

New national side of euro coins intended for circulation

(2018/C 24/02)



National side of the new commemorative 2-euro coin intended for circulation and issued by France

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 European Union 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.

Issuing country: France

Subject of commemoration: Remembrance cornflower (*Bleuet de France*)

Description of the design: For 100 years, the cornflower (*Bleuet de France*) has been the flower of remembrance and solidarity in France. It started as a means of helping injured veterans of the First World War, but before long had been adopted by the whole French nation as a symbol of gratitude for the sacrifices the soldiers had made to defend their country and their ideals.

Today, as in the past, the cornflower still provides moral and financial support to veterans and victims of wars past and present and to victims of terrorism.

It also helps pass on to young people standards and values such as respect, peace and tolerance. This flower of remembrance honours all those who fought and are still fighting for our freedom today.

The design features the cornflower in the centre of the coin. It is surrounded by the words '*Le Bleuet de France, fleur de mémoire et de solidarité*' (*Bleuet of France, flower of remembrance and solidarity*). The dates '1918-2018' as well as the letters RF for *République Française* (French Republic) and the mint marks are also included in the design.

The coin's outer ring depicts the 12 stars of the European flag.

Number of coins to be issued: 15 million coins

Date of issue: 31 January 2018

⁽¹⁾ See OJ C 373, 28.12.2001, p. 1 for the national faces of all the coins issued in 2002.

⁽²⁾ See the conclusions of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council of 10 February 2009 and the Commission Recommendation of 19 December 2008 on common guidelines for the national sides and the issuance of euro coins intended for circulation (OJ L 9, 14.1.2009, p. 52).