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'I' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee

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Subject: REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE
COUNCIL on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to
the public or admitted to trading
- Confirmation of the final compromise text with a view to agreement

Delegations will find attached the text of the above-mentioned Regulation, as provisionally agreed with the European Parliament.

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of ...

**on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public
or admitted to trading**

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 114 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the *European Central Bank*²,

After consulting the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure³,

¹ *OJ C 177, 18.5.2016, p. 9.*

² *OJ C 195, 2.6.2016, p. 1.*

³ *Position of the European Parliament of ... [(OJ ...)/(not yet published in the Official Journal)] and decision of the Council of*

Whereas:

- (1) This Regulation constitutes an essential step towards the completion of the Capital Markets Union as set out in the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, entitled 'Action Plan on Building a Capital Markets Union' of 30 September 2015. The aim of the Capital Markets Union is to help businesses tap into more diverse sources of capital from anywhere within the European Union (hereinafter 'the Union'), make markets work more efficiently and offer investors and savers additional opportunities to put their money to work, in order to enhance growth and create jobs.
- (2) Directive 2003/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ laid down harmonised principles and rules on the prospectus to be drawn up, approved and published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market. Given the legislative and market developments since its entry into force, that Directive should be replaced.

⁴ ***Directive 2003/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 November 2003 on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading and amending Directive 2001/34/EC (OJ L 345, 31.12.2003, p. 64).***

- (3) Disclosure of information in case of offers of securities to the public or admission of securities to trading on a regulated market is vital to protect investors by removing asymmetries of information between them and issuers. Harmonising this disclosure allows for the establishment of a cross-border passport mechanism which facilitates the effective functioning of the internal market in a wide variety of securities.
- (4) Divergent approaches would result in fragmentation of the internal market since issuers, offerors and persons asking for admission would be subject to different rules in different Member States and prospectuses approved in one Member State could be prevented from being used in other Member States. In the absence of a harmonised framework to ensure uniformity of disclosure and the functioning of the passport in the Union it is therefore likely that differences in Member States legislation would create obstacles to the smooth functioning of the internal market for securities. Therefore to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market and improve the conditions of its functioning, in particular with regard to capital markets, and to guarantee a high level of consumer and investor protection, it is therefore appropriate to lay down a regulatory framework for prospectuses at Union level.

- (5) It is appropriate and necessary for the rules on disclosure when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market to take the legislative form of a Regulation in order to ensure that provisions directly imposing obligations on persons involved in offers of securities to the public and in admissions of securities to trading on a regulated market are applied in a uniform manner throughout the Union. Since a legal framework for the provisions on prospectuses necessarily involves measures specifying precise requirements on all different aspects inherent to prospectuses, even small divergences on the approach taken regarding one of these aspects could lead to significant impediments to cross-border offers of securities, to multiple listings on regulated markets and to EU consumer protection rules. Therefore, the use of a Regulation, which is directly applicable without requiring national legislation, should reduce the possibility of divergent measures being taken at national level, and should ensure a consistent approach, greater legal certainty and prevent the appearance of significant impediments to cross-border offers and multiple *admissions to trading on regulated markets*. The use of a Regulation will also strengthen confidence in the transparency of markets across the Union, and reduce regulatory complexity as well as search and compliance costs for companies.

- (6) The assessment of Directive 2010/73/EU *of the European Parliament and of the Council*⁵ has revealed that certain changes introduced by that Directive have not met their original objectives and that further amendments to the prospectus regime in the Union are necessary to simplify and improve its application, increase its efficiency and enhance the international competitiveness of the Union, thereby contributing to the reduction of administrative burdens.
- (7) The aim of this Regulation is to ensure investor protection and market efficiency, while enhancing the single market for capital. The provision of information which, according to the nature of the issuer and of the securities, is necessary to enable investors to make an informed investment decision ensures, together with rules on the conduct of business, the protection of investors. Moreover, such information provides an effective means of increasing confidence in securities and thus of contributing to the proper functioning and development of securities markets. The appropriate way to make this information available is to publish a prospectus.
- (8) The disclosure requirements of the present Regulation do not prevent a Member State or a competent authority or an exchange through its rule book *from imposing* other particular requirements in the context of admission to trading of securities on a regulated market (notably regarding corporate governance). Such requirements may not directly or indirectly restrict the drawing up, the content and the dissemination of a prospectus approved by a competent authority.

⁵ *Directive 2010/73/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 amending Directives 2003/71/EC on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading and 2004/109/EC on the harmonisation of transparency requirements in relation to information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market (OJ L 327, 11.12.2010, p. 1).*

- (9) Non-equity securities issued by a Member State or by one of a Member State's regional or local authorities, by public international bodies of which one or more Member States are members, by the European Central Bank or by the central banks of the Member States should not be covered by this Regulation and thus should remain unaffected by this Regulation.
- (10) The scope of the prospectus requirement should cover both equity and non-equity securities offered to the public or admitted to trading on regulated markets in order to ensure investor protection. Some of the securities covered by this Regulation entitle the holder to acquire transferable securities or to receive a cash amount through a cash settlement determined by reference to other instruments, notably transferable securities, currencies, interest rates or yields, commodities or other indices or measures. This Regulation covers in particular warrants, covered warrants, certificates, depositary receipts and convertible notes, such as securities convertible at the option of the investor.
- (11) To ensure the approval and passporting of the prospectus as well as the supervision of compliance with this Regulation in particular concerning advertising activity, a competent authority needs to be identified for each prospectus. Thus, this Regulation should clearly determine the home Member State best placed to approve the prospectus.

- (12) For offers of securities to the public *with a total consideration in the Union* below EUR 1 000 000, the cost of producing a prospectus in accordance with this Regulation is likely to be disproportionate to the envisaged proceeds of the offer. It is therefore appropriate that the requirement to draw up a prospectus under this Regulation should not apply to offers of such small scale. Member States should *not extend the requirements to draw up a prospectus in accordance with this Regulation to offers of securities with a total consideration below that threshold. However, Member States should be able to require other* disclosure requirements *at national level to the extent that such requirements do not* constitute a disproportionate or unnecessary burden in relation to such offers *of securities*.
- (13) *Furthermore, in view of the varying sizes of financial markets across the Union, it is appropriate to give Member States the option of exempting* offers of securities to the public *not exceeding EUR 8 000 000* from the prospectus obligation *as provided for* in this Regulation. In particular, Member States should be free to set out in their national law *a* threshold between EUR 1 000 000 and EUR-8 000 000, expressed as the total consideration of the offer *in the Union* over a period of 12 months, *below which the exemption should apply taking into account the level of domestic investor protection they deem to be appropriate. However, such exempted offers of securities to the public made under such an exemption should not benefit from the passporting regime under this Regulation. Below that threshold, Member States should be able to require other disclosure requirements at national level to the extent that such requirements do not constitute a disproportionate or unnecessary burden in relation to such exempted offers of securities. Nothing in this Regulation should prevent that Member State from introducing rules at national level which allow the operators of multilateral trading facilities (MTFs) to determine the content of the admission document which an issuer is required to produce upon initial admission to trading of its securities or the modalities of its review.*

(13b) The mere admission of securities to trading on a MTF or the publication of bid and offer prices is not to be regarded in itself as an offer of securities to the public and is therefore not subject to the obligation to draw up a prospectus under this Regulation. Only where those situations are accompanied by a communication meeting the definition of an ‘offer of securities to the public’ would a prospectus be required.

(14) Where an offer of securities is addressed exclusively to a restricted circle of investors who are not qualified investors, drawing up a prospectus represents a disproportionate burden in view of the small number of persons targeted by the offer, thus no prospectus should be required. This should apply for example to an offer addressed to relatives or personal acquaintances of the managers of a company.

(14a) This Regulation should be interpreted in a manner consistent with Directive 2004/25/EC, where applicable, in the context of takeover bids, merger transactions and other transactions affecting the ownership or control of companies.

(15) Incentivising directors and employees to hold securities of their own company can have a positive impact on companies' governance and help create long-term value by fostering employees' dedication and sense of ownership, aligning the respective interests of shareholders and employees, and providing the latter with investment opportunities. Participation of employees in the ownership of their company is particularly important for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in which individual employees are likely to play a significant role in the success of the company. Therefore, there should be no requirement to *publish an approved* prospectus for offers made in the context of an employee-share scheme within the Union, provided a document is made available containing information on the number and nature of the securities and the reasons for and details of the offer, to safeguard investor protection. To ensure equal access to employee-share schemes for all directors and employees, independently of whether their employer is established in or outside the Union, no equivalence decision of third country markets should be required any longer, as long as the aforementioned document is made available. Thus, all participants in employee-share schemes will benefit from equal treatment and information.

(16) Dilutive issuances of shares or securities giving access to shares often indicate transactions with a significant impact *on* the issuer's capital structure, prospects and financial situation, for which the information contained in a prospectus is needed. By contrast, where an issuer has shares already admitted to trading on a regulated market, a prospectus should not be required for any subsequent admission of the same shares on the same regulated market, including where such shares result from the conversion or exchange of other securities or from the exercise of the rights conferred by other securities, providing the newly admitted shares represent a limited proportion in relation to shares of the same class already issued on the same regulated market, unless such admission is combined with an offer to the public falling in the scope of this Regulation. The same principle should apply more generally to securities fungible with securities already admitted to trading on a regulated market.

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(16a) This Regulation is without prejudice to the laws, regulations and administrative provisions adopted pursuant to Directive 2014/59/EU in relation to the resolution of credit institutions, in particular Articles 53(2), 59(2) and 63(1) or (2) thereof, in cases where there is no requirement to publish a prospectus.

(16b) Any exemption from the obligation to publish a prospectus under this Regulation should be able to apply in combination with any other exemption, where for a public offer or an admission to trading on a regulated market the conditions for these exemptions apply at the same time. For example, where an offer is addressed simultaneously to qualified investors, non-qualified investors that commit to invest at least EUR 100 000 each, the employees of the issuer and in addition a limited number of non-qualified investors not exceeding the number set out in this Regulation, the offer would be exempt from the requirement to publish a prospectus.

(16b) In order to ensure the proper functioning of the wholesale market for non-equity securities and increase market liquidity, it is important to set out a distinct alleviated treatment for non-equity securities admitted to trading on a regulated market and designed for qualified investors. That alleviated treatment should consist of minimum information requirements which are less onerous than those applying to non-equity securities offered to retail investors, there should be no requirement to include a summary in the prospectus and more flexible language requirements should apply. On the one hand, that alleviated treatment should be applicable to non-equity securities, regardless of their denomination, which are traded only on a regulated market, or a specific segment thereof, to which only qualified investors can have access for the purposes of trading in such securities. On the other hand, this alleviated treatment should be applicable to non-equity securities with a denomination per unit of at least EUR 100 000, which reflects the higher investment capacity of the investors concerned by the prospectus. No resale to non-qualified investors should be allowed for non-equity securities, which are traded only on a regulated market, or a specific segment thereof, for qualified investors, unless a prospectus is drawn up in accordance with this Regulation that is appropriate for non-qualified investors. In order to ensure this, it is essential that market operators, when establishing such regulated markets, or a specific segments thereof do not allow direct or indirect access by non-qualified investors to that regulated market, or a specific segment thereof.

- (17) *Where securities are allocated without an element of individual choice on the part of the recipient, including allocations of securities where there is no right to repudiate the allocation, or where allocation is automatic following a decision by a court, such as an allocation of securities to existing creditors in the course of a judicial insolvency proceeding, such transaction would not qualify as an offer of securities to the public.*
- (18) Issuers, offerors or persons asking for the admission to trading on a regulated market of securities which are not subject to the obligation to publish a prospectus should benefit from the single passport where they choose to comply with this Regulation on a voluntary basis.
- (18a) *In view of the specificities of different types of securities, issuers, offers and admissions, this Regulation sets out rules for different forms of prospectuses - a standard prospectus, a base prospectus, a simplified prospectus for secondary issuances and an EU Growth prospectus. Therefore, all references to “prospectus” under this Regulation should be understood as referring to all forms of prospectuses, unless explicitly stated otherwise.*
- (19) Disclosure provided by a prospectus should not be required for offers *of securities to the public which are* limited to qualified investors. In contrast, any resale to the public or public trading through admission to trading on a regulated market requires the publication of *an approved* prospectus.

(20) A valid prospectus, drawn up by the issuer or the person responsible for drawing up the prospectus and available to the public at the time of the final placement of securities through financial intermediaries or in any subsequent resale of securities, provides sufficient information for investors to make informed investment decisions. Therefore, financial intermediaries placing or subsequently reselling the securities should be entitled to rely upon the initial prospectus published by the issuer or the person responsible for drawing up the prospectus as long as it is valid and duly supplemented and the issuer or the person responsible for drawing up the prospectus consents to its use. The issuer or the person responsible for drawing up the prospectus should be allowed to attach conditions to his or her consent. The consent to use the prospectus, including any conditions attached thereto, should be given in a written agreement enabling assessment by relevant parties of whether the resale or final placement of securities complies with the agreement. In the event that consent to use the prospectus has been given, the issuer or person responsible for drawing up the initial prospectus should be liable for the information stated therein and in the case of a base prospectus, for providing and filing final terms and no other prospectus should be required. However, in the event that the issuer or the person responsible for drawing up such initial prospectus does not consent to its use, the financial intermediary should be required to publish a new prospectus. In that case, the financial intermediary should be liable for the information in the prospectus, including all information incorporated by reference and, in the case of a base prospectus, final terms.

- (21) Harmonisation of the information contained in the prospectus should provide equivalent investor protection at Union level. In order to enable investors to make an informed investment decision, that information should be sufficient and objective ***and should be written and presented*** in an easily analysable, ***concise*** and comprehensible form. ***The information which is included in a prospectus should be adapted to the type of prospectus, the nature and circumstances of the issuer and the type of securities.*** A prospectus should not contain information which is not material or specific to the issuer and the securities concerned, as this could obscure the information relevant to the investment decision and thus undermine investor protection. ***Therefore, the information which is included in a prospectus should be adapted to reflect the nature and circumstances of the issuer, the type of securities, and whether the investors targeted by the offer are solely qualified investors.***
- (22) The summary of the prospectus should be a useful source of information for investors, in particular retail investors. It should be a self-contained part of the prospectus and should focus on key information that investors need in order to be able to decide which offers and admissions to trading of securities ***they want to study further by reviewing the prospectus as a whole to take their decision.*** Such key information should convey the essential characteristics of, and risks associated with, the issuer, any guarantor, and the securities offered or admitted to trading on a regulated market. It should also provide the general terms and conditions of the offer.

(22a) The presentation of risk factors in the summary should consist of a limited selection of specific risks which the issuer considers to be of most relevance to the investor when the investor is making an investment decision. The description of the risk factors in the summary should be of relevance to the specific offering and should be prepared solely for the benefit of investors and not give general statements on investment risk, or limit the liability of the issuer, offeror or any persons acting on their behalf. Those risk factors should, where applicable, highlight the risks, in particular for retail investors, in the case of securities issued by credit institutions that are subject to bail-in under Directive 2014/59/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (BRRD)⁶.

(23) The summary of the prospectus should be short, simple and easy for investors to understand. It should be *written* in plain, non-technical language, presenting the information in an easily accessible way. It should not be a mere compilation of excerpts from the prospectus. It is appropriate to set a maximum length for the summary in order to ensure that investors are not deterred from reading it and to encourage issuers to select the information which is essential for investors. *In certain circumstances set out in this Regulation, the length limit of the summary should be extended.*

⁶ *Directive 2014/59/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 establishing a framework for the recovery and resolution of credit institutions and investment firms and amending Council Directive 82/891/EEC, and Directives 2001/24/EC, 2002/47/EC, 2004/25/EC, 2005/56/EC, 2007/36/EC, 2011/35/EU, 2012/30/EU and 2013/36/EU, and Regulations (EU) No 1093/2010 and (EU) No 648/2012, of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 173, 12.6.2014, p. 190).*

- (24) To ensure the uniform structure of the prospectus summary, general sections and sub-headings should be provided, with indicative contents which the issuer should fill in with brief, narrative descriptions including figures where appropriate. As long as they present it in a fair and balanced way, issuers should be given discretion to select the information that they deem to be material and meaningful.
- (25) The prospectus summary should be modelled as much as possible after the key information document required under Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷. Where securities fall under the scope of both this Regulation and Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014, full reuse of the contents of the key information document should be permitted in the summary in order to minimise compliance costs and administrative burden for issuers. *Issuers may make use of that option to the maximum extent possible.* The requirement to produce a summary should however not be waived when a key information document is required, as the latter does not contain key information on the issuer and the offer to the public or admission to trading of the securities concerned.

⁷ Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 November 2014 on key information documents for packaged retail and insurance-based investment products (PRIIPs) (OJ L 352, 9.12.2014, p. 1).

- (26) No civil liability should be attached to any person solely on the basis of the summary, including any translation thereof, unless it is misleading, inaccurate or inconsistent with the relevant parts of the prospectus *or where it does not provide, when read together with the other parts of the prospectus, key information in order to aid investors when considering whether to invest in such securities*. The summary should contain a clear warning to this effect.
- (27) Issuers which repeatedly raise financing on capital markets should be offered specific formats of registration documents and prospectuses as well as specific procedures for their filing and approval, in order to provide them with more flexibility and enable them to seize market windows. In any case, those formats and procedures should be optional at the choice of issuers.
- (28) For all non-equity securities, including where these are issued in a continuous or repeated manner or as part of an offering programme, issuers should be allowed to draw up a prospectus in the form of a base prospectus. A base prospectus and its final terms should contain the same information as a prospectus.

- (29) It is appropriate to clarify that final terms to a base prospectus should contain only information relating to the securities note which is specific to the individual issue and which can be determined only at the time of the individual issue. Such information may, for example, include the international securities identification number, the issue price, the date of maturity, any coupon, the exercise date, the exercise price, the redemption price and other terms not known at the time of drawing up the base prospectus. Where the final terms are not included in the base prospectus they should not have to be approved by the competent authority, but should only be filed with it. Other new information which is capable of affecting the assessment of the issuer and the securities should be included in a supplement to the base prospectus. Neither the final terms nor a supplement should be used to include a type of securities not already described in the base prospectus.
- (30) Under a base prospectus, a summary should only be drawn up by the issuer in relation to each individual issue offered, in order to reduce administrative burdens and to enhance the readability for investors. That issue-specific summary should be annexed to the final terms and should only be approved by the competent authority where the final terms are included in the base prospectus or in a supplement thereto.
- (31) In order to enhance the flexibility and cost-effectiveness of the base prospectus, an issuer should be allowed to draw up a base prospectus as separate documents **II**.

(32) Frequent issuers should be *incentivised* to draw up their prospectus as separate documents as this can reduce their cost of compliance with this Regulation and enable them to swiftly react to market windows. Thus, issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on regulated markets or multilateral trading facilities should have the option, but not the obligation, to draw up and publish every financial year a universal registration document containing legal, business, financial, accounting and shareholding information and providing a description of the issuer for that financial year. ***Subject to fulfilling the criteria set out in this Regulation, an issuer should be deemed to be a frequent issuer as from the moment when the issuer submits the universal registration document for approval to the competent authority.*** ***Drawing up a universal registration document*** should enable the issuer to keep the information up-to-date and draw up a prospectus when market conditions become favourable for an offer or an admission by adding a securities note and a summary. The universal registration document should be multi-purpose in so far as its content should be the same irrespective of whether the issuer subsequently uses it for an offer or admission to trading of equity *or non-equity securities*. ***Therefore, the disclosure standards for the universal registration document should be based on those for equity securities.*** ***The universal registration document*** should act as a source of reference on the issuer, supplying investors and analysts with the minimum information needed to make an informed judgement on the company's business, financial position, earnings and prospects, governance and shareholding.

- (33) An issuer which has filed and received approval for a universal registration document for *two* consecutive years can be considered well-known to the competent authority. All subsequent universal registration documents *and any amendments thereto* should therefore be allowed to be filed without prior approval and reviewed on an ex-post basis by the competent authority where that competent authority deems it necessary. Each competent authority should decide the frequency of such review taking into account for example its assessment of the risks of the issuer, the quality of its past disclosures, or the length of time elapsed since a filed universal registration document has been last reviewed.
- (34) It should be possible for the universal registration document, as long as it has not become a constituent part of an approved prospectus, to be amended, either voluntarily by the issuer – for example in case of a material change in its organisation or financial situation – or upon request by the competent authority in the context of a post filing review where the standards of completeness, comprehensibility and consistency are not met. Such amendments should be published according to the same arrangements that apply to the universal registration document. In particular, when the competent authority identifies *a material* omission **■**, a material mistake or *material* inaccuracy, the issuer should amend its universal registration document and make this amendment publicly available without undue delay. As neither an offer to the public, nor an admission to trading of securities is taking place, the procedure for amending a universal registration document should be distinct from the procedure for supplementing a prospectus, which should apply only after the approval of the prospectus.

