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COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

**Accompanying document to the
COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE
OF THE REGIONS
Ninth Report on the practical preparations for the future enlargement of the euro area**

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Ninth Report on the practical preparations for the future enlargement of the euro area

1. INTRODUCTION

This Working Paper is attached to the 'Ninth Commission Report on the practical preparations for the future enlargement of the euro area'. It provides an overview of how the countries which yet have to adopt the euro abide by the provisions of the 'Commission Recommendation of 10 January 2008 on measures to facilitate future changeovers to the euro' which builds on the experience acquired in the course of the introduction of euro cash in 2002, 2007 and 2008, and gives a synoptic overview of the state of national preparations for the changeover.

2. RESPECTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON MEASURES TO FACILITATE FUTURE CHANGEOVERS TO THE EURO

This section provides an overview on how the countries meet the provisions of the Commission Recommendation of 10 January 2008 on measures to facilitate future changeovers to the euro (2008/78/EC). It is based solely on publicly available information and therefore may not reflect all preparations which are under way.

	BG	CZ	EE	LV	LT	HU	PL	RO	SE
Article 1: Steering and organisation									
Set up of appropriate national coordination structures		X	X	X	X	X			
National changeover plan:		X	X	X	X	X			
1. Prepared			X	X	X	X			
2. Discussed with economic operators		X	X	X	X	X			
3. Regularly updated									
Article 2: Facilitating preparation of citizens									
Dual display of prices should be imposed by the national law		X	X	X	X	X			
Any charges for accepting € payments imposed by businesses before €day should be displayed separately			X						
Legal ban on using a rate other than the official conversion rate		X	X	X	X	X			
Min.6 months long dual display before €day planned		X	X		X	X			
Max 1 year long compulsory dual display after €day planned		X	X	X		X			
Plans to inform citizens about security features of euro cash			X						
Special information programmes for vulnerable groups planned		X	X	X	X	X			
Training sessions for personnel working with cash/in direct contact with public envisaged:									
1. By public administration			X	X					
2. By businesses									

	BG	CZ	EE	LV	LT	HU	PL	RO	SE
Plans for the provision of information to SMEs by:									
1.Public administration bodies		X	X						
2.Professional associations, chambers of commerce, business advisors			X						
Plans for the provision of information by credit institutions to their customers			X						
Plans to monitor progress in preparations by means of surveys		X	X	X	X	X			
Article 3: Ensuring a quick introduction of euro cash									
Planned dishoarding campaign aimed at citizens		X	X		X				
1. Frontloading			X						
2. Sub-frontloading schedules put in place			X						
Euro coin kits for retailers			X	X					
Plans for financially attractive deferred debiting					X				
Mini coin kits for citizens:									
1. Production envisaged			X	X					
2. At least 1 kit per household									
ATMs should be adapted as of €day		X	X	X	X				
Plans for temporary closure of ATMs that cannot be adapted for technical reasons									

	BG	CZ	EE	LV	LT	HU	PL	RO	SE
Giving of change in €only as of €day imposed by law		X	X	X	X	X			
Plans for ad-hoc measures due to increased cash volume in sales outlets									
POS terminals should be switched to €as of €day		X	X	X	X	X			
Consumers will be encouraged to use electronic payment means			X	X					
Plans for extra opening days in credit institutions around €day									
Plans for extended opening hours in credit institutions around €day									
Article 4: Prevention of abusive practices and mistaken perceptions of price trends									
Planned agreements on neutral impact of changeover on prices (e.g. Ethical Code)		X	X	X	X				
Planned logo to identify the subscribers of the Ethical Code									
Planned advertisement for the Ethical Code logo									
Close monitoring of compliance with commitments by subscribers planned			X						
Planned dissuasive measures for non-compliance with the Code									
Planned monitoring of prices from the adoption of conversion rate until the end of dual display			X	X	X	X			

