



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
EUROSYSTEM

ECB-PUBLIC

Christine LAGARDE
President

Mr Auke Zijlstra
Member of the European Parliament
European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

Frankfurt am Main, 16 May 2025

L/CL/25/147

Re: Your letter (QZ-007)

Honourable Member of the European Parliament, dear Mr Zijlstra,

Thank you for your letter regarding public interest in the digital euro and trust in the ECB, which was passed on to me by Ms Aurore Lalucq, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), accompanied by a cover letter dated 3 April 2025.

Regarding citizens' trust in the ECB and the euro, the latest Eurobarometer survey conducted by the European Commission, which was published in November 2024, shows that citizens' trust in the ECB is at its highest level in over 15 years. At the same time, support for the euro is at an all-time high, with 81% of Europeans in the euro area supporting the common currency.¹

As regards the digital euro, public awareness has been steadily increasing over the past few years. According to a recent ECB working paper, which you also refer to in your letter, the share of consumers who have heard

¹ See [Standard Eurobarometer 102 – Autumn 2024](#), European Commission, 2024.

about the digital euro increased from less than 20% in 2022 to around 40% in 2024.² This trend suggests that, as discussions around the digital euro continue, more people are becoming aware of it.

The working paper also suggests that the share of respondents who would be likely to actually use the digital euro increased over the survey period, from 28% in 2022 to 45% in 2024. This trend is broadly repeated in several surveys conducted by national central banks, suggesting that many Europeans are open to the idea of using a digital euro.³ While the correlation between awareness of the digital euro and willingness to use it is not proof of cause and effect, it does suggest that efforts to increase understanding of the digital euro are worthwhile.

The working paper indicates that effective public communication to enhance understanding of the digital euro remains essential. As this is a common European project, all EU institutions and actors have a responsibility in this regard. It is important to explain the objectives and design features of the digital euro clearly to ensure that citizens are informed and understand the benefits it could bring to their daily lives.⁴

The ECB will continue to adapt its outreach to European citizens as the project progresses. We will intensify our communication efforts in close coordination with the national central banks of the Eurosystem. We will continue to publish updates related to the digital euro on our website and hold regular dialogues with civil society.⁵ We are also collecting insights into user preferences which will help shape the digital euro and its features.

Furthermore, Executive Board member Piero Cipollone and I remain committed to keeping you and other members of the ECON Committee updated on the digital euro project, including through our regular appearances before the Committee.

We believe that interest in the digital euro will further increase once the proposed Digital Euro Regulation is adopted by the co-legislators, as citizens would have further clarity on what to expect. Making progress on the Regulation is important to protect our monetary sovereignty and provide European consumers with a simple and safe digital payment option that is free for basic use everywhere in the euro area. The digital euro would

² See Georgarakos, D. et al., [“Consumer attitudes towards a central bank digital currency”](#), *Working Paper Series*, No 3035, ECB, March 2025.

³ See [“The offline digital euro and holding limits: a user-centred approach – An online experiment among Dutch consumers”](#), *Occasional Studies*, Vol. 25, No 2, De Nederlandsche Bank, 2025; [“Bundesbank survey: Widespread acceptance of digital euro among general public”](#), *press release*, Deutsche Bundesbank, 4 June 2024; [“Digital euro appeals to half of the Dutch population”](#), news article, De Nederlandsche Bank, 22 April 2021; [“El uso del efectivo y tarjetas se mantiene, mientras aumenta el de dispositivos móviles”](#), *press release*, Banco de España, 23 October 2023; Cupak, A. et al., [“Survey of Potential Users of the Digital Euro: New Evidence from Slovakia”](#), *NBS Occasional paper*, No 2/2024, Národná banka Slovenska, 12 October 2024; and Abramova, S. et al., [“What can CBDC designers learn from asking potential users? Results from a survey of Austrian residents”](#), *Working Papers*, No 241, Oesterreichische Nationalbank, July 2022.

⁴ See Cipollone, P., [“The digital euro: what’s in it for you?”](#), *The ECB Blog*, ECB, 1 November 2024; and [“The Digital Euro - Easy, Safe, Fast, Reliable”](#), video, ECB.

⁵ For more discussion on this matter, see [“Progress on the preparation phase of a digital euro – Second progress report”](#), ECB, December 2024, and the [digital euro page](#) on the ECB’s website.

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also complement existing private initiatives and enable them to scale up more easily across the EU. Such an instrument may become all the more important in a changing global context to support Europe's strategic autonomy. The ECB stands ready to provide technical support for the legislative discussions, and to engage with Parliament's negotiating team.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Christine Lagarde

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