- (35) Where an issuer draws up a prospectus consisting of separate documents, all constituting parts of the prospectus should be subject to approval, including, where applicable, the universal registration document and amendments thereto, where they have been previously filed with the competent authority but not approved. ***Amendments to the universal registration document should not be subject to approval by the competent authority at the time of filing and should only be approved when all the constituent parts of the prospectus are submitted for approval.***
- (36) To speed up the process of preparing a prospectus and to facilitate access to capital markets in a cost-effective way, frequent issuers who produce a universal registration document should be granted the benefit of a faster approval process, since the main constituent part of the prospectus has either already been approved or is already available for the review by the competent authority. The time needed to obtain approval of the prospectus should therefore be shortened when the registration document takes the form of a universal registration document.
- (36a) Frequent issuers should be allowed to use a universal registration document and any amendments thereto as a constituent part of a base prospectus. Where a frequent issuer is eligible to draw up an EU growth prospectus or a prospectus under the specific disclosure regime for secondary issuances, it should be allowed to use its universal registration document and any amendments thereto as a constituent part of such prospectus, instead of the specific registration document required under those disclosure regimes.***

- (37) Provided that the issuer complies with the procedures for the filing, dissemination and storage of regulated information and with the deadlines set out in Articles 4 and 5 of Directive 2004/109/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸, it should be allowed to publish the annual and half-yearly financial reports required by Directive 2004/109/EC as parts of the universal registration document, unless the home Member States of the issuer are different for the purposes of this Regulation and Directive 2004/109/EC and unless the language of the universal registration document does not fulfil the conditions of Article 20 of Directive 2004/109/EC. This should alleviate administrative burden linked to multiple filings, without affecting the information available to the public or the supervision of these reports under Directive 2004/109/EC.
- (38) A clear time limit should be set for the validity of a prospectus in order to avoid investment decisions based on outdated information. In order to improve legal certainty, the validity of a prospectus should commence at its approval, a point in time which is easily verified by the competent authority. An offer of securities to the public under a base prospectus should only extend beyond the validity of the base prospectus where a succeeding base prospectus is approved *and published* before such validity expires and covers the continuing offer.

⁸ Directive 2004/109/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 on the harmonisation of transparency requirements in relation to information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market and amending Directive 2001/34/EC (OJ L 390, 31.12.2004, p. 38).

- (39) By nature, information on taxes on the income from the securities in a prospectus can only be generic, adding little informational value for the individual investor. Since such information must cover not only the country of registered office of the issuer but also the countries where the offer is being made or admission to trading is being sought, where a prospectus is passported, it is costly to produce and might hamper cross-border offers. Therefore a prospectus should only contain a warning that the tax legislation of the investor's Member State and of the issuer's Member State of incorporation may have an impact on the income received from the securities. However, the prospectus should still contain appropriate information on taxation where the proposed investment entails a specific tax regime, for instance in the case of investments in securities granting investors a favourable tax treatment.
- (40) Once a class of securities is admitted to trading on a regulated market, investors are provided with ongoing disclosures by the issuer under Regulation (EU) 596/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁹ and Directive 2004/109/EC. The need for a full prospectus is therefore less acute in case of subsequent offers to the public or admissions to trading by such an issuer. A distinct *simplified* prospectus should therefore be available for use in case of secondary issuances and its content should be alleviated compared to the normal regime, taking into account the information already disclosed. Still, investors need to be provided with consolidated and well-structured information, *especially where* such information is not required to be disclosed on an ongoing basis under Regulation (EU) 596/2014 and Directive 2004/109/EC ▮.

⁹ Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on market abuse (market abuse regulation) and repealing Directive 2003/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Directives 2003/124/EC, 2003/125/EC and 2004/72/EC (OJ L 173, 12.6.2014, p. 1).

- (41) The *simplified* disclosure regime for secondary issuances should be *available for offers to the public by issuers whose securities are traded on* SME growth markets as their operators are required under Directive 2014/65/EU to establish and apply rules ensuring appropriate ongoing disclosure **■**.
- (42) The *simplified* disclosure regime for secondary issuances should only be available for use after a minimum period of time has elapsed since the initial admission to trading of a class of securities of an issuer. A delay of 18 months should ensure that the issuer has complied at least once with its obligation to publish an annual financial report under Directive 2004/109/EC or under the rules of the market operator of an SME growth market.

(43) One of the core objectives of the Capital Markets Union is to facilitate access to financing on capital markets for SMEs in the Union. ***It is also appropriate to extend the definition of SMEs to SMEs as defined in Directive 2014/65/EU to ensure consistency between this Regulation and Directive 2014/65/EU.*** As such companies usually need to raise relatively lower amounts than other issuers, the cost of drawing up a ***standard*** prospectus can be disproportionately high and may deter them from offering their securities to the public. At the same time, because of their size and ***potentially*** shorter track record, SMEs might carry a ***specific*** investment risk ***compared to*** larger issuers and should disclose sufficient information for investors to take their investment decision. ***Furthermore, in order to encourage the use of capital market financing by SMEs, this Regulation should ensure that special consideration is given to SME growth markets, which are a promising tool to allow smaller, growing companies to raise capital. The success of such venues depends, however, on their ability to cater for the financing needs of growing SMEs. Similarly, small mid-cap companies offering securities to the public with a total consideration in the Union not exceeding EUR 20 000 000 would benefit from easier access to capital markets funding in order to be able to grow and should be able to raise funds at costs that are not disproportionately high. Therefore, it is appropriate that this Regulation establishes a specific proportionate EU Growth prospectus regime which is available to such companies.*** A proper balance should **■** be struck between the cost-efficient access to financial markets and investor protection when calibrating the content of ***an EU Growth prospectus.*** ***As any other type of prospectus under this Regulation, once approved, an EU Growth prospectus should benefit from the passporting regime under this Regulation and should therefore be valid for any offer of securities to the public across the Union.***

- (44) The *reduced* information required to be disclosed *in EU Growth prospectuses* should be calibrated in a way that focuses on information that is material and relevant *when investing in the securities offered, and would need to ensure* proportionality between the size of the company and its fundraising needs, on the one hand, and the cost of producing a prospectus, on the other hand. ─
- (45) The *proportionate* disclosure regime *for EU Growth prospectuses* should *not* be ─*available where a company already has securities admitted to trading* on regulated markets ─ because investors on regulated markets should feel confident that the issuers whose securities they invest in are subject to one single set of disclosure rules. Therefore there should not be a two-tier disclosure standard on regulated markets depending on the size of the issuer.

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(48) The primary purpose of including risk factors in a prospectus is to ensure that investors make an informed assessment of such risks and thus take investment decisions in full knowledge of the facts. Risk factors should therefore be limited to those risks which are material and specific to the issuer and its securities and which are corroborated by the content of the prospectus. A prospectus should not contain risk factors which are generic and only serve as disclaimers, as these could obscure more specific risk factors that investors should be aware of, thereby preventing the prospectus from presenting information in an easily analysable, *concise* and comprehensible form. ***Among others, environmental, social and governance circumstances can also constitute specific and material risks for the issuer and its securities and, in that case, should be disclosed.*** To help investors identify the most material risks, the issuer should ***adequately describe and present each risk factor in the prospectus.*** A limited number of risk factors selected by the issuer **█** should be included in the summary.

- (48b) The market practice whereby an approved prospectus does not include the final price of the offer or the amount of securities offered (whether in number of securities or aggregate nominal amount) should be acceptable when such final price or amount cannot be included in the prospectus, provided that a protection is granted to investors in that case. Investors should either be entitled to a withdrawal right once the final price or amount of securities is finally known, or, alternatively, the prospectus should disclose the maximum price investors may have to pay for the securities, or maximum amount of securities, or the valuation methods and criteria in accordance with which the price of the securities will be determined and an explanation of any valuation methods used, such as the discounted cash flow method, a peer group analysis or any other commonly accepted valuation methods. The valuation methods and criteria should be precise enough to make the price predictable and ensure a level of investor protection that is similar to the disclosure of the maximum price of the offer. In that respect, a mere reference to the bookbuilding method should not be acceptable as valuation method or criteria, where no maximum price is included in the prospectus.*
- (49) Omission of sensitive information in a prospectus should be allowed in certain circumstances by means of a derogation granted by the competent authority in order to avoid detrimental situations for an issuer, *without prejudice to the adequate information provided to investors.*

- (50) Member States publish abundant information on their financial situation which is in general available in the public domain. Thus, where a Member State guarantees an offer of securities, such information should not need to be provided in the prospectus.
- (51) Allowing issuers to incorporate by reference documents containing the information to be disclosed in a prospectus — *subject to the requirement* that *such* documents ~~have been~~ published electronically — should facilitate the procedure of drawing up a prospectus and lower the costs for the issuers without endangering investor protection. However, this aim of simplifying and reducing the costs of drafting a prospectus should not be achieved to the detriment of other interests the prospectus is meant to protect, including the accessibility of the information. The language used for information incorporated by reference should follow the language regime applying to prospectuses. Information incorporated by reference may refer to historical data, however where this information is no longer relevant due to material change, this should be clearly stated in the prospectus and the updated information should also be provided.

- (52) Any regulated information, as defined in Article 2(1)(k) of Directive 2004/109/EC, should be eligible for incorporation by reference in a prospectus. Issuers whose securities are traded on a multilateral trading facility, and issuers which are exempted from publishing annual and half-yearly financial reports pursuant to Article 8(1)(b) of Directive 2004/109/EC, should also be allowed to incorporate by reference in a prospectus all or part of their annual and interim financial information, audit reports, financial statements, management reports or corporate governance statements, subject to their electronic publication.
- (53) Not all issuers have access to adequate information and guidance about the scrutiny and approval process and the necessary steps to follow to get a prospectus approved, as different approaches by competent authorities exist in Member States. This Regulation should eliminate those differences by harmonising the *criteria for the scrutiny of the prospectus and harmonising the rules applying to the approval processes of national competent authorities by streamlining them. It is important* to ensure that all competent authorities take a convergent approach when scrutinising the completeness, consistency and comprehensibility of the information contained in a prospectus *taking into account the need for a proportionate approach in the scrutiny of prospectuses based on the circumstances of the issuer and the issuance*. Guidance on how to seek approval of a prospectus should be publicly available on the websites of the competent authorities. ESMA should play a key role in fostering supervisory convergence in this field by using its powers under Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁰. In particular, ESMA should conduct peer reviews covering activities of the competent authorities under this Regulation within an appropriate time-frame before the review of this Regulation and in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

¹⁰ Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority), amending Decision No 716/2009/EC and repealing Commission Decision 2009/77/EC (OJ L 331, 15.12.2010, p. 84).

- (54) To facilitate the access to the markets of Member States, it is important that fees charged by competent authorities for the approval and filing of prospectuses and their related documents are *reasonable, proportionate and publicly* disclosed.
- (55) Since the internet ensures easy access to information, and in order to ensure better accessibility for investors, the approved prospectus should always be published in an electronic form. The prospectus should be published on a dedicated section of the website of the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission, or, where applicable, on the website of the financial intermediaries placing or selling the securities, including paying agents, or on the website of the regulated market where the admission to trading is sought, or of the operator of the multilateral trading facility.

(55a) All prospectuses approved, or alternatively a list of those prospectuses with a link to ESMA’s website, should be published on the website of the competent authority of the issuer’s home Member State, and each prospectus must be transmitted by the competent authority to ESMA along with the relevant data enabling its classification. ESMA should provide a centralised storage mechanism of prospectuses allowing access free of charge and appropriate search facilities for the public. To ensure that investors have access to reliable data that can be used and analysed in a timely and efficient matter, key information contained in the prospectuses, such as the ISIN identifying the securities and the LEI identifying the issuers, offerors and guarantors, should be machine readable including when meta data is used. Prospectuses should remain publicly available for at least 10 years after their publication, to ensure that their period of public availability is aligned with that of annual and half-yearly financial reports under Directive 2004/109/EC. The prospectus should however always be available to investors on a durable medium, free of charge on request. Where a potential investor makes a specific demand for a paper copy, that investor should be able to receive a printed version of the prospectus. However, that does not require the issuer, offeror, person asking for admission to trading or financial intermediary to keep in reserve printed copies of the prospectus to satisfy such potential requests.

- (56) It is also necessary to harmonise advertisements in order to avoid undermining public confidence and prejudicing the proper functioning of financial markets. The fairness and accuracy of advertisements, as well as their consistency with the content of the prospectus are of utmost importance for the protection of investors, including retail investors. ***Without prejudice to the passporting regime under this Regulation***, the supervision of such advertisements is an integral part of the role of competent authorities. ***The requirements on advertisements in this Regulation should be without prejudice to other applicable provisions of Union law, in particular relating to consumer protection and unfair commercial practices.***
- (57) Any significant new factor, material mistake or ***material*** inaccuracy which could influence the assessment of the investment, arising after the publication of the prospectus but before the closing of the offer or the start of trading on a regulated market, should be properly evaluated by investors and therefore requires the approval and dissemination of a supplement to the prospectus without undue delay.

(58) In order to improve legal certainty, the respective time-limits within which an issuer must publish a supplement to the prospectus and within which investors have a right to withdraw their acceptance of the offer following the publication of a supplement should be clarified. On the one hand, the obligation to supplement a prospectus should apply ***when the significant new factor, material mistake or material inaccuracy occurs before the*** closing of the offer period or the time when trading of such securities on a regulated market begins, whichever occurs later. On the other hand, the right to withdraw an acceptance should apply only where the prospectus relates to an offer of securities to the public and the new factor, ***material*** mistake or ***material*** inaccuracy arose ***or was noted*** before the **■**-closing of the offer ***period*** and the delivery of the securities. Hence, the right of withdrawal should be linked to the timing of the new factor, mistake or inaccuracy that gives rise to a supplement, and should assume that such triggering event has occurred while the offer is open and before the securities are delivered. ***The withdrawal right granted to investors owing to a significant new factor, material mistake or material inaccuracy that arose or was noted during the validity period of a prospectus is not affected by the fact that the corresponding supplement is published after the validity period of that prospectus. In the particular case of an offer that continues under two successive base prospectuses, the fact that the issuer is in the process of having a succeeding base prospectus approved does not remove the obligation to supplement the previous base prospectus until the end of its validity and grant the associated withdrawal rights.*** To improve legal certainty, the supplement to the prospectus should specify when the right of withdrawal ends. Financial intermediaries should ***inform investors of their rights and*** facilitate proceedings when investors exert their right to withdraw acceptances.

- (59) The obligation for an issuer to translate the *entire* prospectus into all the relevant official languages discourages cross-border offers or multiple trading. To facilitate cross-border offers, where the prospectus is drawn up in a language that is customary in the sphere of international finance, only the summary should be *available* in the official language *or at least one of its official languages of the host Member State or in another language accepted by the competent authority of that Member State* ~~■~~.
- (60) The competent authority of the host Member State should be entitled to receive a certificate from the competent authority of the home Member State which states that the prospectus has been drawn up in accordance with this Regulation. The competent authority of the home Member State should also notify the issuer or the person responsible for drawing up the prospectus of the certificate of approval of the prospectus that is addressed to the authority of the host Member State in order to provide the issuer or the person responsible for drawing up the prospectus with certainty as to whether and when a notification has actually been made. *All transfers of documents between competent authorities for the purpose of notifications should take place through a notification portal to be established by ESMA.*

(60a) Where this Regulation allows an issuer to choose its home Member State for the purpose of the prospectus approval, it is appropriate to ensure that such issuer can use as a constituent part of its prospectus a registration document, or a universal registration document, which has already been approved by the competent authority of another Member State. A system of notification between competent authorities should therefore be introduced to ensure that such registration document, or universal registration document, is not subject to a scrutiny or approval by the competent authority approving the prospectus, and that competent authorities remain responsible only for the constituent part of a prospectus which they have approved, including in case a supplement is subsequently drawn up.

(61) In order to ensure that the purposes of this Regulation will be fully achieved, it is also necessary to include within its scope securities issued by issuers governed by the laws of third countries. ¶ In order to ensure exchanges of information and cooperation with third-country authorities in relation to the effective enforcement of this Regulation, competent authorities should conclude cooperation arrangements with their counterparts in third countries. Any transfer of personal data carried out on the basis of those agreements should comply with Directive 95/46/EC and with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

- (62) A variety of competent authorities in Member States, with different responsibilities, may create unnecessary costs and overlapping of responsibilities without providing any additional benefit. In each Member State, a single competent authority should be designated to approve prospectuses and to assume responsibility for supervising compliance with this Regulation. That competent authority should be established as an administrative authority and in such a form that their independence from economic actors is guaranteed and conflicts of interest are avoided. The designation of a competent authority for prospectus approval should not exclude cooperation between that competent authority and other entities, such as banking and insurance regulators or listing authorities, with a view to guaranteeing efficient scrutiny and approval of prospectuses in the interest of issuers, investors, markets participants and markets alike. Delegation of tasks by a competent authority to another entity should only be permitted where it relates to the publication of approved prospectuses.
- (63) A set of effective tools and powers and resources for the competent authorities of Member States guarantees supervisory effectiveness. This Regulation therefore should in particular provide for a minimum set of supervisory and investigative powers with which competent authorities of Member States should be entrusted in accordance with national law. Those powers should be exercised, where the national law so requires, by application to the competent judicial authorities. When exercising their powers under this Regulation competent authorities and ESMA should act objectively and impartially and remain autonomous in their decision making.

- (64) For the purpose of detecting infringements of this Regulation, it is necessary for competent authorities to be able to access sites other than the private residences of natural persons in order to seize documents. The access to such premises is necessary when there is reasonable suspicion that documents and other data related to the subject matter of an inspection or investigation exist and may be relevant to prove an infringement of this Regulation. Additionally the access to such premises is necessary where: the person to whom a demand for information has already been made fails to comply with it; or where there are reasonable grounds for believing that if a demand were to be made, it would not be complied with, or that the documents or information to which the information requirement relates, would be removed, tampered with or destroyed.
- (65) In line with the Commission Communication of 8 December 2010 entitled 'Reinforcing sanctioning regimes in the financial services sector' and in order to ensure that the requirements of this Regulation are fulfilled, it is important that Member States take necessary steps to ensure that infringements of this Regulation are subject to appropriate administrative penalties and measures. Those penalties and administrative measures should be effective, proportionate and dissuasive and ensure a common approach in Member States and a deterrent effect. This Regulation should not limit Member States in their ability to provide for higher levels of administrative sanctions.

- (66) In order to ensure that decisions made by competent authorities have a deterrent effect on the public at large, they should normally be published unless the competent authority in accordance with this Regulation deems it necessary to opt for a publication on an anonymous basis, to delay the publication or not to publish sanctions.
- (67) Although Member States may lay down rules for administrative and criminal penalties for the same infringements, Member States should not be required to lay down rules for administrative penalties for the infringements of this Regulation which are subject to national criminal law by ... [enter date of application of this Regulation]. In accordance with national law, Member States are not obliged to impose both administrative and criminal penalties for the same offence, but they should be able to do so if their national law so permits. However, the maintenance of criminal penalties instead of administrative penalties for infringements of this Regulation should not reduce or otherwise affect the ability of competent authorities to cooperate, access and exchange information in a timely way with competent authorities in other Member States for the purposes of this Regulation, including after any referral of the relevant infringements to the competent judicial authorities for criminal prosecution.
- (68) Whistleblowers may bring new information to the attention of competent authorities which assists them in detecting and imposing sanctions in cases of infringements of this Regulation. This Regulation should therefore ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to enable whistleblowers to alert competent authorities to actual or potential infringements of this Regulation and to protect them from retaliation.

