

New national side of euro coins intended for circulation

(2014/C 168/02)



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 issuance 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: 70th anniversary of the Normandy landings of 6 June 1944

Description of the design: In the coin's central field the word D-DAY is written in such a way as to depict a landing craft and a tank gun barrel. The years 1944-2014 appear above the tank gun, with the inscription '70^e anniversaire du débarquement' (70th anniversary of the landings) further down. The distinctive footprints left by the boots worn by American, British and Canadian troops are gradually disappearing in the sand, washed away by a wave. The words of a poem by Verlaine used as a code for the start of the landings are engraved on the wave: 'Les sanglots longs des violons de l'automne blessent mon coeur d'une langueur monotone' (the long sobs of the violins of autumn wound my heart with a monotonous languor).

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

Number of coins to be issued: 3 million

Date of issue: June 2014

⁽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).