

NUMISMATIC PROGRAMME

2020



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF FINANCE



BANK OF GREECE
EUROSYSTEM



€10 SILVER COIN DEDICATED TO: “2,500 YEARS SINCE THE BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE”

10 EURO

In the summer of 480 BC, some 7,000 Greek troops under Leonidas, king of Sparta, tried to halt the advance of the invading Persian army, led by Xerxes. Though vastly outnumbered, they decided to take up position at the straits of Thermopylae, which commanded the passage to mainland Greece. When the Persian king invited them to surrender their arms, Leonidas famously countered «Μολὼν λαβέ» (“come and take them”). Using the narrow pass to their advantage, the Greeks managed to hold their ground for two days, until they were betrayed by Ephialtes, who showed the Persians a mountain track leading them behind the Greek lines. On the third day, Leonidas, realising that the battle was lost, dismissed the troops of the other Greek cities, but chose to stay behind with his elite guard of 300 Spartans, the helots and the remaining Lacedemonians. They were joined by 700 Thespians, who also opted to stay, and they all fell on the battlefield. With their courageous last stand, Leonidas and his comrades inspired the Greeks to continue their fight against the Persians, setting an everlasting example of heroism and self-denial.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €10

Diameter: 40 mm

Weight: 34.10 gr

Edge: plain

Material: silver 92.5% (Ag)

Packaging: coin box with certificate of authenticity

Maximum issue: 3,000 pieces

Minting quality: proof

Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos

Price: €52.42 plus V.A.T.

Launch of sales: 11/03/2020



€10 SILVER COIN DEDICATED TO:
“2,500 YEARS SINCE THE BATTLE
OF SALAMIS”

10
EURO

After their victory at Thermopylae, the Persians pushed forward through Central Greece and sacked Athens. The Greek fleet, numbering some 380 warships, in majority from the city-states of Athens, Corinth and Aegina, reassembled at the island of Salamis, in the Saronic Gulf, in September 480 BC. Although the council of Greek generals had decided that the fleet should redeploy to the Isthmus of Corinth, in order to block Xerxes's advance to the Peloponnese, the Athenian general Themistocles was confident that a battle within the narrow confines at Salamis would neutralise the Persian fleet's numerical superiority. Thus, he sent a slave to Xerxes warning him that the Greeks were about to flee and advising him to hastily blockade the straits. Thanks to this stratagem, the Greeks, chanting the famous paean «ὦ παῖδες Ἑλλήνων, ἴτε, ἐλευθεροῦτε πατρίδα» (“Forward, sons of Greeks, liberate the fatherland!”), dealt a decisive blow to the Persians, forcing Xerxes to leave Greece.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €10

Diameter: 40 mm

Weight: 34.10 gr

Edge: plain

Material: silver 92.5% (Ag)

Packaging: coin box with certificate of authenticity

Maximum issue: 3,000 pieces

Minting quality: proof

Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos

Price: €52.42 plus V.A.T.

Launch of sales: 11/03/2020



€6 MINI SILVER COIN DEDICATED TO: “75 YEARS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL RADIO FOUNDATION”

6
EURO

The radio era was officially launched in Greece with the establishment of the National Radio Foundation (EIR) on 16 July 1945. Meanwhile, the Athens Radio Station, under the supervision of the Radio Broadcasting Service, had already begun transmitting from its Zappeion location in 1938. The station’s interlude signal “Tsompanakos” (shepherd’s tune) and opening message “Athens here” would reach ever-increasing audiences across Greece, as local stations were gradually set up in other cities. 1952 saw the launch of a “Second Programme”, focused on entertainment, while the “First Programme” remained primarily news-oriented. A “Third Programme”, unveiled in 1954, mainly broadcast classical music at first but, under the inspired direction of composer Manos Hadjidakis (1975-1982), evolved into a genuine culture hub. With the advent of television, EIR was renamed ‘National Radio and Television Foundation’ (EIRT) and later ‘Hellenic Radio-Television’ (ERT), never failing to provide quality information and entertainment and playing an important role in shaping the cultural identity of contemporary Greece.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €6