(69) In order to specify the requirements set out in this Regulation, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of ~~■~~ the minimum information content of the documents referred to in points (f) and (g) of Article 1(3) and points (d) and (e) of Article 1(4), ~~■~~ the scrutiny, approval, filing and review of the universal registration document ***and its amendments***, the format of the prospectus, the base prospectus and the final terms, and the specific information which must be included in a prospectus, the minimum information contained in the universal registration document, the reduced information contained in the simplified ***prospectus*** in case of secondary issuances and by SMEs, the ***specific reduced content and standardised format and sequence of the EU Growth prospectus and its specific summary, the criteria for assessment and presentation of risk factors by the issuer***, the scrutiny and approval of ***prospectuses*** and the general equivalence criteria for prospectuses drawn up by third country issuers. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, ***and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts***, the European Parliament and the Council ***should receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts should systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.***

- (70) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation in respect of equivalence of third country prospectus legislations, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission to take a decision on such equivalence. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹¹.
- (71) Technical standards in financial services should ensure adequate protection of investors and consumers across the Union. As a body with highly specialised expertise, it would be efficient and appropriate to entrust ESMA, with the elaboration of draft regulatory technical standards which do not involve policy choices, for submission to the Commission.
- (72) The Commission should adopt draft regulatory technical standards developed by ESMA, with regard to the content and format of presentation of the historical key financial information to be included in the summary, the information to be incorporated by reference and further types of documents required under Union law, the publication of the prospectus, the data necessary for the classification of prospectuses in the storage mechanism operated by ESMA, *the provisions concerning advertisements*, the situations where a significant new factor, material mistake or *material* inaccuracy relating to the information included in the prospectus requires a supplement to the prospectus to be published, the *technical arrangements necessary for the functioning of the ESMA notification portal, the minimum content of the cooperation arrangements with supervisory authorities in third countries and the templates to be used therefor, and the* information exchanged between competent authorities and ESMA in the context of the obligation to cooperate **■**. The Commission should adopt those draft regulatory technical standards by means of delegated acts pursuant to Article 290 TFEU and in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by the Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

- (73) The Commission should also be empowered to adopt implementing technical standards by means of implementing acts pursuant to Article 291 TFEU and in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010. ESMA should be entrusted with drafting implementing technical standards for submission to the Commission with regard to the standard forms, templates and procedures for the notification of the certificate of approval, the prospectus, **registration document, universal registration document**, the supplement of the prospectus, and the translation of the prospectus and/or summary, the standard forms, templates and procedures for the cooperation and exchange of information between competent authorities, and the procedures and forms for exchange of information between competent authorities and ESMA.
- (74) In exercising its delegated and implementing powers in accordance with this Regulation, the Commission should respect the following principles:
- the need to ensure confidence in financial markets among retail investors and SMEs by promoting high standards of transparency in financial markets,
 - the need to calibrate the disclosure requirements of a prospectus taking into account the size of the issuer and the information which an issuer is already required to disclose under Directive 2004/109/EC and Regulation (EU) No 596/2014,

- the need to facilitate access to capital markets for SMEs while ensuring investor confidence in investing in such companies,
- the need to provide investors with a wide range of competing investment opportunities and a level of disclosure and protection tailored to their circumstances,
- the need to ensure that independent regulatory authorities enforce the rules consistently, especially as regards the fight against white-collar crime,
- the need for a high level of transparency and consultation with all market participants and with the European Parliament and the Council,
- the need to encourage innovation in financial markets if they are to be dynamic and efficient,
- the need to ensure systemic stability of the financial system by close and reactive monitoring of financial innovation,
- the importance of reducing the cost of, and increasing access to, capital,

- the need to balance, on a long-term basis, the costs and benefits to all market participants of any implementing measure,
- the need to foster the international competitiveness of the Union’s financial markets without prejudice to a much-needed extension of international cooperation,
- the need to achieve a level playing field for all market participants by establishing Union legislation every time it is appropriate,
- the need to ensure coherence with other Union legislation in this area, as imbalances in information and a lack of transparency may jeopardise the operation of the markets and above all harm consumers and small investors.

(75) Any processing of personal data carried out within the framework of this Regulation, such as the exchange or transmission of personal data by the competent authorities, should be undertaken in accordance with Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹² and any exchange or transmission of information by ESMA should be undertaken in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹³.

¹² Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31).

¹³ Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1).

- (76) No later than five years after the entry into force of this Regulation, the Commission should review the application of this Regulation and assess in particular whether the disclosure regimes for secondary issuances and for *the EU Growth prospectus*, the universal registration document and the prospectus summary remain appropriate to meet the objectives pursued by this Regulation. *In particular, the report should analyse the relevant figures and trends concerning the EU Growth prospectus and assess whether this new regime strikes a proper balance between investor protection and the reduction of administrative burden for the companies entitled to use it. Such a review should also assess whether issuers, in particular SMEs, can obtain LEIs and ISINs at a reasonable cost and within a reasonable period of time.*
- (77) The application of the requirements in this Regulation should be deferred in order to allow for the adoption of delegated and implementing acts and to allow *competent authorities and* market participants to assimilate and plan for the application of the new measures.

- (78) Since the objectives of this Regulation, namely to enhance investor protection and market efficiency while establishing the Capital Markets Union, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can rather, by reason of its effects, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures in accordance with principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty of the European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.
- (79) This Regulation respects the fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Therefore, this Regulation should be interpreted and applied in accordance with those rights and principles.
- (80) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with Article 28(2) of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 **■**;

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Purpose, scope and exemptions

1. The purpose of this Regulation is to lay down requirements for the drawing up, approval and distribution of the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market situated or operating within a Member State.
2. This Regulation shall not apply to the following types of securities:
 - (a) units issued by collective investment undertakings other than the closed-end type;
 - (b) non-equity securities issued by a Member State or by one of a Member State's regional or local authorities, by public international bodies of which one or more Member States are members, by the European Central Bank or by the central banks of the Member States;

- (c) shares in the capital of central banks of the Member States;
- (d) securities unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by a Member State or by one of a Member State's regional or local authorities;
- (e) securities issued by associations with legal status or non-profit-making bodies, recognised by a Member State, for the purposes of obtaining the funding necessary to achieve their non-profit-making objectives;

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- (g) non-fungible shares of capital whose main purpose is to provide the holder with a right to occupy an apartment, or other form of immovable property or a part thereof and where the shares cannot be sold on without this right being given up;

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2a. *Without prejudice to the second subparagraph and Article 4, this Regulation shall not apply to an offer of securities with a total consideration in the Union of less than EUR 1 000 000, which shall be calculated over a period of 12 months.*

Member States shall not extend the requirement to draw up a prospectus in accordance with this Regulation to offers of securities referred to in the first subparagraph. However, in those cases, Member States shall be able to require other disclosure requirements at national level to the extent that such requirements do not constitute disproportionate or unnecessary burden.

3. *The obligation to publish a prospectus* shall not apply to any of the following types of offers of securities to the public:

- (a) an offer of securities addressed solely to qualified investors;
- (b) an offer of securities addressed to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons per Member State, other than qualified investors;

- (ba) *an offer of securities whose denomination per unit amounts to at least EUR 100 000;*
- (c) an offer of securities addressed to investors who acquire securities for a total consideration of at least EUR 100 000 per investor, for each separate offer;

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- (e) shares issued in substitution for shares of the same class already issued, if the issuing of such new shares does not involve any increase in the issued capital;
- (f) securities offered in connection with a takeover by means of an exchange offer, provided that a document is *published in accordance with the arrangements set out in Article 20(2)* containing information describing the transaction and its impact on the issuer;
- (g) securities offered, allotted or to be allotted in connection with a merger or division, provided that a document is *published in accordance with the arrangements set out in Article 20(2)* containing information describing the transaction and its impact on the issuer;

- (h) dividends paid out to existing shareholders in the form of shares of the same class as the shares in respect of which such dividends are paid, provided that a document is made available containing information on the number and nature of the shares and the reasons for and details of the offer;
- (i) securities offered, allotted or to be allotted to existing or former directors or employees by their employer or by an affiliated undertaking provided that a document is made available containing information on the number and nature of the securities and the reasons for and details of the offer or allotment.
- (j) ***non-equity securities issued in a continuous or repeated manner by a credit institution, where the total aggregated consideration in the Union for the securities offered is less than EUR 75 000 000 per credit institution over a period of 12 months, provided that those securities:***
 - (i) ***are not subordinated, convertible or exchangeable; and***
 - (ii) ***do not give a right to subscribe to or acquire other types of securities and are not linked to a derivative instrument.***

4. ***The obligation to publish a prospectus*** shall not apply to the admission to trading on a regulated market of any of the following:
- (a) securities fungible with securities already admitted to trading on the same regulated market, provided that they represent, over a period of 12 months, less than 20 per cent of the number of securities already admitted to trading on the same regulated market;
 - (b) shares resulting from the conversion or exchange of other securities or from the exercise of the rights conferred by other securities, where the resulting shares are of the same class as the shares already admitted to trading on the same regulated market, provided that the resulting shares represent, over a period of 12 months, less than 20 per cent of the number of shares of the same class already admitted to trading on the same regulated market.

The requirement that the resulting shares represent, over a period of 12 months, less than 20 per cent of the number of shares of the same class already admitted to trading on the same regulated market as referred to in point (b) shall not apply in any of the following cases:

- (i) ***where*** a prospectus was drawn up in accordance with either this Regulation or Directive 2003/71/EC upon the offer to the public or admission to trading of the securities giving access to the shares **■**;

- (ii) where the securities giving access to the shares were issued before the entry into force of this Regulation **1**;
 - (iii) *where the shares qualify as Common Equity Tier 1 items as laid down in Article 26 of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 of an institution as defined in Article 4(1)(3) of that regulation and result from the conversion of Additional Tier 1 instruments issued by that institution due to the occurrence of a trigger event as laid down in Article 54(1)(a) of that regulation;*
 - (iv) *where the shares qualify as eligible own funds or eligible basic own funds as defined in Section 3 of Chapter VI of Title I of Directive 2009/138/EC, and result from the conversion of other securities which was triggered for the purposes of fulfilling the obligations to comply with the Solvency Capital Requirement or Minimum Capital Requirement as defined in Sections 4 and 5 of Chapter VI of Title I of Directive 2009/138/EC or the group solvency requirement as laid down in Title III of Directive 2009/138/EC;*
- (ba) *securities resulting from the conversion or exchange of other securities, own funds or eligible liabilities by a resolution authority due to the exercise of a power referred to in Article 53(2), 59(2) and Article 63(1) or (2) of Directive 2014/59/EU;*

- (c) shares issued in substitution for shares of the same class already admitted to trading on the same regulated market, where the issuing of such shares does not involve any increase in the issued capital;
- (d) securities offered in connection with a takeover by means of an exchange offer, provided that a document is ***published in accordance with the arrangements set out in Article 20(2)*** containing information describing the transaction and its impact on the issuer;
- (e) securities offered, allotted or to be allotted in connection with a merger or a division, provided that a document is ***published in accordance with the arrangements set out in Article 20(2)*** containing information describing the transaction and its impact on the issuer;
- (f) shares offered, allotted or to be allotted free of charge to existing shareholders, and dividends paid out in the form of shares of the same class as the shares in respect of which such dividends are paid, provided that the said shares are of the same class as the shares already admitted to trading on the same regulated market and that a document is made available containing information on the number and nature of the shares and the reasons for and details of the offer or allotment;

- (g) securities offered, allotted or to be allotted to existing or former directors or employees by their employer or an affiliated undertaking, provided that the said securities are of the same class as the securities already admitted to trading on the same regulated market and that a document is made available containing information on the number and nature of the securities and the reasons for and detail of the offer or allotment;
- (ga) *non-equity securities issued in a continuous or repeated manner by a credit institution, where the total aggregated consideration in the Union for the securities offered is less than EUR 75 000 000 per credit institution over a period of 12 months, provided that those securities:***
 - (i) are not subordinated, convertible or exchangeable; and***
 - (ii) do not give a right to subscribe to or acquire other types of securities and are not linked to a derivative instrument.***
- (h) securities already admitted to trading on another regulated market, on the following conditions:
 - (i) that these securities, or securities of the same class, have been admitted to trading on that other regulated market for more than 18 months;

- (ii) that, for securities first admitted to trading on a regulated market after 1 July 2005, the admission to trading on that other regulated market was subject to a prospectus approved and published in accordance with Directive 2003/71/EC;
- (iii) that, except where point (ii) applies, for securities first admitted to listing after 30 June 1983, listing particulars were approved in accordance with the requirements of Council Directive 80/390/EEC¹⁴ or Directive 2001/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁵;
- (iv) that the ongoing obligations for trading on that other regulated market have been fulfilled; and

¹⁴ Council Directive 80/390/EEC of 17 March 1980 coordinating the requirements for the drawing up, scrutiny and distribution of the listing particulars to be published for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing (OJ L 100, 17.4.1980, p. 1).

¹⁵ Directive 2001/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 May 2001 on the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing and on information to be published on those securities (OJ L 184, 6.7.2001, p. 1).

- (v) that the person seeking the admission of a security to trading on a regulated market under this exemption makes available to the public in the Member State of the regulated market where admission to trading is sought, in the manner set out in Article 20(2), a document the content of which complies with Article 7, ***except that the length limit set out in Article 7(3) shall be extended by 2 additional sides of A4-sized paper***, drawn up in a language accepted by the competent authority of the Member State of the regulated market where admission is sought. The document shall state where the most recent prospectus can be obtained and where the financial information published by the issuer pursuant to his ongoing disclosure obligations is available.

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- 5a. ***The exemptions from the obligation to publish a prospectus set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Article may be combined together. However, the exemptions in points (a) and (b) of paragraph 4 of this Article may not be combined together if such combination may lead to the immediate or deferred admission to trading over a period of 12 months of more than 20 percent of the number of shares of the same class already admitted to trading on the same regulated market, without a prospectus being published.***
6. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 42 ***supplementing this Regulation by*** setting out the minimum information content of the documents referred to in points (f) and (g) of paragraph 3 and points (d) and (e) of paragraph 4 of this Article.

Article 2
Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:
 - (a) ‘securities’ means transferable securities as defined by Article 4(1)(44) of Directive 2014/65/EU with the exception of money market instruments as defined by Article 4(1)(17) of Directive 2014/65/EU, having a maturity of less than 12 months;
 - (b) ‘equity securities’ means shares and other transferable securities equivalent to shares in companies, as well as any other type of transferable securities giving the right to acquire any of the aforementioned securities as a consequence of their being converted or the rights conferred by them being exercised, provided that securities of the latter type are issued by the issuer of the underlying shares or by an entity belonging to the group of the said issuer;
 - (c) ‘non-equity securities’ means all securities that are not equity securities;
 - (d) ‘offer of securities to the public’ means a communication to persons in any form and by any means, presenting sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the securities to be offered, so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe to these securities. This definition also applies to the placing of securities through financial intermediaries;

- (e) ‘qualified investors’ means persons or entities that are listed in points (1) to (4) of Section I of Annex II to Directive 2014/65/EU, and persons or entities who are, on request, treated as professional clients in accordance with Section II of Annex II to Directive 2014/65/EU, or recognised as eligible counterparties in accordance with Article 30 of Directive 2014/65/EU unless they have requested that they be treated as non-professional clients ***in accordance with the [final] paragraph of Section I of Annex II to that Directive.***

For the purposes of point (e) of Article 2(1), upon request from the issuer, investment firms and credit institutions shall communicate the classification of their clients to the issuer subject to compliance with the relevant legislation on data protection;

- (f) ‘small and medium-sized enterprises’ (‘SMEs’) means either
- companies, which, according to their last annual or consolidated accounts, meet at least two of the following three criteria: an average number of employees during the financial year of less than 250, a total balance sheet not exceeding EUR 43 000 000 and an annual net turnover not exceeding EUR 50 000 000; or
 - small and medium-sized enterprises as defined in Article 4(1)(13) of Directive 2014/65/EU.

- (g) ‘credit institution’ means an undertaking as defined as defined in point (1) of Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁶;
- (h) ‘issuer’ means a legal entity which issues or proposes to issue securities;
- (i) ‘offeror’ means a legal entity or individual which offers securities to the public;
- (j) ‘regulated market’ means a *regulated* market as defined by Article 4(1)(21) of Directive 2014/65/EU;
- (k) ‘advertisement’ means *a communication*:
- relating to a specific offer ~~■~~ of securities *to the public* or to an admission to trading on a regulated market; ~~■~~
 - aiming to specifically promote the potential subscription or acquisition of securities;
- (l) ‘regulated information’ means all information as defined in Article 2(1)(k) of Directive 2004/109/EC;

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms and amending Regulation (EU) No 648/2012 (OJ L 176, 27.6.2013, p. 1).

(m) ‘home Member State’ means:

- (i) for all issuers of securities established in the Union which are not mentioned in point (ii), the Member State where the issuer has its registered office;
- (ii) for any issues of non-equity securities whose denomination per unit amounts to at least EUR 1 000, and for any issues of non-equity securities giving the right to acquire any transferable securities or to receive a cash amount, as a consequence of their being converted or the rights conferred by them being exercised, provided that the issuer of the non-equity securities is not the issuer of the underlying securities or an entity belonging to the group of the latter issuer, the Member State where the issuer has its registered office, or where the securities were or are to be admitted to trading on a regulated market or where the securities are offered to the public, at the choice of the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission. The same shall apply to non-equity securities in a currency other than euro, provided that the value of such minimum denomination is nearly equivalent to EUR 1 000;

- (iii) for all issuers of securities established in a third country which are not mentioned in point (ii), the Member State where the securities are intended to be offered to the public for the first time or where the first application for admission to trading on a regulated market is made, at the choice of the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission, subject to a subsequent choice by issuers established in a third country in either of the following circumstances:
- where the home Member State was not determined by the choice of these issuers,
 - in accordance with point (1)(i)(iii) of Article 2 of Directive 2004/109/EC;
- (n) ‘host Member State’ means the Member State where an offer *of securities* to the public is made or admission to trading *on a regulated market* is sought, when different from the home Member State;
- (na) ‘competent authority’ means the authority designated by each Member State in accordance with Article 29, unless otherwise specified in this Regulation.*

- (o) ‘collective investment undertaking other than the closed-end type’ means unit trusts and investment companies with both of the following characteristics:
 - (i) they raise capital from a number of investors, with a view to investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of those investors;
 - (ii) their units are, at the holder's request, repurchased or redeemed, directly or indirectly, out of their assets;
- (p) ‘units of a collective investment undertaking’ means securities issued by a collective investment undertaking as representing the rights of the participants in such an undertaking over its assets;
- (q) ‘approval’ means the positive act at the outcome of the scrutiny by the home Member State's competent authority of the completeness, the consistency and the comprehensibility of the information given in the prospectus;
- (r) ‘base prospectus’ means a prospectus that complies with Article 8 of this Regulation, and, at the choice of the issuer, the final terms of the offer;

- (s) 'working days', for the purposes of this Regulation, mean working days of the *relevant* competent authority excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, as defined by the national law applicable to *that* national competent authority;
- (t) 'multilateral trading facility' means a multilateral *trading facility* as defined in Article 4(1)(22) of *Directive 2014/65/EU*;
- (ta) '*organised trading facility*' means an *organised trading facility* as defined in Article 4(1)(23) of Directive 2014/65/EU;
- (u) 'SME growth market' means an SME growth market as defined in Article 4(1)(12) of Directive 2014/65/EU;
- (v) 'third country issuer' means an issuer established in a third country.

- (w) *'offer period' means the time period during which potential investors may purchase or subscribe for the securities.*
- (va) *'durable medium' means any instrument which:*
- (i) *enables a customer to store information addressed personally to that customer in a way accessible for future reference and for a period of time adequate for the purposes of the information; and*
 - (ii) *allows the unchanged reproduction of the information stored.*

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Article 3

Obligation to publish a prospectus and exemption

1. ***Without prejudice to Article 1(3), securities shall only be offered to the public in the Union after prior publication of a prospectus in accordance with this Regulation.***
2. ***Without prejudice to Article 4, a Member State may decide to exempt offers of securities to the public from the obligation to publish a prospectus set out in paragraph 1 provided that:***
 - (a) ***such offers are not subject to notification in accordance with Article 24, and***
 - (b) ***the total consideration of each such offer in the Union is less than a monetary amount calculated over a period of 12 months which shall not exceed EUR 8 000 000.***

Member States shall notify the Commission and ESMA ***whether and how they decide to apply the exemption pursuant to this paragraph, including the monetary amount below which the exemption for offers in that Member State applies. They shall also notify any subsequent changes to that monetary amount.***

3. ***Without prejudice to Article 1(4), securities shall only be admitted to trading on a regulated market situated or operating within the Union after prior publication of a prospectus, in accordance with this Regulation.***

Article 4
Voluntary prospectus

Where an offer of securities to the public or an admission of securities to trading on a regulated market is outside the scope of this Regulation ***in accordance with Article 1(2a), or exempted from the prospectus obligation in accordance with Article 1(3), 1(4) or 3(2)***, an issuer, an offeror or a person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market shall be entitled to voluntarily draw up a prospectus in accordance with this Regulation.

Such voluntarily drawn up prospectus approved by the competent authority of the home Member State, as determined according to Article 2(1)(m), shall entail all the rights and obligations provided for a prospectus **■** required under this Regulation and shall be subject to all provisions of this Regulation, under the supervision of that competent authority.

Article 5

Subsequent resale of securities

1. Any subsequent resale of securities which were previously the subject of one or more of the types of offer of securities listed in points (a) to (c) of Article 1(3) shall be considered as a separate offer and the definition set out in Article 2(1)(d) shall apply for the purpose of determining whether that resale is an offer of securities to the public. The placement of securities through financial intermediaries shall be subject to publication of a prospectus ***unless one*** of the ***exemptions*** listed in points (a) to (c) of Article 1(3) ***applies in relation to*** the final placement.

No additional prospectus shall be required in any such subsequent resale of securities or final placement of securities through financial intermediaries as long as a valid prospectus is available in accordance with Article 12 and the issuer or the person responsible for drawing up such prospectus consents to its use by means of a written agreement.