	BG	CZ	EE	LV	LT	HU	PL	RO	SE
Regular publication of information on evolution of prices around €day			X						
Alignment of bank charges for payments in € with those or payments in national currency before €day									

3. STATE OF PRACTICAL PREPARATIONS (NOVEMBER 2009)

	Bulgaria	Czech Republic
Changeover organisation		
National target date for euro adoption		The preliminary target date (1 January 2010) was withdrawn by the Government on 25 October 2006. The Czech Republic's updated 'Euro-area Accession Strategy' approved by the Czech Government on 29 August 2007 does not set any target date.
National co-ordinating institution		The National Co-ordination Group (NCG) held its first meeting on 20 February 2006. Six Working Groups (WGs) were established for different areas of practical preparations. The work of the NCG and WGs is organised by the NCG's Managing Committee. On 28 March 2007, a new National Co-ordinator for Euro Adoption was appointed by the Government.
(Approved) National Changeover Plan		<p>The Czech Republic's Euro Accession Strategy was approved by the Government in October 2003:</p> <p>http://www.cnb.cz/www.cnb.cz/en/monetary_policy/strategic_documents/download/en_eurostrategie_09_2003.pdf</p> <p>An updated version was approved by the Czech government in August 2007:</p> <p>http://www.cnb.cz/www.cnb.cz/en/monetary_policy/strategic_documents/download/eurostrategy_070829.pdf</p> <p>The institutional arrangements for the introduction of the euro in the Czech Republic were adopted by the Government on 23 November 2005.</p> <p>The first National Changeover Plan was approved by the Czech Government on 11 April 2007. It was published in hardcopy, in both English and Czech versions.</p> <p>http://www.zavedenieura.cz/cps/rde/xbcr/euro/NP_EN_06-08-07.pdf</p> <p>First Progress Report to the National Changeover Plan was approved by the Czech Government on 9 April 2008.:</p> <p>http://www.zavedenieura.cz/cps/rde/xbcr/euro/Zprava_o_plneni_np_pdf.pdf</p> <p>Second Progress Report was approved on 30 March 2009:</p> <p>http://www.zavedenieura.cz/cps/rde/xchg/euro/xsl/dokumenty_vladni_material_779.html</p>

	Bulgaria	Czech Republic
Changeover details		
Type of scenario		"Big bang". On 30 June 2006 the National Co-ordination Group recommended the Government to use the "big bang" scenario. The Recommendation was approved by the Government on 25 October 2006. http://www.zavedenieura.cz/cps/rde/xbcr/euro/Scenar_z_avedeni_eura_CR.pdf
Dual circulation period		2 weeks starting from €day
Exchange of national banknotes and coins		The Czech National Bank, commercial banks and other selected entities will exchange Czech korunas for the euro for at least 6 months after €day. Subsequently, the legacy currency will only be exchanged at the Czech National Bank. The maximum length of the banknote exchange period is to be decided, while the coins will be exchangeable for a period of 5 years.
Campaign for rapid withdrawal of national banknotes and coins		
Frontloading and sub-frontloading		Frontloading of banks will start 3 months ahead of € day and sub-frontloading of the non-financial sector will start one month before €day.
ATMs issuing euro only		
Change in euro only		yes
Dual display of prices		Mandatory dual display of prices will be introduced within one month after the announcement of the official conversion rate and will continue for 12 months after the changeover date. The first version of the Recommendation on the dual display of prices was elaborated in 2009: http://www.zavedenieura.cz/cps/rde/xbcr/euro/Doporuc_ene_postupy_dualni_oznacovani_cen_pdf.pdf
Consumer confidence building measures (e.g. agreements with retailers)		A voluntary agreement with retailers (fair-pricing agreement) and a 'memorandum of understanding', to be signed by retail and services sector and the consumer protection associations. These measures should be launched no later than one month after the announcement of the conversion rate. The basic principles of the price monitoring and control were elaborated by the Information Technology and Statistics WG in November 2009 http://www.zavedenieura.cz/cps/rde/xchg/euro/xsl/dokumenty_metodiky.html

