COMMEMORATIVE COIN

10th Anniversary of the Economic and Monetary Union

The Treaty establishing the European Union set out the three-stage process in which the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) was created. The *first stage* began in July 1990 with the removal of obstacles to the free movement of capital. The *second stage* lasted from January 1994 until the end of 1998. During this period the European Monetary Institute, the European Central Bank's predecessor, was established. Member States were obliged to strive to meet convergence criteria. The *third stage* began on 1 January 1999 with the introduction of the new single currency in 11 Member States. The euro was initially book money, with banknotes and coins entering circulation in 2002. The European Central Bank (ECB) and the central banks of the European Union Member States that introduced the euro created the Eurosystem, while monetary authority for the new currency was transferred to the Governing Council of the ECB. The exchange rate mechanism (ERM II) and the Stability and Growth Pact entered into force.

The European Commission proposed that the EMU Member States issue a commemorative €2 coin to mark the 10th anniversary of the EMU. The coin will have a common face, with the only difference being the inscription of the issuing country. The MDWG invited all European mints to participate in an original design competition, in which 42 designs were submitted for the coin. Residents of the European Union were invited by the Economic and Financial Committee to vote in an on-line survey for one of five motifs in the final selection process. Some 141,675 persons participated in the survey. The winning motif, receiving 41.48% of the votes, was designed by George Stamatopoulos, a designer at the Greek central bank.

The motif on the coin depicts the euro as the fruit of the long history of trade between people, from the bartering of goods in prehistoric times to an economic and monetary union.

The Republic of Slovenia also joined in this project and issued a commemorative coin in honour of the anniversary of the Economic and Monetary Union.

- Original design by:
  George Stamatopoulos, Greece
- Production and minting:
  Mint of Finland, Vantaa, Finland



SPOMINSKI KOVANEC

10. obletnica Ekonomske in monetarne unije

Pogodba o ustanovitvi Evropske skupnosti je določila proces oblikovanja Ekonomske in monetarne unije (EMU), ki je potekal v treh fazah. *Prva faza* se je začela julija 1990 z odstranitvijo ovir za prost pretok kapitala, *druga faza* je trajala od januarja 1994 do konca leta 1998. V tem obdobju je bil ustanovljen Evropski monetarni institut – predhodnik Evropske centralne banke. Države članice so si morale prizadevati za izpolnitev konvergenčnih kriterijev. *Tretja faza* se je začela 1. januarja 1999 z uvedbo nove skupne valute v enajstih državah članicah. Evro je bil sprva knjižni denar, bankovci in kovanci so bili dani v obtok leta 2002. Evropska centralna banka (ECB) in centralne banke držav Evropske unije, ki so uvedle evro, so oblikovale Evrosistem, denarna oblast za novo valuto pa je bila prenesena na Svet ECB. Veljati sta začela mehanizem deviznih tečajev (ERM II) in Pakt za stabilnost in rast.

Evropska komisija je predlagala državam EMU, da ob 10. obletnici EMU izdajo spominski kovanec za 2 evra z enotnim motivom, razlikoval naj bi se le v napisu države izdajateljice. Predsedstvo MDWG je razpisalo natečaj za oblikovanje idejnega osnutka kovanca in k sodelovanju povabilo vse evropske kovnice, ki so poslale 42 osnutkov. Na povabilo Ekonomsko-finančnega odbora so prebivalci Evropske unije v spletni anketi lahko glasovali za enega od petih motivov v ožjem izboru. V anketi je sodelovalo 141.675 udeležencev. Zmagovalni motiv je prejel 41,48 odstotka glasov. Oblikoval ga je George Stamatopoulos, oblikovalec v grški centralni banki.

Motiv na kovancu predstavlja evro kot sad tisočletne zgodovine trgovanja med ljudmi, od blagovne menjave v pradavnini, kar ponazarja preprosta risba, do ekonomske in monetarne unije.

Tudi Republika Slovenija se je pridružila skupnemu projektu in izdala spominski kovanec v počastitev obletnice Ekonomske in monetarne unije.

- Avtor idejnega osnutka:
  George Stamatopoulos, Grčija
- Izdelava in kovanje:
  Mint of Finland, Vantaa / Finska

