

EACT

Monthly Report on Regulatory Issues

Date issued: 27 June 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 	ESMA published an updated Q&A document
 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 	Work is on hold on the Parliament side; the Council will start discussions during the Italian Presidency (second half of the year)
 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 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 	 In May 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. Slovenia has not signed this



EACT strongly opposed as FTT amounts to a tax on the real economy	 declaration; it is not clear at this stage whether they intend to formally leave the enhanced cooperation. The technical work still has to take place and is ongoing – the attaches are concentrating on the different options proposed for the treatment of derivatives and on the proposed step-by-step implementation.
 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 	Work is on hold on the Parliament side; the Council has started the discussions on the file
 Bank Structural Separation (Barnier / Liikanen rule) 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. 	 Council is starting to debate the file EACT position is likely to concentrate on the need to keep vital services for the real economy (such as OTC derivatives and market making) within the core institution

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	Consultations:	
force on 16 August 2012. It requires the central	 ESMA, EBA and EIOPA are jointly consulting on the 	
clearing of all standardised OTC derivatives contracts,	risk mitigation requirements for uncleared OTC	
margins for non-centrally cleared contracts and the	derivatives. The margin requirements would not	
reporting of all derivatives contracts to trade	impact NFC-s located in the EU; however the	
repositories.	proposed rules would oblige EU banks to collect	
EMIR contains different start dates for the various	margin from NFCs located outside the EU, be they	
obligations and the obligations for NFC- (portfolio	below or above the clearing threshold. This would	
compression, trade reporting) are already in place.	put EU banks in a competitive disadvantage vis-à-vis	
On 18 March 2014 ESMA authorised the first CCP for	non-EU banks which would not have similar	
the clearing obligation, which kick-starts the	requirements. ESMA however argues that they are	
countdown to the start of the clearing obligation.	bound by the wording of EMIR Article 11 which does	
ESMA has six months, until 18 September 2014, to	not explicitly exclude NFC-'s from risk mitigation	
submit the RTSs on the clearing obligation for	obligations.	
Commission approval.	The Commission consultation of FX instruments has	
FSB has consulted on the approaches to aggregate	closed (see EACT contribution <u>here</u>). The	
OTC derivatives data and will report to the G20	Commission has published the responses to the	
Brisbane summit in the autumn on the conclusions.	consultation and is expected to issue an	
EACT response to the consultation is available <u>here</u> .	implementing act during Q3 this year.	
	ESMA:	
	• ESMA has published updated Q&As for EMIR	
	ESMA has informed the Commission of its intention to	
	ease certain frontloading requirements for contracts	
	subject to the clearing requirement. ESMA states in	



OTC Derivatives - European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR)

its <u>letter</u> to the Commission that it is considering to reduce the frontloading requirement so that it would only apply to some contracts contracted between the entry into force of the clearing obligation RTSs and the actual start date of the clearing obligation. ESMA still needs to consult on the draft RTSs, after which they are subject to approval by the Commission and need to obtain non-objection by the Parliament and the Council.

• ESMA has updated the <u>list of authorised CCPs</u>

International:

- The Commission has <u>stated</u> that it will shortly adopt equivalence decisions on Japan, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong and India so that clearing houses located in these jurisdictions can clear EU derivatives trades. Discussions with the US on s similar equivalence decision are continuing.
- FSB has published the <u>responses</u> to its consultation on aggregation of data collected from trade repositories. It seems that most respondents rejected the current way of collecting data and preferred the option of a central index of global trades stored locally. FSB is expected to come up with recommendations on this topic shortly.
- The OTC Derivatives Regulators Group (ODRG)



OF CORPORATE TREASURERS		
OTC Derivativ	es - European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR)	
	published its <u>report</u> on cross-border implementation issues. The report states that the groups will try to reach an agreement by November (G20 Brisbane summit) on several cross-border issues, such as how each jurisdiction will regulate its banks' foreign branches and affiliates and foreign trading platforms. • The FSB published its seventh <u>progress report</u> on OTC derivatives market reform.	



OTC Derivatives - European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR)

- EMIR Regulation
- Regulatory Technical Standards
 - 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
 - o 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>
 - o Implementing technical standards on the minimum details of the data to be reported to trade repositories
 - o Implementing technical standards specifying the details of the application for registration as a trade repository
- ESMA:
 - o Questions & Answers (latest version dated 23 June 2014)
 - o ESMA <u>letter</u> to the Commission requesting for a clarification on the definition of derivative instruments under EMIR



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 socialist Rapporteur proposed to go further than the Commission proposal as regards the measures on CNAV funds (he proposed to phase-out CNAV funds within a period of five years). Some political groups could not agree to this but proposed liquidity gates and fees for CNAV funds instead. The work will therefore continue in the autumn under the new Parliament. 	Parliament has postponed work on the file until the next Parliament is established. The Council (Permanent Representations) is currently not holding official discussions on the file as priority is given to other files. Discussions will start under the Italian Presidency. 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.	 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
- <u>ECON Draft Report</u> (Rapporteur's amendments)
- ECON amendments 42-211
- ECON amendments 212-433
- <u>IOSCO Policy Recommendations for MMFs</u>