	Bulgaria	Czech Republic
Adaptation of national law		<p>The necessary adaptations of national law have been analysed by the Legislation Working Group of the National Co-ordination Group. On 1 March 2009 the Government decided to adopt an “indirect” approach to law adaptation, combined with individual adjustments of legal texts, if necessary. A general timetable of legal adjustments was elaborated with a view to introducing the euro.</p> <p>http://www.zavedenieura.cz/cps/rde/xbcr/euro/Priprava_pravniho_prostredi_na_zavedeni_eura_pdf.pdf</p>
Euro banknotes and coins		
Design of the national side		
Number of different coin designs		
Coin supplier		Suppliers would be chosen via a public call for tender.
Estimate of the need for banknotes and coins		230 million banknotes and 950 million coins.
Communication activities		
Communication strategy		A draft version was prepared in September 2009 by the Communication Working Group.
Activities		<p>The leaflet “Preparations of the Czech Republic for the adoption of the euro” was printed and distributed country-wide in June 2007.</p> <p>The conference “The euro – our future currency” was held in October 2007 in Prague.</p>
Addresses of websites on euro changeover:		<p>Government EU information department: http://www.euroskop.cz/euro</p> <p>Ministry of Finance: http:// www.mfcr.cz/euro</p> <p>National changeover website (in Czech and English): http:// www.zavedenieura.cz</p> <p>Czech National Bank: http://www.cnb.cz/en/international_relations/euro/</p> <p>Ministry of Industry and Trade: http://www.mpo.cz/cz/eu-a-vnitni-trh/euro-pristoupeni-cr-k-eurozone/default.html</p>

	Bulgaria	Czech Republic
Partnership agreement		
Other issues		<p>Guidelines on rounding and smoothing of prices prepared by the NCG Management Committee in October 2007:</p> <p>http://www.zavedenieura.cz/cps/rde/xchg/euro/xsl/dokumenty_metodiky.html</p> <p>The estimate of budgetary costs of smoothing in the public sector published in March 2008:</p> <p>http://www.zavedenieura.cz/cps/rde/xchg/euro/xsl/dokumenty_metodiky.html</p> <p>Guidelines for the preparations of the banking sector for the introduction of euro prepared by the Financial Sector WG</p> <p>http://www.zavedenieura.cz/cps/rde/xchg/euro/xsl/dokumenty_metodiky.html</p> <p>International Conference “Ten years of the Euro – A source of inspiration for the Czech Republic” held in Prague in November 2008:</p> <p>http://www.zavedenieura.cz/cps/rde/xchg/euro/xsl/publikace_seminare_956.html</p>
ERM II entry		
Twinning agreement		<p>Twinning Project between the National Bank of Belgium, the Czech Ministry of Finance and the Czech National Bank started in September 2007 and ended successfully in September 2008.</p> <p>A new Twinning project between the French authorities, the Czech Ministry of Finance and the National Bank of Slovakia is under preparation</p>

