

## Guidelines on the usage of the term 'euro' in the Maltese language

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## 1. Objective

The spelling of the term 'euro' for legal texts and instruments in the Maltese language is regulated by the provisions of the European Union (EU) Treaty<sup>1</sup> and European Council (EC) Regulations which govern Maltese legislation.

These guidelines indicate where and how the spelling and pronunciation of the term 'euro' is to be carried out in the Maltese language.

## 2. Applicability

These guidelines apply to the spelling of the term 'euro' in the Maltese language for **legislation and legal instruments in any form whatsoever**;

## 3. Principle(s)

The guiding principles of these guidelines are:

- 3.1 Clarity in public perception of the European currency;
- 3.2 Consistency in the spelling and in the pronunciation of the 'euro' as the single European currency;
- 3.3 Security in the design of the euro banknotes;
- 3.4 Legal validity and certainty in the spelling of the 'euro';

## 4. Guidelines

The provisions of Regulation (EC) 974/98 on the introduction of the euro makes it clear that 'the Community as the exclusive holder of competence in monetary matters, determines alone the name of the single currency. As a single currency, the name of the euro needs to be identical in the nominative singular case in all Community languages to ensure that its singleness is apparent'. Article 2 of and Recital 2 to this Regulation also states that 'the definition of the cent does not prevent the use of variants of this term in common usage in Member States'. Additionally, the European Central Bank has always emphasised on the importance of proper and consistent name of single currency as 'euro' to avoid confusion, to ensure clarity in public perception of monetary union and legal certainty in the design of the euro banknotes and to ensure the optimal integration of security features in the design of the euro banknotes.

- 4.1 All **legal texts and legal instruments** in the **Maltese** language shall apply the term '**euro**' and the **plural shall also be 'euro'**.
- 4.2 The term '**euro**' shall be considered as **masculine** in the Maltese language.
- 4.3 The initial letter '**e**' of the term 'euro' shall always be **in lowercase**, unless the term is referred to at the beginning of a sentence.
- 4.4 The article '**l-**', i.e. '**l-euro**', shall be applied when the term 'euro' needs to be accompanied by the article in the Maltese language.
- 4.5 Both the symbol '**€**' and the '**EUR**' which is the official abbreviation of 'euro' according to **ISO 4217, are also applicable to the Maltese language**<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> As specified in the European Union Act (Cap 460), to which Malta, as a Member State, must adhere to.

4.6 Over and above the provisions of Article 4 of the Interpretation Act (Cap. 249)<sup>3</sup> the terms 'euro' and 'ewro' shall carry the same legal validity, definition and interpretation in any law, contract and legal instrument.

## 5. Definitions

**Legal Instrument** – any administrative act as defined in Article 469a of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure<sup>4</sup> and any act of administration, any judicial decision, any payment instrument other than a banknote and a coin, any unilateral legal act and any other instrument with legal effect

**Treaty** – the Treaty between all EU Member states, concerning the accession of the ten new member states (including Malta) to the EU, signed in Athens on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2003. It includes any other treaty, agreement or protocol to which Malta became a party or which became applicable to Malta.

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<sup>2</sup> Spelling of the words 'euro' and 'cent' in the official Community languages to be used when drawing up Community Legislative acts. [http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy\\_finance/euro/faqs/faqs\\_13\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy_finance/euro/faqs/faqs_13_en.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Article 4(a) states that: 'the definition of any word or expression shall extend to all grammatical variations and to cognate expressions of the word or expression so defined.'

<sup>4</sup> "administrative act" includes the issuing by a public authority of any order, licence, permit, warrant, decision, or a refusal to any demand of a claimant, but does not include any measure intended for internal organization or administration within the said authority:

Provided that, saving those cases where the law prescribes a period within which a public authority is required to make a decision, the absence of a decision of a public authority following a claimant's written demand served upon it, shall, after two months from such service, constitute a refusal for the purposes of this definition;

"public authority" means the Government of Malta, including its Ministries and departments, local authorities and any body corporate established by law.