



Think Green

60 years of Europa Stamps

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History– 60 years Europa stamps

- The history of our stamps goes back to 1952
- The first Europa stamps were issued on 15 September 1956 (6 countries: Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands; a total of 13 stamps). The common design was made by French artist, Daniel Gonzague, a tower formed by the 6 letters of the Latin word for Europe: Europa.



History – 60 years Europa stamps

- During summer 1959 in Switzerland, a conference with 23 European postal administrations took place and the "Conférence des postes et télécommunications (CEPT)" was born.
- The first official Europa CEPT issue in 1960. 20 countries issued a total of 36 stamps. The common design was a Roman mail-coach wheel with 19 spokes designed by Finnish artist Pentti Rahikainen.



History – 60 years Europa stamps

- In 1965, the design was three leaves, designed by Icelandic artist Hörður Karlsson (19 countries; 36 stamps). The three leaves represent Post, Telegraph & Telephone.
- In 1969, CEPT celebrated its 10th anniversary. It was an occasion for many countries to issue Europa stamps once again (26 countries; 48 stamps).



History – 60 years Europa stamps

- In the seventies CEPT felt that the Europa stamps collectors began to tire of all those similar designs. In 1970, they decided to allow each country to issue one stamp without the common design.
- In 1973, the last common design, a stylized post horn, was created by Norwegian artist Leif Frimann Anisdahl (24 countries; 50 stamps). The three arrows are said to represent CEPT's primary objectives: post, telegraph and telephone services.



History – 60 years Europa stamps

- In 1974, a common theme replaced the common design system which had been in use since 1956. Only the CEPT logo on each stamp indicates that the stamp is an Europa stamp.
- In 1984, (35 countries, 67 stamps) CEPT celebrated its 25th anniversary. A common design was used to celebrate this event. The common design was a bridge designed by French engraver Jacky Larrivière.



History – 60 years Europa stamps

- The Iron Curtain fell in 1989. In 1991, (40 countries and 83 stamps) the first countries (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania) that had been behind the Iron Curtain some years before took part in issuing Europa stamps
- 1992 was the last year for the CEPT logo on Europa stamps.
- In 1993, CEPT decided to concentrate on telecommunication issues only and the coordination of issuing Europa stamps issues was transferred to PostEurop (the Association of European Public Postal Operators).



History – 60 years Europa stamps

- 1993 (45 countries; 92 stamps) was the first year with the new Europa logo
- In 2000, (55 countries ; 68 stamps), PostEurop celebrated the new millennium with a common theme. The designer was French artist Jean-Paul Cousin. The design showed a tower of six stars built up by children on a green field with the letter E of Europe on it.

EUROPA



History – 60 years Europa stamps

- In 2006, Europa stamps celebrated their 50th anniversary. Many countries around the globe decided to celebrate this event by issuing stamps, but strangely enough very few European countries did, and none of the 6 countries, which issued the first Europa stamps in 1956.
- A new Europa logo was introduced in 2011. 
- In 2016, we celebrate the 60th anniversary with a joint theme
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- Proposal from the PE Stamp & Philately SG
- In spring 2013 decision taken by the PostEurop Management Board
- Information to the members, timetable, rules for the competition
- National competitions and proposals to PostEurop December 2014
- Early 2015 all 24 proposals sent to the members for voting
- Every member postal administration to select its 3 favourites. The favourite is rated 3 points, the second 2 point and the third 1 point

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- PostEurop compiled the points and the winner was Cyprus, Doxia Sergidou
- Agreement with the artist, copyright
- Each country received the artwork and could start their production of the EUROPA stamp 2016.
- Criteria for how to use the image
 - You have to issue the joint motif to be able to issue a second Think Green stamp.
 - Free to issue in all different kind of sheets and sheetlets
 - Available to customers as single stamps.
 - Additional products free for the members to create.

