

EUROPA 1977 ISSUE

Date of Issue	5th. July 1977.
Values	7c and 20c.
Stamp Size	43mm x 21.5mm.
Art Designer	George Fenech.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process	Lithography.
Perforation	13.35 x 13.75 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing sideways.
Paper	Chalk surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

The colour of these stamps was produced by the four colour process.

Designs:—

The subjects of the two designs, featuring “Ta’ I-Isperanza” (7c) and “Is-Salini” (20c) — two localities in Malta, have been selected in conformity with the guide-lines given by the Conference of European Postal and Telecommunications Administrations for 1977.

This is the seventh Europa Set, and has again been issued in small Panes of ten stamps. Except for the first issue in 1971, which was issued in normal sheets of 60 stamps, all the rest from 1972 to date have been produced in sheetlets of ten stamps. (I wonder if its about time that these Europa issues are produced in the normal way, in Panes of 50 stamps, like any other issue).

Both values are of the horizontal format. Each Pane is divided into twelve spaces, four rows of three. The first space of the tow row, is used for the wording, “EUROPA 1977”. The first space of the second row is used to describe the design of the stamp and also shows the C.E.P.T. symbol. The value of a whole Pane of ten stamps is seen in the top margin above the middle stamp.

Colour checks, in the form of four coloured discs, 3mm in diameter, are seen on each Pane, in the right hand margin, 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, on all Panes of both values. This last statement is not strictly true because the third colour (magenta) from the top, in the colour checks, is missing in the Pane numbers, on all Panes of both values. This is the first time since Printex have been producing Malta stamps that all the colours in the colour checks are not seen again in the Plate/Pane numbers.

There are nine Panes of ten stamps, to each Printed Sheet of each value.

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row. As stated earlier, only three colours are seen instead of four, even though space seems to have been provided for the missing colour.

7c = 1A x 3 up to and including 1I x 3.










20c = 1A x 3 up to and including 1I x 3.

Perforation of Margins:—

The top margin of Panes “A”, “B”, and “C” of both values are imperforate. The top margins of all Panes from “D” to “I” are perforated in both values.

(Contd. on next page)

(Contd. from previous page)

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. 

The left hand, right hand and bottom margins of all Panes from "A" to "I" in both values are perforated. From the information given, the Printed Sheet before cutting would have looked as shown on left. This is similar to the setting used in the Europa 1976 issue.

Imprint Blocks:—

The Imprint, "PRINTEX LIMITED MALTA", in letters 1mm high, is seen under the last stamp of the bottom row.

A special hand-postmark inscribed with the date, "5.VII.77" and the words "LEWWEL JUM TAL-ĦRUG", "MALTA" and the name of the respective locality was used on the first day of issue. The emblem of the C.E.P.T. also featured on the postmark.

On the first day of issue sales amounted to £M216,371 which compares very favourably with last year's Europa set.