Diameter: 28.50 mm

Weight: 10 gr

Edge: plain

Material: silver 92.5% (Ag)

Packaging: coin box with certificate of authenticity

Maximum issue: 1,200 pieces

Minting quality: proof

Coin designed by: M. Antonatou

Price: TO BE ANNOUNCED

Launch of sales: TO BE ANNOUNCED



BLISTER PACK WITH A COLLECTOR
SILVER €5 COIN DEDICATED TO:
“150 YEARS SINCE THE BIRTH
OF THEOPHILOS”

5
EURO

Folk painter Theophilos Hatzimihail (1870-1934) was born in Vareia, on the island of Lesbos, and was essentially self-taught, apart from elements of painting learned from his grandfather, an icon painter. He left for Smyrna at a young age, but spent most of his life in Volos and villages of Mt Pelion, before returning to Lesbos in 1927. His themes are inspired from Greek history and mythology, Byzantine art, folk life and tradition, as well as from landscapes of his native island. He lived in poverty, often decorating the walls of houses and shops for a pittance. He was frequently the target of mockery for wearing the national Greek costume (*fustanella*) and an ancient Greek helmet. In 1928, he was discovered by art critic and collector Stratis Eleutheriadis (Tériade), who purchased several of Theophilos's paintings and commissioned other works for a large exhibition in Paris. The exhibition, which took place in 1936, after the painter's death, was an enormous success. A retrospective exhibition at the Louvre followed in 1961. Theophilos's talent was hailed by such renowned personalities as Seferis (“Theophilos gave us a new eye; he cleansed our vision”), Elytis, Tsarouchis and Le Corbusier.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €5

Diameter: 31 mm

Weight: 17 gr

Edge: plain

Material: silver 33.3% (Ag)

Packaging: blister pack

Maximum issue: 5,000 pieces

Minting quality: proof-like

Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos

Packaging designed by: A. Michelioudaki

Price: €11.29 plus V.A.T.

Launch of sales: 20/10/2020



BLISTER PACK WITH A COLLECTOR
SILVER €5 COIN DEDICATED TO:
“ENVIRONMENT — ENDEMIC FLORA
OF GREECE — IRIS HELLENICA”

5
EURO

Iris hellenica was described as a new species in 2010. Resembling *Iris germanica*, a widely cultivated plant of hybrid origin, it is distinguishable primarily by its smaller height (25-55 cm), smaller leaves, fruits and seeds and the lighter bluish-purple tint of its flowers. It blooms from May to early June. Its main distribution is in the mountains of the northern Peloponnese (Kyllini, Chelmos, Saitas, Erymanthos), where it is mostly found in openings of Greek fir (*Abies cephalonica*) forest, as well as in rocky areas, at altitudes of 1,300-1,800 metres. Populations of *Iris hellenica* have also been discovered on Mount Oiti in Central Greece, indicating a phytogeographical affinity between the mountains of that region and of the northern Peloponnese. This can be explained by the fact that the two regions, separated today by the Corinthian Gulf, were once united (until 900,000 years ago).



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €5

Diameter: 31 mm

Weight: 17 gr

Edge: plain

Material: silver 33.3% (Ag)

