

EUROPA 1989

by J. Farrugia

Date of Issue	6th May, 1989
Values	10c and 35c
Stamp Size	26.4mm x 35mm
Art Designer	Ray Gauci
Printers	Printex Limited
Process	Lithography
Perforation	13.5 x 13.5
Watermark	Maltese Crosses Sideways
Paper	Chalk Surfaced
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:

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

Designs:

The 10c stamp features two boys holding a kite.

The 35c stamp depicts two girls playing with a doll.

The 10c value stamp is 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 can be seen two boys holding a kite and the CEPT emblem, and in the second space of the same row, the words "Europa 1989".

The 35c value stamp is also of the vertical format, and each Pane of ten stamps is also divided into twelve spaces, three rows of four. In the first space of the top row can be seen, two girls playing with dolls and the CEPT emblem and in the second space of the same row, the words "Europa 1989".

The value of the 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 right hand margin of each Pane, of both values, 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 of ten stamps 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 x 4 up to and including 1L x 4

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

Perforation of Margins

The top margins of Panes ABC and D of both values are imperforate, whilst the other three margins of these same Panes are fully perforated. The four margins of Panes E to L, of both values are also fully perforated. No registration marks were seen on any of the Panes.

PANE 'A' → WKM.	PANE 'B' → WKM.	PANE 'C' → WKM.	PANE 'D' → WKM.
PANE 'E' → WKM.	PANE 'F' → WKM.	PANE 'G' → WKM.	PANE 'H' → WKM.
PANE 'I' → WKM.	PANE 'J' → WKM.	PANE 'K' → WKM.	PANE 'L' → WKM.

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.

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 also include the colour checks. A special Handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. A line drawing of a doll and a kite and a church in the background, is also incorporated in the postmark.

This set remained on sale up to Monday, 2nd April, 1990. First day sales up to 12.45pm amounted to Lm110,222.

A postal card incorporating these two Europa stamps, also designed by Ray Gauci, was issued on 7th July, 1989 (See Malta-A Diary), to commemorate the participation of the Malta Post Office in the Philex-france '89 World Stamp Exhibition. This postal card was available for sale either in mint condition or cancelled with a special postmark.