

## **BELFIUS BANK SA/NV**

(incorporated with limited liability in Belgium)

## EUR 10,000,000,000

Belgian Mortgage Pandbrieven Programme

*Arranger* Belfius Bank

Dealers

J.P. Morgan

Belfius Bank

Barclays

**BNP PARIBAS** 

Citigroup

Commerzbank

**Credit Suisse** 

**Deutsche Bank** 

DZ BANK AG

Landesbank Baden-Württemberg

Natixis

Nomura

NORD/LB

Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking

**UniCredit Bank** 

28 September 2020



## **BELFIUS BANK SA/NV**

(incorporated with limited liability in Belgium)

## EUR 10,000,000,000

#### Belgian Mortgage Pandbrieven Programme

Under its EUR 10,000,000 Belgian Mortgage Pandbrieven Programme (the "**Programme**"), Belfius Bank SA/NV (the "**Issuer**" or "**Belfius Bank**") may from time to time issue Belgian pandbrieven (*Belgische pandbrieven/lettres de gage belges*) (the "**Mortgage Pandbrieven**") in accordance with the Law of 25 April 2014 on the status and supervision of credit institutions and stockbroking firms (the "**Banking Law**") and its executing royal decrees and regulations (the "**Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations**"). The aggregate outstanding principal amount of Mortgage Pandbrieven will not at any time exceed EUR 10,000,000,000 (or the equivalent in other currencies, as at the date of issuance of the Mortgage Pandbrieven).

Mortgage Pandbrieven' may be issued in dematerialised form ("Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven') or in registered form ("Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven'). Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven will be represented by a book-entry in the records of the clearing system operated by the National Bank of Belgium (the "NBB-SSS") or any successor thereto (the "Securities Settlement System') in accordance with Article 7:35 et seq. of the Belgian code of companies and associations (*Wetboek van vennootschappen en verenigingen/ Code des sociétés et des associations*) (the "Belgian Companies Code"). Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven will be registered in a register maintained by the Issuer or by the Registrar in accordance with Article 7:27 et seq. of the Belgian Companies Code.

The Mortgage Pandbrieven may be issued on a continuing basis to one or more dealers appointed from time to time under the Programme, which appointment may be for a specific issuance or on an ongoing basis (each a "Dealer" and together the "Dealers"). The Issuer may issue and/or agree with any Dealer or investor (as applicable) to issue Mortgage Pandbrieven in a form and subject to conditions not contemplated by the terms and conditions or the final terms set out herein or under a different prospectus or without prospectus. None of the Dealers shall be responsible for, any matter which is the subject of, any statement, representation, warranty or covenant of the Issuer contained in the Mortgage Pandbrieven or any Programme Document, or any other agreement or document relating to the Mortgage Pandbrieven or any Programme Document prepared by the Issuer, or for the execution, legality, effectiveness, adequacy, genuineness, validity, enforceability or admissibility in evidence of the Mortgage Pandbrieven and said Programme Documents prepared by the Issuer.

This document constitutes a base prospectus (the "Base Prospectus") within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market (the "Prospectus Regulation"). This Base Prospectus has been approved by the *Belgian Financial Services and Markets Authority* (the "FSMA"), in its capacity as competent authority under the Prospectus Regulation. The FSMA only approves this Base Prospectus as meeting the standards of completeness, comprehensibility and consistency imposed by the Prospectus Regulation. Such approval should not be considered as an endorsement of the Issuer or the quality of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. Investors should make their own assessment as to the suitability of investing in the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

The date of this Base Prospectus is 28 September 2020. This Base Prospectus shall be valid for a period of twelve months from its date of approval. The obligation to supplement this Base Prospectus in the event of significant new factors, material mistakes or material inaccuracies does not apply when this Base Prospectus is no longer valid.

Application may be made to Euronext Brussels SA/NV ("Euronext Brussels") for Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme for the period of 12 months from the date of approval of this Base Prospectus to be listed and admitted to trading on the regulated market of Euronext Brussels (the "Market"). The Market is a regulated market for the purposes of Directive 2014/65/EU as amended, supplemented or replaced from time to time of the European Parliament and of the Council on markets in financial instruments and amending Directive 2002/92/EC and Directive 2011/61/EU (as amended, supplemented or replaced from time to time, "MiFID II"). No certainty can be given that the application will be granted. The Issuer may also issue unlisted Mortgage Pandbrieven or request the listing of Mortgage Pandbrieven on any other stock exchange or market. The Market or on any other stock exchange or market.

