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PRESS RELEASE

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE EUROSYSTEM AS AT 25 FEBRUARY 2005

I. Items not related to monetary policy operations

In the week ending 25 February 2005, the decrease of EUR 99 million in **gold and gold receivables** (asset item 1) reflected the selling of gold by two Eurosystem central banks (consistent with the Central Bank Gold Agreement of 27 September 2004) and a purchase of gold coins by another Eurosystem central bank.

The net position of the Eurosystem in foreign currency (asset items 2 and 3 minus liability items 7, 8 and 9) decreased by EUR 0.2 billion to EUR 154.9 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) increased by EUR 0.6 billion to EUR 75.4 billion. **Banknotes in circulation** (liability item 1) remained virtually unchanged at EUR 488.2 billion. **Liabilities to general government** (liability item 5.1) rose by EUR 18.5 billion to EUR 81 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) increased by EUR 12.8 billion to EUR 369.4 billion. On Wednesday, 23 February 2005, a **main refinancing operation** of EUR 276.5 billion matured and a new one of EUR 284.5 billion was settled.

On Thursday, 24 February 2005, a **longer-term refinancing operation** of EUR 25 billion matured and a new one of EUR 30 billion was settled.

Recourse to the **marginal lending facility** (asset item 5.5) was virtually nil (compared with EUR 0.2 billion in the previous week), and 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) decreased by EUR 4.3 billion to EUR 140.8 billion.

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EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

Consolidated weekly financial statement of the Eurosystem as at 25 February 2005

(EUR millions)

| Assets | Balance as at 25 February 2005 | Difference compared to last week due to transactions | Liabilities | Balance as at 25 February 2005 | Difference compared to last week due to transactions |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Gold and gold receivables | 125,228 | -99 | 1 Banknotes in circulation | 488,195 | -8 |
| 2 Claims on non-euro area residents denominated in foreign currency | | | 2 Liabilities to euro area credit institutions related to monetary policy operations denominated in euro | | |
| 2.1 Receivables from the IMF | 23,405 | -257 | 2.1 Current accounts (covering the minimum reserve system) | 140,814 | -4,250 |
| 2.2 Balances with banks and security investments, external loans and other external assets | 127,676 | -1,248 | 2.2 Deposit facility | 59 | 49 |
| | 151,081 | -1,505 | 2.3 Fixed-term deposits | 0 | 0 |
| 3 Claims on euro area residents denominated in foreign currency | 17,180 | 347 | 2.4 Fine-tuning reverse operations | 0 | 0 |
| 4 Claims on non-euro area residents denominated in euro | | | 2.5 Deposits related to margin calls | 8 | -4 |
| 4.1 Balances with banks, security investments and loans | 8,258 | 84 | | 140,881 | -4,205 |
| 4.2 Claims arising from the credit facility under ERM II | 0 | 0 | 3 Other liabilities to euro area credit institutions denominated in euro | 125 | 0 |
| | 8,258 | 84 | 4 Debt certificates issued | 0 | 0 |
| 5 Lending to euro area credit institutions related to monetary policy operations denominated in euro | | | 5 Liabilities to other euro area residents denominated in euro | | |
| 5.1 Main refinancing operations | 284,501 | 8,001 | 5.1 General government | 81,016 | 18,506 |
| 5.2 Longer-term refinancing operations | 84,999 | 5,000 | 5.2 Other liabilities | 6,997 | -361 |
| 5.3 Fine-tuning reverse operations | 0 | 0 | | 88,013 | 18,145 |
| 5.4 Structural reverse operations | 0 | 0 | 6 Liabilities to non-euro area residents denominated in euro | 8,498 | 268 |
| 5.5 Marginal lending facility | 1 | -200 | 7 Liabilities to euro area residents denominated in foreign currency | 303 | -14 |
| 5.6 Credits related to margin calls | 8 | 6 | 8 Liabilities to non-euro area residents denominated in foreign currency | 7,505 | -934 |
| | 369,509 | 12,807 | 8.1 Deposits, balances and other liabilities | 0 | 0 |
| 6 Other claims on euro area credit institutions denominated in euro | 3,303 | -152 | 8.2 Liabilities arising from the credit facility under ERM II | 7,505 | -934 |
| 7 Securities of euro area residents denominated in euro | 75,393 | 617 | 9 Counterpart of special drawing rights allocated by the IMF | 5,573 | 0 |
| 8 General government debt denominated in euro | 41,260 | 0 | 10 Other liabilities | 51,565 | 472 |
| 9 Other assets | 122,637 | 1,412 | 11 Revaluation accounts | 64,842 | 0 |
| | | | 12 Capital and reserves | 58,349 | -213 |
| Total assets | 913,849 | 13,511 | Total liabilities | 913,849 | 13,511 |

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