

EACT

Monthly Report on Regulatory Issues

Date issued: 1 September 2014









Hrvatska udruga korporativnih rizničara Croatian Association of Corporate Treasurers































This report has been designed for, and with the support of, the above National Treasury Associations. Its purpose is to provide information about European financial regulation impacting corporate treasurers.

Despite all efforts, some information in this report could contain errors or be subject to interpretation. The EACT or National Treasury Associations should not be held liable.

Any comment or opinion in this report is that of the EACT alone and should not be taken as representing the views of either individual National Treasury Associations or of any of the individual companies with which the EACT discusses regulatory affairs.



Executive Summary

Topic and summary of content and EACT position	Latest developments
 European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR): Regulation to push derivatives trading on exchanges Corporates' hedging transactions exempted from clearing obligation but subject to reporting, portfolio reconciliation, portfolio compression and dispute resolution obligations 	 The topic of FX spot/forward delineation has not reached an outcome yet and the Commission is no longer expected to issue an implementing act to harmonise the timelines across the EU. ESMA is now expected to decide how to take the issue forward. ESMA has started the first round of consultations on the asset classes subject to the clearing obligation.
 Money Market Funds (MMF) Regulation: European Commission proposal to regulate MMFs includes e.g. a mandatory capital buffer for CNAV funds, ban on external credit ratings and limitations to instruments in which MMFs can invest in The proposal was adopted by the Commission in September 2013. The Parliament was unable to agree on its position under the previous legislature, therefore work on the file will have to start again. A new Rapporteur will have to be assigned for the file as the previous one (El Khadraoui) was not re-elected. EACT position concentrates on the importance of ensuring the availability MMFs (both CNAV and VNAV) and arguing against the ban of credit ratings 	 In the US, SEC adopted their measures for MMFs which include mandating VNAV structure on certain funds and also the possible use of redemption gates and fees. In the EU, the Parliament should start the discussion on the file in the autumn and appoint a new Rapporteur for the file.
Financial Transaction Tax (FTT): • A proposal to tax a large variety of equity and bond transactions in 11 EU Member States under the 'enhanced cooperation' approach	Discussions are on-going following the May announcement to arrive to an agreement by the end of the year; however the discussions seem



OF CORPORATE TREASURERS	
 The proposal has been subject to widespread criticism (including its legality) and it is expected that should an FTT be implemented at any stage, it would be much more restricted in scope than originally proposed EACT strongly opposed as FTT amounts to a tax on the real economy 	not to have reached any concrete outcome for the moment.
 Financial Benchmark Regulation: Proposal of the Commission to regulate the administration and the contribution to financial benchmarks Would impose mandatory contributions to certain benchmarks (EURIBOR and LIBOR) and would impose liability for those contributions in certain cases EACT position will underline the importance of contract continuity and coherence of EU action with international developments 	 FSB published its recommendations on the review of interest rate benchmarks. The recommendations include enhancing LIBOR and EURIBOR towards more market data-based benchmarks but also the development of new benchmarks.
Proposal of the Commission to ban proprietary trading and to have the possibility of separating banks' other trading activities into a separate entity; separation would not be automatically forced but bank supervisors would have to decide case by case. The planned Regulation would only apply to the biggest banks.	 Reportedly several Member States have reservations about many key aspects of the Commission proposal, such as the ban on proprietary trading. EACT position paper has been finalised.

Note: For ease of reading, updates compared to the previous report are in bold font.



OTC Derivatives - European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR)		
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position
EMIR was adopted on 4 July 2012 and entered into force on 16 August 2012. It requires the central clearing of all standardised OTC derivatives contracts, margins for non-centrally cleared contracts and the reporting of all derivatives contracts to trade repositories. EMIR contains different start dates for the various obligations and the obligations for NFC- (portfolio compression, trade reporting) are already in place. On 18 March 2014 ESMA authorised the first CCP for the clearing obligation, which kick-starts the countdown to the start of the clearing obligation. ESMA has six months, until 18 September 2014, to submit the RTSs on the clearing obligation for Commission approval.	 Consultations: ESMA launched consultations on draft RTSs for central clearing of interest rate swaps and credit default swaps. Consultation on IRS closed on 18 August (responses available here) and the consultation on CDS is open until 18 September. The final RTSs should be submitted to the Commission in December. ESMA: The Commission sent a letter to ESMA on the issue of FX spot and forward delineation. The Commission states that for legal reasons it cannot adopt an implementing act for the harmonisation of spot and forward definition, contrarily to what had been previously planned. The Commission stated that 	EACT position
FSB has consulted on the approaches to aggregate OTC derivatives data and will report to the G20 Brisbane summit in the autumn on the conclusions. EACT response to the consultation is available		



