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CENTRE for **REGULATORY STRATEGY EMEA**

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Highlights

COVID-19 and its economic impact continued to dominate the news agenda throughout April. The UK government announced that it was extending its Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) so that all viable small businesses affected by COVID-19, and not just those unable to secure regular commercial financing, would now be eligible. It also announced a new package of small business loans with a 100% government-backed guarantee. Businesses will be able to borrow between £2,000 and £50,000 and the loans will be interest free for the first 12 months.

The UK's PRA published a series of Dear CEO letters to UK banks and insurers outlining their expectations that in response to the crisis, banks should cancel the distribution of their outstanding 2019 dividends, insurers should carefully consider the distribution of profits in relation to policyholder protection considerations, and all firms should take other measures to enhance their financial position. Whilst the PRA did not formally direct banks to cancel their dividend payments, it indicated that it would, if necessary, consider using its formal powers; in response all the banks concerned consented to the PRA's request.

Both the PRA and FCA released their business plans for 2020/21. As expected, COVID-19 has meant that both the PRA and FCA have had to reassess their plans for the coming year, and reprioritise work and resources in some areas. Both organisations extended the deadlines on a number of consultations, while a significant number of other pieces of work were delayed.

At the European level, the ECB announced that it was changing its rules so that it will accept bonds that lose their investment-grade credit rating as collateral in exchange for cheap liquidity funding available to banks. Any bonds rated as investment grade on April 7 will continue to be eligible even if they are downgraded below the triple-B level by the main credit rating agencies as long as their rating remains no more than two notches below investment grade. However, these assets will be subjected to "haircuts" to reduce their value as collateral based on their latest credit rating.

For a full list of COVID-19 related regulatory, monetary and fiscal policy initiatives, please see our report available here.

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Glossary

AFMs = Authorised Fund Managers

AI = Artificial Intelligence

AIFMD = Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive

ALMD = Anti Money Laundering Directive

AMF = Autorité des Marchés Financiers

AML = Anti-Money Laundering

APA = Approved Publication Arrangement

AUM = Assets under management

BCBS = Basel Committee on Banking Supervision

BEAR = Banking Executive Accountability Regime

BIS = Bank for International Settlements

BMR = Benchmarks Regulation

BRRD = Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive

BTS = Binding Technical Standard

BoE = BoE

CBI = Central Bank of Ireland

CCP = Central Counterparty

CP= CP

CTF = Counter Terrorist Financing

CCFF = COVID Corporate Financing Facility

CBILS = Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

CISO = Chief Information Security Officer

CMA = Competition and Markets Authority

CMU = Capital Markets Union

CNMV = Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores

CQS = Credit Quality Step

CRD = Capital Requirements Directive

CRR = Capital Requirements Regulation

CROE = Cyber Resilience Oversight Expectations

CSSF = Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier

CTP = Consolidated Tape Provider

CTRF = Contingent Term Repo Facility

DB = Defined Benefit

DC = Defined Contribution

DP = DP

DPA = Data Protection Agency

DRR = Digital Regulatory Reporting

EBA = European Banking Authority

ECB = European Central Bank

ECOFIN = Economic and Financial Affairs Council

EIOPA = European Insurance & Occupational Pensions Authority

EMEA = Europe, Middle East and Africa

EMIR = European Market Infrastructure Regulation

EONIA = Euro Over Night Index Average

ESAs = European Supervisory Authorities

ESG = Environmental, Social, and Governance

ESMA = European Securities & Markets Authority

ESRB = European Systemic Risk Board

ESTER = Euro Short-Term Rate

EU = European Union

Euribor = Euro Interbank Offered Rate

FAMR = Financial Advice Market Review

FCA = FCA

FinPro = Financial Protection

FGCA = Financial Guidance and Claims Act 2018

FMIs = Financial Market Infrastructures

FOS = Financial Ombudsman Service

FPC = Financial Policy Committee

FRTB = Fundamental Review of the Trading Book

FS = Financial Services

FSB = Financial Stability Board

GBP = British pound sterling

GDP = Gross Domestic Product

GDPR = General Data Protection Regulation

GSIBs = Global Systemically Important Banks

HMT = Her Majesty's Treasury

IAIS = International Association of Insurance Supervisors

IASB = International Accounting Standards Board

IBOR = Interbank Offered Rate

ICAAP = Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process

ICO = Information Commissioners Office

ICS = Insurance Capital Standard

IDD = Insurance Distribution Directive

IFD = Investment Firms Directive

IFR = Investment Firms Regulation

IFRS = International Financial Reporting Standards

ILAAP = Internal Liquidity Adequacy Assessment Process

IM = Initial Margin

IOSCO = International Organization of Securities Commissions

IPU = Intermediate Parent Undertaking

IRB = Internal Ratings Based

IRRBB = Interest Rate Risk in the Banking Book

ISAs = Individual Savings Accounts

IT = Information Technology

JST = Joint Supervisory Teams

KID = Key Information Document

LEI = Legal Entity Identifier

LIBOR = London Interbank Offered Rate

LTV = Loan to Value

M&A = Mergers and Acquisitions

MAR = Market Abuse Regulation

MI = Management Information

MiFID = Markets in Financial Instruments Directive

MiFIR = Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation

MLD = Money Laundering Directive

MoU = Memorandum of Understanding

MREL = Minimum requirement for own funds and eligible liabilities

MTF = Multilateral Trading Facility

NCA = National Competent Authority

NED = Non-Executive Director

NGFS = Network for Greening the Financial System

NPLs = Non-performing Loans

NSFR = Net Stable Funding Ratio

OCIR - Operational Continuity in Resolution

ORSA = Own Risk and Solvency Assessment

OTF = Organised Trading Facility

OTC = Over the counter

PPI = Payment Protection Insurance

PRA = Prudential Regulation Authority

PRIIPs = Packaged Retail Investment and Insurance Products

PS = PS

PSD2 = Revised (second) Payment Services Directive

RDR = Retail Distribution Review

RFRs = Risk-Free Rates

RRM = Risk Reduction Measures

RTGS = Real Time Gross Settlement

RTS = Regulatory Technical Standard

RW = Risk Weight

SA = Standardised Approach

SFTR = Securities Financing Transactions Regulation

SI = Systematic Internaliser

SIPPs = Self Invested Personal Pensions

SM&CR = Senior Managers and Certification Regime

SONIA = Sterling Overnight Index Average

SRB = Single Resolution Board

SRF = Single Resolution Fund

SREP = Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process

SS = Supervisory Statement

SSM = Single Supervisory Mechanism

TCA = Total Capital Adequacy

TCFD = Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures

TIBER = Threat Intelligence-based Ethical Red Teaming

TLAC = Total Loss-Absorbing Capital

TMTP = Transitional Measure on Technical Provisions

TPP = Third-Party Providers

TPR = Temporary Permissions Regime

TRIM = Targeted Review of Internal Models

TRR = Temporary Recognition Regime

UCITS = Undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities

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