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**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
BANK OF ALBANIA  
SUPERVISORY COUNCIL**

**DECISION  
No. 42, dated 4.08.2021**

**APPROVAL  
OF THE REGULATION “CONCERNING MEDALS AND TOKENS SIMILAR TO EURO  
COINS”**

In accordance with Article 12 (a), Article 43 (c), and Chapter V of the Law No. 8269, dated 23/12/1997 “On the Bank of Albania”, as amended, having regard to the proposal from the Issue Department, the Supervisory Council of the Bank of Albania,

**DECIDED:**

1. To approve the Regulation “Concerning medals and tokens similar to euro coins”, thereof.
2. The Issue Department at the Bank of Albania, and the entities involved in the production, import, sale and/or distribution of medals and tokens in the Republic of Albania are responsible for the implementation of this Decision.
3. The Research Department is responsible for the publication of this Decision in the Official Bulletin of the Bank of Albania.
4. The Governor's Office is responsible for publishing this Decision in the Official Journal of the Republic of Albania.

This Decision shall enter into force 15 (fifteen) days after its publication in the Official Journal of the Republic of Albania.

**SECRETARY**

**CHAIR**

**Elvis ÇIBUKU**

**Gent SEJKO**

## **CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 1 Subject matter**

This Regulation lays down the technical criteria for the production, import, sale and/or distribution of medals and tokens similar to euro coins.

### **Article 2 Legal grounds**

This regulation is issued pursuant to:

- a) Article 12 (a), Article 43 (c), and Chapter V of the Law No. 8269, dated 23.12.1997 “On the Bank of Albania”, as amended;
- b) Article 70, paragraph 1, and Article 85 of the Law No. 9590, dated 27.07.2006, “On the Rectification of “The Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part (the “EU-Albania Agreement”)”.

### **Article 3 Scope of application**

This Regulation shall apply on banks, branches of foreign banks and non-bank financial institutions, being granted a license to carry out the banking and/or financial activity in the Republic of Albania, as well on economic operators involved in the production, import, sale and/or distribution of medals and tokens for other commercial purposes.

### **Article 4 Definitions**

1. For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:
  - a) ‘euro’ means the legal currency of participating Member States and of those participating third countries which have concluded an agreement with the Community on the introduction of the euro;
  - b) ‘euro symbol’ means the symbol representing the euro ‘€’ as shown and described in Annex I, thereof;
  - c) ‘medals and tokens’ means those metallic objects, other than blanks intended for striking coins, which have the appearance and/or technical properties of a coin, but which are neither a legal means of payment nor legal tender;
  - d) ‘gold’, ‘silver’ and ‘platinum’ mean alloys containing gold, silver and platinum with a millesimal fineness in weight of at least 375, 500 and 850 respectively;
  - e) ‘reference band’ shall have the meaning given to it in Section 1 of Annex II, attached therein and integral part of this Regulation;

- f) “economic operators”- shall mean natural or legal persons involved in the production, import, sale and/or distribution of medals and tokens for other commercial purposes.

## **Chapter II**

### **RULES FOR MEDALS AND TOKENS**

#### **Article 5**

##### **Prohibiting technical criteria**

1. The production, import, sale, and/or distribution of medals and tokens similar to euro coins, and their importation, shall be prohibited in the following circumstances:
  - a) when the terms ‘euro’ or ‘euro cent’ or the euro symbol appear on their surface;
  - b) when their size is inside the reference band; or
  - c) when a design appearing on their surface is similar to
    - i. any design, or parts thereof, appearing on the surface of euro coins, including in particular the terms ‘euro’ or ‘euro cent’, the 12 stars of the European Union, the image of the geographical representation and the numerals, in the way depicted on euro coins; or
    - ii. those symbols representative of national sovereignty of Member States, as depicted on euro coins, including in particular the effigies of the Head of State, the coat of arms, the Mint marks, the Mint master marks, the name of the Member State;
    - iii. the edge shape or the edge design of euro coins; or
    - iv. the euro symbol.
2. The Bank of Albania shall collaborate with the European Technical and Scientific Centre (ETSC) at the European Commission, as the competent authority for this purpose, to specify the medals and tokens similar to euro coins.
3. The Bank of Albania, in compliance with paragraph 1 of this Article, shall submit at ETSC, all the metallic objects, that fall in its ownership, whenever concluding in advance, that these objects are similar and may be mistaken for genuine euro coins. The ETSC shall provide the final opinion whether these objects can be regarded as medals or tokens similar to euro coins.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Exemptions**

