

Minutes

of the second meeting of the National Cash Forum on 20 November 2024

Meeting information

- Format: in-person meeting
- Location: at the premises of the Deutsche Bundesbank (Regional Office in Berlin and Brandenburg), Leibnizstrasse 10, 10625 Berlin
- Time: 09:00 to 12:00

Participants

Working Group on ATMs (<i>Arbeitsgemeinschaft Geldautomaten – AGG</i>)	– Mirko Siepmann
Association of German Banks (<i>Bundesverband deutscher Banken e.V. – BdB</i>)	– Kolja Gabriel – Jörg Schmiese
Association of German Cash Service Industry (<i>Bundesvereinigung Deutscher Geld- und Wertdienste e.V. – BDGW</i>)	– Michael Mewes – Andreas Paulick
National Association of German Cooperative Banks (<i>Bundesverband der Deutschen Volksbanken und Raiffeisenbanken e.V. – BVR</i>)	– Ralf-Christoph Arnoldt – Susann Lehniger
Deutsche Bundesbank (BBk)	– Burkhard Balz – Stefan Hardt – Ralph Rotzler – Jelena Stapf
German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (<i>Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer – DIHK</i>)	– Kathrin Andrae – Margarita Samarin
German Savings Banks Association (<i>Deutscher Sparkassen- und Giroverband e.V. – DSGV</i>)	– Joachim Schmalzl – Elke Vincke
German Retail Federation (<i>Handelsverband Deutschland e.V. – HDE</i>)	– Ulrich Binnebösel

Association of German Public Banks (<i>Bundesverband Öffentlicher Banken Deutschlands e.V. – VÖB</i>)	– Georg Baur
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Federation of German Consumer Organisations (<i>Verbraucherzentrale Bundesverband e.V. – vzbv</i>)	– Claudio Zeitz-Brandmeyer
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Guest: German Association of Cities and Municipalities (<i>Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund</i>)	– Florian Schilling
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Guest: European Central Bank	– Niels Riedel
Additional representatives of the Deutsche Bundesbank	– Holger Theßeling
	– Heike Wörlen
	– Marcel Hentschel
	– Lara Reiß

Agenda

- 1 Introduction and welcome address by Chair Burkhard Balz, Member of the Executive Board of the Deutsche Bundesbank, adoption of the agenda
- 2 Results of Working Group 1 “Coins”: Presentation of the results and decision on measures by the NCF
- 3 Results of Working Group 2 “Access to, attractiveness and acceptance of cash”: Presentation of the results and decision on measures by the NCF
- 4 Guest lecture on the state of play of the Single Currency Package from a European perspective
- 5 Any other business

Agenda item 1: Introduction and welcome address by Chair Burkhard Balz

Mr Balz welcomed the members to the second meeting of the National Cash Forum. Against the backdrop of the current payment behaviour study, he highlighted the need to advocate for the preservation of cash.

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

Agenda item 2: Results from Working Group 1 “Coins”

In the run-up to the meeting, the National Cash Forum’s position statement on the introduction of a rounding rule was agreed and distributed at the working level. This is to be forwarded to the Federal Ministry of Finance so that it can advocate in favour of a binding statutory rounding rule for 1 and 2 cent coins that is ideally applied uniformly across Europe.

It is agreed that:

1. Mr Balz, as Chair of the National Cash Forum, will immediately convey the positioning to the Federal Ministry of Finance.
2. Communication of the positioning statement will be postponed until after the Bundestag election.
3. The positioning statement of the National Cash Forum be brought to the attention of all negotiators of a potential coalition after the Bundestag election, possibly in the context of reducing bureaucracy.
4. Working Group 1 will compile initial FAQs on the rounding rule. If a European solution is foreseeable, it can serve as a basis for developing a communication strategy.

Agenda item 3: Results from Working Group 2 “Access to, attractiveness and acceptance of cash”

As a result of the activities of Working Group 2, the logo and landing page of the National Cash Forum will be presented. Roll-out of the website is agreed for 27 November 2024. An accompanying press release is to be drafted by the Bundesbank.

All members are asked to promote the landing page throughout the entire media landscape.

Agenda item 4: Guest lecture on the state of play of the Single Currency Package

Mr Riedel of the European Central Bank gave an overview of the state of play of the regulation on the legal tender status of euro cash. The reasons for the proposed cash regulation were explained, the main elements of the draft regulation were presented and the status quo was

reported on and put into a chronological context. The last meeting of the Council Working Party on the Legal Tender of Cash Regulation (LTCR) was also reported on. The presentation documents were already distributed after the meeting.

Agenda item 5: Any other business

- 1 Participants were informed of institutions submitting several requests for membership (German Association of Cities and Municipalities and the Central Association of the German Pawnbroking Industry (*Zentralverband des Deutschen Pfandkreditgewerbes e.V.*)). It is expected that further requests to join the NCF will be submitted once the abovementioned landing page has been rolled out. Decisions on all requests are to be taken by written procedure over the course of 2025.
- 2 The proposal to switch to an annual meeting frequency is adopted. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Berlin on Wednesday, 12 November 2025, from 09:00 to 12:00.