



PRESS RELEASE

Digital euro: More questions than answers



Brussels, 28 November 2023 – The European Association of Co-operative Banks (EACB) was pleased to be invited to the European Parliament’s Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) Public Hearing on the digital euro. Joining the EACB representative, **Marieke van Berkel**, Head of Department Retail Banking, Payments, Digitalisation and Financial Markets at EACB, were **Ignazio Angeloni**, author of the study “Digital Euro: When in doubt, abstain (but be prepared)”, **Miguel Fernández Ordóñez**, economist and former Governor of the Bank of Spain, as well as former Secretary of State for Finance and Economy of the Government of Spain, and **Vicky Van Eyck**, Executive Director at Positive Money Europe.

The hearing took place in the context of the Commission's legislative proposal for the establishment of the digital euro, a component of the comprehensive single currency [package](#). Invited guest speakers were encouraged to assess the risks and benefits from various standpoints, including privacy, payment system resilience, financial stability, and the impact on the banking sector.

The EACB conveyed its appreciation for reflections on a digital euro with digitalisation changing every aspect of society and the economy. But it also underlined a number of fundamental questions which to date require answering. Among others, the EACB addressed the need to evaluate the potential of deposit outflows and how it might impact the diversity of the banking sector, financing of the economy and financial stability. It also elaborated on the limited value of a digital euro for end-users, the question of the ECB mandate and that of strategic autonomy.

Further pinpointing cooperative bank’s concerns, **Ms van Berkel** underlined *“The issue of outflows is important to cooperative banks as the deposits of households and SMEs are key to their role as financiers of the real economy across Europe. Setting a **low maximum holding limit of EUR 500** in the Regulation would avoid putting the diversity of the banking system and financial stability at risk”*. Looking back on the hearing, she commented: *“Yesterday’s hearing reaffirms the need to dedicate more time for in-depth research. We should aim to better understand the ramifications of the digital euro before taking any important decisions”*.

Please refer to the EACB’s presentation [slides](#) to see their key questions and recommendations to policymakers.



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

The Cooperative Difference : Sustainability, Proximity, Governance

EACB Contact:

CEO: Nina Schindler
Nina.Schindler@eacb.coop
Lead Communication: Luce Jacqmin
Luce.jacqmin@eacb.coop

About the EACB:

The European Association of Co-operative Banks ([EACB](#)) is the voice of the cooperative banks in Europe. It represents, promotes and defends the common interests of its 26 member institutions and of cooperative banks in general. Cooperative banks form decentralised networks which are subject to banking as well as cooperative legislation. Democracy, transparency and proximity are the three key characteristics of the cooperative banks' business model. With 2,700 locally operating banks and 40,000 outlets co-operative banks are widely represented throughout the enlarged European Union, playing a major role in the financial and economic system. They have a long tradition in serving 227 million customers, mainly consumers, retailers and communities. The co-operative banks in Europe represent 89 million members and 720,000 employees and have a total average market share of about 20%.

Website: www.eacb.coop

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)  