



PRESS RELEASE

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Inauguration of the exhibition “The New Face of the Euro” at the Banco de España

This morning, the European Central Bank’s exhibition “The New Face of the Euro” was opened at the Banco de España’s headquarters in Madrid. The ECB Executive Board member, Yves Mersch, and the Deputy Governor of the Banco de España, Fernando Restoy, were present.

The exhibition offers a preview of the €5 banknote of the second series of euro banknotes, called the Europa series, as well as various aspects of euro banknotes and coins, viewed through six different facets: banknotes, coins, security features, the history of money, a children’s area and a new area devoted to the new €5 banknote, which was unveiled last January by the ECB President, Mario Draghi, and which start circulating as of 2 May. The exhibition includes a side-by-side comparison of genuine and fake banknotes, audiovisual features and interactive games and applications on euro banknotes.

“One of the main tasks of the central banks in the euro area is to ensure the integrity of euro banknotes”, Mr. Mersch said at the inauguration. “The euro banknotes have become the most visible symbol of European integration. The euro has moreover become a symbol of solidarity in times of crisis.” Mr. Restoy added that “major challenges lie ahead for us in the European integration project, as has been made apparent during the crisis which began in 2010”.

“The New Face of the Euro” is open for visits at the Bank’s Sala Chaflán on Cibeles Square from 26 March to 12 May. Admission is free of charge and opening times are from 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday-Friday, and from 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. Guided tours for school groups will be catered for if a prior request is addressed to elrinconeducativo@bde.es.

Coinciding with the exhibition, the ECB and the Banco de España have launched a school competition for students aged 9-12. Pupils may enter the competition by using the computer stations in the children’s area of the exhibition or through the Banco de España’s Educational Portal at <http://portaleducativo.bde.es/educa/es/>. The three best entrants will win an e-reader.

The ECB's travelling exhibition was held at the Frankfurt Archaeological Museum until 10 March and, after Madrid, it will go to other European capitals.

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