The "Supervisory Authority" (i.e. the National Bank of Belgium ("NBB") and any other supervisory authority to which relevant powers may be transferred) has admitted the Issuer to the list of credit institutions that are authorised to issue covered bonds and has admitted the Programme to the list of authorised programmes for the issuance of covered bonds under the category Belgian pandbrieven (*Belgische pandbrieven/lettres de gage belges*). Both lists can be consulted on the website of the Supervisory Authority at www.nbb.be. Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme will constitute Belgian pandbrieven under the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations and will as such be included in the list of the Supervisory Authority.

Each Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven may on issuance be assigned a rating by Fitch France S.A.S. ("Fitch"), a rating by Moody's Investors Service Ltd. ("Moody's") and/or a rating by Standard & Poor's Global Ratings Europe Limited ("Standard & Poor's" or "S&P"), and/or a rating by such other rating agency as shall be specified in the final terms in respect of the issuance of any Mortgage Pandbrieven, to the extent each such agency is a Rating Agency (as defined herein) at the date of issuance of the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

Each of the Rating Agencies is established in the European Union and in the UK and is registered in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1060/2009 on credit rating agencies, as amended (the "**CRA Regulation**") published on the European Securities and Markets Authority's ("**ESMA**") website (https://www.esma.europa.eu). Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven (as defined in "Overview of the Programme") to be issued under the Programme will be rated or unrated. Where a Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven is to be rated, such rating will not necessarily be the same as the ratings assigned to other Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven. Whether or not a rating in relation to any Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven will be treated as having been issued by a credit rating agency established in the European Union and in the UK and registered under the CRA Regulation will be disclosed in the applicable final terms. A security rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be subject to suspension, reduction or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating agency.

The issue price and amount of the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven will be determined at the time of the offering of each Tranche based on the then prevailing market conditions and will be set out in the applicable final terms.

Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme will not be placed with "consumers" within the meaning of the Belgian code of economic law of 28 March 2013 (*Code de droit économique/Wetboek van economisch recht*), as amended from time to time (the "**Belgian Code of Economic Law**") and are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available to any should not be offerered, sold or otherwise made available to any "retail investors" in the the European Economic Area ("**EEA**") or in the United Kingdom ("**UK**").

In the case of any Mortgage Pandbrieven which are to be admitted to trading on a regulated market within the EEA or the UK or offered to the public in a member state of the EEA or the UK in circumstances which require the publication of a prospectus under the Prospectus Regulation, the specified denomination of Mortgage

Pandbrieven issued under this Base Prospectus shall be EUR 100,000 (or the equivalent of at least EUR 100,000 in any other currency as at the date of issuance of the Mortgage Pandbrieven).

Prospective investors should have regard to the factors described under the section headed "Risk Factors" in this Base Prospectus.

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

#### GENERAL

This Base Prospectus has been prepared on the basis that any offer of Mortgage Pandbrieven in any member state of the EEA and the UK (each a "**Relevant State**") will be made pursuant to an exemption under Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 (the "**Prospectus Regulation**"), as implemented in that Relevant State, from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of Mortgage Pandbrieven. Accordingly, any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant State of Mortgage Pandbrieven which are the subject of an offering contemplated in this Base Prospectus as completed by the final terms in relation to the offer of those Mortgage Pandbrieven may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for the Issuer or any Dealer to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Regulation, in each case, in relation to such offer. Neither the Issuer nor any Dealer has authorised, nor do they authorise, the making of any offer of Mortgage Pandbrieven in circumstances in which an obligation arises for the Issuer or any Dealer to publish or supplement a prospectus for such offer.

This Base Prospectus is to be read in conjunction with all documents which are incorporated herein by reference (see Section 3 "Documents Incorporated by Reference"). Other than in relation to the documents which are deemed to be incorporated by reference (see Section 3 "Documents Incorporated by Reference"), potential investors in the Mortgage Pandbrieven should be aware that the information on any website to which this Base Prospectus refers does not form part of this Base Prospectus and has not been scrutinised or approved by the FSMA.

