

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1499/05
by Marie-Line Reynaud (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Counterfeit euro notes

In its answer of 5 April 2005 to an earlier written question (E-0465/05) by the same author on the same subject, the Commission stated that counterfeit notes seized in 2004 represented a face value of EUR 35 million.

According to the report by Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, MEP, on designating Europol as the central office for combating euro counterfeiting, the European Central Bank withdrew from circulation counterfeit euro notes with a face value of € 44,801,510 in 2004. This is a substantial difference – 28% more for one and the same year!

Other sources of information mention larger sums, although the year 2004 has been over for nearly four months.

What is the truth about the amount of counterfeit euros in circulation in 2004?