

EUROPA 1991 ISSUE

Date of issue	March 16, 1991
Values	10c and 35c
Stamp Size	27mm x 33mm
Art Designer	Richard J Caruana
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	13.9 x 13.8
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	PVA

Colours

This set was produced in multicolours using the same four colours for each value.

Designs

The 10c stamp shows Eurostar, the latest generation of space satellite built by British Aerospace of UK and Matra Espace of France, planned for sixty years of orbit life.

The 35c stamp depicts the two principal forms of space vehicles of European design and construction. On the left is Ariane 4, the French space launcher and in the centre Hotol, which is Britain's latest contribution to space research.

The 10c and 35c stamps are of the vertical format, and a Pane of ten stamps, of each value, is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. A similar design can

be seen in the first space of the top row and in the first space of the second row, in Panes of both values. In these two spaces the design consists of a line drawing of the spacecraft Eurostar, the CEPT symbol, Europa '91 and a map of Europe.

The value of a whole Pane of stamps is seen in the middle of the top margin of each Pane, of both values, printed in black.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter, are seen in the left hand margin of each Pane, of both values, next to the first stamp of the bottom row. The colours from top to bottom correspond to the colours used for Pane Numbers, from left to right, in all Panes, of both values.

The Printed Sheet of each value, consisted of nine Panes of ten stamps A to I.

Plate/Pane Numbers

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values:

10c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1I x 4.

35c = 1A x 4 up to and including 1I x 4.

Perforation of Margins

The top margins of Panes A, B and C of both values are imperforate, whilst the other three margins of these same Panes are perforated. The four margins of Panes D to I, of both values, are also perforated. If cutting or registration marks were seen, these would be at the bottom left hand corner of Panes G and at the bottom right hand corner of Panes I, in both values.

PANE "A" → wmk	PANE "B" → wmk	PANE "C" → wmk
PANE "D" → wmk	PANE "E" → wmk	PANE "F" → wmk
PANE "G" → wmk	PANE "H" → wmk	PANE "I" → wmk

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value, before cutting into Panes would look as shown in the figure. Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown, stamps of both values would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark is sideways in both values. Perforator ran from top to bottom.

Imprint Blocks

The Imprint "Printex Limited Malta" is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row, in each Pane, of both values. Letters are 1mm high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will not include the colour checks. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. A line drawing of Ariane 4 is also included in the postmark. This set will remain on sale up to Tuesday, March 10, 1992 unless stocks are previously exhausted.

Up to 12.45pm on the first day of issue, sales amounted to Lm104,475.