New national sides of the 2-euro commemorative circulation coins issued by the euro-area Member States to celebrate 10 years of the euro
(2012/C 17/05)

Euro coins intended for circulation have legal tender status throughout the euro area. For the purpose of informing the public and all parties who handle the coins, the Commission publishes a description of the designs of all new coins (1). In accordance with the Council conclusions of 10 February 2009 (2), euro-area Member States and countries that have concluded a monetary agreement with the Community providing for the issuing of euro coins are allowed to issue commemorative euro coins intended for circulation, provided that certain conditions are met, particularly that only the 2-euro denomination is used. These coins have the same technical characteristics as other 2-euro coins, but their national face features a commemorative design that is highly symbolic in national or European terms.

To celebrate 10 years of the Euro, euro-area Finance Ministers decided that euro-area Member States would strike a 2-euro commemorative coin using a common design on the national side. Euro-area citizens and residents have selected by public web-voting the winning design. Voters had a choice of five designs, which had been pre-selected by a professional jury following a design competition among citizens from the whole euro area, and they choose the design created by Mr Helmut Andexlinger, professional designer at the Austrian Mint.

Issuing countries: Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland

Subject of commemoration: Ten years of the Euro

Factual description of the design: The Euro-sign in the centre of the coin shows that the Euro has become an element of particular importance in Europe as well all over the world as the Euro evolved to a global player in the international monetary system in the last 10 years. The design elements around the Euro-symbol on the coin express the importance of the Euro to the people, to the financial world (ECB tower), to trading (ships), to industry (factories), to the energy sector and research and development (wind power stations). The initials AH of the artist appear under the image of the ECB tower. The name(s) of the issuing country in the national language(s) appear(s) at the top, while the indication 2002-2012 appears at the bottom.

The outer ring depicts the 12 stars of the European flag.

Approximate issuing date: January 2012

BELGIUM

Legends: BE/2002-2012
Mintmark: the Mint Master mark and the mintmark appear respectively on the left and on the right hand sides of the country indication
Estimated volume of issuance: 5 million
Edge lettering: 2 ★★ repeated six times, alternately upright and inverted

GERMANY

Legends: BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND/2002-2012
Mintmark: The mintmark (A, D, F, G or J) appears at the right hand side of the indication '2002-2012'
Estimated volume of issuance: 30 million
Edge lettering: EINIGKEIT UND RECHT UND FREIHEIT and the design of the federal eagle

ESTONIA

Legends: EESTI/2002-2012
Mintmark: None
Estimated volume of issuance: 2 million
Edge lettering: EESTI, repeated two times upright and inverted

IRELAND

Legends: ÉIRE/2002-2012
Mintmark: None
Estimated volume of issuance: 3 million
Edge lettering: 2 **, repeated six times, alternately upright and inverted

GREECE

Legends: ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ/2002-2012
Mintmark: The mintmark appears at the right hand side of the design
Estimated volume of issuance: 1 million
Edge lettering: ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ ★

SPAIN

Legends: ESPAÑA/2002-2012
Mintmark: None
Estimated volume of issuance: 8 million
Edge lettering: 2 ★★, repeated six times, alternately upright and inverted
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Legends</th>
<th>Mintmark</th>
<th>Estimated volume of issuance</th>
<th>Edge lettering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE/2002-2012</td>
<td>The mintmark and the mintmaster’s mark appear on the right hand side of the design</td>
<td>10 million</td>
<td>2 ★★, repeated six times, alternately upright and inverted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>REPUBBLICA ITALIANA/2002-2012</td>
<td>The mintmark 'R' appears at the right hand side of the design</td>
<td>15 million</td>
<td>2 ★, repeated six times, alternately upright and inverted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>ΚΥΠΡΟΣ ΚΙΒΡΙΟΣ/2002-2012</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 million</td>
<td>'2 ΕΥΡΩ 2 EURO' repeated twice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>LËTZEBUERG/2002-2012</td>
<td>The mintmark the Mint Master mark appear on the upper right hand side of the design</td>
<td>1.4 million</td>
<td>2 ★★, repeated six times, alternately upright and inverted. In accordance with the national law, the coin shows an effigy of the Grand Duke as a latent image.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>MALTA/2002-2012</td>
<td>the mintmaster’s mark and the mintmark appear respectively on the left and the right hand sides of the bottom star</td>
<td>700 000</td>
<td>2 ★★, repeated six times, alternately upright and inverted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Legends</td>
<td>Mintmark</td>
<td>Estimated volume of issuance</td>
<td>Edge lettering</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>NEDERLAND/2002-2012</td>
<td>The Mint Master mark and the mintmark appear on the right hand side of the design</td>
<td>3.5 million</td>
<td>GOD ⭐ ZIJ ⭐ MET ⭐ ONS ⭐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH/2002-2012</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>11.3 million</td>
<td>2 EURO ★★★ repeated four times, alternately upright and inverted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>PORTUGAL/2002-2012</td>
<td>The mintmark appears at the right hand side of the design</td>
<td>520 000</td>
<td>Five coats of arms and seven castles equally spaced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>SLOVENIJA/2002-2012</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 million</td>
<td>SLOVENIJA, followed by an engraved dot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>SLOVENSKO/2002-2012</td>
<td>The mintmark appears at the upper right hand side of the design</td>
<td>1 million</td>
<td>SLOVENSKÁ REPUBLIKA, followed by three symbols: star — linden leaf — star</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FINLAND

Legends: SUOMI FINLAND/2002-2012
Mintmark: The mintmark appears at the upper left hand side of the design
Estimated volume of issuance: 1.5 million
Edge lettering: SUOMI FINLAND ★★★ where ★ marks represent lion heads