



# QUICK GUIDE

to the security features  
of euro banknotes



[www.euro.ecb.int](http://www.euro.ecb.int)



# INTRODUCTION



Do you know the security features of euro banknotes? This guide tells you all about them. It provides an overview of the most important security features on each of the euro banknotes – from €5 up to €500. To check a banknote, you only need to refer to the relevant page.

Most, but not all, of the security features on each of the seven banknotes are the same. The differences are described on pages 18 and 19.

Some useful tips on what to do if someone tries to pay with a suspect banknote are given on page 23.

Remember: always check several security features. If in doubt, compare the banknote with one that you know is genuine.

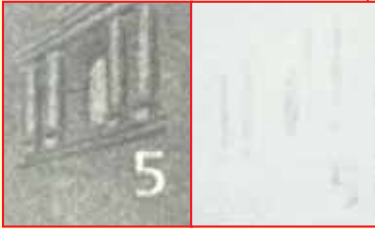
**Further information on euro banknotes and coins can be obtained from the European Central Bank or from your national central bank. You can find contact details on pages 20 and 21 of this guide.**

## FEEL OF THE BANKNOTE

The banknote paper consists of pure cotton, which should feel crisp and firm (not limp or waxy).

## RAISED PRINTING

Intaglio or raised printing produces a tactile effect which is used in the main image and in some other parts on the front of the banknote.



## WATERMARK

The watermark is produced by varying the thickness of the paper. It can be seen by holding the banknote against the light. The transitions between the light and dark parts of the image are smooth.

Put the banknote on a dark surface and the light areas become darker. This effect is very easy to see in the value watermark.



## SECURITY THREAD

The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word "EURO" and the value ("5") can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.



# SECURITY FEATURES

Euro banknotes include some high-tech security features. Always check several features. If in doubt, compare the banknote with one you know to be genuine.



€5



## HOLOGRAM STRIPE

Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and the € symbol on a rainbow-coloured background. At the edges, tiny letters show the value.



## GLOSSY STRIPE

Tilt the banknote – a gold-coloured stripe will appear on the back of the banknote. It shows the value and the € symbol.

## UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, CHECK IF

- The paper itself does not glow.
- Fibres embedded in the paper appear, coloured red, blue and green.
- On the front, the flag of the European Union looks green and has orange stars. The signature of the ECB President turns green. The large stars and the small circles in the centre glow.
- On the back, the map, bridge and value numeral appear in yellow or green.

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**EZB EKT EKP 2002**



Romanesque architecture  
127 mm x 67 mm Red



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## SECURITY THREAD

The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“10”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.



# SECURITY FEATURES

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€ 10



## HOLOGRAM STRIPE

Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and the € symbol on a rainbow-coloured background. At the edges, tiny letters show the value.



## GLOSSY STRIPE

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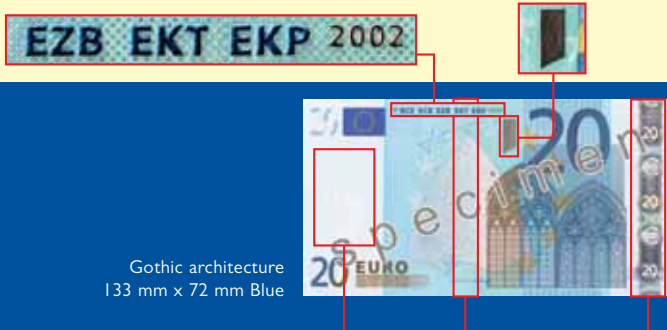


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## SECURITY THREAD

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# SECURITY FEATURES

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€20



## HOLOGRAM STRIPE

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## GLOSSY STRIPE

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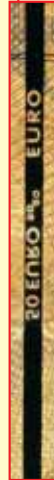
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## SECURITY THREAD

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# SECURITY FEATURES

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€50



## HOLOGRAM PATCH

Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and a window or doorway. In the background, you can see rainbow-coloured concentric circles of tiny letters moving from the centre to the edges of the patch.



## COLOUR-CHANGING NUMBER

Tilt the banknote. On the back, the value numeral will change colour from purple to olive green or brown.