OF CORPORATE TREASURERS		
<u>OTC I</u>	Derivatives - European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR)	
	International:	
	• The OTC Derivatives Regulators' Group (composed of	
	officials from 10 jurisdictions, including the US and	
	the EU) have sent a <u>letter</u> to the FSB stating that the	
	FSB should put pressure and set a deadline for	
	jurisdictions that have privacy or secrecy laws	
	preventing effective trade reporting.	
	IOSCO has launched an information repository for	
	central clearing requirements for OTC derivatives	
	which provides consolidated information on clearing	
	requirements in different jurisdictions (see also the	
	press release).	
	The Commission and the US authorities are moving	
	closer to an agreement on mutual clearing house	
	recognition, which would allow US clearing houses	
	to do business with European banks. The	
	Commission's deadline for the equivalence decision	
	is mid-December.	



OTC Derivatives - European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR)

- EMIR Regulation
- Regulatory Technical Standards
 - o Regulatory technical standards on capital requirements for central counterparties
 - o Regulatory technical standards on requirements for central counterparties
 - Regulatory technical standards on indirect clearing arrangements, the clearing obligation, the public register, access to a trading venue,
 non-financial counterparties, risk mitigation techniques for OTC derivatives contracts not cleared by a CCP
 - o Regulatory technical standards on the minimum details of the data to be reported to trade repositories
 - o Regulatory technical standards specifying the details of the application for registration as a trade repository
 - Regulatory technical standards specifying the data to be published and made available by trade repositories and operational standards for aggregating, comparing and accessing the data
- Implementing Technical Standards
 - o <u>Implementing technical standards on requirements for central counterparties</u>
 - Implementing technical standards on the minimum details of the data to be reported to trade repositories
 - o <u>Implementing technical standards specifying the details of the application for registration as a trade repository</u>



Shadow banking / Money Market Funds (MMFs)		
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position
 The Commission proposal for Regulation would impose amongst others the following: A requirement on CNAV MMFs to have a cash "buffer" equivalent to 3 percent of their assets binding rules on the types of assets MMFs can invest in limits on how much business MMFs can do with a single counterparty, and restrictions on short selling A ban for MMFs to solicit external ratings The Parliament ECON Committee did not reach a compromise on the text. The work will therefore continue in the autumn under the new Parliament. The new ECON committee is not likely to re-start the work on the file before September-October at the earliest. A new Rapporteur will have to be appointed as the previous Rapporteur (Said El Khadraoui) was not re-elected. 	In the US, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) adopted new rules for MMFs. The rules will oblige funds used by institutional investors to move to a floating NAV. Retail and government funds are allowed to continue to show a stable NAV. In addition, redemption gates and fees could be used if the funds weekly liquid assets fall below 30 percent. The rules will enter into force in two years' time and are likely to influence the future debate on the MMF Regulation in Europe.	 Impact on future availability of CNAV funds; also uncertainty on whether VNAV funds can be accounted for as cash or cash equivalent Consequences of ban on external ratings of MMFs Inconsistency with US approach



Shadow banking / Money Market Funds (MMFs)

- Commission proposal for regulating MMFs
- IOSCO Policy Recommendations for MMFs



Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)		
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position
Council agreed to the "enhanced cooperation" procedure between 11 Member States (Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia and Slovakia) at the end of January. The Commission issued a proposal for a Directive on 14 February 2013 (see also the press release and the Questions & Answers). The new proposal is based on the previous text presented in 2011 with some amendments and to have the following main aspects: • The scope of instruments covered is very broad including shares and bonds at 0.1% and derivatives at 0.01%. CFDs, equity derivatives, depository receipts, money market instruments, structured products are also covered. The applicable rates are minimum harmonized rate levels paving the way for individual countries to possibly adopt higher levels. Furthermore, cascade effects could make the effective rate higher as the transactions would be taxed separately from different market participants at different stages. • The FTT would cover the purchase and sale of the financial instrument before netting and settlement	10 of the 11 participating Member States signed a declaration stating that they will implement a tax which will be gradually phased in as of January 2016 and which will initially have a reduced scope and will apply to equity and some derivatives Despite some contradictory reports, Slovenia apparently did not sign the statement following the ECOFIN meeting due to the fact that the government is only involved in caretaking, not in decision-making, following their internal crisis. Slovenia unofficially indicated that it intends to exit the FTT somewhere after the EU elections – after reassessing the planned impact of the tax it considers that the revenues would be very small and would not even cover the costs of implementation and collection. Slovenia's Finance Ministry would like to exit the enhanced cooperation, but it seems that the Slovenian Prime Minister assured France and Germany that Slovenia would not leave.	perspective / EAC1 position



Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)		
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position
combination of the residence principle and the		
location of the where the financial instrument is issued.		
 The proposal also provides for implementing acts regarding uniform collection methods of the FTT 		
and the participating countries would have to adopt appropriate measures to prevent tax evasion, avoidance and abuse.		
 There will be an exemption for primary market transactions (i.e. subscription/issuance). 		
The extra-territorial impact of the FTT could be very wide		
due to the design of the tax: an FTT Zone financial		
institution's branches worldwide will be subject to the FTT		
on all of their transactions and non-FTT Zone financial		
institutions will be taxed for transactions with parties in the FTT Zone, and whenever they deal in securities issued by an		
FTT zone entity.		

- <u>Commission proposal</u>
- <u>Commission Impact Assessment; Summary of Impact Assessment</u>
- EACT position paper



<u>Interest rate benchmarks</u>		
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position
 The are two work streams: The proposal of the European Commission for Regulation on financial benchmarks which seeks to address concerns about the integrity and accuracy of financial benchmarks and which contains e.g. the following aspects: Benchmark administrators will be subject to authorisation and supervision (prohibition of the use of unauthorised benchmarks within the EU) Mandatory contributions to "critical" benchmarks (such as LIBOR and EURIBOR) Equivalence requirement for non-EU benchmarks (third countries must have a legal framework in place which is in line with the IOSCO principles) Mandatory code of conduct for administrators and contributors FSB work carried out in the Market Participants Group, which has been tasked to propose options for robust reference interest rates that could serve as potential alternatives to the most widely-used, existing benchmark rates and propose strategies for any transition to new 	The FSB <u>published</u> its proposals for reforming major benchmarks. The FSB proposes on one hand to develop the existing benchmarks such as LIBOR and EURIBOR so that they are more based on market data and on the other hand to develop at least one alternative to the existing benchmarks by 2016, a so-called "nearly risk free reference rates," which would be entirely based on verifiable market transactions. The FSB held a consultation on foreign exchange benchmark s and plans to present its recommendations to the G20 in November.	 Ensuring contract continuity The EU Regulation proposal includes the prohibition to use non-EU benchmarks if an equivalence decision by the Commission is not taken (i.e. of the third country is not in line with the IOSCO principles); this could be problematic if no grandfathering clauses are introduced



Interest rate benchmarks		
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position
reference rates and for dealing with legacy		
contracts. This group should provide its final		
report by mid-March 2014.		
Given the recent allegations of FX rate manipulations,		
the FSB has decided to incorporate an assessment of FX		
benchmarks into its ongoing programme of financial		
benchmark analysis and has established a Foreign		
Exchange Benchmark Group for this work.		

- <u>Text of the Commission proposal</u>
- Impact assessment:
 - o Full text
 - o <u>Executive Summary</u>
- IOSCO Principles for financial benchmarks



Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position
The Commission has adopted a proposal for Regulation,	It has been reported that several Member	 Impact on market-making
which contains the following main aspects:	States have serious concerns about the	 Impact on the availability of OTC
 Banning of proprietary trading 	proposed proprietary trading ban, as well as	derivatives as core (retail)
 Potential separation of certain trading activities 	the scale of activities to be separated to an	institutions would not be able to
(market making, OTC derivatives trading,	investment unit which many consider too	offer OTC derivatives to their non-
complex securitized products etc.) The banking	wide. There are also concerns that the	financial customers
supervisor would monitors banks' activities and	proposed Regulation would not leave enough	 Impact on pricing
could require a separation of these activities into	flexibility on supervisors to decide on a	
a separate entity.	possible separation of activities.	
The Regulation would apply only to the biggest banks,	The Council legal services recently questioned	
i.e. those deemed to be of global systemic importance or	the legality of the derogation included in the	
those exceeding 30 billion euros in total assets and	Commission's proposal to allow countries which	
trading activities either exceeding 70 billion euros or 10%	already have legislation in place to safeguard	
of the bank's total assets.	deposit-taking banks not to fully implement the	
	proposed regulation (this derogation was	
The Commission adopted its proposal on 29 January	particularly targeted for the UK that is currently	
which will be subject to the ordinary legislative	implementing the Vickers reform). The legal	
procedure. According to the proposal the proprietary	services argue that such a derogation would not	
trading ban would apply as of 1 January 2017 and the	be in line with the chosen legal instrument – a	
separation of other trading activities as of 1 July 2018.	regulation – as it would not achieve the	
	objective of harmonised implementation across	
	Member States.	



