

11 March 2003

PRESS RELEASE

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE EUROSYSTEM as at 7 March 2003

I. Items not related to monetary policy operations

In the week ending 7 March 2003, the net position of the Eurosystem in foreign currency (asset items 2 and 3 minus liability items 7, 8 and 9) decreased by EUR 1.1 billion to EUR 223.2 billion on account of customer and portfolio transactions.

The holdings by the Eurosystem of marketable securities of euro area residents denominated in euro (asset item 7) remained virtually unchanged at EUR 33.5 billion. Banknotes in circulation (liability item 1) increased by EUR 4.7 billion to EUR 350.1 billion. Liabilities to general government (liability item 5.1) decreased by EUR 10 billion to EUR 55.2 billion.

II. Items related to monetary policy operations

The Eurosystem's net lending to credit institutions (asset item 5 minus liability items 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 4) decreased by EUR 41.1 billion to EUR 180 billion. On Tuesday, 4 March 2003, a main refinancing operation of EUR 95 billion matured and a new one of EUR 54.1 billion was settled.

Recourse to the **marginal lending facility** (asset item 5.5) was virtually nil (compared with EUR 0.1 billion in the previous week), while recourse to the **deposit facility** (liability item 2.2) was EUR 0.1 billion, which was approximately the same as in the preceding week.

III. Current accounts of euro area credit institutions

As a result of all transactions, the **current account** position of credit institutions with the Eurosystem (liability item 2.1) decreased by EUR 35.9 billion to EUR 89.4 billion.

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Consolidated weekly financial statement of the Eurosystem as at 7 March 2003 (EUR millions)

Assets	Balance as at 7 March 2003	Difference compared to last week due to transactions	Liabilities	Balance as at 7 March 2003	Difference compared to last week due to transactions
1 Gold and gold receivables	130,314	o	1 Banknotes in circulation	350,078	4,664
Claims on non-euro area residents denominated in foreign currency Receivables from the IMF Balances with banks and security investments, external loans and other external assets	31,035 196,893 227,928	-275 -421	Liabilities to euro area credit institutions related to monetary policy operations denominated in euro Current accounts (covering the minimum reserve system) Deposit facility Fixed-term deposits Fire-tuning reverse operations	89,431 98 0 0	39 0 0
3 Claims on euro area residents denominated in foreign currency	17,384	53	2.5 Deposits related to margin calls	89,529	-
Claims on non-euro area residents denominated in euro A.1 Balances with banks, security investments and loans Claims arising from the credit facility under ERM II	6,164 0 6,164	0	Other liabilities to euro area credit institutions denominated in euro Debt certificates issued	62 2,029	0
Lending to euro area credit institutions related to monetary policy operations denominated in euro 1. Main refinancing operations 2. Longer-term refinancing operations 3. Fine-tuning reverse operations 5.4 Structural reverse operations 5.5 Marginal lending facility 6.6 Credits related to margin calls	137,090 45,000 0 0 50 35 182,175	0 0 0 -98 -2	5 Liabilities to other euro area residents denominated in euro 5.1 General government 5.2 Other liabilities 6 Liabilities to non-euro area residents denominated in euro 7 Liabilities to euro area residents denominated in foreign currency	55,213 5,013 60,226 8,659	90 - 9,921 - 45
6 Other claims on euro area credit institutions denominated in euro	938	386	8 Liabilities to non-euro area residents denominated in foreign currency		
7 Securities of euro area residents denominated in euro	33,495	11	8.1 Deposits, balances and other liabilities 8.2 Liabilities arising from the credit facility under ERM II	14,772 0	0
8 General government debt denominated in euro	44,340	-15		14,772	
9 Other assets	107,218	67	9 Counterpart of special drawing rights allocated by the IMF 10 Other liabilities	6,339 69,932	
			11 Revaluation accounts	82,840	0
			12 Capital and reserves	64,444	0
Total assets	749,960	-40,689	Total liabilities	749,960	-40,689

Totals/sub-totals may not add up, due to rounding.