Ref. Ares(2022)7488429 - 28/10/2022

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE GENERAL
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
Macroeconomic policies
Euro protection and euro cash

Brussels, 19/02/2021
ECFIN.C.5/[redacted]

Subject: 2-euro commemorative coins bearing different mint marks
Reference: email of Commission Services of 15 January 2021; your reply by email of 29 January 2021

Dear [redacted],

I refer to the above correspondence, further to a question the Commission services received from the public about the use of different mint marks for 2-euro commemorative coins.

As you will recall, the assertion as put by the public is that Luxembourg is issuing variants (changing the mint mark according to the mint quality of the coin) though, by its very nature, the approval of the national design by the Council would only cover one unique design.

In order for us to reply to the public based on correct information, we asked for some clarifications, which you kindly submitted to us by your letter of 29 January.

Against all information received, we conclude the following:

Mint marks serve the purpose to indicate which mint has minted the coin. Mint marks are optional, contrary to the year mark. However, if the former are used, they are part of the national design of euro circulation coins, which since 23 July 2014 are subject to the approval by the Council further to Regulation No 729/2014.

Euro circulations coins of a given country can actually be minted by different mints, it being by different mints within one country, such as Germany, or by mints from different countries, e.g. depending which mint was awarded the minting contract. Finally, mints may change their mint mark, though this would be quite an exception.

If a euro area country uses mint marks for a given euro circulation coin, we understand that this is in line with the euro coin legislation, provided

- the coins come from different mints (not one mint using several mint marks; otherwise it would have to be considered a variant of a national design. There can be different qualities of a coin, but there can only be one unique design per euro circulation coin of a given year), and
- the designs with the various mint marks have been approved by the Council.

Regarding the latter, we would invite you to make sure that if new national designs bear different marks according to planned minting, all designs (not just one) are submitted to the Council for approval. If we are not mistaken, this has probably been overlooked in the past. Finally, if the mint providing for minting is not known at the moment of Council approval yet, it may be recommended not to use any mint mark. After all, a mint mark is not mandatory.

Yours faithfully,

Electronically signed

[redacted]
Head of Unit

Electronically signed on 19/02/2021 18:50 (UTC+01) in accordance with article 11 of Commission Decision C(2020) 4482