



Brussels,  
D(2011)

### Information material on stained banknotes

Dear Madame/Sir,

In order to deter criminal attacks, stored or transported banknotes are increasingly being protected by sophisticated anti-theft devices, which stain the banknotes in the event of an attempted robbery or theft.

The European Commission is currently preparing an EU-wide information campaign in order to raise awareness that banknotes which have been stained by anti-theft devices are probably stolen banknotes and should therefore be returned to the Central Bank.

Retailers have an important role to play in the fight against this type of crime. If criminals cannot easily spend the money they have stolen, they will not have the incentive to try again. This will help reduce theft and armed robbery from banks, cash transporters, retailers and others equipped with anti-theft devices.

The central element of the campaign will be a 4-page leaflet in A5 format intended for distribution among retailers and a poster in A2 format that may be distributed also among a wider public. Both will be provided free of charge.

The content will be slightly adapted to each individual euro-area Member State, as regards notably the name of the Central Bank and its procedure for reimbursing stained banknotes. Since euro banknotes circulate not only within the euro area but also beyond, the intention is to produce also one adapted version for those EU Member States that have so far not adopted the euro (in this case requests for reimbursement should be addressed to a euro-area Central Bank).

The present letter is sent to the local, regional and national chambers of commerce in the 27 EU Member States. I would kindly ask you to get in touch with your retailers in order to estimate the number of leaflets and posters that you would like to order for distribution to them. The material is free of charge and is also delivered free of charge to the premises of each local, regional and national chamber of commerce.

In order to give you a better idea of what the material will look like, a draft version of the cover of the leaflet and the poster is available at the webpage indicated below.

In order to estimate the print-run, I would kindly ask you to indicate **by 18 March 2011** via this webpage how many copies you would like to order:

[http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/general/orders/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/general/orders/index_en.htm)

The material is expected to be distributed in May this year.

I am looking forward to your order.

Yours sincerely,

(Benjamin Angel, Head of Unit)