


Basic information	
1997/0154(SYN) SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)	Procedure completed
Euro: denominations and technical specifications of euro coins Repealed by 2013/0096(NLE) Amended by 1998/0270(SYN) Amended by 2011/0128(NLE)	
Subject 5.20.02 Single currency, euro, euro area	





Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	SOLTWEDEL-SCHÄFER Irene Barbara Lilia (V)	18/06/1997
	Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	SOLTWEDEL-SCHÄFER Irene Barbara Lilia (V)	18/06/1997
	Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Climate and Food Safety		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2089	1998-05-03
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2023	1997-07-07
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2044	1997-11-17
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2004	1997-05-12
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2046	1997-11-20

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/05/1997	Debate in Council		
29/05/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0247 	Summary
07/07/1997	Debate in Council		Summary

14/07/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/10/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
29/10/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0334/1997	
05/11/1997	Debate in Parliament	CRE link	Summary
06/11/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0530/1997	Summary
14/11/1997	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0615 	Summary
20/11/1997	Council position published	12378/1997	Summary
21/11/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
02/12/1997	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
02/12/1997	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0386/1997	
16/12/1997	Debate in Parliament	CRE link	Summary
17/12/1997	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0620/1997	Summary
03/05/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
03/05/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/05/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/0154(SYN)
Procedure type	SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
	Repealed by 2013/0096(NLE) Amended by 1998/0270(SYN) Amended by 2011/0128(NLE)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 170 EC before Amsterdam E 105A-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ECON/4/09536

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0334/1997 OJ C 358 24.11.1997, p. 0003	29/10/1997	
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0386/1997 OJ C 014 19.01.1998, p. 0005	02/12/1997	
Council of the EU				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Council position	12378/1997 OJ C 023 23.01.1998, p. 0001	20/11/1997	Summary	
European Commission				

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1997)0247  OJ C 208 09.07.1997, p. 0005	29/05/1997	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1997)0615  OJ C 386 20.12.1997, p. 0012	14/11/1997	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1997)2202 	20/11/1997	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(1998)0017 	13/01/1998	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Regulation 1998/0975 OJ L 139 11.05.1998, p. 0006 Summary

Euro: denominations and technical specifications of euro coins

1997/0154(SYN) - 17/12/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mrs Irene SOLTWEDEL-SCHÄFER (Greens, D) Parliament stressed that the new coinage system should reflect the concerns expressed by the blind and by old people (graduation in the size of the coins). It also considered that, to the extent that the development of electronic payments will make large quantities of coins superfluous, coins ought to be made of a material (such as stainless steel) which can be recycled easily. It stated that a 100 euro coin should be struck in gold. Plenary also reiterated the request for 0.20 and 0.02 euro coins to be deleted.

Euro: denominations and technical specifications of euro coins

1997/0154(SYN) - 13/01/1998 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

The Commission rejected all the amendments contained in the decision adopted by the European Parliament at second reading. As regards Parliament's call for the coinage system not to include the 0.20 and 0.02 euro denominations, the Commission says that the series of eight coins is based on the national coinage systems. It is necessary in order to accommodate rounding needs and the change to be given in all Member States. It is an important instrument to protect citizens against hidden rounding or other unjustified price modifications. Suppressing the 2 and 20 cent coins would also increase the volume of coins to be produced, since more 1 and 10 cent coins would be needed. The Commission also considers that it would not be consistent with the system of banknotes and coins to have a 100 euro face value coin, as a banknote with this value is already planned.

Euro: denominations and technical specifications of euro coins

1997/0154(SYN) - 20/11/1997 - Council position

The Council's common position included several of the amendments suggested by Parliament in its opinion which were also included in the Commission's amended proposal. In the light of these amendments, the common position: - clarified that the EC Mint Directors drew up a technical report on the issue whereas the formal proposal was made by the Commission in accordance with the Treaty procedures; - underlined the need to encourage public confidence in the euro coinage system and permit technological innovation; - stressed the need to enhance public acceptance through user-friendly physical characteristics of euro coins; - highlighted the importance of the link between the diameter and face value of the coins in this respect; - recalled that giving the coins a European and a national side was significant in terms of both symbolism and public acceptance. The Council also introduced new provisions aimed at clarifying certain references or amending incorrect figures: - it amended the title to clarify that the regulation concerned euro coins intended for circulation; - it indicated that the precise date for the issue of euro coins would be decided in accordance with the regulation concerning the introduction of the euro; - it added a recital to the effect that the figures relating to the thickness of the coins were of an indicative nature; - it amended the figure on the thickness of the coins from one to five cents (1.36mm thick), after receiving a correction from the

Mint Directors. Finally, the Council did not integrate into its common position the European Parliament's amendments regarding: - the reduction of the number of coins to six; - the total exclusion of nickel from the surface of all coins; - the use of stainless steel for the 50 cent and the one and two euro coins; - the proposal to issue a gold coin with a face value of 100 euros.