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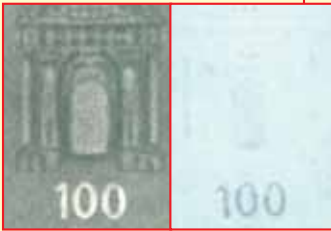
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EZB EKT EKP 2002



Baroque and rococo architecture  
147 mm x 82 mm Green



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## SECURITY THREAD

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# SECURITY FEATURES

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€ 100



## HOLOGRAM PATCH

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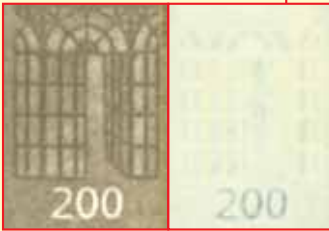
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EZB EKT EKP 2002



Iron and glass architecture  
153 mm x 82 mm Yellow-Brown



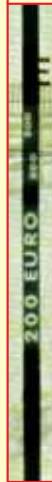
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## SECURITY THREAD

The security thread is embedded in the banknote paper. Hold the banknote against the light – the thread will appear as a dark stripe. The word “EURO” and the value (“200”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.



# SECURITY FEATURES

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# €200



## HOLOGRAM PATCH

Tilt the banknote – the hologram image will change between the value and a window or doorway. In the background, you can see rainbow-coloured concentric circles of tiny letters moving from the centre to the edges of the patch.



## COLOUR-CHANGING NUMBER

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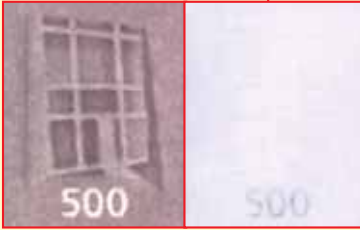
## RAISED PRINTING

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EZB EKT EKP 2002



Modern  
20th century architecture  
160 mm x 82 mm Purple



## WATERMARK

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## SECURITY THREAD

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# SECURITY FEATURES

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€500



## HOLOGRAM PATCH

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## COLOUR-CHANGING NUMBER

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**LOW DENOMINATIONS**

€5, €10 and €20



There is a **hologram stripe** on the front...

...and a **glossy stripe** on the back.



# DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LOW AND HIGH DENOMINATIONS

## HIGH DENOMINATIONS

€50, €100, €200 and €500



There is a **hologram patch** on the front...

...and a **colour-changing number** on the back.



# CONTACT DETAILS

## **EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK**

info@ecb.int  
www.euro.ecb.int  
Tel.: +49 69 1344 0

## **NATIONALE BANK VAN BELGIË / BANQUE NATIONALE DE BELGIQUE**

info@nbb.be  
www.nbb.be  
Tel./Tél.: +32 2 221 45 45

## **БЪЛГАРСКА НАРОДНА БАНКА BULGARIAN NATIONAL BANK**

press\_office@bnbank.org  
www.bnb.bg  
Tel.: +359 2 91459

## **ČESKÁ NÁRODNÍ BANKA**

info@cnb.cz  
www.cnb.cz  
Tel.: +420 800 160 170,  
+420 224 413 585

## **DANMARKS NATIONALBANK**

info@nationalbanken.dk  
www.nationalbanken.dk  
Tlf.: +45 33 63 70 00

## **DEUTSCHE BUNDESBANK**

presse-information  
@bundesbank.de  
www.bundesbank.de  
Tel.: +49 69 9566 3511

## **EESTI PANK**

euro@epbe.ee  
www.euro.eesti.ee  
Tel.: +372 66 80 719

## **CENTRAL BANK & FINANCIAL SERVICES AUTHORITY OF IRELAND**

enquiries@centralbank.ie  
www.centralbank.ie  
Tel.: +353 1 2198000

## **ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ BANK OF GREECE**

secretariat@bankofgreece.gr  
www.bankofgreece.gr  
Tel.: +30 210 670 9510

## **BANCO DE ESPAÑA**

emisionycaja@bde.es  
www.bde.es  
Tel.: +34 91 338 6332/6319

## **BANQUE DE FRANCE**

euro-formation  
@banque-france.fr  
www.banque-france.fr  
Tél. : +33 1 42 92 42 92

