



QUICK GUIDE

to the security features
of euro banknotes



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.

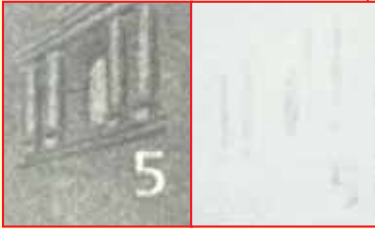
Further information on euro banknotes and coins can be obtained from the European Central Bank or from your national central bank. You can find contact details on pages 20 and 21 of this guide.

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.

FEEL OF THE BANKNOTE

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

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Romanesque architecture
127 mm x 67 mm Red



WATERMARK

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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

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.



€ 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

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

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- 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.

FEEL OF THE BANKNOTE

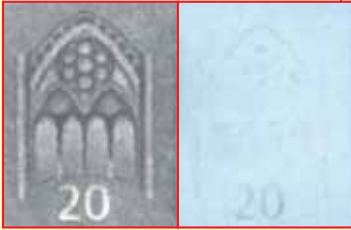
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Gothic architecture
133 mm x 72 mm Blue



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SECURITY THREAD

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SECURITY FEATURES

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€20



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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UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, CHECK IF

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- 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.
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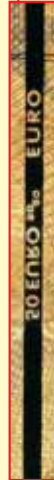
Renaissance architecture
140 mm x 77 mm Orange



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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.

UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT, CHECK IF

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FEEL OF THE BANKNOTE

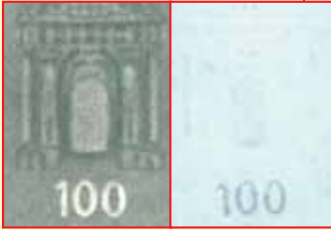
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Baroque and rococo architecture
147 mm x 82 mm Green



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SECURITY FEATURES

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€ 100



HOLOGRAM PATCH

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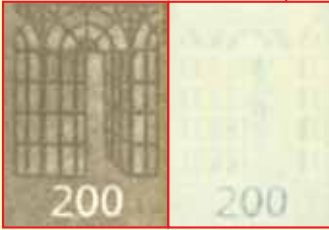
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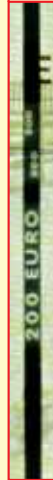
Iron and glass architecture
153 mm x 82 mm Yellow-Brown



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SECURITY THREAD

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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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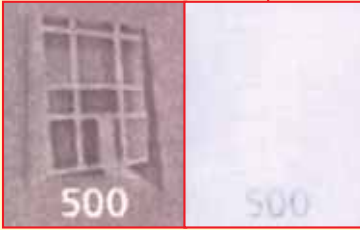
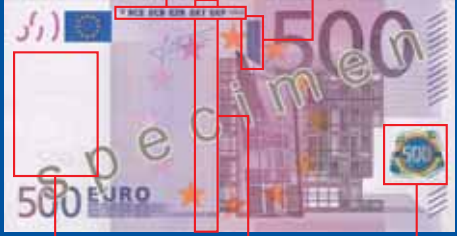
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EZB EKT EKP 2002



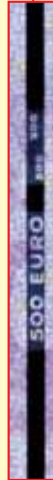
Modern
20th century architecture
160 mm x 82 mm Purple



WATERMARK

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SECURITY THREAD

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 (“500”) can be seen in tiny letters on the stripe.



SECURITY FEATURES

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€500



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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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

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www.bank.lv
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LIETUVOS BANKAS

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www.lb.lt

Tel. +370 5 268 00 29

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www.bportugal.pt

Tel.: +351 263 856 514

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www.bcl.lu

Tél.: +352 4774 1

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www.bnro.ro

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www.mnb.hu

Tel.: +36 1 428 2600

BANKA SLOVENIJE

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www.bsi.si

Tel.: +386 1 471 91 00

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CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA**

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www.centralbankmalta.com

Tel.: +356 2550 0000

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SLOVENSKA**

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www.nbs.sk

Tel.: +421 2 5787 2713

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www.dnb.nl

Tel.: 0800-020 10 68

(gratis)

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www.suomenpankki.fi

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010 195 701

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NATIONALBANK**

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Tel.: +43 1 404 20 6666

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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
Е У Р О Р А К Е С К Р А Н К
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ
EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

BANQUE CENTRALE EUROPÉENNE
BANC CEANNAIS EORPACH
BANCA CENTRALE EUROPEA
EIROPAS CENTRĀLĀ BANKA
EUROPOS CENTRINIS BANKAS
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΙ ΚΟΖΡΟΝΤΙ 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