From: [redacted]
Sent: 12 February 2021 16:48:01
To: [redacted]
Cc:
Subject: RE: 2-euro commemorative coins: Malta issuing coins with (minor) variants of the design approved by the Council?

Excellent!

Do not hesitate to contact me if need be.

Have a nice weekend, too.

[redacted]

European Commission
DG Economic and Financial Affairs
ECFIN.DDG1.C.5
Teamleader
Euro protection and euro cash

[redacted]



From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 1:26 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: 2-euro commemorative coins: Malta issuing coins with (minor) variants of the design approved by the Council?

Dear [redacted]

I hope that you are fine.

Thanks for your response, which we will vet and will communicate with you in case we need clarifications, to ensure we are both on the same wavelength.

Best regards and wish you a good weekend.

[redacted]*rvices &*
Security Department

[redacted]

[redacted]

Bank Ċentrali ta' Malta – Central Bank of Malta
Pjazza Kastilja, Valletta VLT 1060, MALTA
www.centralbankmalta.org

BANK ĊENTRALI TA' MALTA
CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA

Document Classification: Restricted

From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, 12 February 2021 13:09
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 2-euro commemorative coins: Malta issuing coins with (minor) variants of the design approved by the Council?

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your answer to the questions we received from the public.

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.

Kind regards,

[redacted]
European Commission
DG Economic and Financial Affairs
ECFIN.DDG1.C.5
Teamleader
Euro protection and euro cash

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 12:39 PM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: 2-euro commemorative coins: Malta issuing coins with (minor) variants of the design approved by the Council?

Dear [redacted]

Reference is made to your enquiry in e-mail dated 15 January 2021.

The Central Bank of Malta issues two €2 commemorative coin issues annually within the established EC mintage limits/authorisation. Moreover we have been reducing their mintage limits substantially in these last years. The Bank seeks prior authorisation from the European Commission for the designs, but does not include the mint marks which are agreed between Bank and the Mint, which are commonly used on collector coins. We do not think that the inclusion of a mint mark on the coin can be considered as a 'new variant'. For example in Germany different mint marks (A,B,C,D) are used to differentiate the manufacturing mints and we do not think that these are different coins. Perhaps the EC authorisation procedure should be amended for the applicants to also include information on the proposed mint marks to be used on the €2 commemorative coins in case there are any objections.

Finally I hope that you are all fine and wish you a good afternoon.

Regards

[redacted]*rvices &*
Security Department

[redacted]

Bank Ċentrali ta' Malta – Central Bank of Malta
Pjazza Kastilja, Valletta VLT 1060, MALTA
www.centralbankmalta.org

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CENTRAL BANK OF MALTA

Document Classification: Restricted

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 January 2021 19:09
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: 2-euro commemorative coins: Malta issuing coins with (minor) variants of the design approved by the Council?

Dear [redacted]

We have received an enquiry from the public on the issue of MT 2-euro commemorative coins (see text below).

The assertion as put by the public is that Malta 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 covers only one unique design.

Would you mind providing us with observations on/clarifications of the matter? This would help us answering to the question asked by the public.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

European Commission
DG Economic and Financial Affairs
ECFIN.DDG1.C.5
Teamleader
Euro protection and euro cash
[redacted]



Enquirer Details
Citizen Name: [redacted]. (= a man)
Citizen Telephone No:
Citizen Email:
Preferred Language: Italian
Country of Residence: Italy
Nationality: Italian

Enquiry Summary: Good morning, I would like to submit to the Commission a question concerning the possibility for Member States to issue two different commemorative 2-euro coins per year for circulation, as provided for in Regulation (EU) 651/2012 (Art. 4, Paragraph 1).
Some European countries have been issuing, for some years now, some variations in the design of these commemorative 2-euro coins, so that, although they remain two per year in terms of subject matter, they change slightly in design and are no longer actually only two per year.
In particular, Luxembourg and Malta, since 2016 and 2018 respectively, have been issuing 2-euro commemorative coins that differ slightly in design. Depending on the quality of issue (circulation, Brilliant Uncirculated, Proof), the 'mint marks' on the coins next to the year of issue are changed, and these are different for each quality of issue. The result is coins with different designs, which produce real, albeit minimal, variations in the design. In this way, it is as if Malta and Luxembourg were no longer issuing two 2-euro commemorative coins per year, but as many as four or six, thus bypassing the Regulation by making minimal changes to the design.
This means that the same 2-euro commemorative coin may also have three different variants in the design, with different mint marks. Generally, only one variant per design enters into circulation, while the other variants (with different mint marks) are produced exclusively for collectors.

