

PRESS RELEASE – PRESS RELEASE – PRESS RELEASE

## **“Capital Markets Union: Covered Bond Label Issuers to Adopt a Common Harmonised Transparency Template Across Jurisdictions”**

**Brussels, 16 June 2015 – For immediate release**

In response to the European Commission’s Capital Markets Union initiative’s call for an increased level of harmonisation in the covered bond space, the Covered Bond Label Foundation ([CBLF](#)) and the European Covered Bond Council ([ECBC](#)) are delighted to announce that the Covered Bond Label Committee and the ECBC Steering Committee have decided to implement a Common Harmonised Template across jurisdictions for all covered bond issuers which hold the Covered Bond Label.

This decision will enter into force for the first quarter of 2016 and will be a binding requirement for the granting and renewal of the Covered Bond Label with a phase-in period of one year in order to allow issuers to align their IT systems and disclosure policies to the new format. Once this decision is fully implemented it will have direct impact on more than 70% of eligible covered bonds, Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR) compliant with a transparency template, which represents a worldwide impact, i.e. for circa 60% of the covered bonds outstanding globally.

At the current stage the ECBC Transparency Task Force is finalising the Harmonised Transparency Template in liaison with the different jurisdictions involved in the process. The final Template will be presented during the next ECBC Plenary Meeting, which will be held in Barcelona on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2015.

The Common Harmonised Transparency Template being implemented through the Covered Bond Label platform will allow investors to compare a harmonised set of data across countries, having a comprehensive view on cover assets, liabilities and legislative frameworks across markets.

In the light of the upcoming European Commission’s consultation on the covered bond market (which is expected to be published during June 2015), the Common Harmonised Transparency Template is evidence of the covered bond community’s commitment to enhancing transparency in this market and of the intense capability of covered bond issuers to engage in a constructive interaction with investors.

As indicated above, this Common Harmonised Transparency Template will not only apply for issuers in the jurisdictions which currently hold Labels (Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom), but also for all those issuers who will apply for the Covered Bond Label in 2016. Non-EEA issuers are currently working on the basis of this Common Harmonised Transparency Template and it is expected that the first non-EEA Label applications will be made towards the end of 2015 and the start of 2016.

*“Over the last three years the covered bond community has made an immense effort to enhance transparency in the covered bond market, and the implementation of a Common Harmonised Transparency Template is the culmination of these efforts, rooted in stakeholders’ commitment and consensus.”*

**Carsten Tirsbæk Madsen, European Covered Bond Council (ECBC) Chairman**

*“The Covered Bond Label market initiative has once more confirmed its role as a major driver of convergence for covered bond market best practices.”*

**Luca Bertalot, Covered Bond Label Foundation (CBLF) Administrator**

*“After years of intense and constructive dialogue between issuers and investors, the Common Harmonised Transparency Template represents a welcome and significant step forward, which will facilitate data comparability and investors’ due diligence, thereby contributing to building the Capital Markets Union.”*

**Andreas Denger, MEAG MUNICH ERGO Asset Management GmbH,  
Chairman of the Covered Bond Investor Council (CBIC)  
& Member of the Covered Bond Label Advisory Council**

#### **Contact:**

##### **Luca Bertalot**

Covered Bond Label Foundation (CBLF)

Tel. +32 2 285 40 33

[info@coveredbondlabel.com](mailto:info@coveredbondlabel.com)

For further information on the activities of the Covered Bond Label Foundation please contact:

Rue de la Science 14, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tel. +32 2 285 40 33

E-mail: [info@coveredbondlabel.com](mailto:info@coveredbondlabel.com)

Website: [www.coveredbondlabel.com](http://www.coveredbondlabel.com)

#### **Notes to the Editor:**

1. In 2012, the EMF-ECBC established the **Covered Bond Label Foundation (CBLF)**, which highlights the quality of labelled assets. Following on from an initial test phase run in 2012, 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. As of June 2015, the website features 13 National Transparency Templates, 73 issuer Profiles and information on 85 labelled cover pools. The Covered Bond Label website currently provides issuance data on 4,500 covered bonds, amounting to a total face value of over 1.4 trillion EUR, out of which 1,600 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 over €6.7 trillion at the end of 2013. As of June 2015, the EMF has 18 members across 14 EU Member States as well as a number of observer members.
3. In 2004 the EMF founded the **European Covered Bond Council (ECBC)**, which is a platform that brings together covered bond market participants including covered bond issuers, analysts, investment bankers, rating agencies and a wide range of interested stakeholders. As of June 2015, the ECBC has over 100 members across 25 active covered bond jurisdictions and many different market segments. ECBC members represent over 95% of covered bonds outstanding, which were worth over €2.6 trillion at the end of 2013.
4. For the latest updates from the EMF-ECBC, follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).