2. ***Where a prospectus relates to the admission to trading on a regulated market of non-equity securities that are to be traded only on a regulated market, or a specific segment thereof, to which only qualified investors can have access for the purposes of trading in such securities, the securities shall not be resold to non-qualified investors, unless a prospectus is drawn up in accordance with this Regulation that is appropriate for non-qualified investors.***

CHAPTER II
DRAWING UP OF THE PROSPECTUS

Article 6
The prospectus

1. Without prejudice to Article 14(2) and Article 17a(2), the prospectus shall contain the **necessary** information which **is material to an investor for making** an informed assessment of:
 - (a) the assets and liabilities, **profits and losses**, financial position, ~~■~~ and prospects of the issuer and of any guarantor;
 - (b) the rights attaching to **the** securities; **and**
 - (c) **the reasons for the issuance and its impact on the issuer.**

That information **may vary depending on:**

- (a) **the nature of the issuer;**
- (b) **the type of securities;**

- (c) *the circumstances of the issuer;*
- (d) *where relevant, whether or not the investors targeted by the prospectus are solely qualified investors and whether the securities are to be traded only on a regulated market, or a specific segment thereof, to which only qualified investors can have access for the purposes of trading in the securities.*

1a. *The information in a prospectus shall be written and presented in an easily analysable, concise and comprehensible form, taking into account the factors set out in the second subparagraph of paragraph 1.*

2. The issuer, offeror or person asking for the admission to trading on a regulated market may draw up the prospectus as a single document or as separate documents.

A prospectus composed of separate documents shall divide the required information into a registration document, a securities note and a summary, without prejudice to Article 8(7) **and the second subparagraph of Article 7(1)**. The registration document shall contain the information relating to the issuer. The securities note shall contain the information concerning the securities offered to the public or to be admitted to trading on a regulated market.

Article 7

The prospectus summary

1. The prospectus shall include a summary **that provides** the key information that investors need in order to understand the nature and the risks of the issuer, the guarantor and the securities that are being offered or admitted to trading on a regulated market, and that **shall be** read together with the other parts of the prospectus **to aid** investors when considering whether to invest in such securities.

By way of derogation from the first subparagraph, no summary shall be required where the prospectus relates to the admission to trading on a regulated market of non-equity securities provided that either:

- (a) such securities are to be traded only on a regulated market, or a specific segment thereof, to which only qualified investors can have access for the purposes of trading in such securities, or***
- (b) such securities have a denomination per unit of at least EUR 100 000.***

2. The content of the summary shall be accurate, fair, clear and not misleading. It **shall be read as an introduction to the prospectus and it** shall be consistent with the other parts of the prospectus.

3. The summary shall be drawn up as a short document written in a concise manner and of a maximum of *seven* sides of A4-sized paper when printed. *The summary* shall:
 - (a) be presented and laid out in a way that is easy to read, using characters of readable size;
 - (b) be written in a language and a style that facilitate the understanding of the information, in particular, in language that is clear, non-technical, *concise* and comprehensible *for investors*.

4. The summary shall be made up of the following four sections:
 - (a) an introduction containing warnings;
 - (b) key information on the issuer **■**;
 - (c) key information on the securities;
 - (d) key information on the offer *of securities to the public* and/or the admission to trading.

5. The *section referred to in point (a) of paragraph 4* shall contain:
 - (a) the name *and international securities identification numbers (ISIN)* of the securities;

- (b) the identity and contact details of the issuer, ***including its legal entity identifier (LEI)***;
- (c) ***where applicable, the identity and contact details of the offeror, including its LEI if the offeror has legal personality, or of the person seeking admission;***
- (d) the identity and contact details of the **█**-competent authority **█*****-that approves the prospectus and, where different, the competent authority that approved the registration document or the universal registration document;***
- (e) the date of ***approval of the prospectus.***

It shall contain ***the following*** warnings:

- (a) the summary should be read as an introduction to the prospectus;
- (b) any decision to invest in the securities should be based on consideration of the prospectus as a whole by the investor;
- (ba) ***where applicable, that the investor can lose all or part of the invested capital and, where the investor's liability is not limited to the amount of the investment, a warning that the investor can lose more than the invested capital and the extent of such potential loss;***

- (c) where a claim relating to the information contained in a prospectus is brought before a court, the plaintiff investor might, under the national legislation of the Member States, have to bear the costs of translating the prospectus before the legal proceedings are initiated;
- (d) civil liability attaches only to those persons who have tabled the summary including any translation thereof, but only where the summary is misleading, inaccurate or inconsistent when read together with the other parts of the prospectus, or where it does not provide, when read together with the other parts of the prospectus, key information in order to aid investors when considering whether to invest in such securities;
- (e) *where applicable, the comprehension alert required in accordance with Article 8(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 of the European Parliament and Council*¹⁷.

¹⁷ *Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 November 2014 on key information documents for packaged retail and insurance-based investment products (OJ L 352, 9.12.2014, p. 1).*

6. The section referred to in point (b) of paragraph 4 shall contain the following information:
- (a) under a sub-section titled 'Who is the issuer of the securities?', a brief description of the issuer of the securities, including at least the following:
- its domicile and legal form, *its LEI*, the legislation under which it operates and its country of incorporation;
 - its principal activities;
 - its major shareholders, including whether it is directly or indirectly owned or controlled and by whom;
 - the identity of its key managing directors;
 - the identity of its statutory auditors.

- (b) under a sub-section titled 'What *is* the key financial information regarding the issuer?' a selection of historical key financial information ~~■~~ presented for each financial year of the period covered by the historical financial information, and any subsequent interim financial period accompanied by comparative data from the same period in the prior financial year. The requirement for comparative balance sheet information shall be satisfied by presenting the year-end balance sheet *information. Key financial information shall, where applicable, include:*
- *pro forma financial information;*
 - *a brief description of any qualifications in the audit report relating to the historical financial information.*
- (c) under a sub-section titled 'What are the key risks that are specific to the issuer?' a brief description of ~~■~~ the most material risk factors specific to the issuer contained in the *prospectus, subject to the total number set out in paragraph 9a.*

7. The section referred to in point (c) of paragraph 4 shall contain the following information:
- (a) under a sub-section titled 'What are the main features of the securities?', a brief description of the securities being offered and/or admitted to trading including at least:
- their type and class, ***their ISIN***,
 - ***where applicable***, their currency, denomination, par value, the number of securities issued, the term of the securities;
 - the rights attached to the securities;
 - ***the relative seniority of the securities in the issuer's capital structure in the event of insolvency, including, where applicable, information on the level of subordination of the securities and the potential impact on the investment in the event of resolution under the BRRD;***
 - any restrictions on the free transferability of the securities;
 - ***where applicable***, the dividend or payout policy.

- (b) under a sub-section titled 'Where will the securities be traded?', an indication as to whether the securities ~~■~~ are or will be the object of an application for admission to trading on a regulated market or *for trading on* a multilateral trading facility and the identity of all the markets where the securities are or are to be traded.
- (c) *where there is a guarantee attached to the securities*, under a sub-section titled 'Is there a guarantee attached to the securities?' *including the following*:
- (i) a brief description of the nature and scope of the guarantee, ~~■~~
 - (ii) a brief description of the guarantor, *including its LEI*,
 - (iii) *the relevant key financial information for the purpose of assessing the guarantor's ability to fulfil its commitments under the guarantee, and*
 - (iv) *a brief description of the most material risk factors pertaining to the guarantor included in the prospectus in accordance with Article 16(1b) subject to the total number set out in paragraph 9a.*
- (d) *under a sub-section titled 'What are the key risks that are specific to the securities?' a brief description of ~~■~~the most material risk factors specific to the securities, contained in the prospectus, subject to the total number set out in paragraph 9a.*

Where a key information document is required to be prepared under Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁸, the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission may substitute the content set out in this paragraph with the information set out in points (c) to (i) of Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014. ***Each Member State acting as a home Member State for the purpose of this Regulation may require issuers, offerors or persons asking for admission to trading to substitute the content set out in this paragraph with the information set out in points (c) to (i) of Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 in the prospectuses approved by its competent authority, where Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 applies.***

Whenever there is substitution pursuant to the previous subparagraph, the length limit set out in paragraph 3 shall be extended by 3 additional sides of A4-sized paper. The content of the key information document shall be included as a distinct section of the summary. The page layout of that section shall clearly identify it as the content of the key information document as set out in point (c) to (i) of Article 8(3) of that Regulation.

¹⁸ Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 November 2014 on key information documents for packaged retail and insurance-based investment products (OJ L 352, 9.12.2014, p. 1).

Where a single summary covers several securities which differ only in some very limited details, such as the issue price or maturity date, according to the last subparagraph of Article 8(8), the length limit set out in paragraph 3 shall be extended by **2 additional sides of A4-sized paper**. *However, in the event that a key information document is required to be prepared for these securities under Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 and the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission proceeds with the substitution set out in the second subparagraph, the length limit shall be extended by 3 additional sides of A4-sized paper for each additional security.*

Where the summary contains the information referred to in point (c) of the first subparagraph, the length limit set out in paragraph 3 shall be extended by 1 additional side of A4-sized paper.

8. The section referred to in point (d) of paragraph 4 shall contain the following information:
- (a) under a sub-section titled ‘Under which conditions and timetable can I invest in this security?’, where applicable, the general terms, conditions and expected timetable of the offer, the details of the admission to trading, the plan for distribution, the amount and percentage of immediate dilution resulting from the offer and an estimate of the total expenses of the issue and/or offer, including estimated expenses charged to the investor by the issuer or the offeror.
 - (b) *if different from the issuer, under a section titled ‘Who is the offeror and/or the person asking for admission to trading?’ a brief description of the offeror of the securities and/or the person asking for admission to trading including its domicile and legal form, the legislation under which it is incorporated and its country of incorporation.*
 - (c) under a section titled ‘Why *is* this prospectus *being produced*?’ a brief **■**-description of the reasons for the offer or for the admission to trading, as well as , *where applicable*,
 - (i) the use and estimated net amount of the proceeds,

- (ii) an indication of whether the offer is subject to an underwriting agreement on a firm commitment basis, stating any portion not covered,*
- (iii) an indication of the most material conflicts of interest pertaining to the offer or admission to trading.*

9. Under each of the sections described in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8, the issuer may add sub-headings where deemed necessary.

9a. *The total number of risk factors included in the sections of the summary referred to in paragraph 6(c) and paragraphs 7(c)(iv) and (d) shall not exceed 15.*

10. The summary shall not contain cross-references to other parts of the prospectus or incorporate information by reference.

10a. *Where a key information document is required to be prepared for the securities offered to the public under Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 and a home Member State requires the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to substitute the content of the key information document as set out in the second sentence of the second subparagraph of Article 7(7), the persons advising on, or selling, the securities on behalf of the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission shall be deemed to have fulfilled, during the offer period, the obligation to provide the key information document according to Article 13 of that Regulation, provided that they instead provide the investors concerned with the summary of the prospectus under the timing and conditions set out in Articles 13 and 14 of that Regulation.*

11. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the content and format of presentation of the **■**-key financial information referred to *in* point (b) of paragraph 6, ***and the relevant key financial information referred to in point (c)(iii) of paragraph 7***, taking into account the various types of securities and issuers ***and ensuring that the information produced is concise and understandable***.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by **12** months ***from the date of*** entry into force ***of this Regulation***.

Power is delegated to the Commission **■** the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 8
The base prospectus

1. For non-equity securities ***including warrants in any form***, the prospectus may, at the choice of the issuer, offeror or person asking for the admission to trading on a regulated market consist of a base prospectus containing ***the necessary*** information concerning the issuer and the securities offered to the public or to be admitted to trading on a regulated market.
2. A base prospectus shall include the following information:

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- (b) a template, titled ‘form of the final terms’, to be filled out for each individual issue ***and indicating the available options with regard to the information that will be determined in the final terms of the offer;***
- (c) the address of the website where the final terms will be published.

- 2a. *Where a base prospectus contains options with regard to the information required by the relevant securities note, the final terms shall determine which of the options is applicable to the individual issue by referring to the relevant sections of the base prospectus or by replicating such information.*
3. The final terms shall be presented in the form of a separate document or shall be included in the base prospectus or a supplement thereto. The final terms shall be prepared in an easily analysable and comprehensible form.

The final terms shall only contain information that relates to the securities note and shall not be used to supplement the base prospectus. Article 17(1)(a) shall apply in such cases.

4. Where the final terms are neither included in the base prospectus, nor in a supplement, the issuer shall make them available to the public in accordance with *the arrangements set out in* Article 20 and file them with the competent authority of the home Member State, as soon as practicable *upon the making of a public offer and, where possible*, before the beginning of the offer to the public or admission to trading.

A clear and prominent statement shall be inserted in the final terms indicating:

- (a) that the final terms have been prepared for the purpose of this Regulation and must be read in conjunction with the base prospectus and its supplement(s) in order to obtain all the relevant information;
- (b) where the base prospectus and its supplement(s) are published in accordance with Article 20;
- (c) that a summary of the individual issue is annexed to the final terms.

5. A base prospectus may be drawn up as a single document or as separate documents.

Where the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market has filed a registration document for non-equity *securities*, or a universal registration document as defined *in* Article 9, and chooses to draw up a base prospectus, the base prospectus shall consist of the following:

- (a) the information contained in the registration document, or universal registration document;
 - (b) the information which would otherwise be contained in the relevant securities note, with the exception of the final terms where the final terms are not included in the base prospectus.
6. The specific information on each of the different securities included in a base prospectus shall be clearly segregated.
7. A summary shall only be drawn up *once* the final terms are *included in the base prospectus, or in a supplement*, or filed, and *that* summary shall be specific to the individual issue.

8. The summary of the individual issue shall be subject to the same requirements as the final terms, as set out in this Article, and shall be annexed to them.

The summary of the individual issue shall comply with Article 7 and shall provide the following:

- (a) the **key** information **in** the base prospectus ~~—~~, including the key information on the issuer;

~~—~~

- (c) the **key** information ~~—~~in the **appropriate** final terms **including the key information which was not included** in the base prospectus.

Where the final terms relate to several securities which differ only in some very limited details, such as the issue price or maturity date, a single summary of the individual issue may be attached for all those securities, provided the information referring to the different securities is clearly segregated.

9. The information contained in the base prospectus shall be supplemented, where necessary, in accordance with Article 22 **1**.
10. An offer *of securities* to the public may continue after the expiration of the base prospectus under which it was commenced provided that a succeeding base prospectus is approved *and published* no later than the last day of validity of the previous base prospectus. The final terms of such an offer shall contain a prominent warning on their first page indicating the last day of validity of the previous base prospectus and where the succeeding base prospectus will be published. The succeeding base prospectus shall include or incorporate by reference the form of the final terms from the initial base prospectus and refer to the final terms which are relevant for the continuing offer.

A withdrawal right *pursuant to* Article 22(2) shall also apply to investors who have agreed to purchase or subscribe the securities during the validity period of the previous base prospectus, unless the securities have already been delivered to them.

Article 9

The universal registration document

1. Any issuer ~~■~~ whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market or a multilateral trading facility may draw up every financial year a registration document in the form of a universal registration document describing the company's organisation, business, financial position, earnings and prospects, governance and shareholding structure.
2. **Any** issuer **that** chooses to draw up a universal registration document every financial year shall submit it for approval to the competent authority of its home Member State according to the procedure set out in paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 19.

After the issuer has had a universal registration document approved by the competent authority every financial year for **two** consecutive years, subsequent universal registration documents may be filed with the competent authority without prior approval.

Where the issuer thereafter fails to file a universal registration document for one financial year, the benefit of filing without approval shall be lost and all subsequent universal registration documents shall be submitted to the competent authority for approval until the condition of the second subparagraph is met again.

The issuer shall indicate in its application to the competent authority whether the submission for the universal registration document is for approval or filing without approval.

Where the issuer referred to in the second subparagraph of this paragraph requests the notification of its universal registration document pursuant to Article 24a, it shall submit its universal registration document for approval, including any amendments thereto which were previously filed.

3. Issuers which, prior to the date of application of this Regulation, have had a registration document, drawn up in accordance with Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 809/2004¹⁹, approved by a competent authority for at least *two* consecutive years and have thereafter filed, according to Article 12(3) of Directive 2003/71/EC, or got approved such a registration document every year, shall be allowed to file a universal registration document without prior approval in accordance with the second subparagraph of paragraph 2 from the date of application of this Regulation.
4. Once approved or filed without approval, the universal registration document, as well as the amendments thereto referred to in paragraphs 7 and 9, shall be made available to the public without undue delay, in accordance with the arrangements set out in Article 20.
5. The universal registration document shall comply with the language requirements laid down in Article 25.

¹⁹ Commission Regulation (EC) No 809/2004 of 29 April 2004 implementing Directive 2003/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards information contained in prospectuses as well as the format, incorporation by reference and publication of such prospectuses and dissemination of advertisements (OJ L 149, 30.4.2004 p.3),

6. Information may be incorporated by reference into a universal registration document under the conditions set out in Article 18.
7. Following the filing or approval of a universal registration document, the issuer may at any time update the information it contains by filing an amendment to its universal registration document with the competent authority. ***Subject to the first and second subparagraphs of Article 10(2), the filing of the amendment with the competent authority shall not require approval.***
8. The competent authority may at any time review the content of any universal registration document which has been filed without prior approval, as well as the content of amendments thereto.

The review by the competent authority shall consist in scrutinising the completeness, the consistency and the comprehensibility of the information given in the universal registration document and amendments thereto.

9. Where the competent authority, in the course of the review, finds that the universal registration document does not meet the standards of completeness, comprehensibility and consistency, and/or that amendments or supplementary information are needed, it shall notify it to the issuer.

A request for amendment or supplementary information addressed by the competent authority to the issuer needs only be taken into account by the issuer in the next universal registration document filed for the following financial year, except where the issuer wishes to use the universal registration document as a constituent part of a prospectus submitted for approval. In that case, the issuer shall file an amendment to the universal registration document at the latest upon submission of the application referred to in Article 19(5).

By derogation to the second subparagraph, where the competent authority notifies the issuer that its amendment request concerns an omission or a material mistake or *material* inaccuracy, which is likely to mislead the public with regard to facts and circumstances essential for an informed assessment of the issuer, the issuer shall file an amendment to the universal registration document without undue delay.

The competent authority may request a consolidated version of the amended universal registration document, where such a consolidated version is necessary to ensure comprehensibility of the information provided in that document. An issuer may voluntarily include a consolidated version of its amended universal registration document in an annex to the amendment.

10. The provisions of paragraphs 7 and 9 shall only apply where the universal registration document is not *in use* as a constituent part of a prospectus. Whenever a universal registration document is *in use* as a constituent part of a prospectus, only the rules of Article 22 for supplementing the prospectus shall apply between the time when the prospectus is approved and the final closing of the offer to the public or, as the case may be, the time when trading on a regulated market begins, whichever occurs later.
11. An issuer fulfilling the conditions described in the first or second subparagraph of paragraph 2 or in paragraph 3 shall have the status of frequent issuer and shall benefit from the faster approval process described in Article 19(5), provided that:
- (a) upon the filing or submission for approval of each universal registration document, the issuer provides written confirmation to the competent authority that, *to the best of its knowledge*, all regulated information which it *was* required to disclose under Directive 2004/109/EC, if applicable, and *under* Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 has been filed and published in accordance with **■**—those acts *over the last 18 months or over the period since the obligation to disclose regulated information commenced, whichever is the shorter*; and

- (b) where the competent authority *has undertaken a* review referred to *in* paragraph 8, the issuer *has amended* its universal registration document according to the arrangements set out in paragraph 9.

Where any of the above conditions is not fulfilled by the issuer, the status of frequent issuer shall be lost.

12. Where the universal registration document filed with or approved by the competent authority is made public at the latest four months after the end of the financial year, and contains the information required to be disclosed in the annual financial report referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2004/109/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁰, the issuer shall be deemed to have fulfilled its obligation to publish the annual financial report required under that Article.

Where the universal registration document, or an amendment thereto, is filed or approved by the competent authority and made public at the latest three months after the end of the first six months of the financial year, and contains the information required to be disclosed in the half-yearly financial report referred to in Article 5 of Directive 2004/109/EC, the issuer shall be deemed to have fulfilled its obligation to publish the half-yearly financial report required under that Article.

²⁰ Directive 2004/109/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 on the harmonisation of transparency requirements in relation to information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market and amending Directive 2001/34/EC (OJ L 390, 31.12.2004, p. 38).

