



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

Christine LAGARDE

President

Ms Joanna Scheuring-Wielgus  
Member of the European Parliament  
European Parliament  
60, rue Wiertz  
B-1047 Brussels

Frankfurt am Main, 25 July 2025

L/CL/25/279

**Re: Your letter (QZ-0013)**

Honourable Member of the European Parliament, dear Ms Scheuring-Wielgus,

Thank you for your letter on the selection of motifs for new euro banknotes, which was passed on to me by Ms Aurore Lalucq, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, accompanied by a cover letter dated 20 June 2025.

The process of redesigning euro banknotes is ongoing. We recently launched a public design contest, which aims to identify the best proposals for the future euro banknotes<sup>1</sup>, following which the Governing Council is expected to decide on the final design by the end of 2026. Whichever motif is chosen – either “European culture”, which features selected prominent Europeans, or “Rivers and birds” – it will reflect the ECB’s commitment to Europe’s shared heritage and values.

The ECB fully acknowledges the importance of how the names of all the personalities may ultimately be presented on the future euro banknotes. At this stage, no decision has been made regarding whether or how these names will be integrated into the design if “European culture” is selected as the theme.

In the specific case you raise, we will for the time being refer to “Marie Curie (born Skłodowska)” in all our public communications, reflecting her dual identity and acknowledging both her global recognition and her heritage, as well as her profound contributions to science and society. We are currently consulting various

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<sup>1</sup> See “[ECB launches design contest for future euro banknotes](#)”, press release, ECB, 15 July 2025.

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sources, including her descendants and the Institut Curie, to determine the most appropriate way to refer to her. This collaborative approach ensures that our process respects her legacy while resonating with the broader public.

It is important to emphasise that this naming approach does not pre-empt any decision by the ECB's Governing Council on how her name – or the names of the other personalities – might appear on the future euro banknotes. Please rest assured that we take this matter seriously and are committed to a thoughtful and respectful decision-making process that honours the identity of all the individuals proposed and acknowledges their remarkable contributions.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns on this important matter with us. We will of course keep the European Parliament informed of the next major milestones.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Christine Lagarde

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