Packaging: blister pack

Maximum issue: 5,000 pieces

Minting quality: proof-like

Coin designed by: M. Antonatou

Packaging designed by: A. Michelioudaki

Price: TO BE ANNOUNCED

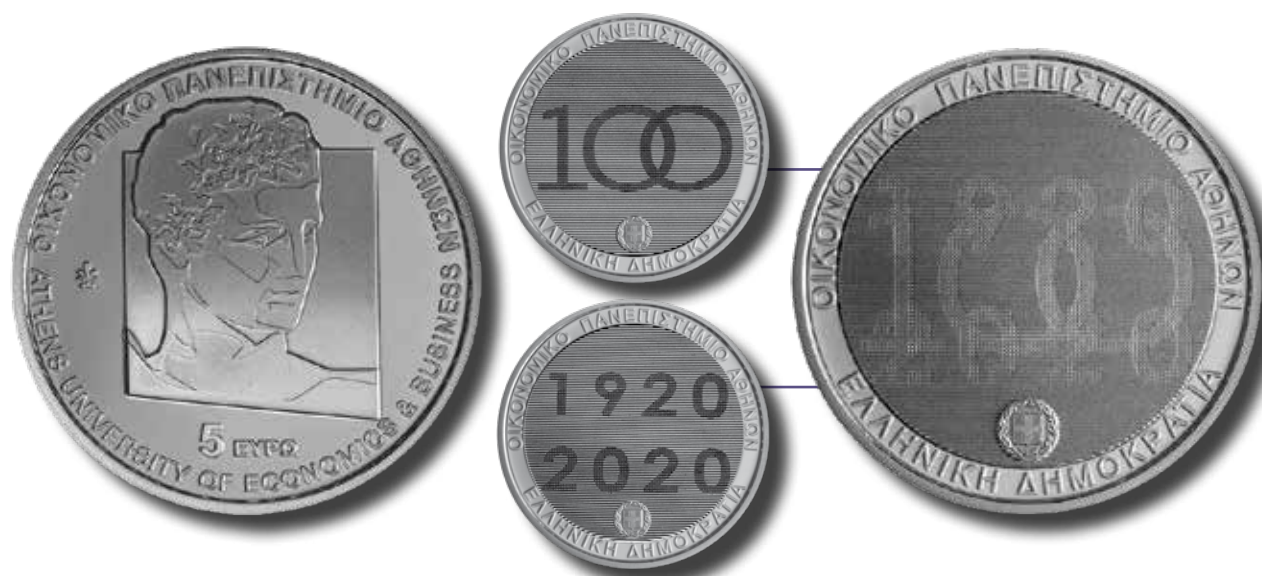
Launch of sales: TO BE ANNOUNCED



CARD BLISTER WITH A COLLECTOR
SILVER €5 COIN DEDICATED TO:
“CENTENARY OF THE ATHENS UNIVERSITY
OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS”

5
EURO

The Athens University of Economics and Business was founded in 1920 as the Higher School of Commercial Studies. The statute and initial curriculum were established with input from Georges Paillard, Professor at the University of Lausanne, invited by Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos to provide his expertise. In the 100 years of its existence, the school has evolved considerably, in terms of organisation as well as curriculum. In 1926, the School was renamed Higher School of Economics and Business (ASOEE). In 1955, the duration of studies was extended from three to four years, and senior students were given two majors to choose from: economics or business, while a postgraduate programme, Greece's first, was launched by the School's Economics Department in 1978. In 1989, the institution took its current name, Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB). Over the years, the institution has produced significant eminent economists. Today, with eight departments organised into three schools (Economic Sciences, Business, Information Sciences and Technology), the University strives to provide excellence in education, while also promoting research and knowledge in its academic areas.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €5
Diameter: 31 mm
Weight: 17 gr
Edge: plain
Material: silver 33.3% (Ag)
Packaging: coin card blister
Maximum issue: 6,000 pieces
Minting quality: proof-like
Packaging designed by: A. Michelioudaki
Price: €9.68 plus V.A.T.
Launch of sales: 18/02/2020



€10 SILVER COIN DEDICATED TO: “EUROPA STAR 2020 — GOTHIC”

