Easy to check

The Europa series, like the first series of euro banknotes, is easy to check using the “FEEL, LOOK and TILT” method.

1 FEEL

Feel of the paper – Feel the banknote. It is crisp and firm.
Raised print – Feel the short raised lines on the left and right edges of the banknote. The main image, the lettering and the large value numeral also feel thicker.

2 LOOK

Portrait watermark – Look at the banknote against the light. A portrait of Europa, the value and the main image become visible.
Portrait window in the hologram – Against the light, the window near the top of the hologram becomes transparent and reveals a portrait of Europa on both sides of the note.

3 TILT

Emerald number – This shiny number displays an effect of the light that moves up and down. The number also changes colour from emerald green to deep blue.
Hologram – The silvery stripe reveals the value, the main motif and the € symbol.
Portrait window in the hologram – The window near the top of the hologram shows a portrait of Europa. When the banknote is tilted, the window also shows rainbow-coloured lines around the value numeral. On the back, rainbow-coloured value numerals appear in the window.

THE NEW €20

Front Back
THE EUROPA SERIES: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A trusted means of payment

Since their introduction in 2002, euro banknotes have become one of the world’s most trusted means of payment and are a powerful symbol of European integration. Today they are the currency of 19 countries and 338 million Europeans; it is our duty to maintain that trust by making our money even more secure by incorporating the latest banknote technology.

A gradual introduction for the new series

The Europa series banknotes are being introduced over several years. The new €5 came in 2013 and the new €10 in 2014, with the new €20 to start circulating as of 25 November 2015. The banknotes of the first series will circulate alongside the new ones until further notice. Even when they cease to be legal tender, they can still be exchanged for an indefinite period at any of the national central banks of the Eurosystem.

Further information can be found at: www.new-euro-banknotes.eu

Why new banknotes?

It is very important that the security features of the banknotes are regularly updated and improved to make them more difficult to counterfeit. The new €20 includes an innovative “portrait window” that becomes visible on both sides when the note is held against the light.

The portrait in the new series is of Europa, a figure from Greek mythology and the origin of our continent’s name. The depiction used on the Europa series banknotes comes from a vase over 2,000 years old originally found in southern Italy and now shown in the Louvre museum in Paris.

THE FIRST SERIES

THE EUROPA SERIES

Mario Draghi
President European Central Bank

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