Collector coins – Council conclusions

The Council adopted the following updated conclusions on collector coins of 31 January 2000:

"To ensure that Euro collector coins will be readily distinguishable from Euro coins intended for circulation:

- The face value of collector coins should be different from that of the coins intended for circulation (i.e. Euro collector coins cannot have a face value equal to the 8 denominations: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 Euro cent and 1 and 2 Euro);

- Collector coins should not use images, which are similar to the common sides of the euro coins intended for circulation. Furthermore, as far as possible, the designs used should also be at least slightly different from those of the national sides of circulation coins;

- Colour, diameter and weight of euro collector coins should differ significantly from the coins intended for circulation for at least two of these three characteristics. The difference will be regarded as significant if the values including tolerances are outside the tolerance ranges fixed for euro circulation coins;

- Collector coins should not have a shaped edge with fine scallops, or "Spanish flower";

- The identity of the issuing Member State should be clearly and easily recognisable.

Furthermore:

- Euro collector coins may be sold at or above face value;

- Approval for the volume of collector coins issue should be sought on an aggregate basis rather than for each individual issue;

- With respect to collector coins denominations that may coincide with the low denominations of euro banknotes, there does not seem to exist any significant risk of substitution. However, Member States should stand ready to consider any demands by the ECB on this matter;

- While Euro collector coins will have legal tender status in the issuing Member State, the competent authorities (NCBs, Mints or other institutions) should set up temporary arrangements through which owners of euro collector coins issued in other euro area Member States can receive the face value of those coins while bearing the costs related to this transaction."