In the cases described under the first or second subparagraph, the issuer:

- (a) shall include in the universal registration document a cross reference list identifying where each item required in the annual and half-yearly financial reports can be found in the universal registration document;
 - (b) shall file the universal registration document according to Article 19(1) of Directive 2004/109/EC and make it available to the officially appointed mechanism referred to in Article 21(2) of Directive 2004/109/EC;
 - (c) shall include in the universal registration document a responsibility statement in the terms required under Article 4(2)(c) and 5(2)(c) of Directive 2004/109/EC.
13. Paragraph 12 shall only apply where the home Member State of the issuer for the purposes of this Regulation is also the home Member State for the purposes of Directive 2004/109/EC, and where the language of the universal registration document fulfils the conditions of Article 20 of Directive 2004/109/EC.
14. The Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 42 to ***supplement this Regulation by specifying the criteria*** for the scrutiny ~~■~~ of the universal registration document ***and its amendments, and the procedures for the approval, filing and review of those documents*** as well as the conditions ~~■~~ where the status of frequent issuer *is* lost.

The delegated acts shall be adopted by ... [18 months after the entry into force of this Regulation].

Article 10

Prospectuses consisting of separate documents

1. An issuer ***that has*** already ***had*** a registration document approved by ***a*** competent authority shall be required to draw up only the securities note and the summary, ***where applicable***, when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market. In that case, the securities note and the summary shall be subject to a separate approval.

Where, since the approval of the registration document, there has been a significant new factor, material mistake or ***material*** inaccuracy relating to the information included in the registration document which is capable of affecting the assessment of the securities, a supplement to the registration document shall be submitted for approval, ***at the latest***, at the same time as the securities note and the summary. The right to withdraw acceptances according to Article 22(2) shall not apply in that case.

The registration document and its supplement, where applicable, accompanied by the securities note and the summary shall constitute a prospectus, once approved by the competent authority.

- 1a. Once approved, the registration document shall be made available to the public without undue delay and in accordance with the arrangements set out in Article 20 for the publication of the prospectus.***

2. An issuer *that has* already *had* a universal registration document approved by the competent authority *or that has filed a universal registration document without approval pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 9(2)*, shall be required to draw up only the securities note and the summary when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market.

Where the universal registration document has already been approved, the securities note, the summary and all amendments to the universal registration document filed since the approval of the universal registration document shall be subject to a separate approval.

Where an issuer has filed a universal registration document without approval, the entire documentation, including amendments to the universal registration document, shall be subject to approval, notwithstanding the fact that these documents remain separate.

The universal registration document, amended in accordance with paragraphs 7 or 9 of Article 9, accompanied by the securities note and the summary shall constitute a prospectus, once approved by the competent authority.

Article 11

Responsibility attaching to the prospectus

1. Member States shall ensure that responsibility for the information given in a prospectus, **and as applicable a supplement thereto**, attaches to **at least** the issuer or its administrative, management or supervisory bodies, the offeror, the person asking for the admission to trading on a regulated market or the guarantor. The persons responsible **for the prospectus, and as applicable a supplement thereto**, shall be clearly identified in the prospectus by their names and functions or, in the case of legal persons, their names and registered offices, as well as declarations by them that, to the best of their knowledge, the information contained in the prospectus is in accordance with the facts and that the prospectus makes no omission likely to affect its import.
2. Member States shall ensure that their laws, regulation and administrative provisions on civil liability apply to those persons responsible for the information given in a prospectus.

However, Member States shall ensure that no civil liability shall attach to any person solely on the basis of the summary **pursuant to Article 7 or the specific summary of an EU Growth prospectus pursuant to second subparagraph of Article 15(1)**, including any translation thereof, unless:

- (i) it is misleading, inaccurate or inconsistent, when read together with the other parts of the prospectus, or

- (ii) it does not provide, when read together with the other parts of the prospectus, key information in order to aid investors when considering whether to invest in such securities. ─
3. The responsibility for the information given in a *registration document or in a* universal registration document shall attach to the persons referred to under paragraph 1 only in cases where the *registration document or the* universal registration document is *in use* as a constituent part of an approved prospectus. This shall apply without prejudice to Articles 4 and 5 of Directive 2004/109/EC where the information under these Articles is included in a universal registration document.

Article 12

Validity of a prospectus, base prospectus and registration document

1. A prospectus or a base prospectus, whether a single document or consisting of separate documents, shall be valid for 12 months after its approval for offers to the public or admissions to trading on a regulated market, provided that it is completed by any supplement required pursuant to Article 22.

Where a prospectus or a base prospectus consists of separate documents, the validity shall begin upon approval of the securities note.

2. A registration document ~~■~~ which has been previously ~~■~~approved ~~■~~ shall be valid for use as a constituent part of a prospectus for 12 months after its ~~■~~ approval.

The end of validity of such a registration document shall not affect the validity of a prospectus of which it is a constituent part.

3. *A universal registration document shall be valid for use as a constituent part of a prospectus for 12 months after the approval referred to in the first subparagraph of Article 9(2) or the filing of the universal registration document as referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 9(2).*

The end of validity of such a universal registration document shall not affect the validity of a prospectus of which it is a constituent part.

CHAPTER III
THE CONTENT AND FORMAT OF THE PROSPECTUS

Article 13

Minimum information and format

1. The Commission shall adopt, in accordance with Article 42, delegated acts ***to supplement this Regulation*** regarding the format of the prospectus, the base prospectus and the final terms, and the schedules defining the specific information which must be included in a prospectus, ***including LEIs and ISINs***, avoiding duplication of information when a prospectus is composed of separate documents.

In particular, when ***setting out*** the various prospectus schedules, account shall be taken of the following:

- (a) the various types of information needed by investors relating to equity securities as compared with non-equity securities; a consistent approach shall be taken with regard to information required in a prospectus for securities which have a similar economic rationale, notably derivative securities;
- (b) the various types and characteristics of offers and admissions to trading on a regulated market of non-equity securities;

- (c) the format used and the information required in base prospectuses relating to non-equity securities, including warrants in any form;
- (d) where applicable, the public nature of the issuer;
- (e) where applicable, the specific nature of the activities of the issuer.

For the purposes of point (b), when setting out the various prospectus schedules the Commission shall set out specific information requirements for prospectuses that relate to the admission to trading on a regulated market of non-equity securities which:

- (a) *are to be traded only on a regulated market, or a specific segment thereof, to which only qualified investors can have access for the purposes of trading in such securities,*
or
- (b) *have a denomination per unit of at least EUR 100 000.*

These information requirements shall be appropriate, taking into account the information needs of the investors concerned.

2. The Commission shall adopt, in accordance with Article 42, delegated acts *to supplement this Regulation by* setting out the schedule defining the minimum information contained in the universal registration document **[-**.

Such a schedule shall ensure that the universal registration document contains all the necessary information on the issuer so that the same universal registration document can be used equally for the subsequent offer to the public or admission to trading of equity *or non-equity* securities **[-**. With regard to the financial information, the operating and financial review and prospects and the corporate governance, such information shall be aligned as much as possible with the information required to be disclosed in the annual and half-yearly financial reports referred to under Articles 4 and 5 of Directive 2004/109/EC, including the management report and the corporate governance statement.

3. The delegated acts referred to in paragraph 1 and 2 shall be based on the standards in the field of financial and non-financial information set out by international securities commission organisations, in particular by IOSCO and on the Annexes I, II and III to this Regulation. Those delegated acts shall be adopted by ... [*18 months after entry into force of this Regulation*].

Article 14

Simplified disclosure regime for secondary issuances

1. The following persons may choose to draw up a *simplified* prospectus under the *simplified* disclosure regime for secondary issuances, in the case of an offer of securities to the public or of an admission to trading of securities on a regulated market:
 - (a) issuers whose securities have been admitted to trading on a regulated market or an SME growth market *continuously* for at least *the last* 18 months and who issue **■**-securities *fungible with existing securities which have been previously issued*;
 - (b) issuers whose equity securities have been admitted to trading on a regulated market or an SME growth market *continuously* for at least *the last* 18 months and who issue non-equity securities.
 - (c) offerors of **■**-securities admitted to trading on a regulated market or an SME growth market *continuously* for at least *the last* 18 months.

The *simplified prospectus provided for in the first subparagraph* shall consist of a *summary in accordance with Article 7*, a specific registration document which may be used by persons referred to under *points* (a), (b) and (c) and a specific securities note which may be used by persons referred to under *points* (a) and (c).

2. By *way of* derogation *from Article* 6(1), and without prejudice to Article 17a(2), the *simplified* prospectus *referred to in paragraph 1* shall contain the relevant *reduced* information which is necessary to enable investors to understand:
- (a) prospects of the issuer and *the significant changes in the business and the financial position of the issuer and the guarantor that have occurred since the end of the last financial year, if any,*
 - (b) the rights attaching to the securities,
 - (c) the reasons for the issuance and its impact on the issuer, *including on its overall capital structure, and the use of the proceeds.*

The information contained in the *simplified* prospectus *referred to in paragraph 1* shall be *written and* presented in an easily analysable, *concise* and comprehensible form and shall enable investors to make an informed investment decision. *It shall also take into account the regulated information that has already been disclosed to the public pursuant to Directive 2004/109/EC, where applicable, and Regulation (EU) No 596/2014.*

3. The Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 42 to ***supplement this Regulation by specifying*** the reduced information to be included in the schedules applicable under the ***simplified disclosure regime referred to in paragraph 1.***

The schedules shall include in particular

- ***the annual and half-yearly financial information published over the 12 months prior to the approval of the prospectus,***
- ***where applicable, profit forecasts and estimates;***
- ***a concise summary of the relevant information disclosed under Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 over the 12 months prior to the approval of the prospectus;***
- ***risk factors;***
- ***for equity securities, the working capital statement, the statement of capitalisation and indebtedness, a disclosure of relevant conflicts of interest and related-party transactions, major shareholders and, where applicable, pro-forma financial information.***

When specifying the reduced information to be included in the schedules applicable under the simplified disclosure regime, the Commission shall take into account the need to facilitate fund raising on capital markets, the importance of reducing the cost of capital. In order to avoid imposing unnecessary burdens on issuers, when specifying the reduced information, the Commission shall also take into account the information which an issuer is already required to disclose under Directive 2004/109/EC, where applicable, and Regulation (EU) No 596/2014. The Commission shall also calibrate the reduced information so that it focusses on the information that is relevant for secondary issuances and is proportionate.

Those delegated acts shall be adopted by ... [*18 months after entry into force of this Regulation*].

Article 15

EU Growth prospectus

1. *The following entities* may choose to draw up *an EU Growth* prospectus under the *proportionate* disclosure regime *set out in this Article* in the case of an offer of securities to the public provided that they have no securities admitted to trading on a regulated market:
 - (a) *SMEs*;

- (b) issuers, other than SMEs, whose securities are traded or are to be traded on an SME growth market, provided that those issuers had an average market capitalisation of less than EUR 500 000 000 on the basis of end-year quotes for the previous three calendar years;*
- (c) issuers, other than those referred to under points (a) and (b), where the offer of securities to the public is of a total consideration in the Union that does not exceed EUR 20 000 000 calculated over a period of 12 months, and provided that such issuers have no securities traded on an MTF and have an average number of employees during the previous financial year of up to 499;*
- (d) offerors of securities issued by issuers referred to in points (a) and (b).*

An EU Growth prospectus under the proportionate disclosure regime referred to in the first subparagraph shall be a document with standardised format, written in a simple language and which is easy for issuers to complete. It shall consist of a specific summary based on Article 7, a specific registration document and a specific securities note. The information in the EU Growth prospectus shall be presented in the standardised sequence set out in the delegated act referred to in paragraph 3.

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3. The Commission shall adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 42 to *supplement this Regulation by specifying the reduced content and standardised format and sequence for the EU Growth prospectus referred to in paragraph 1, as well as the reduced content and standardised format of the specific summary.*

The specific summary shall not impose any additional burden or costs on issuers insofar as it shall only require the relevant information already included in the EU Growth prospectus. When specifying the standardised format of the specific summary, the Commission shall calibrate the requirements to ensure that it is shorter than the summary provided for in Article 7.

When specifying the reduced content and standardised format and sequence of the EU Growth prospectus the Commission shall calibrate the requirements to focus on:

- (a) the information that is material and relevant for investors when making an investment decision;*
- (b) the need to ensure proportionality between the size of the company and the cost of producing a prospectus.*

In doing so, the Commission shall take into account the following:

- (a) the need to ensure that the EU growth prospectus is significantly lighter than the standard prospectus, in terms of administrative burden and cost to issuers;*
- (b) the need to facilitate access to capital markets for SMEs and minimise costs for SMEs while ensuring investor confidence in investing in such companies;*
- (c) the various types of information relating to equity and non-equity securities needed by investors.*

Those delegated acts shall be *based on Annexes V and VI and shall be* adopted by ... [18 months after entry into force of this Regulation].

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Article 16
Risk factors

1. The risk factors featured in a prospectus shall be limited to risks which are specific to the issuer and/or the securities and are material for taking an informed investment decision, as corroborated by the content of the registration document and the securities note. ─

When drawing up the prospectus, the issuer shall assess the materiality of the risk factors based on the probability of their occurrence and the expected magnitude of their negative impact.

Each risk factor shall be adequately described, explaining how it affects the issuer or the securities being offered. The issuer may also disclose its assessment provided for in the second subparagraph using a qualitative scale of low, medium or high.

The risk factors shall be presented in a limited number of categories depending on their nature. In each category the most material risk factors shall be mentioned first according to the issuer's assessment provided for in the second subparagraph.

- 1a. Risks factors shall also include those resulting from the level of subordination of a security and the impact on the expected size or timing of payments to holders of the securities under bankruptcy, or any other similar procedure, including, where relevant, the insolvency of a credit institution or its resolution or restructuring in accordance with Directive 2014/59/EU (BRRD).*
- 1b. Where there is a guarantee attached to the securities, the prospectus shall contain the specific and material risk factors pertaining to the guarantor to the extent that they are relevant to the guarantor's ability to fulfil its commitment under the guarantee.*
- 2. In order to encourage appropriate and focused disclosure of risk factors by issuers, ESMA shall develop guidelines to assist competent authorities in their review of the specificity and materiality of risk factors and of the presentation of risk factors across categories depending on their nature.*
- 3. The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts, in accordance with Article 42, to supplement this Regulation by specifying criteria for the assessment by the issuer of the specificity and materiality of risk factors and for the presentation of risk factors across categories depending on their nature.*

Article 17

Final offer price and number of securities

1. Where the final offer price and/or amount of securities *to* be offered to the public (*whether in number of securities or aggregate nominal amount*) cannot be included in the prospectus:
- (a) the -acceptances of the purchase or subscription of securities may be withdrawn for not less than two working days after the final offer price and/or amount of securities which will be offered to the public have been filed, *or*
- (b) *the following shall be disclosed in the prospectus:*
- *the maximum price and/or the maximum amount of securities, as far as they are available, or*
 - *the valuation methods and criteria, and/or conditions, in accordance with which the final offer price shall be determined and an explanation of any valuation methods used;*

The final offer price and amount of securities shall be filed with the competent authority of the home Member State and published in accordance with Article 20(2).

Article 17a
Omission of information

2. The competent authority of the home Member State may authorise the omission from the prospectus of certain information to be included in a prospectus, where it considers that any of the following conditions is satisfied:
- (a) disclosure of such information would be contrary to the public interest;
 - (b) disclosure of such information would be seriously detrimental to the issuer *or the guarantor, if any*, provided that the omission of such information would not be likely to mislead the public with regard to facts and circumstances essential for an informed assessment of the issuer ~~■~~ or guarantor, if any, and of the rights attached to the securities to which the prospectus relates;
 - (c) such information is of minor importance in relation to a specific offer or admission to trading on a regulated market and would not influence the assessment of the financial position and prospects of the issuer, offeror or guarantor.

The competent authority shall submit a report to ESMA on a yearly basis regarding the information the omission of which it has authorised.

3. Without prejudice to the adequate information provided to investors, where, exceptionally, certain information required to be included in a prospectus is inappropriate to the **U**-sphere of activity or to the legal form of the issuer *or the guarantor, if any*, or to the securities to which the prospectus relates, the prospectus shall contain information equivalent to the required information, unless no such information exists.
4. Where securities are guaranteed by a Member State, an issuer, an offeror or a person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market, when drawing up a prospectus in accordance with Article 4, shall be entitled to omit information pertaining to that Member State.

ESMA may, or where the Commission so requests shall, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the cases where information may be omitted according to paragraph 2, taking into account the reports of competent authorities to ESMA mentioned in paragraph 2.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

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Article 18

Incorporation by reference

1. Information may be incorporated by reference in a prospectus where it has been previously or simultaneously published electronically, drawn up in a language fulfilling the requirements of Article 25 and where it is contained in one of the following documents:
 - (a) documents which have been approved by *a* competent authority **■**, or filed with it, in accordance with this Regulation *or Directive 2003/71/EC*;
 - (b) documents referred to in points (f), **(g)**, **(h)** and **(i)** of Article 1(3) and points (d), **(e)**, **(f)**, **(g)** and **(h)(v)** of Article 1(4);
 - (c) regulated information as defined in point (l) of Article 2(1);
 - (d) annual and interim financial information;
 - (e) audit reports and financial statements;
 - (f) management reports as defined in Article 19 of Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council²¹;
 - (g) corporate governance statements as defined in Article 20 of Directive 2013/34/EU;

²¹ Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings, amending Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC (OJ L 182, 29.6.2013, p. 19).

- (ga) *reports on the determination of the value of an asset or a company;*
- (h) [remuneration reports as defined in Article [X] of [revised Shareholders Rights Directive²²]
- (ha) *annual reports or any disclosure information required under Article 22 and 23 of Directive 2011/61/EU;*
- (i) memorandum and articles of association.

Such information shall be the most recent available to the issuer.

Where only certain parts of a document are incorporated by reference, a statement shall be included in the prospectus that the non-incorporated parts are either not relevant for the investor or covered elsewhere in the prospectus.

2. When incorporating information by reference, issuers, offerors or persons asking for admission to trading on a regulated market shall ensure accessibility of the information. In particular, a cross-reference list shall be provided in the prospectus in order to enable investors to identify easily specific items of information, and the prospectus shall contain hyperlinks to all documents containing information which is incorporated by reference.

²² [OJ C , , p.].

3. Where possible along with the first draft of the prospectus submitted to the competent authority, and in any case during the prospectus review process, the issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market shall submit in searchable electronic format any information which is incorporated by reference into the prospectus, unless such information has already been approved by or filed with the competent authority approving the prospectus.
4. ~~ESMA~~ may, *or where the Commission so requests shall*, develop draft regulatory technical standards to update the list *of documents set out* in paragraph 1 by including additional types of documents required under Union law to be filed with or approved by a public authority.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

CHAPTER IV
ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPROVAL AND PUBLICATION OF THE PROSPECTUS

Article 19

Scrutiny and approval of the prospectus

1. A prospectus shall **not** be published **unless the relevant** competent authority **has approved it, or all of its constituent parts in accordance with Article 10.**
2. The competent authority shall notify the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market, of its decision regarding the approval of the prospectus within 10 working days of the submission of the draft prospectus.

Where the competent authority fails to take a decision on the prospectus within the time limits laid down in this paragraph and paragraphs 3 and 5, this shall not be deemed to constitute approval of the application.

The competent authority shall notify ESMA of the approval of the prospectus and any supplement thereto **as soon as possible and in any event by no later than the end of the first working day after** that approval is notified to the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market.

3. The time limit referred to in *the first subparagraph of* paragraph 2 shall be extended to 20 working days where the offer to the public involves securities issued by an issuer which does not have any securities admitted to trading on a regulated market and who has not previously offered securities to the public.

The time limit of 20 working days shall only be applicable for the initial submission of the draft prospectus. Where subsequent submissions are necessary according to paragraph 4, the time limit of paragraph 2 shall apply.

4. Where the competent authority finds that the draft prospectus does not meet the standards of completeness, comprehensibility and consistency necessary for its approval and/or that *changes* or supplementary information are needed:
- (a) it shall inform the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market *of that fact promptly and at the latest within the time limits set out in the first subparagraph of paragraph 2 or, as applicable, paragraph 3 , as calculated from* the submission of the draft prospectus and/or *the* supplementary information, and
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(aa) it shall clearly specify those changes or supplementary information that are needed;

In such cases, the time *limit* referred to in paragraph 2 shall then apply only from the date on which *a revised* draft prospectus and/or the supplementary information requested are submitted

to the competent authority.

- 4a. Where the issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market is unable or unwilling to make the necessary changes or to provide the supplementary information requested in accordance with paragraph 4, the competent authority shall be entitled to refuse the approval of the prospectus and terminate the review process. In such case the competent authority shall notify the issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market of its decision and indicate the reasons for such refusal.**
5. By way of derogation from paragraphs 2 and 4, the time limit referred to in those paragraphs shall be reduced to 5 working days for frequent issuers referred to in Article 9(11), **including frequent issuers using the notification procedure of Article 24a**. The frequent issuer shall inform the competent authority at least 5 working days before the date envisaged for the submission of an application for approval.

A frequent issuer shall submit an application to the competent authority containing the necessary amendments to the universal registration document, where applicable, the securities note and the summary submitted for approval.

