

Europa 1986 Issue

Date of issue.....	3rd. April, 1986.
Values	8c and 35c
Stamp Size.....	31mm x 44mm
Art Designer	Maurice Tanti Burlò
Printers	Printex Limited.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	14 x 13.9
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Upright.
Paper	Chalk Surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.
Colours:	

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

Designs:

The theme chosen by CEPT for this year's Europa stamps is "Protection of Nature and the Environment". This sixteenth set of the Europa series, is being issued in the usual form of small Panes of ten stamps.

The 8c stamps features three of the most common butterflies which breed in the Maltese islands – Vanessa cardui (Painted Lady), Vanessa atalanta (Red Admiral) and Polyommatus icarus (Common Blue).

The 35c stamp represents the basic elements which make up our environment – earth, air, fire and water – which exist in harmony with one another, and man's mark on the environment is symbolized by the Neolithic frieze across the islet of Filfla.

Both values are of the vertical format and each Pane of ten stamps is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. In the first space of the top row, in both values, the CEPT emblem and "Europa 1986", can be seen, printed in gold on the 8c Panes and in silver on the 35c Panes. In the first space of the second row, the whole space is occupied by the same design of a butterfly, in both values, printed in Black.

The value of a whole Pane of stamps is seen in the top margin, above the middle stamp, printed in Black.

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 top 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 six Panes of ten stamps, A to F.

Plate/Pane numbers:

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

8c = 1A x 5 up to and including 1F x 5.

35c = 1A x 5 up to and including 1F x 5.

Perforation of Margins:

The left hand margins of Panes A and D, of both values, are imperforate, whilst the left hand margins of Panes B, C, E and F are fully perforated. The top, bottom and right hand margins of all Panes A to F, in both values are also fully perforated.