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Safety & Soundness

Federal Reserve and FDIC Provide Guidance to Financial Firms on Their Resolution Plans

On July 28, 2015, the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (collectively, the Agencies) announced that they had provided feedback to three nonbank financial companies regarding the companies' initial resolution plans (previously filed in July 2014) as well as upcoming filings. The Agencies note that each company received feedback tailored to its unique business, structure, and operations as well as common feedback on the need for: more detailed information on, and analysis of, obstacles to resolvability, including global cooperation, interconnectedness, and adequate funding and liquidity; the resolution plan to include descriptions of progress being made and steps remaining to become more resolvable; and, stronger public disclosures. The three nonbank financial companies must submit the second versions of their annual resolution plans on or before December 31, 2015. The Agencies will require the firms to demonstrate they are making significant progress to address the obstacles to resolution noted in the feedback to each company, and are taking actions to improve their resolvability. [Press Statement]

Also on July 28, 2015, the Agencies provided guidance to 119 firms that will be filing updated resolution plans in December 2015. The guidance includes tailored requirements based on a review of the firms' plans submitted late in 2014. The 119 firms included U.S. bank holding companies with less than \$100 billion in total nonbank assets and foreign-based firms with less than \$100 billion in U.S. nonbank assets. The Agencies note that 29 of the more complex firms are required to file either full or tailored resolution plans that take into account guidance identified by the Agencies. Ninety firms with limited U.S. operations may file plans that focus on material changes to their 2014 resolution plans, actions taken to strengthen the effectiveness of those plans, and, where applicable, actions to ensure any subsidiary insured depository institution is adequately protected from the risk arising from the activities of nonbank affiliates of the firm. [Press Statement]

FSB to Delay Final Assessment Methodologies for Non-Bank Non-Insurer SIFIs

The Financial Stability Board (FSB) announced on July 30, 2015, that it will wait to finalize the assessment methodologies for non-bank non-insurer global systemically important financial institutions (NBNI G-SIFIs) until the current FSB work on financial stability risks from asset management activities is completed. The FSB notes that, jointly with the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), it had published a second consultative document on the assessment methodologies for NBNI G-SIFIS in March 2015, and will report to the G20 later this year on the comments received from that proposal. It plans to develop activities-based policy recommendations as necessary by spring 2016. Jointly with IOSCO, the FSB will then conduct further analysis and finalize the NBNI G-SIFI asset management assessment methodology "with a focus on any residual entity-based sources of systemic risk from distress or disorderly failure that cannot be effectively addressed by market-wide activities-based policies." [Press Statement]

Congressional Hearings Activity

In the Senate:

 The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection met in open session on July 29, 2015 to conduct a hearing on "*The Role of Bankruptcy Reform in Addressing Too-Big-To-Fail.*" Four witnesses provided testimony, including representatives from a law firm and academia. [Hearing] In the House of Representatives:

• The House Committee on Financial Services conducted a hearing on July 28, 2015, that considered the question, "The Dodd-Frank Act Five Years Later: Are We More Prosperous?" Three witnesses provided testimony including representatives from academia and the industry. [Hearing]

Enterprise & Consumer Compliance

CFPB Announces UDAAP Enforcement Actions Against Servicers

During the week of July 20, 2015, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced two enforcement actions to address violations of the *Consumer Financial Protection Act's* (CFPA) provisions against unfair, deceptive, or abusive acts or practices (UDAAP). Under the actions:

- The CFPB entered into a Consent Order with a mortgage servicer that required, among other things, the servicer to pay \$1.5 million in restitution to customers and a \$100,000 civil money penalty to settle the CFPB's charges the servicer:
 - Failed to honor trial loan modifications that consumers had entered into with their prior servicers;
 - Gave incorrect information to certain consumers about their unpaid balances, payment due dates, interest rates, monthly payment amounts, and delinquency statuses; and
 - Sent incorrect escrow statements to customers.
- The CFPB entered Consent Orders with a payment processor and a mortgage servicer that required, among other things, the two companies, collectively, to return more than \$33 million to approximately 125,000 consumers and pay civil money penalties of \$5.1 million. The CFPB charged the companies with deceiving consumers with advertisements about the benefits associated with their mortgage payment accelerator program, for which they collected funds but did not make more frequent payments. As outlined in the Consent Orders, they:
 - Misled consumers about the average interest savings consumers would achieve by enrolling in their payment accelerator program; and
 - Misrepresented the loan repayment schedule under the payment accelerator program.

