



Visit of the ECB president Jean-Claude Trichet in Bratislava



The European Central Bank (ECB) president Jean-Claude Trichet visited Bratislava on 21 and 22 September 2008. The reason of his visit were activities associated with the culmination of preparations for the introduction of the euro in the Slovak Republic.



On Sunday, 21 September, President Trichet symbolically unveiled a banner, a miniaturized version of a large eye-catcher placed on the central building of the National Bank of Slovakia, on which the motif of the best known common currency coin – 1 € – stands out. “We are displaying it with pride, because it symbolizes a historical event, which shifts us to a new era and becomes the symbol of a new image of Slovakia,” Ivan Šramko, the governor of the National Bank of Slovakia, said in his opening speech.

To mark this occasion, President Trichet handed over the sixteenth eurostar, the symbol of a new

Eurosystem member, to Ivan Šramko, the governor of the National Bank of Slovakia. He finished his speech with the words: “We very much look forward to welcoming Slovakia into the euro area.”

At the same time, the President of the ECB opened the Euro exhibition of the European Central Bank installed in the premises of the National Bank of Slovakia and accessible to the public until 15 January 2009 during working days from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The objective of the exhibition is to enhance the level of information of the public about the euro banknotes and coins and their security features.



Symbolic unveiling of a banner with a 1-euro coin motif



The eurostar symbolizes the membership of the National Bank in the Eurosystem



The inauguration of the Euro exhibition



From the Slovak koruna to the euro

On Monday, 22 September, President Trichet gave a speech at the international conference entitled the Slovakia Euro Changeover Conference, which had been organized by the government of the Slovak Republic and the National Bank of Slovakia with the support of the European Commission and the European Central Bank. The main objective of the conference was to increase the level of information and dialogue in issues associated with the adoption of the euro in Slovakia. In addition to ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet and NBS governor Ivan Šramko, the Slovak prime

minister Robert Fico, the euro commissioner for economic and monetary affairs Joaquin Almunia, the minister of finance of the Slovak Republic Ján Počiatek and other important foreign guests and domestic representatives of the public and private sphere held speeches at the conference.

The Slovak Republic is the fourth country of the new European Union member states to adopt the euro – exactly ten years following the introduction of the euro in the money market. Similar activities related to the accession of a country to the euro area have taken place in Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta.



NBS Governor Ivan Šramko and ECB President J.-C. Trichet at the conference



The conference was held in the historical rooms of Reduta



The governor of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank Ewald Nowotny spoke about experience with the euro introduction in Austria



A press conference was held during the conference

Photography: Pavel Kochan