

**New national side of euro coins intended for circulation**

(2013/C 366/05)



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

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 <sup>(1)</sup>. In accordance with the Council conclusions of 10 February 2009 <sup>(2)</sup>, 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:** Finland

**Subject of commemoration:** the 125th anniversary of the birth of Nobel Prize winning author F. E. SILLANPÄÄ

**Description of the design:**

The inner part of the coin depicts Sillanpää's portrait. At the top, in semi-circle, the words 'F. E. SILLANPÄÄ'. At the left, the year '1888' and the mint mark. At the right, the year '1964', the indication of the issuing country 'FI' and the year of issuance '2013'.

This is a special coin to commemorate the grandfather of a whole nation. F. E. SILLANPÄÄ was a master of style who brought deep insights about the relationship between people and nature into Finnish literature. He was awarded the Nobel prize in 1939 based in particular on the works *Meek Heritage* and *The Maid Silja*. This masterful author gained even more national renown with his popular radio appearances and memorable Christmas columns. After the war years, the master writer evolved into the long-bearded 'Taata', the unofficial grandfather to the country. From recollections of his childhood Christmases emerged a well-loved tradition: Grandpa gathered the whole nation devoutly around their radios with his easy-going Christmas 'talks'.

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

**Number of coins to be issued:** 1,5 million

**Date of issue:** November 2013

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

<sup>(2)</sup> 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).