	Estonia	Latvia
Changeover organisation		
National target date for euro adoption	1 January 2011	According to the government changeover strategy, the target date for introduction of the euro should be set at least 24 months prior to €day, on the basis of the prospect of fulfilling the Maastricht criteria: (http://www.mk.gov.lv/lv/mk/tap/?pid=30308178&mode=mk&date=2007-09-25).
National co-ordinating institution	National Changeover Committee, chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance, set up on 27 January 2005.	Steering Committee for the preparation and co-ordination of the euro introduction established on 18 July 2005.
(Approved) National Changeover Plan	The first draft of the euro adoption plan was approved by the government on 1 September 2005: http://www.fin.ee/index.php?id=13324 . The seventh update was adopted on 25 June 2009: http://www.eestipank.info/pub/en/EL/ELiit/euro/eplaan_1.pdf	The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia approved the 'Action Plan for the Introduction of the Single European Currency' on 1 November 2005 and the first version of Latvia's National Euro Changeover Plan on 28 February 2006. The updates of the two documents were approved on 25 September 2007.
Changeover details		
Type of scenario	"Big-bang"	"Big-bang"
Dual circulation period	Two weeks	One month
Exchange of national banknotes and coins	Banknotes and coins: all commercial banks at least 6 months after €day free of charge, some branches 12 months. Central Bank indefinitely, free of charge.	Commercial banks, currency exchange offices and post offices for 6 months after €day free of charge; the Bank of Latvia without time limit free of charge.
Campaign for rapid withdrawal of national banknotes and coins	Campaign for withdrawal of kroon coins before € day planned; credit institutions are recommended to launch early cash deposit campaigns.	Not envisaged because of the high nominal value of coins in Latvia and their intensive use for day-to-day payments.
Frontloading and sub-frontloading	Frontloading two months before €day; sub-frontloading by credit institutions to major clients one month before €day (precondition: no distribution to general public before €day). Banks should offer to exchange kroons for the euro at the conversion rate and without service fee at least one month prior to €day.	Frontloading of banks should start one month before € day (1 December), sub-frontloading two weeks before € day (15 December). Euro banknotes and coins may not be publicly circulated before €day.
ATMs issuing euro only	All ATMs should dispense euro only within 48 hours as of €day.	As from € day ATMs should dispense euro banknotes only.
Change in euro only	Change should be given in euro as of €day; in exceptional cases change can be given in kroon during the dual circulation period.	After the end of the dual circulation period.

	Estonia	Latvia
Dual display of prices	Compulsory: 6 months before and after €day.	Compulsory for three months before €day until one year after € day.
Consumer confidence building measures (e.g. agreements with retailers)	Monitoring of prices of frequently purchased goods and services under the supervision of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication. Leaflets containing information on the euro were made available to the public in summer 2006.	Monitoring of price developments in the retail sector, verification of the accuracy of dual price displays and 'fair pricing' campaign envisaged.
Adaptation of national law	Regularly updated 'umbrella law' on the introduction of the euro.	Adaptation envisaged via an 'umbrella law'.
Euro banknotes and coins		
Design of the national side	Design selected and published in December 2004.	
Nr of different coin designs	One design	Three designs
Coin supplier	Following a call for tender, coins will be minted by the Mint of Finland.	Coins will be minted abroad following a call for tender.
Estimation on the need for banknotes and coins	200-250 million coins	87 million banknotes and 300 million coins.
Communication activities		
Communication strategy	Endorsed by the National Changeover Committee on 21 June 2005. Most recent update: 31 August 2009.	'Communication strategy for the euro changeover in Latvia' approved on 12 April 2006; it is currently under revision.
Addresses of websites on euro changeover: Government/Ministry of Finance; Central Bank	www.euro.eesti.ee launched in January 2006.	Euro changeover website: www.eiro.lv launched in December 2008. Up-to-date information on the euro changeover preparations is available on the website of the Ministry of Finance: http://www.fm.gov.lv/page.php?id=105 .
Partnership agreement	Signed on 8 November 2005, renewed in 2008. In force until 8 February 2010.	
Other issues		
ERM II entry	28 June 2004	2 May 2005
Twinning agreement		Twinning Agreement between BE and LV in final stage.

