

Piero Cipollone

Member of the Executive Board

Ms Aurore Lalucq
Chair of the Committee on Economic
and Monetary Affairs (ECON)
European Parliament
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Publication of the digital euro innovation platform report

Dear Chair, dear Ms Lalucq,

I am pleased to inform you that today we are publishing the report on the [digital euro innovation platform](#), which the ECB established as a means of collaborating with digital euro project stakeholders.

The ECB launched the innovation platform in October 2024¹. Today's report, which presents the findings from this collaboration and experimentation with almost 70 market participants – including merchants, fintech companies, start-ups, banks, academics, public sector organisations and payment service providers (PSPs) – highlights the digital euro's potential to foster innovation and financial inclusion.

Participants joined this initiative through two dedicated workstreams: the “pioneers” and the “visionaries”. The pioneers conducted technical experimentation, while the visionaries looked at innovative ideas and explored the long-term potential of the digital euro. The activities of both workstreams highlighted the importance of harmonised standards and how collaboration with the market can drive innovation and help shape the long-term vision for the digital euro.

¹ See “[Call for expressions of interest in innovation partnerships for the digital euro](#)”, *MIP News*, ECB, 31 October 2024.

Today's report presents the findings of the two workstreams. It describes the innovations and applications that the digital euro platform could enable. Among these, the digital euro would enable conditional payments for online shopping transactions. For example, funds could be released to sellers only after buyers have confirmed that an item has been delivered, ensuring greater consumer protection. Insurance reimbursements could be automated and, in the case of delayed services, refunds could be streamlined. For shared mobility services and public transport, conditional payments could enable tap-and-go transactions and automatically calculate the best available fare. These concepts were successfully tested in the simulated digital euro environment. Conditional payments were also tested in the context of business-to-business (B2B) payments, which typically involve larger amounts and more complex contractual agreements. It was found that the digital euro would help reduce fragmentation of and the costs associated with B2B payments, while bringing increased standardisation and liquidity.

Applications for integrating electronic receipts (e-receipts) into the digital euro ecosystem were also tested. This functionality could provide consumers with structured access to their purchase records, simplifying tasks such as item returns, warranty claims, expense reporting and personal budgeting. For merchants, e-receipts could significantly reduce operational costs and improve efficiency.

Another area explored was how the digital euro could improve inclusion and accessibility, for example through user-friendly features such as voice-controlled transactions, large-font displays, and guided onboarding processes. Tailored wallets for children could help them learn how to spend and save responsibly from a young age. Similarly, students could gain easier access to dedicated benefits and discounts.

The innovation platform has provided valuable insights into ways in which the digital euro could act as an enabler for PSPs to create new services, improving user experience and supporting unified solutions that work seamlessly across the euro area. Following the success of these partnerships and amid further demand from market participants, the ECB has decided to launch a second round of experimentation to maximise the potential for innovation of the digital euro. More details will be announced during the first half of 2026.

I would be grateful if you could share the report with members of the ECON Committee and I would like to express my appreciation for the exchange of views on the digital euro project earlier this month. The ECB continues to stand ready to provide technical expertise throughout the legislative discussions, and my colleagues and I would be glad to further engage with the negotiating team, to facilitate swift progress. I look forward to continuing our collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]