**The purpose and conditions of the introduction of the euro**

SLIDE 2

The euro has been ringing in European pockets since 2002. The euro coins and banknotes substitute the former national currencies like Deutschmark, lira, drachma and the others.

There are 8 types of coins in circulation. There are 1-and 2-euro-, as well as 50-, 20-, 10-, 5-, 2- and 1- cent- coins.

7 types of banknotes were put in circulation on January 2002: the 5-, 10-, 20-, 50-, 100-, 200-, 500- euro.

The two parallel lines in the sign are a sign of equality, and it wants to express the hope that the euro will be a stable value currency.

SLIDE 3

1) Larger choice and stabilization for consumers and citizens

2) Larger security and more opportunities for businesses and markets.

3) Greater economic stability and growth.

4) More integrated financial markets.

5) A stronger EU presence in the world economy.The euro as the tangible symbol of the European identity.

SLIDE 4

Criteria for the introduction of the euro:

1) The inflation rate may not exceed the average inflation rate of the three countries with the lowest indicators of the inflation rate by more than 1.5%.

2) The annual budget deficit does not exceed 3% of GDP and gross state debt does not exceed 60% of GDP

3) The country concerned must enter the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

4) The interest rate on long-term loans in the one-year reference period cannot be more than 2% higher than the average interest rate on government loans of the three Member States with the lowest inflation indicators. This value is currently 6%.