



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Commissioner Mairead McGuinness
Financial Services, Financial Stability and Capital Markets Union

Brussels, **14 JUL. 2023**
Ares (2023)6246421

Dear Mr Iacob,

Thank you for sharing the FSUG's opinion on the digital euro. We very much appreciate your perspective and insights on the topic, which we have taken into account in our preparations of the proposal for a regulation on the digital euro, adopted by the Commission on 28 June.

We are glad to hear that you welcome the envisaged role of the digital euro in providing a secure and safe digital means of retail payments; an objective we fully share.

A digital euro is intended to complement cash, which is why the Commission adopted a legislative proposal on the legal tender of cash in parallel with the digital euro proposal. The legal tender status of the digital euro would ensure consistency with cash making digital central bank money widely accessible in the euro area.

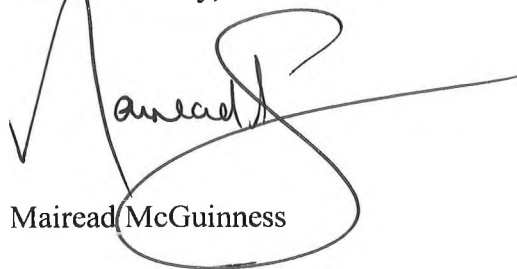
When it comes to the digital euro design, we agree that it must support financial inclusion. We want the digital euro to be accessible to all citizens, across the whole euro area. That includes people with disabilities, older people, people with lower levels of digital skills, and people in remote areas, in line with the European Accessibility Act. The regulation proposals also provides for the digital euro being available both online and offline for payment transactions from the first issuance. Basic services in connection with the digital euro will be free of charge. To further support financial inclusion for those without bank accounts, Member States will also have to designate public bodies which are licensed to give access to the digital euro.

Regarding privacy, we agree that this is a key area of public concern that we need to balance with other policy objectives, such as the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Our regulation proposal establishes clear safeguards. Central banks will not see the identity of users, or their transactions. For online payments, data privacy will be the same as for existing private digital means of payments. For offline payments and subject to transactions and holding limits set by the Commission on anti-money laundering grounds, the level of privacy will be similar to cash, as commercial banks will not monitor individual transactions.

Mr Alin Iacob
Chairman of the Financial Services User Group
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Thank you again for your interest. The legislative proposal on the digital euro is just the start of the democratic legislative debate and we count on your continuous support on this important project.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mairead', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right and a large loop underneath.

Mairead McGuinness