

## PRESS RELEASE

### Erste Group Bank AG Austria to join the Covered Bond Label

Brussels, 25 January 2023 – For immediate release

The **Covered Bond Label Foundation (CBLF)** is pleased to announce the further development of its European coverage with the membership of [Erste Group Bank AG](#), one of the largest service providers in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Covered Bond Label now covers a total of **127** issuers and **166** cover pools in **24** jurisdictions.

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

*“We are pleased to welcome Erste Group Bank AG Austria and delighted to see the growing appetite of Austrian issuers to join the Covered Bond Label family. The Covered Bond Label is a clear quality and transparency benchmark which is driving access to capital markets across the entire CEE region.”*

Commenting on this, **Kathrin Gfall-Gapp**, Head of Group Markets Long Term Funding and Execution at Erste Group Bank AG stated:

*“Erste Group issues Covered bonds for several years and will be a regular issuer in the future as well. We are delighted to join the Covered Bond Label as cooperation with investors and market participants as well as transparency towards the market are crucial preconditions for us.”*

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 [the Covered Bond Label Convention](#) and disclose their data by publishing the [Harmonised Transparency Template](#) (HTT). More information on all labelled issuers and the Label itself can be found on the Covered Bond Label website at [www.coveredbondlabel.com](http://www.coveredbondlabel.com).

#### Contact:



**Luca Bertalot**

Covered Bond Label Foundation (CBLF)

Tel. +32 2 285 40 33

[lbertalot@hypo.org](mailto:lbertalot@hypo.org)

**Notes to the Editor:**

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 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2013, with the first Labels being effective since then. The website features the Harmonised Transparency Template (HTT), published by 127 issuers disclosing information on 166 labelled cover pools across 24 jurisdictions. The Covered Bond Label website currently provides issuance data on 5,000 covered bonds, amounting to a total face value of around 2.1 trillion EUR, out of which over 3,000 covered bonds already include information on the Liquidity Coverage Requirement (LCR).
2. 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 8.3 trillion at the end of 2021. As of January 2023, 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 2023, the ECBC has 120 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 2.9 trillion at the end of 2021.
4. For the latest updates from the EMF-ECBC, follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) or visit the EMF-ECBC [website](#).