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PRESS RELEASE

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE EUROSYSTEM as at 15 March 2002

I. Items not related to monetary policy operations

In the week ending 15 March 2002 the increase of EUR 103 million **in gold and gold receivables** (asset item I) is due to the expiration of a gold swap agreement of one national central bank of the Eurosystem. The net position of the Eurosystem in foreign currency (asset items 2 and 3 minus liability items 7, 8 and 9) decreased by EUR 0.3 billion to EUR 259.7 billion on account of customer and portfolio transactions.

The holdings by the Eurosystem of marketable securities of euro area residents denominated in euro (asset item 7) decreased by EUR 0.1 billion to EUR 29.4 billion. Banknotes in circulation (liability item 1) decreased by EUR 2.9 billion to EUR 281.7 billion. Liabilities to general government (liability item 5.1) decreased by EUR 9.2 billion to EUR 47.1 billion.

II. Items related to monetary policy operations

The Eurosystem's net lending to credit institutions (asset item 5 minus liability items 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 4) decreased by EUR 9.9 billion to EUR 165.1 billion. On Wednesday, 13 March

2002, a **main refinancing operation** of EUR 51 billion matured, while a new one of EUR 41 billion was settled.

Recourse to the **marginal lending facility** (asset item 5.5) was virtually nil, which was approximately the same as in the preceding week. Recourse to the **deposit facility** (liability item 2.2) was EUR 0.1 billion (compared with virtually nil in the previous week).

III. Current accounts of euro area credit institutions

As a result of all transactions, the **current account** position of credit institutions with the Eurosystem (liability item 2.1) increased by EUR 1.4 billion to EUR 134.2 billion.

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Consolidated weekly financial statement of the Eurosystem as at 15 March 2002 (EUR millions)

Assets	Balance as at 15 March 2002	Difference compared to last week due to transactions	Liabilities	Balance as at 15 March 2002	Difference compared to last week due to transactions
1 Gold and gold receivables	126,869	103	1 Banknotes in circulation	281,713	-2,849
Claims on non-euro area residents denominated in foreign currency Receivables from the IMF Balances with banks and security investments, external loans and other external assets	32,459 237,093	-57 1,664	Liabilities to euro area credit institutions related to monetary policy operations denominated in euro Courrent accounts (covering the minimum reserve system) Covering the minimum reserve system)	134,226 55	
SASTINATIONAL ORIGINAL ORIGINAL AGOSTO	269,552		2.3 Fixed-term deposits	0	0
3 Claims on euro area residents denominated in foreign currency	22,201	991	2.4 Fine-tuning reverse operations 2.5 Deposits related to margin calls	0 17 134,298	_
Claims on non-euro area residents denominated in euro 4.1 Balances with banks, security investments and loans 4.2 Claims arising from the credit facility under ERM II	5,229 0 5,229	0	Other liabilities to euro area credit institutions denominated in euro Debt certificates issued	2,443 2,939	
Lending to euro area credit institutions related to monetary policy operations denominated in euro 1. Main refinancing operations 2. Longer-term refinancing operations 3. Fine-tuning reverse operations	108,085 60,001	-9,914 0 0	Liabilities to other euro area residents denominated in euro 5.1 General government 5.2 Other liabilities	47,106 5,696 52,802	204
5.4 Structural reverse operations 5.5 Marginal lending facility 5.6 Credits related to margin calls	0 5 3	0 -6 0	6 Liabilities to non-euro area residents denominated in euro	8,691	397
	168,094	-9,920	7 Liabilities to euro area residents denominated in foreign currency	2,684	68
Other claims on euro area credit institutions denominated in euro Securities of euro area residents denominated in euro	375 29,367	1 -112	8 Liabilities to non-euro area residents denominated in foreign currency 8.1 Deposits, balances and other liabilities 8.2 Liabilities arising from the credit facility under ERM II	22,407	,
General government debt denominated in euro	68,590	10	0.2 Liabilities ansing from the credit racinty under ENW II	22,407	-
9 Other assets	88,696	-127	9 Counterpart of special drawing rights allocated by the IMF	6,967	0
	,		10 Other liabilities	75,588	-37
			11 Revaluation accounts	125,320	0
			12 Capital and reserves	63,123	-9
Total assets	778,974	-7,351	Total liabilities	778,974	-7,351

Totals/sub-totals may not add up, due to rounding.