

News conference

Berne, 23 November 2005

Remarks on further procedure

Roland Tornare, Director, Head of Cash

After acknowledging the jury's decision as to the result of the competition, the Governing Board of the National Bank will decide on the next steps by spring 2006. It is quite possible that more than one designer will be asked to further develop one of the banknotes. After evaluating their submissions, a decision will then be made as to which designer will be chosen to develop the entire series. The SNB is not bound by the jury's assessment.

For its decision, the Governing Board will take into consideration several criteria, including the technical requirements and the possibilities the designs allow for incorporating the new security technology.

In the coming years, we will therefore devote considerable time to the design of the new banknotes.

The projects concerning the new security features are going ahead on schedule. The new security technology allows us to ensure that the public can at any time easily verify the authenticity of our banknotes without any aids. Since we are dealing with new technologies, these projects will still require a few years of work.

No decision has been made with regard to the symbols for the vision-impaired, and activities are progressing in this area as well. We are currently assessing the technical implementation of different solutions and will contact the appropriate associations in due time.

According to our planning, the first banknotes should be ready for production in 2008 so that they can be put into circulation in 2010.

I would like to mention the public exhibition of the designs at the National Bank's Kaiserhaus Conference Centre, Amthausgasse 22 in Berne, 3rd floor. It is open to the public from 24 November to 2 December 2005 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. On Saturdays and Sundays, the exhibit closes at 4 p.m.