

Date of Issue	9th. April 1988
Values	10c and 35c
Stamp Size	26.5mm × 35mm
Art Designer	Freddie Fenech
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	13.45 × 13.5
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

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

Designs:

The theme chosen by CEPT this year is “Means of Transport and Communication”. This eighteenth set of the Europa series, is being issued in the usual form of small Panes of ten stamps.

The 10c stamp features land, sea and air transport.

The 35c stamp depicts modern means of communication.

Both stamps are of the vertical format and each Pane of ten stamps is divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four.

In the first space of the top row, of both values, can be seen the word “Europa”, the CEPT emblem and 1988. In the second space of the top row, of the 10c value, can be seen a close up view of part of the same stamp and the word “Trasport”, meaning “Transport”. In the same space, of the 35c value, can be seen a satellite antenna and the word “Komunikazzjoni” meaning “Communication”.

The value of a whole Pane of stamps is seen in the middle of the top margin, printed in blue in the 10c value and printed in black in the 35c value.

Colour checks in the form of coloured discs 3mm in diameter, are seen in the right hand margin of each Pane, next to the last 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 twelve Panes, A to L.

Plate/Pane numbers:

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

10c 1A × 4 up to and including 1L × 4.

35c 1A × 4 up to and including 1L × 4.

Perforation of Margins

The top margins of Panes A, B, C and D are imperforate in both values. The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of these same Panes are all fully perforated. All margins of Panes E to L, are also fully perforated.

Registration marks in the form of a circle in an ellipse, crossed by two lines at right angles, was seen in the top right hand margin of Pane D of 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.	PANE "J" → WMK.	PANE "K" → WMK.	PANE "L" → WMK.

From a study of details given, the Printed Sheet of each value before cutting into Panes, would have looked as shown on left, the perforator running from top to bottom.

Looking at the Printed Sheet as shown stamps of both values, would be seen the right way up, hence why watermark in individual stamps is sideways.

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 blue in the 10c value and printed in black in the 35c value. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks.

A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. It is inscribed "Europa '88 - L-Ewwel Jum Tal-Hrug - 9-4-88 - Malta" and the name of the respective locality. A line drawing of a bus and a satellite antenna is also incorporated in the postmark. This set will remain on sale up to Wednesday , 7th. December, 1988, unless stocks are previously exhausted.

By 12.45pm on the first day of issue sales amounted to Lm77,950.

A postal card, incorporating the 10c and 35c, Europa 1988 stamps, also designed by Freddie Fenech, commemorating the participation of the Malta Post Office in the Holland Europa 88/Filacept International Philatelic Exhibition, which is to be held in The Hague, will be for sale from the 18 to 23 October, 1988.

The postal card will be available during this period, either in mint condition or cancelled with a special postmark, inscribed, "Post Office - Malta - 18 - 23.X.88 - Filacept - Holland Europa 88".

The emblem of Malta and the postal horn are also incorporated in the postmark.