Euro: denominations and technical specifications of euro coins

1997/0154(SYN) - 14/11/1997 - Modified legislative proposal

Pursuant to the opinion expressed by the European Parliament, the Commission has revised its original proposal in order to modify the fourth recital and add four new ones. The purposes of the changes are to: - note that the EC Mint Directors, in accordance with their mandate, have submitted a technical report on the denominations and technical specifications of the euro coins, which has served as a basis for the formal proposal submitted by the Commission; - emphasize the underlying objectives of the coin system proposed by the Commission, namely gaining public confidence, incorporating technical innovations and establishing a secure, reliable and efficient system; - emphasize one of the main visual and tactile characteristics taken into consideration to make it easier to identify the coins; - explain that the fact of having one European and one national side expresses the idea of European monetary union and will increase the degree of acceptance of the coins by European citizens; - correct a number of transcription errors in the original proposal (the diameter of the 5 cent coin is 21.25 mm, not 21.75 mm as previously indicated, and the weight of the 1 cent coin is 2.3 g, not 2.2 g).

Euro: denominations and technical specifications of euro coins

1997/0154(SYN) - 03/05/1998 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to lay down uniform specifications for the first series of euro coins to ensure their smooth circulation within the Community. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation (EC) No 975/98 on denominations and technical specifications of euro coins intended for circulation. SUBSTANCE: the Regulation lays down the technical specifications (diameter, thickness, weight, shape, colour, composition and edge) of the first series of euro coins, comprising eight face values, from one cent to two euro. The specifications have been designed to induce public confidence, to ensure that the coins are easy to use and identify thanks to their visual and tactile characteristics and that they suit the main user groups, and to reduce the scope for fraud to a minimum. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 01/01/1999.

Euro: denominations and technical specifications of euro coins

1997/0154(SYN) - 07/07/1997

Having noted the positive result of the technical verification of capacity to produce euro coins made from Nordic Gold alloy, the Council confirmed the political agreement. The regulation will be formally adopted when the decision on adoption of the euro by the Member States has been taken. If the Commission submitted suggestions on the question of possible minimal harmonization of the characteristics of the national side of euro coins so that they are easier to recognise, the Council would examine the matter further.

Euro: denominations and technical specifications of euro coins

1997/0154(SYN) - 06/11/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs SOLTWEDEL-SCHAEFFER (Greens, D), the European Parliament supported its rapporteur and asked that the coinage system should not include the 0.02 and 0.2 coins as the denominations 0.01/0.10 and 1.00 were the pillars of a decimal system. It wanted to reduce the future euro coinage system from eight to six coins and believed that this was only possible by doing away with the proposed 0.02 and 0.20 euro denominations. Parliament also agreed that the coins should have both a European and a national side. In a general manner, it proposed an amendment to the coins' diameter in millimetres. It also felt that it was important to exclude the use of nickel in the alloys of the surface of the coins, in other words, in any parts which were in contact with the skin of the users. Parliament pointed out that the new European single coinage system should induce public confidence and entail technological innovations that would establish it as a secure, reliable and an efficient system. It stressed that the number of denominations together with their face value should be based on all the Member States' experience with their most commonly used petty coins. Consideration should also be given to the increased use of electronic commerce and the views of the blind and of old people. Finally, the coins ought to be made of a material which can be recycled easily, such as stainless steel.

Euro: denominations and technical specifications of euro coins

1997/0154(SYN) - 20/11/1997 - Commission communication on Council's position

The European Commission fully supported the common position as it: - integrated all the amendments proposed by Parliament that the Commission had taken over in its amended proposal; - added certain details and clarified certain concepts, without changing the content of the amended proposal; - corrected certain technical information on the basis of indications provided by the technical experts who had provided the original information.

Euro: denominations and technical specifications of euro coins

1997/0154(SYN) - 29/05/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: The proposal for a regulation is intended to define uniform specifications for the first series of coins denominated in euros, with a view to ensuring their proper circulation in the Community. SUBSTANCE: The Commission's intention in proposing this regulation prior to the launching of the third stage of economic and monetary union is to ensure that a political agreement is reached thanks to which actual adoption of the act will be no more than a formality. The specifications proposed have been conceived to ensure that the coins are easy to use, can be identified by their visual and tactile characteristics, are suited to the various user groups and offer all possible guarantees against forgery. The proposal defines the unit values and technical characteristics (diameter, thickness, weight, colour, composition and edge) of the eight euro coins.