Financial Transaction Tax (FTT)		
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position
Council agreed to the "enhanced cooperation" procedure	10 of the 11 participating Member States signed a	
between 11 Member States (Belgium, Germany, Estonia,	declaration stating that they will implement a tax which	
Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia and	will be gradually phased in as of January 2016 and which	
Slovakia) at the end of January.	will initially have a reduced scope and will apply to equity	
The Commission issued a <u>proposal for a Directive</u> on 14	and some derivatives	
February 2013 (see also the <u>press release</u> and the <u>Questions</u>	Despite some contradictory reports, Slovenia apparently	
<u>& Answers</u>).	did not sign the statement following the ECOFIN meeting	
The new proposal is based on the previous text presented in	due to the fact that the government is only involved in	
2011 with some amendments and to have the following	caretaking, not in decision-making, following their	
main aspects:	internal crisis. Slovenia unofficially indicated that it	
 The scope of instruments covered is very broad 	intends to exit the FTT somewhere after the EU elections	
including shares and bonds at 0.1% and derivatives	after reassessing the planned impact of the tax it	
at 0.01%. CFDs, equity derivatives, depository	considers that the revenues would be very small and	
receipts, money market instruments, structured	would not even cover the costs of implementation and	
products are also covered. The applicable rates are	collection. Slovenia's Finance Ministry would like to exit	
minimum harmonized rate levels paving the way for	the enhanced cooperation, but it seems that the	
individual countries to possibly adopt higher levels.	Slovenian Prime Minister assured France and Germany	
Furthermore, cascade effects could make the	that Slovenia would not leave.	
effective rate higher as the transactions would be	Fiscal attachés met on 28 May in what appears to have	
taxed separately from different market participants	been the last working group on the FTT organised by the	
at different stages.	Greek Presidency before the file is handed over to the	
 The FTT would cover the purchase and sale of the 	Italian Presidency on 1 July. Discussions lasted the whole	
financial instrument before netting and settlement	day, and concentrated on the different options proposed	
and it would be applied on the basis of a	for the treatment of derivatives and on the proposed	



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.	step-by-step implementation.	

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



Interest rate benchmarks		
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 Council is holding discussions on the Commission proposal. The Parliament decided not to vote on this file under the current legislature; the work will continue in the autumn once the new Parliament is in place. The FSB MPG has finalised its survey on corporate use of interest rate benchmarks and has handed its report to the OSSG. OSSG will now consider the report before suggesting further measures.	 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



OF CORPORATE TREASURERS		
Regulation on structural measures improving the resilience of EU credit institutions (structural separation of banks)		
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EAC position
The Commission has adopted a proposal for Regulation, which contains the following main aspects: • Banning of proprietary trading • Potential separation of certain trading activities (market making, OTC derivatives trading, complex securitized products etc.) The banking supervisor would monitors banks' activities and could require a separation of these activities into a separate entity. The Regulation would apply only to the biggest banks, i.e. those deemed to be of global systemic importance or those exceeding 30 billion euros in total assets and trading activities either exceeding 70 billion euros or 10% of the bank's total assets. The Commission adopted its proposal on 29 January which will be subject to the ordinary legislative procedure. According to the proposal the proprietary trading ban would apply as of 1 January 2017 and the separation of other trading activities as of 1 July 2018.	The Council has started to discuss the file; the discussions will continue under the Italian Presidency. The Council legal services recently questioned the legality of the derogation included in the Commission's proposal to allow countries which already have legislation in place to safeguard deposit-taking banks not to fully implement the proposed regulation (this derogation was particularly targeted for the UK that is currently implementing the Vickers reform). The legal services argue that such a derogation would not be in line with the chosen legal instrument – a regulation – as it would not achieve the objective of harmonised implementation across Member States.	 Impact on market-making Impact on the availability of OTC derivatives as core (retail) institutions would not be able to offer OTC derivatives to their non financial customers Impact on pricing



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	The Greek Presidency has published a document on the state-of-play on the Council discussions concerning the PSD.	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.	The inclusion of regulatory convergence in financial services in the TTIP negotiations remains a major point of disagreement between the EU and the US. Recently the EU has been trying to put more pressure on the US by threatening that any discussion on financial services (even market access) would not be included in the trade agreement if the US refuses to discuss regulatory convergence in financial services. Financial services will therefore not be on the agenda of the next round of discussions taking place in July.	 Preserving existing exemptions (CVA in CRD IV) Ensuring regulatory convergence 			

- **Commission TTIP website**
- <u>Commission negotiating position on financial services</u>



<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 first meeting of the ERPB took place on 16 May. The summary of the meeting is available here and the meeting documents are available here. The EACT was invited to co-chair the ERPB SCT-SDD Steering group. The first meeting of the Steering Group will take place in August. The EPC has opened the annual public consultation on possible changes to be introduced to updated versions of the SCT and SDD schemes (more information here). Main proposals include allowing for longer remittance information, simplifying sequence types and shortening the timelines for direct debit collections. The updated scheme rulebooks will be published in November 2014 and will take effect in November 2015. 				

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



Markets in Financial Instruments (MiFID / MiFIR 2)				
Content and legislative status	Latest developments	Issues from treasury perspective / EACT position	Actions	
MiFIR / MiFID 2 have been adopted and currently Level 2 measures are being developed by ESMA.	ESMA started the public consultation on Level 2 measures; see the consultation paper and the discussion paper and the press release		Identify potential issues that are part of the public consultation and contribute if necessary.	

- MiFIR text
- MiFID text



Timeline of next steps and actions

		immediate	2014	2015	2016 and beyond
EMIR			Reporting and clearing		
MMF			obligations to start 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		Implementation starts / Level 2		
MiFID / MiFIR			Adoption		
Banking Union – Single Supervisory Mechanism			Entry into force November 2014		
Banking Union – Bank Recovery and Resolution			Formal adoption	Entry into force	Entry into force of bail-in provisions
Benchmarks			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 probably not before 2016



Timeline of next steps and actions

	immediate	2014	2015	2016 and beyond
Bank structural separation		Legislative proposal adopted by the Commission	European Parliament and Council to formulate their positions - to be followed by trialogue negotiations	The entry into force of any future legislative measure is unknown at this stage
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