Moreover, since 2020, Luxembourg has started to put into circulation as many as two different versions of the same 2-euro commemorative coin. The two versions put into circulation, in this case, are clearly different because of the different types of coinage: one version is minted with traditional coinage, while the second is minted with "photo-holographic" coinage. These two different dies result in the production of coins with clearly different designs.
Is such behaviour correct in relation to the above-mentioned Rules or is it a blatant violation of the Rules?
For further information, please consult the following website:
Luxembourg: https://eurocollezione.altervista.org/_LUSSEMBURGO_/_2_EURO_COMMEMORATIVI.htm
Malta: https://eurocollezione.altervista.org/_MALTA_/_2_EURO_COMMEMORATIVI.htm
I remain at your disposal should you have any further doubts. We look forward to your kind reply.

Thank you and best regards

[redacted]

Original Enquiry: Buongiorno, con la presente vorrei sottoporre alla Commissione un quesito concernente la possibilità per gli Stati membri di coniare ed emettere due monete da 2 euro commemorative diverse all'anno per la circolazione, così come previsto dal Regolamento UE 651/2012 (Art. 4, Comma 1).
Alcuni Paesi europei stanno emettendo da alcuni anni alcune varianti nel disegno delle suddette monete da 2 euro commemorative che quindi, nonostante rimangano due all'anno relativamente al tema, cambiano leggermente nel disegno non risultando quindi più in realtà solamente due all'anno.
In particolare, Lussemburgo e Malta, rispettivamente dal 2016 e dal 2018, stanno emettendo monete da 2 euro commemorative che differiscono leggermente nel disegno. A seconda della qualità di conio (circolazione, fior di conio, proof) vengono infatti modificati i 'segni di zecca' apposti sulle monete accanto all'anno di emissione, che sono diversi per ogni qualità di conio. Ne risultano pertanto monete diverse nel disegno, che producono quindi vere e proprie varianti nel disegno stesso seppur minimali. In questo modo è come se Malta e Lussemburgo emettessero non più due monete da 2 euro commemorative all'anno, ma addirittura quattro o sei, bypassando così il Regolamento effettuando modifiche minimali nel disegno.
Questa modalità di operare comporta che per una medesima moneta da 2 euro commemorativa possano anche risultare tre varianti diverse nel disegno, variando tali segni di zecca. In genere solo una variante per disegno entra in circolazione, mentre le altre varianti (con i segni di zecca differenti) sono prodotte esclusivamente per collezionisti.
Oltretutto, dal 2020, il Lussemburgo ha iniziato a immettere in circolazione addirittura due versioni diverse per la medesima moneta da 2 euro commemorativa. Le due versioni immesse in circolazione, in questo caso, sono palesemente diverse in quanto è differente la tipologia di conio: una versione è coniata con conio tradizionale, mentre la seconda con conio "fotografico-olografico". Questi due conii diversi comportano la produzione di monete chiaramente diverse nel disegno.
È corretto un comportamento del genere in relazione al Regolamento sopra citato o rappresenta una palese violazione del Regolamento stesso?
Per ulteriori informazioni si suggerisce di consultare il seguente sito web:
Lussemburgo: https://eurocollezione.altervista.org/_LUSSEMBURGO_/_2_EURO_COMMEMORATIVI.htm
Malta: https://eurocollezione.altervista.org/_MALTA_/_2_EURO_COMMEMORATIVI.htm
Rimango a disposizione nel caso di ulteriori dubbi da parte vostra. Rimango in attesa di cortese riscontro.

Cordialmente ringrazio e salute

[redacted]

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