10
EURO

The Gothic Era in Western Europe coincided with the end of the Middle Byzantine and, for the most part, the Late Byzantine era, a period of gradual decline that ended with the fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans. A notable figure of this era was Alexios I Komnenos, emperor from 1081 to 1118 and founder of the Komnenian dynasty. Assuming the throne at a time of acute administrative, economic and military disarray, Alexios, with considerable effort, succeeded in stabilising and consolidating the Byzantine state. He fought long wars against powerful enemies such as the Normans, the Pechenegs and the Seljuk Turks, while he also dealt successfully with the challenge of the First Crusade, recovering substantial territories of the empire. He reformed the monetary system and reorganised the economy, which experienced a revival. Meanwhile, the literary renaissance that had begun in the 9th century was still ongoing, and Byzantine art continued to produce masterpieces. The Gothic made its way into the Greek world via the Crusaders, leaving us such interesting monuments as the Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaller in Rhodes. A detail of the Palace was selected for the background of the coin portraying Alexios.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €10

Diameter: 38.61 mm

Weight: 31.10 gr

Edge: plain

Material: silver 92.5% (Ag)

Packaging: coin box with certificate of authenticity

Maximum issue: 5,000 pieces

Minting quality: proof

Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos

Price: €48.39 plus V.A.T.

Launch of sales: 13/07/2020



€5 SILVER COIN DEDICATED TO: “MYRTIS”

5
EURO

Construction works for the Athens metro station at Kerameikos in 1994 brought to light a mass grave containing the remains of some 150 people, victims of the Plague of Athens (430-426 BC) during the Peloponnesian War. Using state-of-the-art DNA analysis, scientists were finally able to answer one of the unsolved questions of ancient Greek history by identifying the deadly pathogen as *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi, which causes typhoid fever. Among the finds was the very well-preserved skull of an eleven-year-old girl, whom the archaeologists named Myrtis, her lower jaw and teeth intact. The excellent condition of the skull inspired the idea of reconstructing the face of a child who had lived at the time of Pericles. After the original skull was replicated, the facial features were recreated using the “Manchester method”. The young Athenian girl was unveiled to the public in a ceremony at the Acropolis Museum in April 2010.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €5

Diameter: 30 mm

Weight: 10 gr

Edge: plain

Material: silver 92.5% (Ag)

Packaging: coin box with certificate of authenticity

Maximum issue: 2,500 pieces

Minting quality: proof

Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos

Price: €32.26 plus V.A.T.

Launch of sales: 25/02/2020



€200 GOLD COIN DEDICATED TO: “THE PERSIAN WARS”

200

EURO

The rapid expansion of the Persian Empire inevitably brought it into collision with the Greek world in the 5th century BC. After subduing the Greek cities of Ionia and then crushing their revolt, the Persians set out to punish Athens for having assisted the Ionian cities. Thus, in 490 BC, king Darius sent an expeditionary force under Datis and Artaphernes against Athens. The Athenians, however, under the command of Miltiades, emerged victorious from the Battle of Marathon. Ten years later, king Xerxes, determined to conquer Greece, led a far vaster army and navy against the Greeks. Although the Persians prevailed in the Battle of Thermopylae, they suffered a crushing defeat at Salamis, largely due to the brilliant generalship of Themistocles. Two further Greek victories in 479 BC, in the Battles of Plataea (on land) and Mykale (at sea), sealed the expulsion of the Persians from Greece. The defeat of the Persian invasion saved the Greek world from enslavement and enabled classical civilisation to flourish.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €200

Diameter: 22.10 mm

Weight: 7.98 gr

Edge: milled

Material: gold 917‰ (Au), silver 53‰ (Ag)

Packaging: wooden box with certificate of authenticity

Maximum issue: 750 pieces

Minting quality: proof

Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos

Price: €403.23 plus V.A.T.