Capital Markets and Investment Management

BIS Foreign Exchange Working Group Begins to Establish Single Code of Conduct Standards and Principles for the Global Wholesale Foreign Exchange Market

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) announced on July 24, 2015, that it has established a Foreign Exchange Working Group (FXWG). The main objectives of the FXWG are to facilitate the establishment of a single global code of conduct standards and principles (Code) and to promote greater adherence to these standards and principles. The Code is intended to cover all parts of the global wholesale Foreign Exchange market, with appropriate consideration to local circumstances. The BIS note work is proceeding along two workstreams and the target date for finalization is May 2017. [Press Statement]

FSB Releases Progress Report for Implementation of OTC Derivatives Market Reform

The Financial Stability Board (FSB) published its ninth progress report on implementation of over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives market reforms on July 24, 2015. The report "finds that implementation of OTC derivatives market reforms is well underway, with the foundational authority needed to give effect to the full range of these reforms in place in most FSB member jurisdictions." The FSB summarizes more specific findings to include:

- Implementation of reforms is most advanced for trade reporting and for higher capital requirements for non-centrally cleared derivatives;
- Further incremental progress to promote central clearing of standardized OTC derivatives has been made (at present, five jurisdictions have central clearing requirements in effect for one or more specific product types);
- Few jurisdictions have regulatory frameworks in place to promote execution of standardized contracts on organized trading platforms;
- Most jurisdictions are only in the early phases of implementing the BCBS–IOSCO framework for margin requirements for non-centrally cleared derivatives; and
- The availability and use of a centralized infrastructure to support OTC derivatives reforms continues to expand.
 [Press Statement] [Report]

IOSCO Publishes Review of the Timeliness and Frequency of Disclosure to Investors

The International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) published the findings of a thematic review (Review) on July 30, 2015, that looked at the timeliness and frequency of disclosure by issuers and collective investment schemes (CIS) under Principles 16 and 26 of IOSCO's Objectives and Principles of Securities Regulation. Thirty-seven jurisdictions participated in the Review, which was limited to periodic and material event-based disclosure frameworks in participating jurisdictions, in relation to issuers as well as to CIS. [Press Statement] [Thematic Review]

IOSCO Publishes Progress Review for Regulation of DMIs

The International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) published findings from its review of the progress that twenty of its member jurisdictions have made in adopting legislation, regulation, and policies related to derivatives market intermediaries (DMIs) in the six reform areas addressed by IOSCO's 2012 report on *International Standards for Derivative Market Intermediary Regulation*. These six reform areas include: scope of regulatory reform (including the framework for regulation and definition of DMIs); registration/licensing standards; capital standards or other financial resources requirements for non-prudentially regulated DMIs; business conduct standards; business supervision standards; and recordkeeping standards. [Press Statement] [Progress Review]

Enforcement Actions

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) announced the following enforcement actions in the past week:

- The SEC charged a public company \$12 million, including approximately \$7.77 million in disgorgement, \$1.26 million in prejudgment interest, and \$3 million in penalties, to settle the SEC's findings that the company's subsidiary made improper payments to foreign individuals in violation of the *Foreign Corrupt Practices Act*.
- CFTC announced that a U.S. District Court entered separate Consent Orders (Orders) against two individual defendants and their companies, imposing a total of \$76 million in civil monetary penalties in connection with a foreign currency exchange scheme in violation of the *Commodity Exchange Act*. The Orders also impose permanent trading and registration bans on the defendants and prohibit them from further violations of the anti-fraud provisions of the CEA, as charged. In a related criminal action brought by the U.S. Attorney's Office, one defendant was convicted on charges of securities fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering, is currently serving a sentence of 40 years, and was ordered to pay criminal restitution of \$35 million. The second defendant pleaded guilty to charges of investment fraud conspiracy and tax evasion, is currently serving a sentence of 4.5 years, and was ordered to pay \$5 million in criminal restitution.

• FINRA fined an execution and clearing firm \$1.8 million for systemic Order Audit Trail System (OATS) reporting violations, failure to accurately submit required trade reports to the appropriate FINRA Trade Reporting Facility, and related supervisory failures.

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