

News conference

Zurich, 11 December 2008

Introductory remarks by Philipp Hildebrand

Preparations for the new series of banknotes running according to plan

As announced, I would like to close with a more cheerful topic that is unrelated to the financial crisis. A number of you will remember the SNB's artistic design competition for a new series of Swiss banknotes, which was held in 2005. Since then, design work has continued and the technical requirements for the creation of an innovative series of new banknotes have now been fulfilled.

Manuela Pfrunder, the graphic artist, has further developed her drafts and completed the design for the CHF 50 note, taking the technical aspects of banknote production into account. At its meeting of 29 August 2008, the SNB Bank Council approved the design of the new CHF 50 banknote and gave the go-ahead for the further work that is to be done.

Preparations for the technical aspects of implementation of banknote production are now in full swing. A particular challenge is posed by the security features that will be used in the new banknote series for the first time. Based on the progress of work to date, the SNB is confident that the first banknote in the new series will be ready for production within the planned time period. The CHF 50 banknote will mark the beginning of the new series of banknotes and is scheduled to be issued in autumn 2010. The appearance of the new banknote and the security details for the entire series will be presented shortly before the scheduled issue date.