknotes in circulation) as against 2.5 billion €10 banknotes (accounting for about 12% of the total number). In terms of value, the €100 is the second most important denomination after the €50, covering almost a quarter (23%) of the value of all euro banknotes in circulation. In comparison, €200 banknotes account for 1% of the number of euro banknotes in circulation and 4% of the total value.

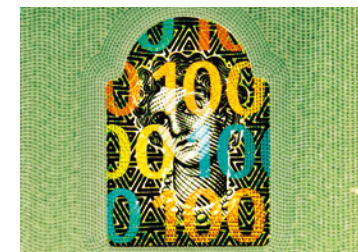
## SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

When designing the Europa series, the ECB worked closely with visually impaired people to develop banknotes with features that can be helpful for people with poor vision. The new notes feature large value numerals in a bolder design with more contrasting shades to make the banknotes easier to identify by colour. There are also tactile marks near the edges of the banknotes that are different for each denomination.

## TRUST IN EURO BANKNOTES

Euro banknotes continue to be a trusted, secure means of payment. The number of counterfeits remains very low (301,000 pieces removed from circulation during the first half of 2018) compared with the steadily rising number of genuine banknotes in circulation (over 21 billion). The ECB, together with the national central banks of the Eurosystem, will continue to ensure that euro banknotes remain a valuable and valued means of payment in the euro area and beyond. It is essential that everyone who uses euro banknotes can go on doing so with complete confidence. That is why the Europa series has been introduced.

Euro banknote counterfeiting remained low in first half of 2018  
[www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2018/html/ecb.pr180727.en.html](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2018/html/ecb.pr180727.en.html)





# THE NEW €100 AND €200 BANKNOTES

## WILL CASH BECOME OBSOLETE IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

Global trends indicate that the demand for cash continues to grow. Since the introduction of the euro in 2002, the number of banknotes in circulation in the euro area has tripled and now stands at 21 billion. The value of banknotes in circulation is currently growing by around 4% per year and has reached almost €1.2 trillion. For more information on banknotes circulation figures, visit our website.

[www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/policy\\_and\\_exchange\\_rates/banknotes+coins/circulation/html/index.en.html](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/policy_and_exchange_rates/banknotes+coins/circulation/html/index.en.html)

## IS CASH STILL KING?

Cash is the widely preferred means of payment at points of sale such as shops, petrol stations and vending machines. In 2016, 79% of all transactions in the euro area were made with cash, while only 19% were made by card.<sup>1</sup> Cash transactions are even more popular at street and market vendors (90% of all transactions – 81% in terms of value) and in bars and restaurants (90% of all transactions – 76% in terms of value).

## WHAT ARE THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF CASH?

- It is inclusive – people who have limited or no access to bank accounts can still make payments with cash.
- It allows people to have better control of their spending and personal debt levels.
- It is a private way to pay.
- It is a contingency measure in case electronic payment systems fail.
- It provides instant settlement of transactions the moment the cash changes hands.
- It ensures competition between various retail payment instruments and contributes to the competitive pricing of other retail payment instruments.
- It is the only payment instrument that gives the public direct access to trusted central bank money.

<sup>1</sup> Source: "The use of cash by households in the euro area":  
[www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/scpops/ecb.op201.en.pdf?3670de4c470a5361c8b3e250d656699](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/scpops/ecb.op201.en.pdf?3670de4c470a5361c8b3e250d656699)



## SPEECHES AND QUOTES ON CASH AND EURO BANKNOTES

Welcome address by Mario Draghi, President of the ECB, at an event marking the issuance of the new €50 banknote, Frankfurt am Main, 4 April 2017

*“Though electronic payments are becoming more popular, cash is still our most important means of payment. [...] Over three-quarters of all payments at points of sale in the euro area are made in cash. In terms of transaction values, that’s slightly more than half. So even in this digital age, cash remains essential in our economy.”*

[www.ecb.europa.eu/press/key/date/2017/html/sp170404.en.html](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/key/date/2017/html/sp170404.en.html)

Speech by Yves Mersch, Member of the Executive Board of the ECB, at the 4th Bargeldsymposium of the Deutsche Bundesbank, Frankfurt am Main, 14 February 2018

*“Cash allows privacy and thus safeguards fundamental rights. [...] Citizens can use cash to exercise their fundamental rights without the state or other third parties being able to immediately track any financial transactions involved.”*

[www.ecb.europa.eu/press/key/date/2018/html/ecb.sp180214.en.html](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/key/date/2018/html/ecb.sp180214.en.html)

Contribution by Yves Mersch, Member of the Executive Board of the ECB for Project Syndicate, 28 April 2017

*“Growth in overall demand for cash is outpacing nominal GDP growth. In the last five years, the average annual growth rate of euro banknotes was 4.9% by value and 6.2% by piece. This rise includes denominations that are predominantly used for transactions, rather than for savings. [...] The ECB will continue to provide banknotes. We will also facilitate the further development of an integrated, innovative, and competitive market for retail payment solutions in the eurozone.”*

[www.ecb.europa.eu/press/key/date/2017/html/ecb.sp170428.en.html](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/key/date/2017/html/ecb.sp170428.en.html)

## MATERIALS FOR THE MEDIA

- Press release  
[www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2018/html/ecb.pr180917.en.html](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2018/html/ecb.pr180917.en.html)
- Images of the new €100 and €200 banknotes and the security features  
[www.flickr.com/photos/eurocentralbank/sets/72157697753987952](http://www.flickr.com/photos/eurocentralbank/sets/72157697753987952)
- Images of the unveiling event  
[www.flickr.com/photos/eurocentralbank/albums/72157700197251994](http://www.flickr.com/photos/eurocentralbank/albums/72157700197251994)
- Images of Europa series of banknotes  
[www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/banknotes/images/html/index.en.html](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/euro/banknotes/images/html/index.en.html)
- Unveiling film  
[www.youtube.com/user/ecbeuro](http://www.youtube.com/user/ecbeuro)
- Footage for TV stations about the printing process of the new €100 and €200 banknotes  
[www.ecb.europa.eu/press/tvservices/ondemand/html/index.en.html](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/tvservices/ondemand/html/index.en.html)





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