

PRESS RELEASE

Bausparkasse Schwäbisch Hall joins ECBC and Covered Bond Label as latest member

Brussels, 7 September 2023 – For immediate release

The **European Covered Bond Council (ECBC)** and **Covered Bond Label Foundation (CBLF)** are delighted to announce the addition of [Bausparkasse Schwäbisch Hall](#) as their latest member.

Schwäbisch Hall operates as a building society and service provider, primarily serving the private construction financing needs of roughly 750 cooperative banks throughout Germany.

Commenting on Bausparkasse Schwäbisch Hall's admission as a member, **Luca Bertalot**, EMF-ECBC Secretary General & Covered Bond Label Foundation Administrator said:

"We are delighted to welcome Bausparkasse Schwäbisch Hall to the ECBC & Covered Bond Label. Building societies play a vital role in the financial landscape and are an excellent example of the symbiotic relationship between mortgage lending and covered bonds which are central to securing financial stability and fostering access to housing. BSH's decision to join us further strengthens our membership base in one of Europe's most traditional covered bond markets and underscores the added value that our work brings to the entire covered bond community."

Commenting on this, **Mike Kammann**, Member of the Management Board at Bausparkasse Schwäbisch Hall, stated:

"Sustainability is a cornerstone of BSH's corporate strategy. Financing green buildings is our core business and being part of this Europe-wide initiative will help us attracting ESG oriented international investors for the refinancing of our increasing green loans. In the future, BSH will publish its issuance data and other information in a standardized format in ECBC's database. This will give investors, analysts, regulators and other market participants even better access to transaction related data and create the transparency market participants seek for. Our membership offers a great opportunity to actively contribute to the promotion of covered bonds and to further strengthen our position in the market as an issuer."

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.

Contact:

Luca Bertalot

Secretary General

Tel: +32 2 285 40 35

lbertalot@hypo.org

Notes to the Editor:

1. Established in 1967, the **European Mortgage Federation (EMF)** is the voice of the European mortgage industry, 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 over EUR 8.9 tn at the end of 2022 (EU27 + UK, Norway and Iceland). As of September 2023, the EMF has 14 Full Members across 12 EU Member States as well as a number of Observer Members.
2. 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 September 2023, the ECBC has 121 members from across the 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 3 tn at the end of 2022.
3. The **Covered Bond Label Foundation (CBLF)** was established in 2012 by the EMF-ECBC. It is a quality Label which responds to a market-wide request for improved standards and increased transparency in the covered bond market. The website features the Harmonised Transparency Template (HTT) and 14 National Transparency Templates, published by 132 issuers disclosing information on 173 labelled cover pools across 24 jurisdictions. The Covered Bond Label website currently provides issuance data on over 5,600 covered bonds, amounting to a total face value of around EUR 2.2 tn, out of which around 3,000 covered bonds already include information on the Liquidity Coverage Requirement (LCR).
4. For the latest updates from the EMF-ECBC, follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) or visit the [EMF-ECBC](#).