



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 7 June 2013

10614/13

**Interinstitutional File:
2013/0023 (COD)**

**DROIPEN 72
JAI 468
ECOFIN 494
UEM 187
GAF 28
CODEC 1353**

COVER NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
date of receipt:	24 May 2013
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Opinion of the Economic and Financial Committee

Delegations will find attached an Opinion from the Economic and Financial Committee on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of the euro and other currencies against counterfeiting by criminal law, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2000/383/JHA.

Encl.: Ares(2013) 1259925



24 May 2013

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Opinion of the EFC

The Economic and Financial Committee (EFC) welcomes the initiative undertaken by the Commission to modernize the current legislation on the protection of the euro and other currencies against counterfeiting by criminal law (COM/2013/42¹ replacing Council Framework Decision 2000/383/JHA of 29 May 2000²). It supports in particular the introduction of the following measures:

- 1) the improvement of the levels of sanctions, including standards for sanctions;
- 2) the investigative tools for serious counterfeiting offences which are in use for other organised crimes;
- 3) the obligation for transmission of suspected counterfeits to National Analysis Centres (NACs) and Coin National Analysis Centres (CNACs)³ during criminal proceedings.

This opinion shall be communicated to the Council in order to support this initiative which improves and amends the EU criminal legal framework beyond the current Framework Decision.

¹ The UK has decided not to opt-in to this directive in accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol (No 21) annexed to the Treaty on the European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The directive does therefore not apply to the UK.

² *OJ L 140, 14.6.2000, p. 1–3*

³ Council Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001 of 28 June 2001 laying down measures necessary for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting - *OJ L 181, 4.7.2001, p. 6–10*