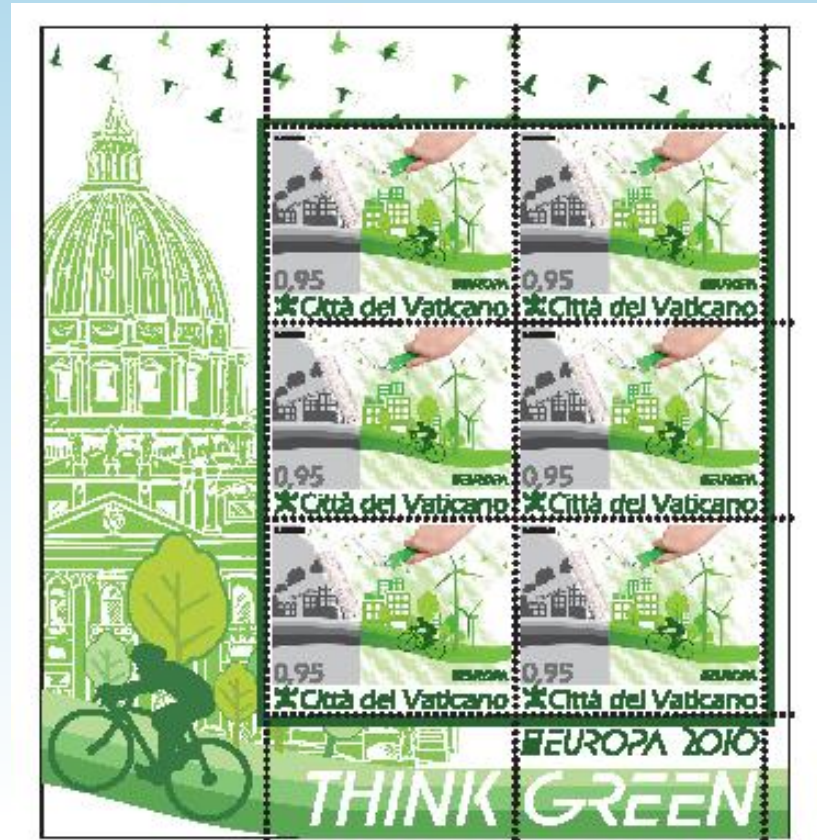
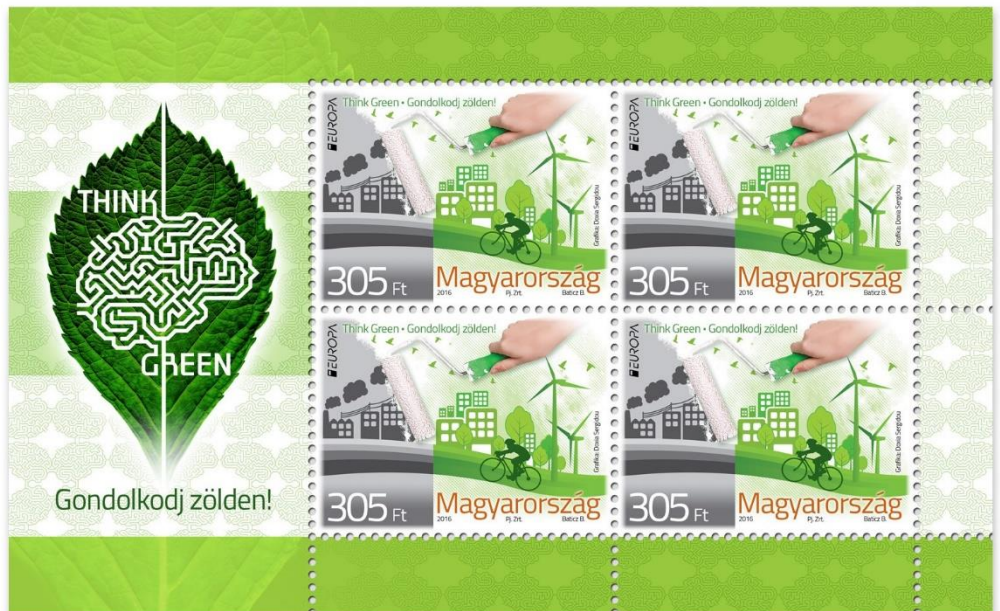
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- 57 Think Green issues with the joint motif
- 4 Posts have declined to join the project (UK, Russia, Turkey, Greenland)
- 1 Post – issued only their own motif, but not (yet) the joint motif
- Several (31) administrations issue also a second Europa stamp – often the national proposal to the competition
- So far one area with Think Green joint motif with no right to the image and logo

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Unauthorised issues



Summary- lessons learned

- Timetable that suits everybody
- Clear rules
- Updated list of contacts
- Continuous information to members
- Information from members to PostEurop
- Motivation
- Don't give up – just do it.
- **SUCCESS**



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