Launch of sales: 16/03/2020



€100 MINI GOLD PLUS COIN DEDICATED TO:
“GREEK MYTHOLOGY —
THE OLYMPIAN GODS — HERMES”

100
EURO

Hermes was the son of Zeus and the Pleiad Maia, daughter of Atlas. Born on Mt Kyllene, Hermes immediately showed signs of cunning resourcefulness, stealing Apollo's cattle and promptly crafting the first lyre to appease him. Known as *dolios*, i.e. the schemer, Hermes was the divine trickster and patron of thieves. But, above all, he was the herald of the gods, which is why he was traditionally depicted wearing winged shoes, sporting a *petasos* (a broad-brimmed hat worn by travellers) and holding a caduceus. As *psychopompos* (i.e. conveyor of souls), he guided the souls of the deceased to the underworld. He was the protector of shepherds, tradesmen, as well as travellers. In fact, the road markers of the ancient Greeks were called herms, i.e. rectangular shafts topped by the head of *hodos* Hermes (i.e. Hermes of the roads). Given his additional status as patron of athletes, statues of him often adorned gymnasiums and stadiums. His varied roles, together with his playfulness, made Hermes the friendliest of the Olympian gods.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €100

Diameter: 17.50 mm

Weight: 3.89 gr

Edge: plain

Material: gold 99.99% (Au)

Packaging: wooden box with certificate of authenticity

Maximum issue: 1,200 pieces

Minting quality: proof

Coin designed by: M. Antonatou

Price: €241.94 plus V.A.T.

Launch of sales: 28/09/2020



€50 MINI GOLD COIN DEDICATED TO: “CULTURAL HERITAGE — ANCIENT MESSENE”

50
EURO

The ancient city of Messene was built in 369 BC at the foot of mount Ithomi, sacred to the Messenians, after the Spartans had suffered a crushing defeat to the Thebans under Epameinondas at the battle of Leuktra (371 BC), which led to the Messenians' liberation. The city was surrounded by a 9.5 km-long fortification wall, with two gates, the Laconian and the Arcadian. Although the former no longer stands, the latter is now the site's emblematic monument, winning a Europa Nostra Diploma in 2005 for its excellent restoration. Archaeological excavations, first launched in the late 19th century and resumed since 1986 under Professor Petros Themelis, include a vast programme of impressive restorations. These allow the visitor to form a vivid and accurate picture of the most important public buildings, including the Arsinoe fountain, the Asclepieion building complex, the stadium with the mausoleum of the Saithidae family, the gymnasium, the theatre and the odeon (also called *ecclesiasterion*, i.e. assembly hall).



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €50

Diameter: 14 mm

Weight: 1 gr

Edge: plain

Material: gold 99.99% (Au)

Packaging: wooden box with certificate of authenticity

Maximum issue: 1,500 pieces

Minting quality: proof

Coin designed by: M. Antonatou

Price: €76.61 plus V.A.T.

Launch of sales: 20/10/2020



BLISTER SET CONTAINING ALL EIGHT DENOMINATIONS OF 2020 GREEK EURO COINS DEDICATED TO: “TOURISM — LESVOS”

Situated in the northeast Aegean, Lesvos is Greece’s third largest island, after Crete and Euboea. Many refer to the island as Mytilene, the name of its capital town. Lesvos was the birthplace of Alcaeus and Sappho, leading representatives of ancient lyric poetry, and of statesman and philosopher Pittacus, one of the seven sages of Greece. In modern times, both the folk painter Theophilos and the Nobel-winning poet Odysseas Elytis hailed from Lesvos. In antiquity, Lesvos flourished with such major cities as Mytilene, Mithymna and Eressos. The island fell from the Byzantines to the Genoese and, in 1461, to the Ottoman Turks. Lesvos was liberated by the Greek navy during the Balkan Wars in 1912 and was united with Greece in 1914. Boasting a varied landscape, wetlands, thermal springs, important monuments and pilgrimage sites, a rich and diverse architectural heritage, as well as unique sites (such as the petrified forest), Lesvos never fails to enchant. The island is also famous for its traditional products, which include ouzo, olive oil and cheeses.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

