

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

(2015/C 253/07)

*National side of the new common 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.

To celebrate thirty years of the EU flag, 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 European Mints, and they choose the design created by Mr Georgios Stamatopoulos, professional designer at the Bank of Greece.

**Issuing country:** Finland

**Subject of commemoration:** The 30th anniversary of the EU flag

**Description of the design:** The design shows the EU flag as a symbol that unites people and cultures with shared visions and ideals for a better common future. Twelve stars that morph into human figures are embracing the birth of a new Europe. At the top right, in semi-circle, are the issuing country 'SUOMI FINLAND' and the years '1985-2015'. At the right side, in between the flag and the years is the mint mark. At the bottom right are the initials of the artist (Georgios Stamatopoulos).

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

**Number of coins to be issued:** 500 000

**Date of issue:** August 2015

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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).