	Lithuania	Hungary
Changeover organisation		
National target date for euro adoption	The specific target date has not been set, but the Government aims to join the euro area at the earliest possible date.	Not decided.
National co-ordinating institution	Commission for the Co-ordination of the Adoption of the Euro in Lithuania, established on 30 May 2005.	<p>The government decided on 12 September 2007 to set up the National Euro Coordination Committee. The key task of the Committee is to co-ordinate the practical preparations for the changeover.</p> <p>The NECC is chaired by the Minister of Finance and co-chaired by the Governor of Magyar Nemzeti Bank. This high level committee is composed of the Minister of Economy, Justice and Security, Local Governance and Regional Developments, Social Affairs and Labour, the Minister in charge of the Prime Ministers' Office, the President of the Central Statistical Office and the Chairman of the Board of the Hungarian Financial Supervisory Authority. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and two representatives of the National Interest Reconciliation Council (one from the employers' and one from the employees' side) have permanent observer status in the NECC. The Committee shall report annually on its activities and the progress made in technical preparations for the changeover to the government and to the competent committees of the Parliament</p>
(Approved) National Changeover Plan	<p>The second version of the National Changeover Plan was approved by the government on 25 April 2007: http://www.euro.lt/documents/Changeover%20Plan_II_r edakcija_EN.doc.</p> <p>The third version of the National Changeover Plan is currently under preparation.</p>	<p>The government adopted the first version of the National Changeover Plan in July 2008. It has been published both in Hungarian and in English: http://english.mnb.hu/Engine.aspx?page=mnb_euro_inde x.</p>
Type of scenario		
	"Big-bang"	"Big-bang".
Dual circulation period		
	15 days.	Shorter than 1 month, exact length is to be decided
Exchange of national banknotes and coins		
	Commercial banks: free of charge during 60 days after € day. Central bank: free of charge for an unlimited period.	
Campaign for rapid withdrawal of national banknotes and coins		
	Consumers will be encouraged to deposit cash with banks before €day.	
Frontloading and sub-frontloading		
	Frontloading of euro banknotes to commercial banks one month before €day at the latest and of euro coins three months before €day at the latest. Sub-frontloading of euro banknotes and coins to retailers during the last month before €day.	

	Lithuania	Hungary
ATMs issuing euro only	As from €day ATMs will dispense only euro banknotes.	
Change in euro only	Recommendation to give change in euro only.	
Dual display of prices	Compulsory: 120 calendar days before €day and 120 days after €day; voluntary: recommendation to use dual display as early as possible after decision on the official conversion rate.	Compulsory: from the earliest possible date after the conversion rate is irrevocably fixed until 30 June of the year following €day.
Consumer confidence building measures (e.g. agreements with retailers)	Business organisations will be encouraged to adopt a “Code of Good Business Practice” (correct conversion, no speculative price increases etc.); subscribers will be authorised to use a logo of the Code.	Voluntary agreements on fair pricing should be signed with retailers and service providers. The signatories will be entitled to use a special logo. Prices should be regularly monitored by public institutions and organisations of consumers. The results of the monitoring are to be regularly communicated to citizens.
Adaptation of national law	<p>A Law on the Adoption of the euro has been prepared (contains rules on conversion and exchange of litas to the euro, withdrawal of litas from circulation, dual display of prices, presentation of designs of euro banknotes and Lithuanian euro coins, redenomination of securities etc.). The law will be officially adopted once the decision to lift the derogation is taken.</p> <p>All existing legal acts that need to be adapted with a view to adopting the euro had been identified by December 2005.</p>	The National Plan provides for an 'umbrella law' plus individual adjustments of legal texts if necessary.
Euro banknotes and coins		
Design of the national side	Approved	
Nr of different coin designs	Three designs	
Coin supplier	Lithuanian Mint	
Estimate of the need for banknotes and coins	118 million banknotes and 290 million coins.	To be decided 24 months before €day.

