



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
EUROSYSTEM

ECB-PUBLIC
COURTESY TRANSLATION

Christine LAGARDE
President

Mr Engin Eroglu
Member of the European Parliament
European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

Frankfurt am Main, 17 October 2025

L/CL/25/331

Re: Your letter (QZ-016)

Honourable Member of the European Parliament, dear Mr Eroglu,

Thank you for your letter, 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 1 September 2025.

Addressing climate change is a global challenge and a policy priority for the European Union. Within its mandate, the ECB's Governing Council is committed to ensuring that the Eurosystem takes into account, in line with the EU's goals and objectives, the implications of climate change and nature degradation for monetary policy and central banking.¹ This commitment is detailed in the ECB's climate and nature plan and extends to all our activities, including those related to payments, banknotes and the potential introduction of a digital euro.²

Sustainability principles, in particular energy efficiency, are integral to the design of the digital euro³, unlike certain crypto-assets, which often rely on energy-intensive mining infrastructures. For example, the ECB aims to use existing payments infrastructure wherever possible to avoid duplication of systems. Furthermore, environmental criteria have been considered in the selection of service providers: these measures will ensure that the digital euro service platform uses providers and data centres located in the European

¹ See [The ECB's monetary policy strategy statement \(2025\)](#), ECB, 30 June 2025. Energy efficiency was already integral to the design of the digital euro when the investigation phase was launched in 2021. For additional information, see [Digital euro experimentation scope and key learnings](#), ECB, July 2021.

² See [Climate and nature plan 2024-2025](#), ECB, 30 January 2024. For additional information, see [Climate change and the ECB](#) on our website.

³ See [Progress on the preparation phase of a digital euro – First progress report](#), ECB, 24 June 2024.

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Economic Area, implements energy-efficient technologies and adheres to best practices in environmental performance. In this way, we intend to minimise the digital euro's environmental footprint from the outset and foster a more sustainable payments ecosystem in Europe.⁴

In addition, we are currently working on assessing the digital euro's possible environmental footprint. Given that the digital euro would be a digital counterpart to banknotes, we are adopting an approach similar to that used in our 2023 study on the environmental footprint of euro banknotes⁵, i.e. one based on a Life Cycle Assessment methodology.⁶ This approach would measure emissions at every stage – from building and maintaining the systems and infrastructure supporting the digital euro to its day-to-day use.⁷

Executive Board Member Piero Cipollone and I remain committed to keeping you and the other members of the ECON Committee updated on developments related to the European payments landscape and on the digital euro project itself, including through our regular appearances before the Committee. In line with its current practice, the ECB will also continue to publish updates related to the digital euro on its website.⁸

Finally, the ECB continues to stand ready to provide technical support on all aspects of the digital euro during the discussions on the legislative framework. Progress in the legislative process will provide Europeans with a clear timeline for when they can expect a digital euro to become a reality and ensure their freedom to use a public and environmentally mindful means of payment for the digital age.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Christine Lagarde

⁴ See [Progress on the preparation phase of a digital euro – First progress report](#), ECB, 24 June 2024.

⁵ See our website for more information on the [environmental footprint of euro banknotes](#).

⁶ Life cycle assessment, standardised by ISO 14040 and ISO 14044, is a sustainability tool that evaluates the environmental impact of a product or service across its life cycle. For further information, see the European Commission's Green Forum web page on [life cycle assessments and environmental footprint methods](#).

⁷ Although the digital euro project is still in its preparation phase and specific emissions figures are not yet available, we are laying the groundwork for this evaluation. As an initial step, we have gathered publicly available data on greenhouse gas emissions from existing digital payment systems and infrastructure that could potentially support the digital euro. A preliminary analysis of these data will help us understand the current landscape and provide a baseline for comparison. These insights will guide the development of potential benchmarks for the digital euro's energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. As the project progresses, we will gather more detailed, primary data specific to the digital euro, enabling a comprehensive evaluation of its environmental footprint.

⁸ For the latest information on the digital euro, see [Progress on the preparation phase of a digital euro – Third progress report](#), ECB, 16 July 2025, and the [digital euro page](#) on our website.

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