1. Medals and tokens bearing the terms ‘euro’ or ‘euro cent’ or the euro symbol shall not be prohibited when the following criteria are met:
  - a) they are without an associated nominal value,

- b) their size is outside the reference band, referred to in paragraph 1 of Annex II, attached and integral part of this Regulation; and
  - c) unless a design similar to one of the elements referred to in Article 5 (1) (c) of this Regulation appears on their surface.
2. Medals and tokens whose size is inside the reference band shall not be prohibited when one of the following criteria is met:
- a) they are pierced with a hole of over 6 millimetres in the centre, or when their shape is polygonal but not exceeding six edges, provided the condition under point (c)(ii) is respected; or
  - b) they are made of gold or silver or platinum; or
  - c) when they fulfil the following conditions:
    - i. the combinations of diameter and edge height of medals and tokens are consistently outside the ranges defined in each of the cases specified in Section 2 of Annex II, attached and integral part of this Regulation; and
    - ii. the combinations of diameter and metal properties of medals and tokens are consistently outside the ranges defined in each of the cases specified in Section 3 of Annex II, attached and integral part of this Regulation.

### **Chapter III OTHER**

#### **Article 7 Reporting on the existing medals and tokens**

1. Medals and tokens imported or produced before the entry into force of this Regulation that do not satisfy the technical criteria set out in this Regulation may continue to be used until the end of the year 2022, at the latest.
2. Entities which use medals and tokens either imported or produced before the entry into force of this Regulation, shall submit at the Bank of Albania, on a yearly basis, the report containing:
  - a) name of medals and/or tokens producer;
  - b) number of distributed medals and/or tokens;
  - c) complete technical specifications accompanied by two views of the medal or token's both sides;
  - d) places of their use;
3. In the first report referred to in paragraph 2, a specification of tokens and/or medals shall be included as well.
4. The first report, coinciding with year 2021, shall be reported no later than 31 January 2022, and the last report for 2022 no later than 31 January 2023.

## **Article 8**

### **Implementation of regulatory requirements and measures on infringements**

1. Where the Bank of Albania concludes or is informed on any infringement of the requirements set out in this Regulation, it shall require to entities to submit the relevant samples of either the token or coin to determine if they are similar and may be mistaken by the general public for a genuine euro coin.
2. Where the Bank of Albania assesses the metallic objects are similar to euro coins, it shall request to relevant entities to interrupt the production, import, sale and distribution of these objects.
3. In event of failure to implement the measures as referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article by the entities, subject to this Regulation, the Bank of Albania shall refer the case to the relevant law enforcement agencies.

## **Article 9**

### **Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force 15 days after its publication in the Official Journal of the Republic of Albania.

### **Chair of the Supervisory Council**

**GENT SEJKO**

## ANNEX I

Appearance of the EURO symbol



## ANNEX II

### 1. Definition of the reference band

- a) The reference band for the size of medals and tokens is the set of combinations between the values for diameter and values for edge height included in the reference range for diameter and the reference range for edge height respectively.
- b) Reference range for diameter is the one between 19,00 millimetres and 28,00 millimetres.
- c) Reference range for edge height is the one included between 7,00 % and 12,00 % of each value within the reference range for diameter.

### 2. The combinations of diameter and edge height of medals and tokens

Defined ranges		
	Diameter (mm)	Edge height (mm)
1	19.45-20,05	1.63-2,23
2	21.95-22,55	1.84-2,44
3	22.95-23,55	2.03-2,63
4	23.95-24,55	2.08-2,68
5	25.45-26,05	1.90-2,50

### 3. The combinations of diameter and metal properties of medals and tokens

	Diameter	Metal properties
1	19.00-21,94	Electrical conductivity between 14,00% and 18,00% IACS
2	21.95-24,55	Electrical conductivity between: - 14,00% and 18,00% IACS; or - 4,50% and 6,50% IACS, unless the medal or token is of single alloy and its magnetic moment is outside the range from 1,0 $\mu$ Vs.cm to 7,0 $\mu$ Vs.cm
3	24.56-26,05	Electrical conductivity between: - 15,00% and 18,00% IACS; or - 00% and 15,00% IACS, unless the medal or token is of single alloy and its magnetic moment is outside from 1,0 $\mu$ Vs.cm to 7,0 $\mu$ Vs.cm
4	26.06-28,00	Electrical conductivity between 13,00% and 15,00% IACS, unless the medal or token is of single alloy and its magnetic moment is outside from 1,0 $\mu$ Vs.cm to 7,0 $\mu$ Vs.cm

#### 4. Graphical representation of definitions in Annex II:

