

## PRESS RELEASE

### **ESMA makes available data on credit ratings' past performances - central repository launched**

ESMA launches today a Central Rating Repository (CEREP) providing information on credit ratings issued by those 15 Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs) which are either registered or certified in the European Union.<sup>1</sup> The CEREP database will allow investors to assess for the first time on a single platform the performance and reliability of credit ratings on different types of ratings, asset classes and geo-graphical regions over the time period of choice.

The repository includes standardised statistics on rating activity and the performance of credit ratings, including transition matrices and default rates.

**Steven Maijoor, ESMA Chair**, said that:

*“With making a Central Rating Repository available to the public as of today, ESMA contributes to more transparency on ratings issued and hence improves the protection of investors. CEREP allows the general public to assess the historical performance of credit ratings and helps to evaluate their reliability. Therefore, the launch of CEREP is a major step towards increased transparency with regard to CRAs’ activity.”*

#### **CEREP to increase transparency by providing complete and easy-to-access data**

The statistical data provided by CEREP are based on historical credit ratings submitted by CRAs<sup>2</sup> on a semi-annual basis and which are calculated by CEREP in a standardised manner. The aim of CEREP is:

- to enhance transparency by providing complete, standardised and consistent data;
- to improve investor protection by facilitating the comparison of rating performances of CRAs;
- to facilitate regulators in assessing developments in CRAs’ activities; and
- to reduce information asymmetries.

#### **Easy access through ESMA’s website**

The wider public can access the information contained within CEREP, through ESMA’s website ([www.esma.europa.eu](http://www.esma.europa.eu)) > Registry and Databases > CEREP or directly through:

Link: <http://cerep.esma.europa.eu/cerep-web>

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<sup>1</sup> CEREP provides statistics on those 15 CRAs registered and certified as of 31 October 2011. Currently, however, 16 CRAs are registered or certified in the European Union.

<sup>2</sup> The CRAs are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the data sent.



The database is free of charge and without prior subscription. It can be customised in terms of the time periods, rating types and geographical region of choice.

CEREP is established in accordance with Article 11.2 of the CRA Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009. It will be updated on a semi-annual basis with statistics covering up to the preceding reporting period, which covers six months lasting from 1 January to 30 June or, from 1 July to 31 December.

ESMA will announce on its website any future updates of CEREP.



## Notes for editors

1. ESMA is an independent EU Authority that was established on 1 January 2011 according to EU Regulation No. 1095/2010 as published on December 15, 2010, in the Official Journal of the European Union (L 331/84). The Authority contributes to safeguarding the stability of the European Union's financial system by ensuring the integrity, transparency, efficiency and orderly functioning of securities markets, as well as enhancing investor protection. In particular, ESMA fosters supervisory convergence both amongst securities regulators, and across financial sectors by working closely with the other European Supervisory Authorities competent in the field of banking (EBA), and insurance and occupational pensions (EIOPA).
2. ESMA's work on securities legislation contributes to the development of a single rule book in Europe. This serves two purposes; firstly, it ensures the consistent treatment of investors across the Union, enabling an adequate level of protection of investors through effective regulation and supervision. Secondly, it promotes equal conditions of competition for financial service providers, as well as ensuring the effectiveness and cost efficiency of supervision for supervised companies. As part of its role in standard setting and reducing the scope of regulatory arbitrage, ESMA strengthens international supervisory co-operation. Where requested in European law, ESMA undertakes the supervision of certain entities with pan European reach.
3. ESMA also contributes to the financial stability of the European Union, in the short, medium and long-term, through its contribution to the work of the European Systemic Risk Board, which identifies potential risks to the financial system and provides advice to diminish possible threats to the financial stability of the Union. ESMA is also responsible for coordinating actions of securities supervisors or adopting emergency measures when a crisis situation arises.

Further Information:

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