The Issuer accepts responsibility for the information contained in this Base Prospectus. To the best of the knowledge of the Issuer (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this Base Prospectus is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, none of the Dealers accept any responsibility for the contents of this Base Prospectus or for any other statement made or purported to be made by a Dealer or on its behalf in connection with the Issuer or the issuance and offering of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. Each Dealer accordingly disclaims all and any liability whether arising in tort or contract or otherwise (save as referred to above) which it might otherwise have in respect of this Base Prospectus or any such statement. Neither this Base Prospectus nor any other information supplied in connection with the Programme are intended to provide the basis of any credit or other evaluation and should not be considered as a recommendation by any of the Issuer or any of the Dealers that any recipient of this Base Prospectus or any person supplied with other information provided in connection with the Programme should purchase the Mortgage Pandbrieven. Each potential purchaser of Mortgage Pandbrieven should be based upon such independent investigation as it deems necessary. None of the Dealers undertakes to review the financial condition or affairs of the Issuer during the life of the arrangements contemplated by this Base Prospectus nor to advise any investor or potential investor in the Mortgage Pandbrieven or any information coming to the attention of any of the Dealers.

No person is or has been authorised to give any information or to make any representation other than those contained in this Base Prospectus in connection with the issuance or sale of the Mortgage Pandbrieven and, if given or made, such information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorised by the Issuer or any of the Dealers or the Arranger (as defined in Section 1 "Overview of the Programme"). Neither the delivery of this Base Prospectus nor any sale made in connection herewith shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Issuer since the date hereof or the date upon which this Base Prospectus has been most recently amended or supplemented, or that there has been no adverse change in the financial position of the Issuer since the date hereof or the date upon which this Base Prospectus has been most recently amended or supplemented, or that any other information supplied in connection with the Programme is correct as of any time subsequent to the date on which it is supplied or, if different, the date indicated in the document containing the same.

The Dealers have not prepared any financial statements or reports referred to in this Base Prospectus and have not separately conducted any due diligence.

In the case of any Mortgage Pandbrieven which are to be admitted to trading on a regulated market within the EEA or the UK or offered to the public in a Relevant State in circumstances which require the publication of a prospectus under the Prospectus Regulation, the specified denomination of Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under this Base Prospectus shall be EUR 100,000 (or the equivalent of at least EUR 100,000 in any other currency as at the date of issuance of the Mortgage Pandbrieven).

This Base Prospectus contains or incorporates by reference certain statements that constitute forwardlooking statements. Such forward-looking statements may include, without limitation, statements relating to the Issuer's business strategies, trends in its business, competition and competitive advantage, regulatory changes, and restructuring plans. Words such as believes, expects, projects, anticipates, seeks, estimates, intends, plans or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements. The Issuer does not intend to update these forward-looking statements except as may be required by applicable securities laws. By their very nature, forward-looking statements involve inherent risks and uncertainties, both general and specific, and risks exist that predictions, forecasts, projections and other outcomes described or implied in forward-looking statements will not be achieved. A number of important factors could cause actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from the plans, objectives, expectations, estimates and intentions expressed in such forward-looking statements. These factors include: (i) the risk linked to the COVID-19 outbreak; (ii) the credit risk inherent to Belfius Bank's business; (iii) the changes in the profitability and in the expectations about the future profitability; (iv) the ability to maintain sufficient liquidity and access to capital markets; (v) the increase of the competition; (vi) the operational risks, including reputational and compliance problems; (vii) the effect of, and changes in the legal framework; (viii) the potential risk of failing to redeem the Mortgage Pandbrieven in full, extending the maturity of the Series; (ix) the potential increase of household indebtedness in Belgium, increasing the vulnerability of some Belgian mortgage borrowers; (x) the risk of set-off; (xi) the effects of, and changes in, fiscal, monetary, trade and tax policies; and (xii) the possibility of a lack of liquidity on the secondary market. The foregoing list of important factors is not exclusive; when evaluating forward-looking statements, investors should carefully consider the foregoing factors and other uncertainties and events, as well as the other risks identified which are specific to the Issuer and/or to the securities and which are material for taking an informed investment decision, as corroborated by the content of this Base Prospectus.

This Base Prospectus contains various amounts and percentages which have been rounded and, as a result, when those amounts and percentages are added up, they may not total.

Unless otherwise stated, capitalised terms used in this Base Prospectus have the meanings set forth in this Base Prospectus.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATING TO THE USE OF THIS BASE PROSPECTUS AND OFFER OF THE MORTGAGE PANDBRIEVEN GENERALLY

The distribution of this Base Prospectus and the offering or sale of the Mortgage Pandbrieven in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons into whose possession this Base Prospectus comes are required by the Issuer, the Dealers and the Arranger to inform themselves about and to observe any such restriction. The Mortgage Pandbrieven have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended from time to time (the "Securities Act"). Subject to certain exceptions, Mortgage Pandbrieven may not be offered or sold within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons (as defined in Regulation S under the Securities Act). For a description of certain restrictions on offers and sales of Mortgage Pandbrieven and on distribution of this Base Prospectus, see "Subscription and Sale".