## **BANCA D'ITALIA**

nccit@bancaditalia.it  
www.bancaditalia.it  
Tel. +39 06 4792 3782

## **ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΤΗΣ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ**

**CENTRAL BANK OF CYPRUS**  
cbcinfo@centralbank.gov.cy  
www.centralbank.gov.cy  
Tel.: +357 22 71 41 00

## **LATVIJAS BANKA**

info@bank.lv  
www.bank.lv  
Tālr.: +371 670 22 300

**LIETUVOS BANKAS**

info@lb.lt

www.lb.lt

Tel. +370 5 268 00 29

**BANCO DE PORTUGAL**

cncontrafaccoes@bportugal.pt

www.bportugal.pt

Tel.: +351 263 856 514

**BANQUE CENTRALE DU  
LUXEMBOURG**

info@bcl.lu

www.bcl.lu

Tél.: +352 4774 1

**BANCA NAȚIONALĂ A ROMÂNIEI**

razvan.dumitriu@bnro.ro

www.bnro.ro

Tel.: +40 21 307 01 51

**MAGYAR NEMZETI BANK**

info@mnb.hu

www.mnb.hu

Tel.: +36 1 428 2600

**BANKA SLOVENIJE**

ncc-si@bsi.si

www.bsi.si

Tel.: +386 1 471 91 00

**BANK ĊENTRALI TA' MALTA /  
CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA**

CSU@centralbankmalta.com

www.centralbankmalta.com

Tel.: +356 2550 0000

**NÁRODNÁ BANKA  
SLOVENSKA**

webmaster@nbs.sk

www.nbs.sk

Tel.: +421 2 5787 2713

**DE NEDERLANDSCHE BANK**

info@dnb.nl

www.dnb.nl

Tel.: 0800-020 10 68

(gratis)

**SUOMEN PANKKI –  
FINLANDS BANK**

info@bof.fi

www.suomenpankki.fi

Puh/Tel.: +358 10 831 2626,

010 195 701

**OESTERREICHISCHE  
NATIONALBANK**

bargeld@oenb.at

www.oenb.at

Tel.: +43 1 404 20 6666

**SVERIGES RIKSBANK**

info@riksbank.se

www.riksbank.se

Tel.: +46 8 787 0000

**NARODOWY BANK POLSKI**

nbp@nbp.pl

www.nbp.pl

Tel.: +48 22 653 10 00

**BANK OF ENGLAND**

enquiries@bankofengland.co.uk

www.bankofengland.co.uk

Tel.: +44 20 7601 4878





# WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE A SUSPECT BANKNOTE

Ideally, before this happens, you should ask your supervisor about the company's policy on counterfeits. However, if you are handed a suspect banknote, here are some tips on how to react:

- Do not get into an argument with the customer;
- Tell him/her that you need to speak briefly to your supervisor or a security officer, but ensure that the customer can always see the banknote, in order to avoid any complaints;
- Get your supervisor or the security officer to speak to the customer;
- Make a mental note of the customer's appearance;
- If at all possible, do not return the banknote to the customer;
- Try to stall him/her, but do not put yourself at risk;
- If the customer tries to leave the premises, despite being asked to wait for the police, do not prevent him/her from leaving. If he or she leaves by car, make a note of his/her number plate and the car;
- Contact the police;
- Hand over the suspect banknote without delay to your supervisor or security officer for forwarding to the police;
- Do not try to be a hero – make sure you are safe at all times.

Since counterfeit banknotes are completely worthless, be vigilant.

**It is a criminal offence to pass on a banknote which you believe or know is a counterfeit.**

**For more information on what to do in your country, please refer to your national central bank. You can find contact details on pages 20 and 21 of this guide.**



ЕВРОПЕЙСКА ЦЕНТРАЛНА БАНКА  
BANCO CENTRAL EUROPEO  
EVROPSKÁ CENTRÁLNÍ BANKA  
DEN EUROPÆISKE CENTRALBANK  
EUROPÄISCHE ZENTRALBANK  
EUROPA KESK PANK  
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ  
EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

BANQUE CENTRALE EUROPÉENNE  
BANC CEANNAIS EORPACH  
BANCA CENTRALE EUROPEA  
EIROPAS CENTRĀLĀ BANKA  
EUROPOS CENTRINIS BANKAS  
EUROPĀI KŌZPONTI BANK  
BANK CENTRALI EWROPEW

EUROPESE CENTRALE BANK  
EUROPEJSKI BANK CENTRALNY  
BANCO CENTRAL EUROPEAN  
BANCA CENTRALĂ EUROPEANĂ  
EVROPSKA CENTRÁLNĀ BANKA  
EVROPSKA CENTRALNA BANKA  
EUROOPAN KESKUSPANKKI  
EUROPEISKA CENTRALBANKEN