Regulation on structural measures improving the resilience of EU credit institutions (structural separation of banks)

- Text of the proposal
- Impact assessment:
 - o **Executive Summary**
 - o Full text



Regulation on reporting and transparency of securities financing transactions		
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position
Together with the proposal on structural separation of banks (see above) the Commission has adopted a proposal for increasing transparency of securities financing transactions. This includes a variety of secured transactions such as lending or borrowing securities and commodities, repurchase or reverse repurchase transactions and buy-sell back or sell-buy back transactions. The proposal includes the following elements: • All transactions should be reported to a central database (similarly to EMIR with the details to be defined by ESMA). This obligation would apply to both financial and nonfinancial counterparties. • Transparency requirements for investment funds engaged in such transactions • Increased transparency on rehypothecation (use of collateral by the collateral-taker for their own purposes) The Commission adopted its proposal on 29 January; the proposal will be subject to the ordinary legislative procedure. According to the proposal the reporting obligation would start 18 months after the entry into force of the Regulation. Key documents:	Council has started discussions on the file (the first Council Working Party took place on 2 June). The ECON Committee will start work on the file once the Committee is operational and once a Rapporteur has been nominated. Although the proposal for Regulation was adopted together with the proposal and bank structure reform (see above), this file is being treated separately in the legislative process.	Reporting of repo trades by non-financial counterparties (however the proposal states that this can be delegated); it needs to be assessed how important an issue this would be for corporates.

• Text of the proposal



<u>Payments Package</u>		
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position
Revision of the Payment Services Directive (PSD): The main changes introduced by the Commission proposal are the following: Banning of surcharging on payment cards covered by the MIF Regulation Inclusion of third-party payment service providers in the scope Extension of the scope of the PSD e.g. where at least the payer's PSP is acting from within the EEA / extension to all currencies Regulation on card interchange fees: The Commission wishes to to regulate the interchange fees for payment cards (both debit and credit) in the EU which would impose a harmonised limit to interchange fees The main changes proposed are: That the MIF regulation will apply to all consumer card transactions, domestic and cross-border and it is a per transaction cap (percentage). This Regulation will not apply to commercial cards. The 'honour-all-cards' rule will be removed (retailers can steer consumers away from certain cards) Cross-border acquiring will be facilitated, which should be good for retailers as it brings competition and should bring fees down	Regarding the Payment Services Directive, the Italian Presidency issued a compromise proposal in July. On the card interchange fee file, the Council is currently discussing. The Italian Presidency seems to be suggesting a "weighted average" (that would allow for differing fees according to the size of the transaction) approach instead of fixed percentages (as proposed by the Commission). The Presidency is also backing that commercial cards aimed at corporate users should be out of scope of the Regulation, which is in line with the Commission's original proposal but not the previous Parliament's position. Next round of discussions on the Regulation is scheduled for 9 September.	Draft EACT position paper on PSD concentrates on the following issues: • Need for a clear exemption for intragroup transactions in order to maintain corporate in-house banks outside the scope of the PSD • Arguing against the proposed changes to the unconditional right to refund for direct debits



Payments Package

- Commission Proposal for a revised Payment Services Directive (PSD2)
- Commission Proposal for a Regulation on Multilateral Interchange Fees (MIFs)
- Impact Assessment: <u>Executive Summary</u>; <u>Full text</u>
- <u>EACT Position Paper</u>



Long-term financing			
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position	
Following the Green Paper consultation last year, the Commission published a communication on long-term financing on 27 March. This communication aims to list a set of concrete actions in order to enhance the long-term financing of the European economy. The main topics that the communication covers evolve around the following headlines:	Communication adopted	Certain aspects and actions presented in the communication (evaluation of CRR and implementing further measures under Basel III; development of and access to capital markets; possible changes in accounting standards and changes in taxation of equity vs debt) will impact corporates	
 1. Mobilising private sources – some proposed actions: Commission to report on the appropriateness of the new capital requirements (CRR) relating to long-term financing in two steps, in 2014 and in 2015. Commission to assess the impact on long-term financing when preparing the Delegated Acts on LCR and NSFR 			
 2. Making better use of public finance 3. Developing capital markets – some proposed actions: Commission to assess whether further measures are necessary to create a liquid and transparent secondary market for corporate bonds Commission to work on the differentiation of high quality securitization and explore 			