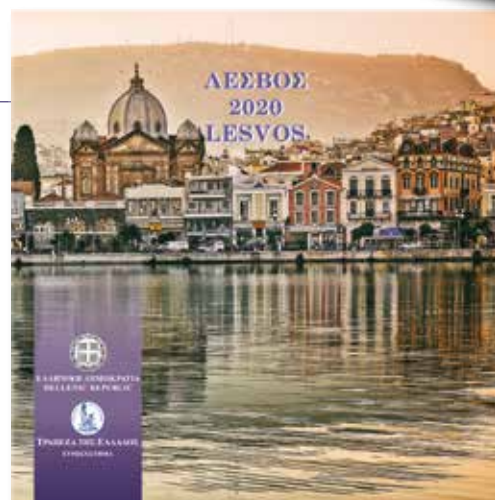
Packaging: blister set

Maximum issue: 10,000 pieces

Minting quality: brilliant uncirculated

Price: €12.90 plus V.A.T.

Launch of sales: 13/07/2020



€2 COMMEMORATIVE PROOF CIRCULATION
COIN DEDICATED TO:
“2,500 YEARS SINCE THE BATTLE
OF THERMOPYLAE”

2
EURO

In 480 BC, the Greeks, under the command of Leonidas, king of Sparta, tried to halt the advance of the vast Persian army at the narrow pass of Thermopylae. The Greeks' self-sacrifice, following Leonidas's refusal to surrender his arms with the famously defiant retort “Come and take them” («Μολὼν λαβέ»), is a timeless inspiration for every nation fighting for freedom.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €2
Diameter: 25.75 mm
Weight: 8.50 gr
Thickness: 2.20 mm
Edge: fine milled/edge lettering
Ring material: copper nickel
Inner material: nickel brass
Packaging: coin box with certificate of authenticity
Maximum issue: 5,000 pieces
Minting quality: proof
Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos
Price: €12.10 plus V.A.T.
Launch of sales: 06/07/2020



COIN CARD BLISTER WITH A €2
COMMEMORATIVE CIRCULATION COIN
DEDICATED TO: “2,500 YEARS SINCE
THE BATTLE OF THERMOPYLAE”

2
EURO

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €2
Diameter: 25.75 mm
Weight: 8.50 gr
Thickness: 2.20 mm
Edge: fine milled/edge lettering
Ring material: copper nickel
Inner material: nickel brass
Packaging: coin card blister
Maximum issue: 10,000 pieces
Minting quality: brilliant uncirculated
Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos
Packaging designed by: A. Michelioudaki
Price: €6.45 plus V.A.T.
Launch of sales: 06/07/2020



€2 COMMEMORATIVE CIRCULATION COIN
DEDICATED TO:
“2,500 YEARS SINCE THE BATTLE
OF THERMOPYLAE”

2
EURO

In 480 BC, the Greeks, under the command of Leonidas, king of Sparta, tried to halt the advance of the vast Persian army at the narrow pass of Thermopylae. The Greeks' self-sacrifice, following Leonidas's refusal to surrender his arms with the famously defiant retort “Come and take them” («Μολὼν λαβέ»), is a timeless inspiration for every nation fighting for freedom.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €2

Diameter: 25.75 mm

Weight: 8.50 gr

Thickness: 2.20 mm

Edge: fine milled/edge lettering

Ring material: copper nickel

Inner material: nickel brass

Packaging: rolls

Maximum issue: 735,000 pieces

Minting quality: circulation

Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos

Price: €50

Launch of sales: 09/09/2020

€2 COMMEMORATIVE PROOF CIRCULATION
COIN DEDICATED TO:
“100 YEARS SINCE THE UNION
OF THRACE WITH GREECE”

2
EURO

After the end of World War I and the Treaty of Neuilly (1919), Western Thrace was ceded to Greece. In 1920, the Greek army triumphantly entered Thrace, which has since been an integral part of the Greek state.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €2
Diameter: 25.75 mm
Weight: 8.50 gr
Thickness: 2.20 mm
Edge: fine milled/edge lettering
Ring material: copper nickel
Inner material: nickel brass
Packaging: coin box with certificate of authenticity
Maximum issue: 2,000 pieces
Minting quality: proof
Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos
Price: €12.10 plus V.A.T.
Launch of sales: 16/07/2020