6. Competent authorities shall provide on their websites guidance on the scrutiny and approval process in order to facilitate efficient and timely approval of prospectuses. This guidance shall include contact points in relation to approvals. The issuer, ***offeror, the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market*** or the person responsible for drawing up the prospectus shall have the possibility to directly communicate and interact with the staff of the competent authority throughout the process of approval of the prospectus.
7. ***On request of the issuer, offeror or the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market, the*** competent authority of the home Member State may transfer the approval of a prospectus to the competent authority of another Member State, subject to prior notification to ESMA and the agreement of that competent authority. ***The competent authority of the home Member State shall transfer the filed documentation, together with its decision to grant the transfer, in electronic format, to the competent authority of the other Member State on the same date of its decision.*** Such a transfer shall be notified to the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market within three working days from the date of the decision taken by the competent authority of the home Member State. The time limit referred to in ***paragraphs 2 and 3*** shall apply from ***the date of the decision taken by the competent authority of the home Member State to transfer the approval of the prospectus.*** Article 28(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 shall not apply to the transfer of the approval of the prospectus in accordance with this paragraph. ***Upon completion of the transfer of the approval, the competent authority of the other Member State to whom the approval of the prospectus has been transferred shall be deemed to be the competent authority of the home Member State for that prospectus for the purposes of this Regulation.***

8. This Regulation shall not affect the competent authority's liability, which shall continue to be governed solely by national law.

Member States shall ensure that their national provisions on the liability of competent authorities apply only to approvals of prospectuses by their competent authority.

9. The level of fees charged by the competent authority of the home Member State for the approval of prospectuses, *of documents that are intended to become constituent parts of prospectuses in accordance with Article 10, or supplements to prospectuses* as well as for the filing of universal registration documents, amendments thereto and final terms, *shall be reasonable and proportionate and* shall be disclosed to the public at least on the website of the competent authority.
10. The Commission shall ~~■~~ adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 42 *to supplement this Regulation by specifying the criteria for the scrutiny of prospectuses, in particular the completeness, comprehensibility and consistency of the information contained therein, and the procedures for* the approval of the prospectus.

The delegated acts shall be adopted by ... [18 months after the entry into force of this Regulation].

11. ESMA shall use its powers under Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 to promote supervisory convergence with regard to the scrutiny and approval processes of competent authorities when assessing the completeness, consistency and comprehensibility of the information contained in a prospectus. ***To that end, ESMA shall develop guidelines addressed to the competent authorities on the supervision and enforcement of prospectuses, covering the examination of compliance with this Regulation and with any delegated and implementing acts adopted pursuant thereto.*** In particular, ESMA shall foster convergence regarding the efficiency, methods and timing of the scrutiny by the competent authorities of the information given in a prospectus, ***using in particular the peer reviews pursuant to paragraph 12.***
12. Without prejudice to Article 30 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010, ESMA shall organise and conduct at least one peer review of the scrutiny and approval procedures of competent authorities, including notifications of approval between competent authorities. The peer review shall also assess the impact of different approaches with regard to scrutiny and approval by competent authorities on issuers' ability to raise capital in the European Union. The report on this peer review shall be published no later ***than*** three years ***from*** the date of application of this Regulation. In the context of this peer review, ESMA shall ***take into account the*** opinions or advice from the Securities and Markets Stakeholder Group referred to in Article 37 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 20

Publication of the prospectus

1. Once approved, the prospectus shall be made available to the public by the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market at a reasonable time in advance of, and at the latest at the beginning of, the offer to the public or the admission to trading of the securities involved.

In the case of an initial offer to the public of a class of shares that is admitted to trading on a regulated market for the first time, the prospectus shall be **made available to the public** at least six working days before the end of the offer.

2. The prospectus, whether a single document or consisting of separate documents, shall be deemed available to the public when published in electronic form on **any** of the following websites:
 - (a) the website of the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to trading,
 - (b) the website of the financial intermediaries placing or selling the securities, including paying agents,
 - (c) the website of the regulated market where the admission to trading is sought, or **where no admission to trading on a regulated market is sought, the website** of the operator of the multilateral trading facility **[-**.

3. The prospectus shall be published on a dedicated section of the website which is easily accessible when entering the website. It shall be downloadable, printable and in searchable electronic format that cannot be modified.

The documents containing information incorporated by reference in the prospectus, the supplements and/or final terms related to the prospectus **and a separate copy of the summary** shall be accessible under the same section alongside the prospectus, including by way of hyperlinks where necessary.

The separate copy of the summary shall clearly indicate the prospectus to which it relates.

4. Access to the prospectus shall not be subject to the completion of a registration process, the acceptance of a disclaimer limiting legal liability or the payment of a fee. ***Warnings specifying the jurisdiction(s) in which an offer is being made shall not be considered disclaimers limiting legal liability.***

5. The competent authority of the home Member State shall publish on its website all the prospectuses approved or at least the list of prospectuses approved, including a hyperlink to the dedicated website sections referred to in paragraph 3 as well as an identification of the host Member State(s) where prospectuses are notified in accordance with Article 24. The published list, including the hyperlinks, shall be kept up-to-date and each item shall remain on the website *at least* for the time period referred to under paragraph 7.

At the same time as it notifies ESMA of the approval of a prospectus or of any supplement thereto, the competent authority shall provide ESMA with an electronic copy of the prospectus and any supplement thereto, as well as the data necessary for its classification by ESMA in the storage mechanism referred to in paragraph 6 and for the report referred to in Article 45.

The competent authority of the host Member State shall publish information on all notifications received in accordance with Article 24 on its website.

6. *Without undue delay*, ESMA shall publish all prospectuses received from the competent authorities on its website, including any supplements thereto, final terms and related translations where applicable, as well as information on the host Member State(s) where prospectuses are notified in accordance with Article 24. Publication shall be ensured through a storage mechanism providing the public with free of charge access and search functions.

7. All prospectuses approved shall remain publicly available *in electronic form* for at least 10 years after their publication on the websites specified in paragraphs 2 and 6.

Where hyperlinks are used for information incorporated by reference in the prospectus, and the supplements and/or final terms related to the prospectus such hyperlinks shall be functional for the period referred to in the first subparagraph.

- 7a. *An approved prospectus shall contain a prominent warning stating when the validity of the prospectus will expire. The warning shall also state that the obligation to supplement a prospectus for significant new factors, material mistakes or material inconsistencies will not apply when a prospectus is no longer valid.*
8. In the case of a prospectus comprising several documents and/or incorporating information by reference, the documents and information that constitute the prospectus may be published and distributed separately provided that those documents are made available to the public in accordance with paragraph 2. *Where a prospectus consists of separate documents in accordance with Article 10, each of those constituent documents, except for documents incorporated by reference, shall indicate that it is only one part of the prospectus and where the other constituent documents* **┆** *may be obtained.*

9. The text and the format of the prospectus, and/or the supplements to the prospectus made available to the public shall at all times be identical to the original version approved by the competent authority of the home Member State.
10. A ~~1~~ copy of the prospectus *on a durable medium* shall be delivered to any *potential investor*, upon request and free of charge, by the issuer, the offeror, the person asking for admission to trading or the financial intermediaries placing or selling the securities. *In the event that a potential investor makes a specific demand for a paper copy, the issuer, the offeror, the person asking for admission to trading or a financial intermediary placing or selling the securities shall deliver a printed version of the prospectus* Delivery shall be limited to jurisdictions in which the offer to the public is made or where the admission to trading is taking place under this Regulation.
11. In order to ensure consistent harmonisation of the procedures set out in this Article, ESMA may, *or where the Commission so requests shall*, develop draft regulatory technical standards to further specify the requirements relating to the publication of the prospectus.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

12. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the data necessary for the classification of prospectuses referred to in paragraph 5 **and the practical arrangements to ensure that such data including the ISIN of the securities and the LEI of the issuers, offerors and guarantors is machine readable.**

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by... [12 months **from date of** entry into force **of this Regulation**].

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 21

Advertisements

1. Any advertisement relating either to an offer to the public of securities or to an admission to trading on a regulated market shall comply with the principles contained in **paragraphs 2 to 4a. Paragraphs 2 to 4 shall apply only to cases where the issuer, the offeror or the person applying for admission to trading is subject to the obligation to draw up a prospectus.**
2. Advertisements shall state that a prospectus has been or will be published and indicate where investors are or will be able to obtain it.

3. Advertisements shall be clearly recognisable as such. The information contained in an advertisement shall not be inaccurate or misleading. **The** information contained in an advertisement shall also be consistent with the information contained in the prospectus, where already published, or with the information required to be in the prospectus, where the prospectus is published afterwards.
4. All information concerning the offer *of securities* to the public or the admission to trading on a regulated market disclosed in an oral or written form, even where not for advertising purposes, shall be consistent with that contained in the prospectus.
 - 4a. *Where no prospectus is required under Article 1(3) and (4) and material information is disclosed by an issuer or an offeror and addressed to one or more selected investors in an oral or written form, such information shall be disclosed to all other investors to whom the offer is addressed. Where a prospectus is required to be published, such information shall be included in the prospectus or in a supplement to the prospectus in accordance with Article 22(1).*
5. The competent authority of the -Member State *where the advertisements are disseminated* shall have the power to exercise control over the compliance of advertising activity, relating to an offer -of securities *to the public* or an admission to trading on a regulated market, with the principles referred to in paragraphs 2 to 4.

Where necessary, the competent authority of the home Member State shall assist the competent authority of the Member State where the advertisements are disseminated with assessing the consistency of the advertisements with the information in the prospectus.

Without prejudice to the powers laid down in Article 30(1), scrutiny of the advertisements by a competent authority shall not constitute a precondition for the offer of securities to the public or the admission to trading to a regulated market to take place in any host Member State.

The use of any of the supervisory and investigatory powers set out in Article 30 in relation to the enforcement of the provisions of this Article by the competent authority of a host Member State shall be communicated without undue delay to the competent authority in the home Member State of the issuer.

- 5a. Competent authorities of host Member States may only charge fees linked to the performance of their supervisory tasks pursuant to this Article. The level of fees shall be disclosed on the website of the competent authority. Fees shall be non-discriminatory, reasonable and proportionate to the supervisory task. Competent authorities of host Member States shall not impose any requirements or administrative procedures in addition to those required for the exercise of their supervisory tasks pursuant to this Article.*

- 5b. *By way of derogation from paragraph 5, any two competent authorities may conclude an agreement whereby for the purposes of exercising control over compliance of advertising activity in cross-border situations, the competent authority of the home Member State is to retain control over that compliance. Any such agreement shall be notified to ESMA. ESMA shall publish and regularly update a list of such agreements.*
6. *ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards to further specify the provisions concerning advertisements laid down in paragraphs 2 to 4, including to specify the provisions concerning the dissemination of advertisements and to establish procedures on the cooperation between the competent authorities of the home Member State and of the Member State where the advertisements are disseminated.*

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ... [12 months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation].

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

7. *Pursuant to Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010, ESMA shall develop guidelines and recommendations addressed to competent authorities relating to the control exercised under paragraph 5 of this Article. Those guidelines and recommendations shall take into account the need to ensure that such control does not hamper the functioning of the notification process set out in Article 24, while minimising the administrative burden on issuers making cross-border offers in the Union.*
- 7a. *This Article shall not affect other applicable provisions of Union law.*

Article 22

Supplements to the prospectus

1. Every significant new factor, material mistake or **material** inaccuracy relating to the information included in the prospectus which may affect the assessment of the securities and which arises or is noted between the time when the prospectus is approved and the ~~the~~ closing of the offer **period** or the time when trading on a regulated market begins, whichever occurs later, shall be mentioned in a supplement to the prospectus without undue delay.

Such a supplement shall be approved in the same way as a prospectus in a maximum of five working days and published in accordance with at least the same arrangements as were applied when the original prospectus was published in accordance with Article 20. The summary, and any translations thereof, shall also be supplemented, where necessary, to take into account the new information included in the supplement.

2. Where the prospectus relates to an offer of securities to the public, investors who have already agreed to purchase or subscribe for the securities before the supplement is published shall have the right, exercisable within two working days after the publication of the supplement, to withdraw their acceptances, provided that the **significant** new factor, **material** mistake or **material** inaccuracy referred to in paragraph 1 arose before the **■**-closing of the offer **period** or the delivery of the securities, whichever occurs first. That period may be extended by the issuer or the offeror. The final date of the right of withdrawal shall be stated in the supplement.

The supplement shall contain a prominent statement concerning the right of withdrawal, which clearly states:

- (a) ***that a right of withdrawal is only granted to those investors who had already agreed to purchase or subscribe for the securities before the supplement was published and where the securities had not yet been delivered to the investors at the time when the significant new factor, material mistake or material inaccuracy arose or was noted;***

(b) the time period in which investors can exercise their right of withdrawal; and

(c) whom investors may contact should they wish to exercise the right of withdrawal.

- 2a. *Where the securities are purchased or subscribed through a financial intermediary, that financial intermediary shall inform investors of the possibility of a supplement being published, where and when it would be published and that the financial intermediary would assist them in exercising their right to withdraw acceptances in such case.*

The financial intermediary shall contact investors on the day when the supplement is published.

Where the securities are purchased or subscribed directly from the issuer, that issuer shall inform investors of the possibility of a supplement being published and where it would be published and that in such case, they could have a right to withdraw the acceptance.

3. Where the issuer prepares a supplement concerning information in the base prospectus that relates to only one or several individual issues, the right of investors to withdraw their acceptances pursuant to paragraph 2 shall only apply to the relevant issue(s) and not to any other issue of securities under the base prospectus.

4. Only one supplement shall be drawn up and approved where the significant new factor, material mistake or *material* inaccuracy referred to in paragraph 1 concerns only the information contained in a *registration document or a universal registration document* and where this *registration document or universal registration document* is simultaneously used as a constituent part of several prospectuses. In that case, the supplement shall mention all the prospectuses to which it relates.
5. When scrutinising a supplement before approval, the competent authority may request the supplement to contain a consolidated version of the supplemented prospectus, *registration document or universal registration document* in an annex, where this is necessary to ensure comprehensibility of the information given in the prospectus. Such a request shall be deemed to be a request for supplementary information under Article 19(4). *An issuer may also voluntarily include a consolidated version of the supplemented prospectus, registration document or universal registration document in an annex.*

6. ~~1~~—ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify situations where a significant new factor, material mistake or *material* inaccuracy relating to the information included in the prospectus requires a supplement to the prospectus to be published.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ... [**12** months *from the date of* entry into force *of this Regulation*].

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with the procedure laid down in Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

CHAPTER V
CROSS-BORDER OFFERS AND ADMISSIONS TO TRADING AND USE OF LANGUAGES

Article 23

Union scope of approvals of prospectuses

1. Without prejudice to Article 35, where an offer to the public or admission to trading on a regulated market is provided for in one or more Member States, or in a Member State other than the home Member State, the prospectus approved by the home Member State and any supplements thereto shall be valid for the offer to the public or the admission to trading in any number of host Member States, provided that ESMA and the competent authority of each host Member State are notified in accordance with Article 24. Competent authorities of host Member States shall not undertake any approval or administrative procedures relating to prospectuses ***and supplements approved by the competent authorities of other Member States, and relating to final terms.***

2. Where ***a significant new factor, material mistake or material inaccuracy arises or is noted within the timeframe specified in Article 22(1)***, the competent authority of the home Member State shall require that the publication of a supplement be approved in accordance with Article 19(1). ESMA and the competent authority of the host Member State may inform the competent authority of the home Member State of the need for new information.

Article 24

Notification of prospectuses and supplements and communication of final terms

1. The competent authority of the home Member State shall, at the request of the issuer, ***offeror, the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market*** or the person responsible for drawing up the prospectus and within ***one*** working ***day*** following receipt of that request or, where the request is submitted together with the draft prospectus, within one working day after the approval of the prospectus, notify the competent authority of the host Member State with a certificate of approval attesting that the prospectus has been drawn up in accordance with this Regulation and with an electronic copy of that prospectus.

Where applicable, the notification referred to in the first subparagraph shall be accompanied by a translation of the prospectus and/or summary produced under the responsibility of the issuer, ***offeror, the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market*** or person responsible for drawing up the prospectus.

The issuer, ***offeror, the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market*** or the person responsible for drawing up the prospectus shall be notified of the certificate of approval at the same time as the competent authority of the host Member State.

2. The application of the provisions of Article 17a(2) and (3) shall be stated in the certificate, as well as its justification.
3. The competent authority of the home Member State shall notify ESMA of the certificate of approval of the prospectus *or supplement* at the same time as it is notified to the competent authority of the host Member State.
4. Where the final terms of a base prospectus which has been previously notified are neither included in the base prospectus, nor in a supplement, the competent authority of the home Member State shall communicate them electronically to the competent authority of the host Member State(s) and to ESMA as soon as practicable after they are filed.
5. No fee shall be charged by competent authorities for the notification, or receipt of notification, of prospectuses and supplements thereto, or any related supervisory activity, whether in the home Member State or in the host Member State(s).

5a. ESMA shall establish a notification portal into which each competent authority shall upload the certificates of approval and electronic copies referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article and in Article 24a(2), and the final terms of base prospectuses, for the purpose of the notifications referred to in paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of this Article and in Article 24a.

All transfers of those documents between competent authorities shall take place through that notification portal.

5b. ESMA shall develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the technical arrangements necessary for the functioning of the notification portal referred to in paragraph 5a.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by ... [enter date 12 months after entry into force].

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

6. In order to ensure uniform conditions of application of this Regulation and to take account of technical developments on financial markets, ESMA may develop draft implementing technical standards to establish standard forms, templates and procedures for the notification of the certificate of approval, the prospectus, the supplement of the prospectus and the translation of the prospectus and/or summary.

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 24a

Notification of registration documents or universal registration documents

1. *This Article shall only apply to issues of non-equity securities referred to under point (ii) of Article 2(1)(m) and to issuers established in a third country referred to under point (iii) of Article 2(1)(m), where the home Member State chosen pursuant to those provisions for the prospectus approval, is different from the Member State whose competent authority has approved the registration document or universal registration document drawn up by the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market.*

2. *A competent authority that has approved a registration document or a universal registration document shall, at the request of the issuer, the offeror or the person responsible for drawing up such document, notify the competent authority of the home Member State for the prospectus approval with a certificate of approval attesting that the registration document, or universal registration document, has been drawn up in accordance with this Regulation and with an electronic copy thereof. This notification shall be made within one working day following receipt of the request or, where the request is submitted together with the draft registration document or draft universal registration document, within one working day after the approval of that document.*

Where applicable, the notification referred to in the first subparagraph shall be accompanied by a translation of the registration document or universal registration document produced under the responsibility of the issuer or person responsible for drawing up the prospectus.

The issuer, offeror or the person responsible for drawing up the registration document or the universal registration document shall be notified of the certificate of approval at the same time as the competent authority of the home Member State for the prospectus approval.

The application of the provisions of Article 17a(2) and (3) shall be stated in the certificate, as well as its justification.

The competent authority that has approved the registration document or the universal registration document shall notify ESMA of the certificate of approval of those documents at the same time as it is notified to the competent authority of the home Member State for the prospectus approval.

No fee shall be charged by those competent authorities for the notification, or receipt of notification, of registration documents or universal registration documents, or any related supervisory activity.

3. *A registration document or universal registration document notified pursuant to paragraph 2 may be used as a constituent part of a prospectus submitted for approval to the competent authority for the prospectus approval.*

The competent authority of the home Member State for the prospectus approval shall not undertake any scrutiny nor approval relating to the notified registration document or universal registration document and shall approve only the securities note and the summary only after receipt of the notification.

4. *A registration document or a universal registration document notified pursuant to paragraph 2 shall contain an appendix setting out the key information on the issuer referred to in Article 7(6). The approval of the registration document or universal registration document shall encompass the appendix.*

Where applicable pursuant to the second subparagraph of each of Article 25(2) and 25(3), the notification shall be accompanied by a translation of the appendix to the registration document or universal registration document produced under the responsibility of the issuer, offeror or person responsible for drawing up the registration document or the universal registration document.

When drawing up the summary, the issuer, offeror or person responsible for drawing up the prospectus shall reproduce the content of the appendix without any changes in the section referred to in point (b) of Article 7(4). The competent authority of the home Member State for the prospectus approval shall not scrutinise that section of the summary.

5. *Where a significant new factor, material mistake or material inaccuracy arises or is noted within the timeframe specified in Article 22(1) and relates to the information contained in the registration document or the universal registration document, the supplement required under Article 22 shall be submitted for approval to the competent authority which approved the registration document or the universal registration document. That supplement shall be notified to the competent authority of the home Member State for the prospectus approval within one working day after its approval, under the procedure set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.*

Where a registration document or a universal registration document is simultaneously used as a constituent part of several prospectuses, as provided for under Article 22(4), the supplement shall be notified to each competent authority which has approved such prospectus.

