For the Europe-wide protection of cash

Für den europaweiten Schutz des Bargelds

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EU trilogue: Campaign for equal treatment of cash and digital euro in 27 countries

Dear Mr Ligi,

The public judges politicians by their actions, not their words. The Parliament and the Council of Ministers have revised the European Commission's monetary package and each submitted a legislative proposal. The fact remains: The plans place cash at a serious disadvantage compared to the digital euro. Here are just a few examples:

- Children, adults and the elderly will no longer be able to get about using banknotes and coins. Cashless ticket machines and parking meters are rapidly increasing in number. Only the digital euro must be accepted by such machines.
- Banks charge exorbitant fees at cash machines – and this is set to remain the case; only the digital euro is to be free of charge, as desired by politicians.
- Many local authority offices already refuse cash, thereby demonstrating what the state thinks of its own currency.

Politicians are sending an unmistakable signal about where they want citizens to be: on their smartphones and using payment cards but not with notes and coins in their own hands. If you do not take countermeasures, you too will be consigning young and old alike to this cold, automated world. People are being replaced by machines, and in the next step, cash will fall victim to this trend. Rejection and mistrust of the digital euro are among the consequences and will slow its uptake. A representative survey by business psycho-logist Prof. Julia Pitters has already revealed that 72 per cent of Austrians fear a 'vampire effect' – the displacement of cash by the digital euro.

A means of payment is like a delicate little plant. It needs a good environment to thrive, and the nutrient cycle must function properly. What use is the acceptance of cash in staf-fed retail outlets if shopkeepers can barely get hold of change and find it difficult to deposit their takings at the bank? What benefit do citizens derive from cash acceptance if the nearest cash machine is 25 kilometres away? If the proposals put forward by the Council of Ministers and Parliament are adopted, cash will struggle to survive in the long term.

We will denounce the unequal treatment of cash and consistently put forward solutions. As Europe's largest citizens' movement for the protection of cash, we are going on the offensive with a video message. We present false statements made by politicians on video and highlight the harsh reality using negotiation documents and the resulting proposals from Parliament and the Council of Ministers. This message is now being sent to politicians, journalists and associations in 27 EU countries.

Go here to view the message

in English

in German

English: www.bargelderhalt.info/trilogue
German: www.bargelderhalt.info/trilog
Accompanying text: www.bargelderhalt.info/trilogue-sources

Dear Mr Ligi, 85 per cent of people want to be able to pay with cash everywhere. This is shown by a survey conducted by the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC). Please let us and the public know what you intend to do to ensure that cash is given a solid foundation in the trilogue negotiations and that the will of the people is unambiguously reflected in the regulation.

Yours faithfully

Hansjörg Stützle