COIN CARD BLISTER WITH A €2
COMMEMORATIVE CIRCULATION COIN
DEDICATED TO: “100 YEARS SINCE
THE UNION OF THRACE WITH GREECE”

2
EURO

After the end of World War I and the Treaty of Neuilly (1919), Western Thrace was ceded to Greece. In 1920, the Greek army triumphantly entered Thrace, which has since been an integral part of the Greek state.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €2

Diameter: 25.75 mm

Weight: 8.50 gr

Thickness: 2.20 mm

Edge: fine milled/edge lettering

Ring material: copper nickel

Inner material: nickel brass

Packaging: coin card blister

Maximum issue: 5,000 pieces

Minting quality: brilliant uncirculated

Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos

Packaging designed by: A. Michelioudaki

Price: €6.45 plus V.A.T.

Launch of sales: 16/07/2020



€2 COMMEMORATIVE CIRCULATION COIN
DEDICATED TO: “100 YEARS SINCE
THE UNION OF THRACE WITH GREECE”

2
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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Denomination: €2

Diameter: 25.75 mm

Weight: 8.50 gr

Thickness: 2.20 mm

Edge: fine milled/edge lettering

Ring material: copper nickel

Inner material: nickel brass

Packaging: rolls

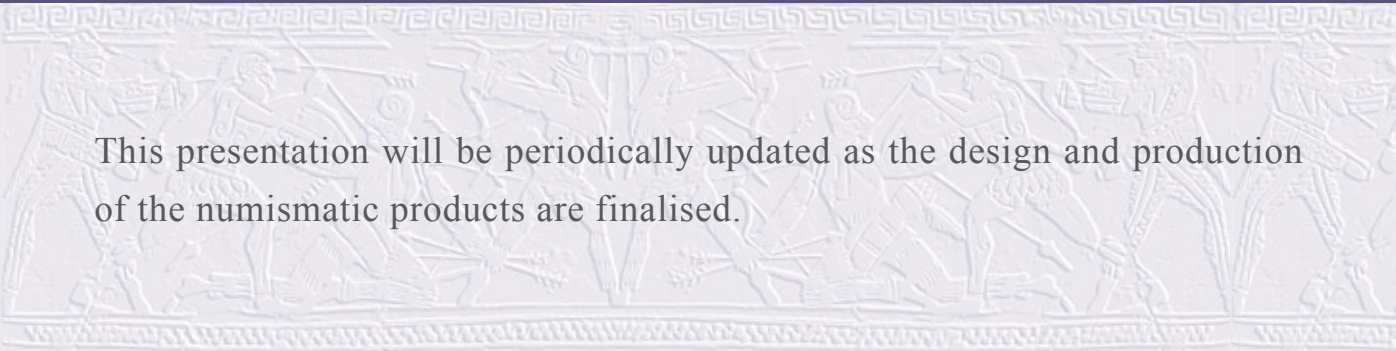
Maximum issue: 743,000 pieces

Minting quality: circulation

Coin designed by: G. Stamatopoulos

Price: €50

Launch of sales: 05/10/2020



This presentation will be periodically updated as the design and production of the numismatic products are finalised.

For further information on Greece's Numismatic Programme, please visit the websites of the Ministry of Finance (www.minfin.gr) and the Bank of Greece (www.bankofgreece.gr).

If you wish to subscribe to the Newsletter on our numismatic products, please email your request to the Ministry of Finance at: d25@glk.gr

Dealers must place their orders directly with the Ministry of Finance, via email addressed to d25numismaticorders@glk.gr or via fax to (+30) 2103338959, upon the launch of each numismatic product, within the applicable deadlines.

To place orders via the Bank of Greece, please visit:

<http://www.bankofgreece.gr/Pages/en/Euro/Notes-coins/Collectors/default.aspx>

Product prices and release dates will be determined in the course of the year by ministerial decisions.

The Ministry of Finance reserves the right to change the products or their designs and/or their technical specifications without prior notice, if deemed necessary.