

PRESS RELEASE

Argenta from Belgium joins the Covered Bond Label with its first covered bond programme

Brussels, 27 January 2021 – For immediate release

The **Covered Bond Label Foundation** (<u>CBLF</u>) is pleased to announce that <u>Argenta Spaarbank NV</u> has joined the Covered Bond Label, which now counts a total of **117** issuers and **142** cover pools.

Commenting on this development, Luca Bertalot, Covered Bond Label Foundation Administrator, said:

"We are delighted to welcome to the Covered Bond Label family our second issuer from Belgium with their first newly established Covered Bond programme, proving once more that the Label is considered as a necessary sign of recognition in the covered bond market space especially for new players and of their commitment to transparency through the implementation of the Label's Harmonised Transparency Template (HTT)."

The Covered Bond Label is a quality label, the purpose of which is to highlight the security and quality of covered bonds to investors and to further enhance recognition of and trust in the covered bond asset class.

The Covered Bond Label is open to all covered bond programmes that are compliant with <u>the Covered Bond</u> <u>Label Convention</u> and disclose their data by publishing the <u>Harmonised Transparency Template</u> (HTT). More information on all labelled issuers and the Label itself can be found on the Covered Bond Label website at <u>www.coveredbondlabel.com</u>.

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1. The Covered Bond Label Foundation (CBLF) was established in 2012 by the European Mortgage Federation - European Covered Bond Council (EMF-ECBC). The Covered Bond Label website became fully operational on the 1st of January 2013, with the first Labels being effective since then. The website features the Harmonised Transparency Template (HTT) and 14 National Transparency Templates, published by 117 issuers disclosing information on 142 labelled cover pools across 21 jurisdictions. The Covered Bond Label website currently provides issuance data on 5,300 covered bonds, amounting to a



total face value of around 2.0 trillion EUR, out of which over 3,000 covered bonds already include information on the Liquidity Coverage Requirement (LCR).

- Established in 1967, the European Mortgage Federation (EMF) is the voice of the European mortgage industry, representing the interests of mortgage lenders and covered bond issuers at European level. The EMF provides data and information on European mortgage markets, which were worth around EUR 7.6 trillion at the end of 2019. As of January 2021, the EMF has 14 members across 12 EU Member States as well as a number of observer members.
- 3. In 2004 the EMF founded the European Covered Bond Council (ECBC), a platform bringing together covered bond issuers, analysts, investment bankers, rating agencies and a wide range of interested stakeholders. As of January 2021, the ECBC has 125 members across more than 30 active covered bond jurisdictions and many different market segments. ECBC members represent over 95% of covered bonds outstanding, which were worth over EUR 2.7 trillion at the end of 2019.
- 4. For the latest updates from the EMF-ECBC, follow us on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u> and <u>YouTube</u> or visit the EMF-ECBC <u>website</u>.