

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2057/03
by Bartho Pronk (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: One and two eurocent coins

A scientific article which was recently published in the Netherlands¹ used Cramer's algorithm to demonstrate that a set of euro coins which did not include one and two cent coins was much more efficient for cash payment transactions than the current set of euro coins. According to the article, an efficient system for cash payment transactions is in the interests of consumers, shops, banks, industry and the Central Banks.

1. Does the Commission agree with the conclusion drawn in that article that a set of euro coins which did not include one and two cent coins would be much more efficient for cash payment transactions than the current set of coins? If not, what arguments can it use to defend its position, preferably by means of an econometric model as well?
2. In its answer to Written Question E-2574/02², the Commission states that 'the role of the one and two cent coins will essentially be determined by the behaviour of the European citizens'. How does the Commission measure that behaviour? Have any findings been published, in Finland or in other countries in the eurozone? When assessments are being made, is account taken of scientific conclusions such as those drawn in the article referred to above?

¹ Economische Statistische Berichten, 30 May 2003, No 4404, p. 248.

² OJ C