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COVER NOTE

From:	European Commission
date of receipt:	11 July 2025
To:	General Secretariat of the Council
Subject:	Note on the new common commemorative coin (2029)

Delegations will find attached a note by the European Commission on a new common commemorative euro coin. The Economic and Financial Committee endorsed the principle of a common commemorative issuance for 2029 celebrating 25 years since the 2004 EU enlargement

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
Macroeconomic policies
Euro protection and euro cash

PUBLIC

Brussels, 21.5.2025

A NEW COMMON COMMEMORATIVE COIN (2029)

Note for the Economic and Financial Committee

1. Background

Pursuant to Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 651/2012 on the issuance of euro coins, Euro Area Member States (EA MS) can issue commemorative coins[1] and, in line with Article 4(3), the decision whether to issue a commemorative coin with a common design collectively issued by the EA MS shall be taken by the Council. Common commemorative issuances are not counted within the limit of 2 commemorative coins per Member State and year.

Further to Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 729/2014 on the technical specifications and denominations of euro coins, common commemorative coins shall only commemorate subjects of the highest European relevance, and the design shall be without prejudice to the constitutional requirements of the Member States.

Since the introduction of the euro, EA MS have issued five common commemorative coins:

[1] Small-sized countries that use the euro as official currency by means of a Monetary Agreement with the EU cannot participate in the issuance of a common commemorative coin.

2007	50 years of signing the Treaty of Rome	
2009	10 years of the creation of the euro and the start of the EMU	
2012	10 years of the introduction of euro banknotes and coins	
2015	30 years of the European flag	
2022	35 years of the Erasmus program	

EA Member States propose to launch a new common commemorative coin in 2029 celebrating **25 years since the 2004 EU enlargement.**

2. Decision on the event or topic to be commemorated

Since 2023, the ECSC members have been discussing various aspects related to the future issuance of common commemorative coins, with a view to streamlining the process for organizing such issuances.

Following the discussions, a small working group of interested Member States and the Commission was set up and agreed on a shortlist of 10 possible anniversaries to be discussed by the ECSC members.

From the short list, the ECSC voted at the occasion of its meeting of **6 November 2024** in favour of the issuance in 2029 of a **common commemorative coin celebrating 25 years since the 2004 EU enlargement.**

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3. Selection of the coin design

In line with the past practices, the Commission services will organize in due time a competition for the selection of a coin design.

Proposals for coin designs can be submitted by Member States at the moment the coin competition is launched. A professional jury will pre-select a small group of the most suitable designs and submit them to a final web-vote by EA citizens.

Traditionally, the Commission services organize an award ceremony in Brussels for the winner, who will receive a set of euro coins specially assembled for this event.

After transmission of the copyright of the winning design via the Commission to the EA Member States, the latter will be minting and issuing the new coin.

4. Indicative planning

The indicative timing of the process consists of the following steps:

STEP	ACTION	APPROXIMATE TIMING
1	**Endorsement of the issuance** of the coin by EFC/ECOFIN Council	2025 (tbd)
2	Launch of competition and **submission of designs**	7 September – 2 October 2026
3	**Design pre-selection** of best 3-5 designs by professional jury (likely composed of chairs of the MDWG and the ECSC, ECFIN representatives)	5 – 16 October 2026
4	Announcement of citizens' vote on the Europa website	19 - 23 October 2026
5	**Promotional campaign** (social media)	26 October - 13 November 2026
6	**Web-vote** by EA citizens	16 November – 16 December 2026
7	Announcement of **the winning design**	January 2027
9	**Transfer of copyright** to EA MS	January/February 2027
10	Council **approval** of the **national designs**	As of February 2027
11	**Coordination by the MDWG** of the technical aspects regarding the common issuance	As of March 2027
12	**Press point and press release on issuance -** involving the Commissioner and the coin designer	30 November 2028
13	**Issuance**	1 December 2028
14	**Social media campaign** around the actual anniversary (1 Jan)	15 December 2028 – early January 2029

The process as described above is planned in line with past practices to give EA Member States a comfortable margin in terms of timing. Nevertheless, its length can be adapted to respond to EA Member State needs. In this light, discussions on the next steps could resume in the ECSC in Spring 2026 to ensure the process is aligned with the timing of the national procedures for coin issuance.

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5. Possible extension of the issuance of this commemorative coin to non-euro area Member States

Since enlargement also concerns EU Member States who are not yet members of the euro area, if the Member States concerned so wish it could also be an opportunity for non-euro area Member States to mark this important historical step forward in EU integration by issuing a special commemorative coin in their own currencies, at the same time as the common commemorative coin and using the same design. In this way, both euro area and non-euro area Member States and their citizens would be able to celebrate this milestone together. This might be done on a voluntary basis by the non-euro area Member States adopting a timeline compatible with the one under point 4, and the necessary practical information could be shared with non-euro area Member States by the EFC secretariat. Hungary, Poland and Romania already indicated that they intended to issue such coin. The other non-euro area Member States are welcome to join if they decide to do so.

6. Request to the EFC

The EFC is invited to endorse the principle of a common commemorative coin issuance for 2029 with the subject "**25 years since the 2004 EU enlargement".**

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