



General Secretariat
Bank of Finland

Instruction

4 May 2015

Public

1 (4)

1 Copyright of euro banknotes

The copyright of euro banknotes belongs to the European Central Bank

The copyright of the design of euro banknotes belongs to the European Central Bank (ECB). The ECB and national central banks acting on its behalf may invoke copyrights in the context of banknote designs produced or distributed in violation of a copyright; such copyright infringements include, for example, copies of banknote designs which may have a negative influence on the position of euro banknotes in public.

The ECB Decision, below, lays down the detailed provisions which must be strictly complied with.

Decision of the European Central Bank of 19 April 2013 on the denominations, specifications, reproduction, exchange and withdrawal of euro banknotes (ECB/2013/10).

https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/legal/pdf/1_11820130430en00370042.pdf?cd42265736036d466073a8c93e97fdac

Protecting copyright by legal recourse

The ECB and the Bank of Finland decide whether legal proceedings shall be initiated in Finland on the unauthorised reproduction of banknote designs, under criminal law or copyright law. The proceedings are described in the Guideline, referred to below.

Guideline of the European Central Bank of 20 March 2003 on the enforcement of measures to counter non-compliant reproductions of euro banknotes and on the exchange and withdrawal of euro banknotes (ECB/2003/5).

https://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/legal/pdf/1_07820030325en00200022.pdf



General Secretariat
Bank of Finland

Instruction

4 May 2015

Public

2 (4)

2 Copyright of euro coins

In accordance with the Coins Act, the Finnish State has the right to mint coins denominated in euros and cents (euro coins), in Finland.

In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 651/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on the issuance of euro coins, Member States may issue two types of euro coin: circulation coins and collector coins.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32012R0651&from=EN>

3 Copying of euro banknotes and counterfeiting

Photocopying euro banknotes considered as counterfeiting

Trust in legal tender is also upheld by provisions on counterfeiting in the Criminal Code (chapter 37, sections 1– 7).

Photocopying euro banknotes is punishable under provisions laid down in chapter 37 of the Criminal Code. The sanctions may amount to 6 months to 10 years of imprisonment or a fine (chapter 37, section 1–3 of the Criminal Code). These provisions of the Criminal Code are also applied in Finland to the legal tender of other countries.

Circulation of imitation money is a punishable act

In accordance with chapter 37, section 7 of the Criminal Code, a person who produces or obtains for distribution among the public or distributes among the public a form, sign, picture or other object that is deceptively similar to legal tender shall be sentenced for circulation of imitation currency to a fine or to imprisonment of up to one year.

Counterfeiting is an offence subject to public prosecution

Counterfeiting is an offence subject to public prosecution. The Bank of Finland acts as the injured party in offences concerning currency.



General Secretariat
Bank of Finland

Instruction

4 May 2015

Public

3 (4)

4 Copyright of markka currency

Banknotes denominated in markka, issued by the Bank of Finland ("markka banknotes") ceased to be legal tender on 1 March 2002. However, the copyright of markka banknotes continues to be in force (immaterial property rights).

The use of photographs of markka banknotes for commercial purposes is forbidden. The designs of markka banknotes may not be altered.

The use of markka banknotes for example as news material and in scientific publications is subject to Finnish law, including the Copyright Act.

The presenter and user of the images is liable for any damages resulting from the presentation of markka banknotes. Provisions regarding violations of the Copyright Act are laid down in chapter 49, section 1 of the Criminal Code and in chapter 7, section 56a of the Copyright Act. A copyright offence is punishable by a fine or imprisonment of up to two years. A copyright violation may result in fines being imposed.

Although markka banknotes are no longer legal tender, their unlawful reproduction may be deemed as forgery under chapter 33 of the Criminal Code and the use of a counterfeit banknote as fraud under chapter 36 of the Criminal Code.

The initiation of any legal proceedings is made at the discretion of the injured parties and the authorities. Whether unlawful conduct has taken place is determined in the legal proceedings.

The Bank of Finland does not assume liability for any use of images presenting markka banknotes or any direct or indirect damages potentially resulting from their use.

Link to markka banknotes annulled as of 1 March 2002.

http://www.suomenpankki.fi/en/setelit_ja_kolikot/markat/Pages/markkas-etelien_lunastaminen.aspx

Link to markka banknotes annulled as of 1 January 1994.

http://www.suomenpankki.fi/en/setelit_ja_kolikot/markat/Pages/markkas-etelien_lunastaminen2.aspx



General Secretariat

Bank of Finland

Instruction

4 May 2015

Public

4 (4)

It should be mentioned that the design feature of the 20 markka banknote is based on a photograph of Väinö Linna taken by Studio KuvaSiskot, and that e.g. the use of the design feature on the 100 markka banknote is monitored by the legal successors of Jean Sibelius.

Should there be any questions concerning banknotes, you may contact the Bank of Finland.

E-mail: info@bof.fi

Address: Suomen Pankki

Communication

PO Box 160

FI-00101 Helsinki

Should there be any questions concerning coins, please contact the Ministry of Finance.

E-mail: valtiovarainministerio@vm.fi

Address: Ministry of Finance

Budget department

PO Box 28

FI-00023 Government