- the possibilities for a preferential regulatory treatment
- Commission to review the treatment of covered bonds in CRR and launch a study on a possible EU framework for these instruments
- Commission to conduct a study on private placements
- 4. Improving SME's access to financing
- **5.** Attracting private finance to infrastructure
- **6.** Enhancing the overall environment for sustainable finance some proposed actions:
 - In the framework of its endorsement of IFRS9, the Commission will consider if the use of fair value in the standard is appropriate
 - Commission to incentivize equity investment in MSs where there is a high debt bias in corporate taxation

• Text of the communication



Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)			
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position	
Trade agreement currently being negotiated between the EU and the US. The aim is to remove trade barriers (tariffs, unnecessary regulations, restrictions on investment etc.) in a wide range of economic sectors. Financial services have been included in the negotiations, however the main counterparties in the US (Treasury, Fed, CFTC) whereas the EU is in favour of covering financial services in the agreement. It is not clearly defined as yet what the negotiations regarding financial services will cover, but issues such as making substituted compliance / equivalence work better, formalisation of the existing dialogue and market access could be on the table.	Financial services were not on the agenda of the latest round of discussions. It seems increasingly unlikely that a financial services chapter would be included in the trade deal due to the categorical refusal by the US negotiators.	 Preserving existing exemptions (CVA in CRD IV) Ensuring regulatory convergence 	

- **Commission TTIP website**
- Commission negotiating position on financial services



<u>SEPA</u>			
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position	
The Commission proposed a period of six months (until 1 August 2014) during which non-SEPA formats would still be allowed. The Regulation will have retroactive effect as from 31 January 2014. However, national authorities' approaches to this extension seem to have some differences. Regarding SEPA governance, the ECB has established the European Retail Payments Board (ERPB) which replaces the former SEPA Council.	 The EPC held a public consultation on the evolution of the SEPA SCT and SDD schemes, to which the EACT contributed. The new rulebooks and the results of the consultations will be published in November, and the rulebooks will enter into force in November 2015. The ERPB established a working group on SEPA post-migration issues. The mandate of the group is to gather issues that are preventing SCT and SDD to reach their full potential and to propose solutions for the December 2014 ERPB meeting. The EACT (M. Battistella) is co-chairing the group. The issues that the group decided to discuss include the harmonisation of formats in the customer-to-bank and bank-to-customer areas, the topic of IBAN discrimination, the implementation of the IBAN-only rule, extended remittance information and SDD processing issues (such as R-transactions). 		

- SEPA Regulation
- Regulation 248/2014 amending the SEPA migration deadline
- ECB website on national SEPA migration plans



<u>M</u>	arkets in Financial Instruments (MiFID / MiFIR 2)	
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position
MiFIR / MiFID 2 have been adopted and currently Level 2 measures are being developed by ESMA.	EACT contributed to the ESMA consultation on draft RTSs for MiFID2. The response was concerning the definition of direct electronic access and the need to ensure that corporates can continue to use electronic trading platforms without being dragged into the scope of MiFID2. ESMA <u>published</u> the responses to the MiFID/R public consultation.	

- MiFIR text
- MiFID text



International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)			
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position	
Commission consultation on the impact of IFRS in the EU	On 7 August the Commission started a consultation on the impact of IFRS in the EU; the consultation closes on 31 October. The Commission aims to report on the evaluation of the IAS Regulation to the Council and to the Parliament by the end of this year.		
Key documents: • Consultation document			



Timeline of next steps and actions

	immediate	2014	2015	2016 and beyond
EMIR	Consultations on clearing obligation	Reporting obligation started Clearing obligation could start end-2014		
MMF		European Parliament and Council to formulate their positions	European Parliament and Council to formulate their positions - to be followed by trialogue negotiations	
FTT		Negotiations	Negotiations	Probable implementation (if any)likely not to take place before 2016
CRD IV	Level 2 measures under development	Implementation starts / Level 2		
MiFID / MiFIR	Level 2 measures under development	Level 1 text adopted – applicable as of January 2017		
Benchmarks	·	European Parliament and Council to formulate their positions	European Parliament and Council to formulate their positions - to be followed by trialogue negotiations	Entry into force probably no before 2016
Bank structural separation		European Parliament and Council to formulate their positions	European Parliament and Council to formulate their positions - to be followed by trialogue negotiations	



Timeline of next steps and actions

	immediate	2014	2015	2016 and beyond
PSD II		European Parliament and Council to formulate their positions - to be followed by trialogue negotiations	European Parliament and Council to formulate their positions - to be followed by trialogue negotiations	Entry into force two years after adoption (2016 the earliest)
Card interchange fee Regulation		European Parliament and Council to formulate their positions - to be followed by trialogue negotiations	European Parliament and Council to formulate their positions - to be followed by trialogue negotiations	Entry into force not known