7. *In order to ensure uniform conditions of application of this Regulation and to take account of technical developments on financial markets, ESMA may develop draft implementing technical standards to establish standard forms, templates and procedures for the notification of the certificate of approval relating to the registration document, the universal registration document, the supplement thereto and the translation thereof.*

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 25

Use of language

1. Where an offer to the public is made or admission to trading on a regulated market is sought only in the home Member State, the prospectus shall be drawn up in a language accepted by the competent authority of the home Member State.
2. Where an offer to the public is made or admission to trading on a regulated market is sought in one or more Member States excluding the home Member State, the prospectus shall be drawn up either in a language accepted by the competent authorities of those Member States or in a language customary in the sphere of international finance, at the choice of the issuer, offeror or person asking for admission.

The competent authority of each host Member State *shall* require that the summary referred to in Article 7 be *available in* its official language, *or at least one of its official languages, or in another language accepted by the competent authority of that Member State*, but it shall not require the translation of any other part of the prospectus.

For the purpose of the scrutiny and approval by the competent authority of the home Member State, the prospectus shall be drawn up either in a language accepted by this authority or in a language customary in the sphere of international finance, at the choice of the issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading.

3. Where an offer to the public is made or admission to trading on a regulated market is sought in more than one Member State including the home Member State, the prospectus shall be drawn up in a language accepted by the competent authority of the home Member State, and shall also be made available either in a language accepted by the competent authorities of each host Member State or in a language customary in the sphere of international finance, at the choice of the issuer, offeror, or person asking for admission to trading.

The competent authority of each host Member State *shall* require that the summary referred to in Article 7 be *available in* its official language or *at least one of its official languages, or in another language accepted by the competent authority of that Member State*, but it shall not require the translation of any other part of the prospectus.

4. The final terms and the summary of the individual issue shall be drawn up in the same language as the language of the approved base prospectus.

When the final terms are communicated to the competent authority of the host Member State or, *if* there is more than one host Member State, to the competent authorities of the host Member States, *in accordance with Article 24(4), the following language rules shall apply to the final terms and the summary annexed thereto:*

- (a) *the summary of the individual issue annexed to the final terms shall be translated into the official language or languages of each host Member State, where required in accordance with the second subparagraph of paragraph 2 or 3 as applicable;*

(b) where the base prospectus is to be translated pursuant to paragraph 2 or 3 as applicable, the final terms and the summary of the individual issue annexed thereto, shall be subject to the same translation requirements as the base prospectus.

5. *Where a prospectus relates to the admission to trading on a regulated market of non-equity securities and admission to trading on a regulated market is sought in one or more Member States, the prospectus shall be drawn up either in a language accepted by the competent authorities of the home and host Member States or in a language customary in the sphere of international finance, at the choice of the issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading, as the case may be, provided that either:*

(a) such securities are to be traded only on a regulated market, or a specific segment thereof, to which only qualified investors can have access for the purposes of trading such securities, or

(b) such securities have a denomination per unit of at least EUR 100 000.

CHAPTER VI
SPECIFIC RULES IN RELATION TO ISSUERS ESTABLISHED IN THIRD COUNTRIES

Article 26

Offer of securities or admission to trading made under a prospectus drawn up in accordance with this Regulation

1. **Where a** third country issuer ***intends*** to offer securities to the public in the Union or to seek admission to trading of securities on a regulated market ***established in*** the Union under a prospectus drawn up according to this Regulation, ***it*** shall obtain approval of its prospectus, in accordance with Article 19, from the competent authority of its home Member State **[-**.

Once a prospectus is approved in accordance with the first subparagraph, it shall entail all the rights and obligations provided for a prospectus under this Regulation and the prospectus and the third country issuer shall be subject to all the provisions of this Regulation under the supervision of the competent authority of the home Member State.

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Article 27

Offer of securities or admission to trading made under a prospectus drawn up in accordance with the legislation of a third country

1. The competent authority of the home Member State of a third country issuer may approve a prospectus for an offer to the public or for admission to trading on a regulated market, drawn up in accordance with, and which is subject to, the national legislation of the third country issuer, ***provided that:***
 - (a) the information requirements imposed by that third country legislation are equivalent to the requirements under this Regulation; ***and***
 - (b) ***the competent authority of the home Member State has concluded cooperation arrangements with the relevant supervisory authorities of the third country issuer in accordance with Article 28.***

2. In the case of an offer to the public or admission to trading on a regulated market of securities issued by a third country issuer, in a Member State other than the home Member State, the requirements set out in Articles 23, 24 and 25 shall apply.

3. The Commission *is empowered to* adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 42 *to supplement this Regulation by* establishing general equivalence criteria, based on the requirements laid down in Articles 6, 7, 8 and 13.

On the basis of the above criteria, the Commission may adopt *an* implementing *decision* stating that *the information requirements imposed by* a third country *legislation are equivalent to the requirements under* this Regulation. *Such* implementing ~~■~~*-decision* shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 43(2).

Article 28

Cooperation with third countries

1. For the purpose of Article 27, and, where deemed necessary, for the purpose of Article 26, the competent authorities of Member States shall conclude cooperation arrangements with supervisory authorities of third countries concerning the exchange of information with supervisory authorities in third countries and the enforcement of obligations arising under this Regulation in third countries *unless that third country is on the list of jurisdictions which have strategic deficiencies in their national AML/CFT regimes and pose significant threats to the financial system of the Union adopted in delegated acts in force by the Commission pursuant to Article 9 of Directive (EU) 2015/849*. Those cooperation arrangements shall ensure at least an efficient exchange of information that allows the competent authorities to carry out their duties under this Regulation.

A competent authority shall inform ESMA and the other competent authorities where it proposes to enter into such an arrangement.

2. For the purpose of Article 27, and, where deemed necessary, for the purpose of Article 26, ESMA shall facilitate and coordinate the development of cooperation arrangements between the competent authorities and the relevant supervisory authorities of third countries.

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ESMA shall also, where necessary, facilitate and coordinate the exchange between competent authorities of information obtained from supervisory authorities of third countries that may be relevant to the taking of measures under Articles 36 and 37.

3. The competent authorities shall conclude cooperation arrangements on exchange of information with the supervisory authorities of third countries only where the information disclosed is subject to guarantees of professional secrecy which are at least equivalent to those set out in Article 33. Such exchange of information must be intended for the performance of the tasks of those competent authorities.

- 3a. *ESMA may, or where the Commission so requests shall, develop draft regulatory technical standards to determine the minimum content of the cooperation arrangements referred to in paragraph 1 and the template document to be used therefor.*

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

CHAPTER VII
ESMA AND COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

Article 29

Competent authorities

1. Each Member State shall designate a single competent administrative authority responsible for carrying out the duties resulting from this Regulation and for ensuring that the provisions adopted pursuant to this Regulation are applied. Member States shall inform the Commission, ESMA and the other competent authorities of other Member States accordingly.

The competent authority shall be independent from market participants.

2. Member States may allow their competent authority to delegate *to third parties*, the tasks of *electronic* publication of approved prospectuses *and related documents*.

Any delegation of tasks to entities shall be made in a specific decision stating the tasks to be undertaken and the conditions under which they are to be carried out, and including a clause obliging the entity in question to act and be organised in such a manner as to avoid conflicts of interests and *to ensure* that information obtained from carrying out the delegated tasks is not used unfairly or to prevent competition. Such a decision shall *also* specify all arrangements entered into between the competent authority and the entity to which tasks are delegated.

The final responsibility for supervising compliance with this Regulation and for approving the prospectus shall lie with the competent authority designated in accordance with paragraph 1.

The Member States shall inform the Commission, ESMA and the competent authorities of other Member States of the decision referred to in subparagraph 2, including the precise conditions regulating such delegation.

3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be without prejudice to the possibility for a Member State to make separate legal and administrative arrangements for overseas European territories for whose external relations that Member State is responsible.

Article 30

Powers of competent authorities

1. In order to fulfil their duties under this Regulation, competent authorities shall have, in accordance with national law, at least the following supervisory and investigatory powers:
 - (a) to require issuers, offerors or persons asking for admission to trading on a regulated market to include in the prospectus supplementary information, where necessary for investor protection;

- (b) to require issuers, offerors or persons asking for admission to trading on a regulated market, and the persons that control them or are controlled by them, to provide information and documents;
- (c) to require auditors and managers of the issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading on a regulated market, as well as financial intermediaries commissioned to carry out the offer to the public or ask for admission to trading, to provide information;
- (d) to suspend an offer to the public or admission to trading for a maximum of 10 consecutive working days on any single occasion where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the provisions of this Regulation have been infringed;
- (e) to prohibit or suspend advertisements or require issuers, offerors or persons asking for admission to trading on a regulated market, or relevant financial intermediaries to cease or suspend advertisements for a maximum of 10 consecutive working days on any single occasion where there are reasonable grounds for believing that the provisions of this Regulation have been infringed;

- (f) to prohibit an offer to the public *or admission to trading* where it finds that the provisions of this Regulation have been infringed or where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that they would be infringed;
- (g) to suspend or require the relevant regulated markets, *multilateral trading facilities or organised trading facilities* to suspend trading on a regulated market *or multilateral trading facility* for a maximum of 10 consecutive working days on any single occasion where there are reasonable grounds for believing that the provisions of this Regulation have been infringed;
- (h) to prohibit trading on a regulated market, *a multilateral trading facility or an organised trading facility* where it finds that the provisions of this Regulation have been infringed;
- (i) to make public the fact that an issuer, an offeror or a person asking for admission to trading is failing to comply with its obligations;
- (j) to suspend the scrutiny of a prospectus submitted for approval or suspend *or restrict* an offer to the public or admission to trading where the competent authority is making use of the power to impose a prohibition or restriction pursuant to Article 42 of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council²³, until such prohibition or restriction has ceased;

²³ Regulation (EU) No 600/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on markets in financial instruments and amending Regulation (EU) No 648/2012 (OJ L 173, 12.6.2014, p. 84).

- (k) to refuse approval of any prospectus drawn up by a certain issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading for a maximum number of 5 years, where this issuer, offeror or person asking for admission to trading has repeatedly and *severely* infringed the provisions of this Regulation;
- (l) to disclose, or to require the issuer to disclose, all material information which may have an effect on the assessment of the securities *offered to the public or* admitted to trading on regulated markets in order to ensure investor protection or the smooth operation of the market;
- (m) to suspend or require the relevant regulated market, *multilateral trading facility or organised trading facility* to suspend the securities from trading where it considers that the issuer's situation is such that trading would be detrimental to investors' interests;
- (n) to carry out on-site inspections or investigations at sites other than the private residences of natural persons, and for this purpose to enter premises in order to access documents and other data in any form, where a reasonable suspicion exists that documents and other data related to the subject-matter of the inspection or investigation may be relevant to prove an infringement of this Regulation.

Where necessary under national law, the competent authority may ask the relevant judicial authority to decide on the use of the powers referred to in the first subparagraph.

When approval has been refused pursuant to point (k), then the competent authority shall inform ESMA, who shall then inform the competent authorities in other Member States.

In accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010, ESMA shall be entitled to participate in on-site inspections referred to in point (n) where they are carried out jointly by two or more competent authorities.

2. Competent authorities shall exercise their functions and powers, referred to in paragraph 1, in any of the following ways:
 - (a) directly;
 - (b) in collaboration with other authorities;
 - (c) under their responsibility by delegation to such authorities;
 - (d) by application to the competent judicial authorities.

3. Member States shall ensure that appropriate measures are in place so that competent authorities have all the supervisory and investigatory powers that are necessary to fulfil their duties.
- 3a. *This Regulation is without prejudice to laws and regulations on takeover bids, merger transactions and other transactions affecting the ownership or control of companies transposing Directive 2004/25/EC that impose requirements in addition to the requirements of this Regulation.*
4. A person making information available to the competent authority in accordance with this Regulation shall not be considered to be infringing any restriction on disclosure of information imposed by contract or by any legislative, regulatory or administrative provision, and shall not be subject to liability of any kind related to such notification.
5. Paragraphs 1 to 3 shall be without prejudice to the possibility for a Member State to make separate legal and administrative arrangements for overseas European territories for whose external relations that Member State is responsible.

Article 31

Cooperation between competent authorities

1. Competent authorities shall cooperate with each other and with ESMA for the purposes of this Regulation. They shall exchange information without undue delay and cooperate in investigation, supervision and enforcement activities.

Where Member States have chosen, in accordance with Article 36, to lay down criminal sanctions for infringements of the provisions of this Regulation, they shall ensure that appropriate measures are in place so that competent authorities have all the necessary powers to liaise with judicial authorities within their jurisdiction to receive specific information related to criminal investigations or proceedings commenced for possible infringements of this Regulation and provide the same to other competent authorities and ESMA to fulfil their obligation to cooperate with each other and ESMA for the purposes of this Regulation.

2. A competent authority may refuse to act on a request for information or a request to cooperate with an investigation only in any of the following exceptional circumstances:
 - (a) where complying with the request is likely to adversely affect its own investigation, enforcement activities or a criminal investigation;

- (b) where judicial proceedings have already been initiated in respect of the same actions and against the same persons before the authorities of the Member State addressed;
 - (c) where a final judgment has already been delivered in relation to such persons for the same actions in the Member State addressed.
3. Competent authorities shall, on request, immediately supply any information required for the purposes of this Regulation.
 4. The competent authority may request assistance from the competent authority of another Member State with regard to on-site inspections or investigations.

A requesting competent authority shall inform ESMA of any request referred to in the first subparagraph. In the case of an investigation or an inspection with cross-border effect, ESMA shall, where requested to do so by one of the competent authorities, coordinate the investigation or inspection.

Where a competent authority receives a request from a competent authority of another Member State to carry out an on-site inspection or an investigation, it may:

- (a) carry out the on-site inspection or investigation itself;

- (b) allow the competent authority which submitted the request to participate in an on-site inspection or investigation;
 - (c) allow the competent authority which submitted the request to carry out the on-site inspection or investigation itself;
 - (d) appoint auditors or experts to carry out the on-site inspection or investigation, and/or
 - (e) share specific tasks related to supervisory activities with the other competent authorities.
5. The competent authorities may refer to ESMA situations where a request for cooperation, in particular to exchange information, has been rejected or has not been acted upon within a reasonable time. Without prejudice to Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), ESMA may, in the situations referred to in the first sentence, act in accordance with the power conferred on it under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.
6. ESMA may, *or where the Commission so requests shall*, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the information to be exchanged between competent authorities in accordance with paragraph 1.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

7. ESMA may develop draft implementing technical standards to establish standard forms, templates and procedures for the cooperation and exchange of information between competent authorities.

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the third subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 32

Cooperation with ESMA

1. The competent authorities shall cooperate with ESMA for the purposes of this Regulation, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.
2. The competent authorities shall without delay provide ESMA with all information necessary to carry out its duties, in accordance with Article 35 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.
3. In order to ensure uniform conditions of application of this Article, ESMA may develop draft implementing technical standards to determine the procedures and forms for exchange of information as referred to in paragraph 2.

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 33

Professional secrecy

1. All the information exchanged between the competent authorities under this Regulation that concerns business or operational conditions and other economic or personal affairs shall be considered to be confidential and shall be subject to the requirements of professional secrecy, except where the competent authority states at the time of communication that such information may be disclosed or such disclosure is necessary for legal proceedings.
2. The obligation of professional secrecy shall apply to all persons who work or who have worked for the competent authority or for any entity to whom the competent authority has delegated its powers. Information covered by professional secrecy may not be disclosed to any other person or authority except by virtue of provisions laid down by Union or national law.

Article 34

Data protection

With regard to the processing of personal data within the framework of this Regulation, competent authorities shall carry out their tasks for the purposes of this Regulation in accordance with the national laws, regulations or administrative provisions transposing Directive 95/46/EC.

With regard to the processing of personal data by ESMA within the framework of this Regulation, ESMA shall comply with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.

Article 35

Precautionary measures

1. Where the competent authority of the host Member State ***has clear and demonstrable grounds for believing*** that irregularities have been committed by the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to trading or by the financial institutions in charge of the offer to the public or that those persons have infringed their obligations under this Regulation, it shall refer those findings to the competent authority of the home Member State and to ESMA.

2. Where, despite the measures taken by the competent authority of the home Member State, the issuer, the offeror or the person asking for admission to trading or the financial institutions in charge of the offer to the public persists in infringing the relevant provisions of this Regulation, the competent authority of the host Member State, after informing the competent authority of the home Member State and ESMA, shall take all appropriate measures in order to protect investors and shall inform the Commission and ESMA thereof without undue delay.
3. ***Where a competent authority disagrees with any of the measures taken by another competent authority pursuant to paragraph 2, it may bring the matter to the attention of ESMA. ESMA may act in accordance with the powers conferred on it under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.***

CHAPTER VIII
ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES AND SANCTIONS

Article 36

Administrative measures and sanctions

1. Without prejudice to the supervisory and investigatory powers of competent authorities under Article 30, and the right of Member States to provide for and impose criminal sanctions, Member States shall, in conformity with national law, provide for competent authorities to have the power to take appropriate administrative measures and impose administrative sanctions ***which shall be effective, proportionate and dissuasive. Those administrative measures and sanctions shall apply at least to:***
 - (a) infringements of Article 3, Article 5, Article 6, Article 7(1) to (10), Article 8, Article **9**, Article 10, Article 11(1) and (3), ~~■~~Article 14(2), Article 15(1) and (2), Article 16(1), Article **17, Article 17a**, Article 18(1) to (3), Article 19(1), Article 20(1) to (4) and (7) to (10), Article 21(2) to (4), Article 22 (1), (2), **(2a)** and (4), and Article 25 of this Regulation;

- (b) failure to cooperate or comply in an investigation or with an inspection or request covered by Article 30.

Member States may decide not to lay down rules for administrative sanctions as referred to in the first subparagraph where the infringements referred to in point (a) or point (b) of that subparagraph are already subject to criminal sanctions in ~~■~~ their national law by ~~---~~/12 months *from the date of* entry into force *of this Regulation*]. Where they so decide, Member States shall notify, in detail, to the Commission and to ESMA, the relevant parts of their criminal law.

By ~~---~~/12 months *from the date of* entry into force *of this Regulation*], Member States shall notify, in detail, the rules referred to in the first and second subparagraph to the Commission and to ESMA. They shall notify the Commission and ESMA without delay of any subsequent amendment thereto.

2. Member States shall, in accordance with national law, ensure that competent authorities have the power to impose at least the following administrative sanctions and measures in relation of infringements listed in point (a) of paragraph 1:
 - (a) a public statement indicating the natural person or the legal entity responsible and the nature of the infringement *in accordance with Article 40*;

- (b) an order requiring the natural person or legal entity responsible to cease the conduct constituting the infringement;
- (c) maximum administrative pecuniary sanctions of at least twice the amount of the profits gained or losses avoided because of the infringement where those can be determined;
- (d) in the case of a legal person, maximum administrative pecuniary sanctions of at least EUR 5 000 000, or, in the Member States whose currency is not the euro, the corresponding value in the national currency on ... [date of entry into force *of this Regulation*], or 3% of the total annual turnover of that legal person according to the last available financial statements approved by the management body.

Where the legal person is a parent undertaking or a subsidiary of a parent undertaking which is required to prepare consolidated financial accounts according to Directive 2013/34/EU, the relevant total annual turnover shall be the total annual turnover or the corresponding type of income in accordance with the relevant Union law in the area of accounting according to the last available consolidated accounts approved by the management body of the ultimate parent undertaking.

- (e) in the case of a natural person, maximum administrative pecuniary sanctions of at least EUR 700 000, or, in the Member States whose currency is not the euro, the corresponding value in the national currency on ---[date of entry into force *of this Regulation*].
3. Member States may provide for additional sanctions or measures and for higher levels of administrative fines than those provided for in this Regulation.

Article 37

Exercise of supervisory powers and sanctioning powers

1. Competent authorities, when determining the type and level of administrative sanctions and measures, shall take into account all relevant circumstances including, where appropriate:
- (a) the gravity and the duration of the infringement;
 - (b) the degree of responsibility of the person responsible for the infringement;
 - (c) the financial strength of the person responsible for the infringement, as indicated by the total turnover of the responsible legal person or the annual income and net assets of the responsible natural person;

- (d) the impact of the infringement on retail investors' interests;
 - (e) the importance of the profits gained, losses avoided by the person responsible for the infringement or the losses for third parties derived from the infringement, insofar as they can be determined;
 - (f) the level of cooperation of the person responsible for the infringement with the competent authority, without prejudice to the need to ensure disgorgement of profits gained or losses avoided by that person;
 - (g) previous infringements by the person responsible for the infringement;
 - (h) measures taken after the infringement by the responsible person to prevent its repetition.
2. In the exercise of their powers to impose administrative sanctions and other administrative measures under Article 36, competent authorities shall cooperate closely to ensure that the exercise of their supervisory and investigative powers and the administrative sanctions and measures that they impose are effective and appropriate under this Regulation. They shall coordinate their action in order to avoid duplication and overlaps when exercising their supervisory and investigative powers and when imposing administrative sanctions and measures in cross-border cases.

