

The Bundesbank's 50th anniversary – Stable currency for Germany and Europe –

The Deutsche Bundesbank is celebrating its anniversary. Tomorrow, on 1 August, the central bank of the Federal Republic of Germany will be able to look back on 50 years of successful commitment to a stable currency, a crisis-proof financial system, efficient payment systems and a secure cash supply. On 26 July 1957, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany signed the Bundesbank Act (*Gesetz über die Deutsche Bundesbank*), which amalgamated the Bank deutscher Länder with the legally autonomous Land Central Banks. Just six days later, the newly established Deutsche Bundesbank began its work in Frankfurt am Main.

Maintaining a stable currency – that is the task of the Deutsche Bundesbank. Between 1948 and 1998, with an average inflation rate of 2.8%, the D-Mark was more stable than the currencies of most other industrial countries. The Bundesbank's independence was and remains one of the most important requirements for its successful stability policy.

The stability mandate for the D-Mark has, since 1999, lived on in the euro. Bundesbank President, Professor Axel A Weber, who, as a member of the ECB Governing Council, decides on euro area monetary policy, makes an extremely positive appraisal of the Bank over the past 50 years, "Safeguarding monetary stability was the task of the Bundesbank during the D-Mark era, a task which it fulfilled at all times in a steadfast, focused and successful manner. Now too, as a member of the Eurosystem, monetary stability remains the Bundesbank's paramount objective since a stable currency benefits everyone."

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Implementing the Eurosystem's monetary policy measures in Germany is the task of the Deutsche Bundesbank. The Bundesbank refinances the banks resident in Germany and supplies the economy with cash. It is responsible for payments and administers the national foreign reserve assets. Since its foundation, the Bundesbank has also been involved in banking supervision. Here, the Bank pays particular attention to the stability of financial institutions and of the financial system as a whole. Furthermore, it advises the Federal Government on matters of economic policy.

The fact that the Bundesbank can look back on 50 successful years is a cause for us to celebrate. With "50 years of stable currency for Germany and Europe" as its motto, the Bundesbank would like to invite all members of the general public to the community events being held at the Bundesbank's nine regional offices, where they will have the opportunity to learn about the Bundesbank and its role in the Eurosystem.

More information at:

<http://www.bundesbank.de/50jahre/50jahre.en.php>