

## News conference

Berne, 23 November 2005

### Introductory remarks

Niklaus Blattner, Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board

Allow me to begin by welcoming you all to today's news conference.

After reporting on the new banknote series earlier this year, on 2 February, we are pleased to announce that the preparatory work for a new banknote series is going ahead as planned. Although our current banknotes are still adequately protected against counterfeiting, we must nevertheless strive to remain one step ahead of technological developments. At the moment, we are focusing on the design of the new banknotes. At today's conference we will present the results of the competition for the artistic design of the banknotes. The jury made their selection from the eleven designs exhibited here. Unfortunately, one of the participants had to withdraw from the competition.

Although the Swiss National Bank still aims to bring the new banknotes into circulation from 2010, a great deal remains to be done between the design stage and the end product.

I would now like to give the floor to Mr Ammann, who, as chairman of the jury, will report on the different designs and the results of the competition, which are of course the focal point of today's conference.