	Lithuania	Hungary
Communication activities		
Communication strategy	<p>The “Public information and communication strategy on the adoption of the euro of Lithuania” was approved by the government on 29 September 2005. The second version was approved by the government on 25 April 2007 and published on the web:</p> <p>http://www.euro.lt/documents/2007%2004%2025%20Visuomenes%20informavimo%20strategija_EN.doc.</p> <p>The third version of “Public information and communication strategy” is currently under preparation.</p>	The section on communication in the National Changeover Plan defines basic principles, actors, messages and target groups for the communication on the euro.
Addresses of websites on euro changeover: Ministry of Finance/Government; Central Bank	<p>National euro website (www.euro.lt).</p> <p>Regularly updated websites of the Bank of Lithuania (www.lb.lt) and of the Ministry of Finance (www.finmin.lt).</p>	<p>National euro website activated in December 2006. Hungarian version:</p> <p>http://www.mnb.hu/engine.aspx?page=mnbeuro_index)</p> <p>English version: http://english.mnb.hu/Engine.aspx?page=mnbeuro_index</p>
Partnership agreement	Signed on 8 November 2005. Prolongation signed on 5 February 2008.	
Other issues		
ERM II entry	28 June 2004	
Twinning agreement	<p>Three Twinning agreements completed:</p> <p>NL – SI – LT on communication and information strategy;</p> <p>BE – LT on tax-related questions;</p> <p>BE – LT on departmental management related to the changeover.</p>	<p>AT and HU on communication and information strategy (finalised).</p> <p>FR- HU: A three day seminar on public sector preparations for the changeover, legal and communication issues was held in Budapest</p> <p>FR-SK-HU twinning programme is planned to start in 2010</p>

	Poland	Romania
Changeover plan		
National target date for euro adoption	As soon as possible.	2014
National co-ordinating institution	Government Plenipotentiary for the Euro Adoption in Poland was appointed in January 2009; National Euro Coordination Committee and Coordination Council to be established before the end of 2009.	
(Approved) National Changeover Plan	<i>Guidelines for National Changeover Plan</i> to be published before the end of 2009.	
Changeover details		
Type of scenario	Not decided yet. To be specified in the National Changeover Plan.	Transitional period envisaged
Dual circulation period		2 months
Exchange of national banknotes and coins		Indefinitely
Campaign for rapid withdrawal of national banknotes and coins		
Frontloading and sub-frontloading		
ATMs issuing euro only		
Change in euro only		
Dual display of prices		
Consumer confidence building measures (e.g. agreements with retailers)	Ethical Code to be signed with retailers and banks by the end of 2010. Monitoring of price developments during and after dual display of prices (possible sanctions for abuses).	
Adaptation of national law	Preliminary list of necessary amendments to be prepared in 2009-2010.	
Euro banknotes and coins		
Design of the national side		

	Poland	Romania
Nr of different coin designs		
Coin supplier		
Estimation on the need for banknotes and coins		
Communication activities		
Communication strategy	To be prepared in 2010.	
Addresses of websites on euro changeover: Government/Ministry of Finance; Central Bank	www.euro.nbportal.pl launched in December 2006	
Partnership agreement		
Other issues		
ERM II entry	As soon as the conditions outlined in the document <i>'Prerequisites for Implementation of the Next Stages of the Road Map for Euro Adoption in Poland'</i> are met.	
Twinning agreement	2005-2006 DE-PL on communication and information strategy and other practical aspects of the changeover	

	Sweden
Changeover plan	
National target date for euro adoption	Not decided.
National co-ordinating institution	
(Approved) National Changeover Plan	
Changeover details	
Type of scenario	
Dual circulation period	
Exchange of national banknotes and coins	
Campaign for rapid withdrawal of national banknotes and coins	
Frontloading and sub-frontloading	
ATMs issuing euro only	
Change in euro only	
Dual display of prices	
Consumer confidence building measures (e.g. agreements with retailers)	
Adaptation of national law	
Euro banknotes and coins	
Design of the national side	
Nr of different coin designs	

	Sweden
Coin supplier	
Estimation on the need for banknotes and coins	
Communication activities	
Communication strategy	
Addresses of websites on euro changeover: Government/Ministry of Finance; Central Bank	
Partnership agreement	
Other issues	
ERM II entry	
Twinning agreement	