Article 38

Right of appeal

Member States shall ensure that decisions taken under the provisions of this Regulation are properly reasoned and subject to a right of appeal before a tribunal.

For the purposes of Article 19, a right of appeal shall also apply where the competent authority has neither taken a decision to approve or to refuse an application for approval nor has made any request for changes or supplementary information within the time limits set out in Article 19(2), (3) and (5) in respect of that application.

Article 39

Reporting of infringements

1. Competent authorities shall establish effective mechanisms to encourage and enable reporting of actual or potential infringements of this Regulation to them.

2. The mechanisms referred to in paragraph 1 shall include at least:
 - (a) specific procedures for the receipt of reports of actual or potential infringements and their follow-up including the establishment of secure communication channels for such reports;
 - (b) appropriate protection for employees working under a contract of employment who report infringements at least against retaliation, discrimination and other types of unfair treatment by their employer or third parties;
 - (c) protection of the identity and personal data of both the person who reports the infringements and the natural person who is allegedly responsible for an infringement, at all stages of the procedure unless such disclosure is required by national law in the context of further investigation or subsequent judicial proceedings.
3. Member States may provide for financial incentives to persons who offer relevant information about actual or potential infringements of this Regulation to be granted in accordance with national law where such persons do not have other pre-existing legal or contractual duties to report such information, and provided that the information is new, and that it results in the imposition of an administrative or criminal sanction, or the taking of another administrative measure, for an infringement of this Regulation.

4. Member States shall require employers engaged in activities that are regulated for financial services purposes to have in place appropriate procedures for their employees to report actual or potential infringements internally through a specific, independent and autonomous channel.

Article 40
Publication of decisions

1. A decision imposing an administrative sanction or measure for infringement of this Regulation shall be published by competent authorities on their official website immediately after the person sanctioned is informed of that decision. The publication shall include at least information on the type and nature of the infringement and the identity of the persons responsible. That obligation shall not apply to decisions imposing measures that are of an investigatory nature.
2. Where the publication of the identity of the legal entities, or identity or personal data of natural persons, is considered by the competent authority to be disproportionate following a case-by-case assessment conducted on the proportionality of the publication of such data, or where such publication would jeopardise the stability of financial markets or an ongoing investigation, Member States shall ensure that the competent authorities shall either:
 - (a) delay the publication of the decision to impose a sanction or a measure until the moment where the reasons for non-publication cease to exist;

- (b) publish the decision to impose a sanction or a measure on an anonymous basis in a manner which is in conformity with national law, where such anonymous publication ensures an effective protection of the personal data concerned; In the case of a decision to publish a sanction or measure on an anonymous basis the publication of the relevant data may be postponed for a reasonable period of time where it is foreseen that within that period the reasons for anonymous publication shall cease to exist;
 - (c) not publish the decision to impose a sanction or measure in the event that the options laid down in points (a) and (b) are considered to be insufficient to ensure:
 - (i) that the stability of financial markets would not be put in jeopardy;
 - (ii) the proportionality of the publication of such decisions with regard to measures which are deemed to be of a minor nature.
3. Where the decision to impose a sanction or measure is subject to an appeal before the relevant judicial or other authorities, competent authorities shall also publish, immediately, on their official website such information and any subsequent information on the outcome of such appeal. Moreover, any decision annulling a previous decision to impose a sanction or a measure shall also be published.

4. Competent authorities shall ensure that any publication, in accordance with this Article, shall remain on their official website for a period of at least five years after its publication. Personal data contained in the publication shall be kept on the official website of the competent authority only for the period which is necessary in accordance with the applicable data protection rules.

Article 41

Reporting sanctions to ESMA

1. The competent authority shall, on an annual basis, provide ESMA with aggregate information regarding all administrative sanctions and measures imposed in accordance with Article 36. ESMA shall publish this information in an annual report.

Where Member States have chosen, in accordance with Article 36(1), to lay down criminal sanctions for the infringements of the provisions referred to in Article 36(1) their competent authorities shall provide ESMA annually with anonymised and aggregated data regarding all criminal investigations undertaken and criminal penalties imposed. ESMA shall publish data on criminal sanctions imposed in an annual report.

2. Where the competent authority has disclosed administrative or criminal sanctions or other administrative measures to the public, it shall simultaneously report those administrative sanctions or measures to ESMA.
3. Competent authorities shall inform ESMA of all administrative sanctions or measures imposed but not published in accordance with Article 40(2)(c) including any appeal in relation thereto and the outcome thereof. Member States shall ensure that competent authorities receive information and the final judgement in relation to any criminal sanction imposed and submit it to ESMA. ESMA shall maintain a central database of sanctions communicated to it solely for the purposes of exchanging information between competent authorities. This database shall be accessible only to competent authorities and it shall be updated on the basis of the information provided by the competent authorities.

CHAPTER IX DELEGATED AND IMPLEMENTING ACTS

Article 42

Exercise of the delegation

1. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission subject to the conditions laid down in this Article.

2. The ~~■~~ power *to adopt delegated acts* referred to in Article 1(6), Article 9(14), Article 13(1) and (2), Article 14(3), Article 15(3), Article 19(10) and Article 27(3) shall be conferred on the Commission for an indeterminate period of time from ... [date of entry into force *of this Regulation*].
3. The delegation of powers referred to in Article 1(6), Article 9(14), Article 13(1) and (2), Article 14(3), Article 15(3), Article 19(10) and Article 27(3) may be revoked at any time by the European Parliament or by the Council. A decision to revoke shall put an end to the delegation of the power specified in that decision. It shall take effect the day following the publication of the decision in the Official Journal of the European Union or at a later date specified therein. It shall not affect the validity of any delegated acts already in force.
4. As soon as it adopts a delegated act, the Commission shall notify it simultaneously to the European Parliament and to the Council.

5. A delegated act adopted pursuant to Article 1(6), Article 9(14), Article 13(1) and (2), Article 14(3), Article 15(3), Article 19(10) and Article 27(3) shall enter into force only *if* no objection has been expressed either by the European Parliament or the Council within a period of three months of notification of that act to the European Parliament and the Council or *if*, before the expiry of that period, the European Parliament and the Council have both informed the Commission that they will not object. That period shall be extended by three months at the initiative of the European Parliament or *of* the Council.

Article 43

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the European Securities Committee established by Commission Decision 2001/528/EC²⁴. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.
2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.

²⁴ Commission Decision 2001/528/EC of 6 June 2001 establishing the European Securities Committee (OJ L 191, 13.7.2001, p. 45).

CHAPTER X
FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 44

Repeal

1. Directive 2003/71/EC is repealed with effect from ... [date of application *of this Regulation*], *except for:*
 - (a) *points (a) and (g) of Article 4(2) of Directive 2003/71/EC which are repealed with effect from ... [enter date of entry into force of this Regulation] and;*
 - (b) *point (h) of Article 1(2) and point (e) of the first subparagraph of Article 3, which are repealed with effect from ... [enter date 12 months after entry into force of this Regulation].*
2. References to Directive 2003/71/EC shall be construed as references to this Regulation and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table set out in Annex *XX [correlation table]* of this Regulation.

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4. Prospectuses approved in accordance with the national laws transposing Directive 2003/71/EC before ... [enter date of application of this Regulation] shall continue to be governed by that national law until the end of their validity, or until twelve months have elapsed after ... [enter date of application of this Regulation], whichever occurs first.

Article 45

ESMA report on prospectuses

1. Based on the documents made public through the mechanism referred to in Article 20(6), ESMA shall publish every year a report containing statistics on the prospectuses approved and notified in the Union and an analysis of trends taking into account:
 - (a) the types of issuers, in particular ***the categories of companies referred to in points (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Article 15(1), and***
 - (b) the types of issuances, in particular ***the total consideration of the offers, the*** type of transferable securities, ***the*** type of trading venue and ***the*** denomination.

2. This report shall contain in particular:
- (a) an analysis of the extent to which the disclosure regimes set out in Articles 14 and 15 and the universal registration document set out in Article 9 are used throughout the Union;
 - (b) statistics on base prospectuses and final terms, and on prospectuses drawn up as separate documents or as a single document;
 - (c) statistics on the average and overall **consideration** of **offers** of securities to the public subject to this Regulation, by unlisted companies, companies whose securities are traded on multilateral trading facilities, including SME growth markets, and companies whose securities are admitted to trading on regulated markets. Where applicable, such statistics shall provide a breakdown between initial public offerings and subsequent offers, and between equity and non-equity securities;
 - (d) ***statistics on the use of the notification procedures of Article 24 and 24a, including a breakdown per Member State of the number of certificates of approval notified in relation to prospectuses, registration documents and universal registration documents.***

Article 46

Review

Before ... [5 years **from the date of entry into force of this Regulation**] the Commission shall present a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the application of this Regulation, accompanied where appropriate by a legislative proposal.

The report shall assess, inter alia, whether the prospectus summary, the disclosure regimes set out in Articles 14 and 15 and the universal registration document set out in Article 9 remain appropriate in light of their pursued objectives. ***In particular, the report shall include the following:***

- ***the number of EU Growth prospectuses of companies in each of the four categories set out in points (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Article 15(1) and an analysis of the evolution of each such number and of the trends in the choice of trading venues by the companies entitled to use the EU Growth prospectus;***
- ***an analysis of whether the EU Growth prospectus strikes a proper balance between investor protection and the reduction of administrative burden for the companies entitled to use it.***

Based on the above analysis the report shall assess whether any amendments to this Regulation are necessary in order to further facilitate capital raising by smaller companies, while ensuring a sufficient level of investor protection, including whether the relevant thresholds need to be adjusted.

Furthermore, the report shall evaluate whether LEIs and ISINs can be obtained at a reasonable cost and within a reasonable period of time by issuers, in particular SMEs. The report shall take into account the results of the peer review mentioned in Article 19(12).

Article 47

Entry into force and application

1. This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
2. ***Without prejudice to Article 42(2), it shall apply from ... [24 months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation], except for Article 1(2a) and Article 3(2) which shall apply from ... [enter date 12 months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation] and Article 1(4)(a) and (b) which shall apply from the date of entry into force of this Regulation.***
3. Member States shall take the necessary measures to comply with Article 11, Article 19(8), Article 29, Article 30, Article 36, Article 37, Article 38, Article 39, Article 40, and Article 41 by ... ***[24 months from the date of entry into force of this Regulation]***.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

ANNEX I

PROSPECTUS

I. Summary

II. Identity of directors, senior management, advisers and auditors

The purpose is to identify the company representatives and other individuals involved in the company's offer or admission to trading; these are the persons responsible for drawing up the prospectus and those responsible for auditing the financial statements.

III. Offer statistics and expected timetable

The purpose is to provide essential information regarding the conduct of any offer and the identification of important dates relating to that offer.

A. Offer statistics

B. Method and expected timetable

IV. Essential information

The purpose is to summarise essential information about the company's financial condition, capitalisation and risk factors. If the financial statements included in the document are restated to reflect material changes in the company's group structure or accounting policies, the selected financial data must also be restated.

- A. Selected financial data
- B. Capitalisation and indebtedness (*for equity securities*)
- C. Reasons for the offer and use of proceeds
- D. Risk factors

V. Information on the company

The purpose is to provide information about the company's business operations, the products it makes or the services it provides, and the factors which affect the business. It is also intended to provide information regarding the adequacy and suitability of the company's properties, plant and equipment, as well as its plans for future capacity increases or decreases.

- A. History and development of the company
- B. Business overview
- C. Organisational structure
- D. Property, plant and equipment

VI. Operating and financial review and prospects

The purpose is to provide the management's explanation of factors that have affected the company's financial condition and results of operations for the historical periods covered by the financial statements, and management's assessment of factors and trends which are expected to have a material effect on the company's financial condition and results of operations in future periods.

- A. Operating results
- B. Liquidity and capital resources
- C. Research and development, patents and licences, etc.
- D. Trends

VII. Directors, senior management and employees

The purpose is to provide information concerning the company's directors and managers that will allow investors to assess their experience, qualifications and levels of remuneration, as well as their relationship with the company.

- A. Directors and senior management
- B. Remuneration
- C. Board practices
- D. Employees
- E. Share ownership

VIII. Major shareholders and related-party transactions

The purpose is to provide information regarding the major shareholders and others that may control or have an influence on the company. It also provides information regarding transactions the company has entered into with persons affiliated with the company and whether the terms of such transactions are fair to the company.

- A. Major shareholders
- B. Related-party transactions
- C. Interests of experts and advisers

IX. Financial information

The purpose is to specify which financial statements must be included in the document, as well as the periods to be covered, the age of the financial statements and other information of a financial nature. The accounting and auditing principles that will be accepted for use in preparation and audit of the financial statements will be determined in accordance with international accounting and auditing standards.

- A. Consolidated statements and other financial information
- B. Significant changes

X. Details of the offer and admission to trading details

The purpose is to provide information regarding the offer and the admission to trading of securities, the plan for distribution of the securities and related matters.

- A. Offer and admission to trading
- B. Plan for distribution
- C. Markets
- D. Holders of securities who are selling
- E. Dilution (for equity securities only)
- F. Expenses of the issue

XI. Additional information

The purpose is to provide information, most of which is of a statutory nature, that is not covered elsewhere in the prospectus.

- A. Share capital
- B. Memorandum and articles of association
- C. Material contracts
- D. Exchange controls
- E. Warning on tax consequences
- F. Dividends and paying agents
- G. Statement by experts
- H. Documents on display
- I. Subsidiary information

ANNEX II

REGISTRATION DOCUMENT

I. Identity of directors, senior management, advisers and auditors

The purpose is to identify the company representatives and other individuals involved in the company's offer or admission to trading; these are the persons responsible for drawing up the prospectus and those responsible for auditing the financial statements.

II. Essential information about the issuer

The purpose is to summarise essential information about the company's financial condition, capitalisation and risk factors. If the financial statements included in the document are restated to reflect material changes in the company's group structure or accounting policies, the selected financial data must also be restated.

- A. Selected financial data
- B. Capitalisation and indebtedness (*for equity securities only*)
- C. Risk factors *relating to the issuer*

III. Information on the company

The purpose is to provide information about the company's business operations, the products it makes or the services it provides and the factors which affect the business. It is also intended to provide information regarding the adequacy and suitability of the company's properties, plants and equipment, as well as its plans for future capacity increases or decreases.

- A. History and development of the company
- B. Business overview
- C. Organisational structure
- D. Property, plants and equipment

IV. Operating and financial review and prospects

The purpose is to provide the management's explanation of factors that have affected the company's financial condition and results of operations for the historical periods covered by the financial statements, and management's assessment of factors and trends which are expected to have a material effect on the company's financial condition and results of operations in future periods.

- A. Operating results
- B. Liquidity and capital resources
- C. Research and development, patents and licences, etc.
- D. Trends

V. Directors, senior management and employees

The purpose is to provide information concerning the company's directors and managers that will allow investors to assess their experience, qualifications and levels of remuneration, as well as their relationship with the company.

- A. Directors and senior management

- B. Remuneration
- C. Board practices
- D. Employees
- E. Share ownership

VI. Major shareholders and related-party transactions

The purpose is to provide information regarding the major shareholders and others that may control or have an influence on the company. It also provides information regarding transactions the company has entered into with persons affiliated with the company and whether the terms of such transactions are fair to the company.

- A. Major shareholders
- B. Related-party transactions
- C. Interests of experts and advisers

VII. Financial information

The purpose is to specify which financial statements must be included in the document, as well as the periods to be covered, the age of the financial statements and other information of a financial nature. The accounting and auditing principles that will be accepted for use in preparation and audit of the financial statements will be determined in accordance with international accounting and auditing standards.

- A. Consolidated statements and other financial information
- B. Significant changes

VIII. Additional information

The purpose is to provide information, most of which is of a statutory nature, that is not covered elsewhere in the prospectus.

- A. Share capital
- B. Memorandum and articles of association
- C. Material contracts
- D. Statement by experts
- E. Documents on display
- F. Subsidiary information

ANNEX III

SECURITIES NOTE

I. Identity of directors, senior management, advisers and auditors

The purpose is to identify the company representatives and other individuals involved in the company's offer or admission to trading; these are the persons responsible for drawing up the prospectus and those responsible for auditing the financial statements.

II. Offer statistics and expected timetable

The purpose is to provide essential information regarding the conduct of any offer and the identification of important dates relating to that offer.

A. Offer statistics

B. Method and expected timetable

III. Essential information about the issuer

The purpose is to summarise essential information about the company's financial condition, capitalisation and risk factors. If the financial statements included in the document are restated to reflect material changes in the company's group structure or accounting policies, the selected financial data must also be restated.

A. Capitalisation and indebtedness *(for equity securities only)*

Aa. Information concerning working capital (for equity securities only)

B. Reasons for the offer and use of proceeds

C. Risk factors

IIIa. Essential information about the securities

The purpose is to provide essential information about the securities to be offered/admitted to trading.

A. A description of the type and class of the securities being offered and/or admitted to trading

B. Currency of the securities issued

- C. The relative seniority of the securities in the issuer’s capital structure in the event of the issuer’s insolvency , including, where applicable, information on the level of subordination of the securities and the potential impact on the investment in the event of resolution under the BRRD*
- D. The dividend, payout policy, provisions relating to interest payable or a description of the underlying including the method used to relate the underlying and the rate, and indication where information about the past and future performance of the underlying and its volatility can be obtained*
- E. A description of any rights attached to the securities, including any limitations of those rights, and procedure for the exercise of those rights*

IV. Interests of experts

The purpose is to provide information regarding transactions the company has entered into with experts or advisers employed on a contingent basis.

V. Details of the offer and admission to trading

The purpose is to provide information regarding the offer and the admission to trading of securities, the plan for distribution of the securities and related matters.

- A. Offer and admission to trading
- B. Plan for distribution
- C. Markets
- D. Selling securities holders
- E. Dilution (for equity securities only)
- F. Expenses of the issue

VI. Additional information

The purpose is to provide information, most of which is of a statutory nature, that is not covered elsewhere in the prospectus.

- A. Exchange controls
- B. Warning on tax consequences
- C. Dividends and paying agents
- D. Statement by experts
- E. Documents on display

ANNEX IV



Deleted

ANNEX V

REGISTRATION DOCUMENT FOR THE EU GROWTH PROSPECTUS

I. Responsibility for the registration document

The purpose is to identify the issuer and its representatives and other individuals involved in the company's offer; these are the persons responsible for drawing up the registration document.

II. Strategy, performance and business environment

The purpose is to inform about the company's strategy and objectives related to development and future performance and to provide information about the company's business operations, the products it makes or the services it provides, its investments and the factors which affect the business. Furthermore, the risk factors specific to the company and relevant trend information must be included

III. Corporate Governance

The purpose is to provide information concerning the company's directors and managers that will allow investors to assess their experience, qualifications and levels of remuneration, as well as their relationship with the company.

IV. Financial statements and key performance indicators

The purpose is to specify which financial statements and key performance indicators must be included in the document covering the latest 2 financial years (for equity securities) or the last financial year (for non-equity securities) (or such shorter period that the issuer has been in operation).

IVa. Operating and financial review (only for equity securities issued by companies with market capitalisation above EUR 200 000 000).

The purpose is to provide information about the financial condition and operating results if the Annual Reports, presented and prepared in accordance with Articles 19 and 29 of Directive 2013/34/EU for the periods covered by the historical financial information, are not included in or annexed to the EU Growth prospectus.

V. Shareholders' information

The purpose is to provide information about legal and arbitration proceedings, conflicts of interest and related party transactions as well as information on the share capital.

ANNEX VI

SECURITIES NOTE FOR THE EU GROWTH PROSPECTUS

I. Responsibility for the securities note

The purpose is to identify the issuer and its representatives and other individuals involved in the company's offer or admission to trading; these are the persons responsible for drawing up the prospectus.

Ia. Working capital statement and statement of capitalisation and indebtedness (only for equity securities issued by companies with market capitalisation above EUR 200 000 000).

The purpose is to provide information on the issuer's capitalisation and indebtedness and information as to whether the working capital is sufficient for the issuer's present requirements or, if not, how the issuer proposes to provide the additional working capital needed.

II. Terms and conditions of the securities

The purpose is to provide essential information regarding the terms and conditions of the securities and a description of any rights attached to the securities. Furthermore, the risk factors specific to the securities must be included.

III. Details of the offer and expected timetable

The purpose is to provide information regarding the offer and, where applicable, the admission to trading on an MTF, including the final offer price and amount of securities (whether in number of securities or aggregate nominal amount) which will be offered, the reasons for the offer, the plan for distribution of the securities, the use of proceeds of the offer, the expenses of the issuance and offer, and dilution (for equity securities only).

IV. Information on the guarantor

The purpose is to provide information on the guarantor of the securities where applicable, including essential information about the guarantee attached to the securities, the risk factors and financial information specific to the guarantor.