This Base Prospectus does not constitute an offer of, or an invitation by or on behalf of the Issuer, the Dealers or the Arranger to subscribe for, or purchase, any Mortgage Pandbrieven.

**Prohibition of sales to EEA and UK retail investors -** Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available to and should not be offerered, sold or otherwise made available to any "retail investors" in the EEA or the UK. For these purposes, a retail investor means a person who is one (or more) of (i) a retail client as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU, as amended ("**MiFID II**"); (ii) a customer within the meaning of Directive 2016/97/EU, as amended ("**IDD**"), where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II or (iii) not a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Regulation, as amended. Consequently no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 (the "**PRIIPs Regulation**") for offering or selling the Mortgage Pandbrieven or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA or the UK has been prepared and therefore offering or selling the Mortgage Pandbrieven or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA or the UK may be unlawful under the PRIIPs Regulation.

**Prohibition of sales to consumers in Belgium** – The Mortgage Pandbrieven are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available, and will not be offered, sold or otherwise made available, in Belgium to "consumers" (*consommateurs/consumenten*) within the meaning of the Belgian Code of Economic Law, as amended.

**MIFID II product governance** / target market – The Final Terms in respect of any Mortgage Pandbrieven will include a legend entitled "MiFID II Product Governance" which will outline the target market assessment in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven and which channels for distribution of the Mortgage Pandbrieven are appropriate. Any person subsequently offering, selling or recommending the Mortgage Pandbrieven (a "distributor") should take into consideration the target market assessment. A distributor subject to MiFID II is, however, responsible for undertaking its own target market assessment in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven (by either adopting or refining the target market assessment) and determining appropriate distribution channels.

A determination will be made in relation to each issue about whether, for the purpose of the MiFID Product Governance rules under EU Delegated Directive 2017/593 (the "**MiFID Product Governance Rules**"), any dealer subscribing for any Mortgage Pandbrieven is a manufacturer in respect of such Mortgage Pandbrieven, but otherwise neither such dealers nor any of their respective affiliates will be a manufacturer for the purpose of the MIFID Product Governance Rules.

**Benchmark Regulation** – Amounts payable under the Mortgage Pandbrieven may be calculated by reference to certain reference rates. Any such reference rate may constitute a benchmark for the purposes of Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 (the "**Benchmark Regulation**"). If any such reference rate does constitute such a benchmark, the applicable final terms will indicate whether or not the benchmark is provided by an administrator included in the register of administrators and benchmarks established and maintained by the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) pursuant to Article 36 of the Benchmark Regulation. Not every reference rate will fall within the scope of the Benchmark Regulation. Transitional provisions in the Benchmark Regulation may have the result that the administrator of a particular benchmark is not required to appear in the register of administrators and benchmarks at the date of the relevant final terms (or, if located outside the European Union, is not required to have obtained recognition, endorsement or equivalence). The registration status of any administrator under the Benchmark Regulation is a matter of public record and, save where required by applicable law, the Issuer does not intend to update the relevant final terms to reflect any change in the registration status of the administrator.

Amounts payable under the Mortgage Pandbrieven may be calculated by reference to the Euro Interbank Offered Rate ("EURIBOR") which is provided by the European Money Markets Institute ("EMMI"). As at the date of this Base Prospectus, EMMI appears on the register of administrators and benchmarks established and maintained by the ESMA pursuant to Article 36 of the Benchmark Regulation.

#### CONSIDERATION OF INVESTMENT

An investment in a particular Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven may involve certain risks, which will vary depending on the type of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. Each potential investor in the Mortgage Pandbrieven must determine the suitability of that investment in light of its own circumstances. In particular, each potential investor should:

- (a) have sufficient knowledge and experience to make a meaningful evaluation of the particular Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven, the merits and risks of investing in the Mortgage Pandbrieven and the information contained or referred to in this Base Prospectus or any applicable supplement;
- (b) have access to, and knowledge of, appropriate analytical tools to evaluate, in the context of its particular financial situation, an investment in the Mortgage Pandbrieven and the impact the Mortgage Pandbrieven will have on its overall investment portfolio;
- (c) have sufficient financial resources and liquidity to bear all of the risks of an investment in the Mortgage Pandbrieven, including Mortgage Pandbrieven with principal or interest payable in another currency, or where the currency for principal or interest payments is different from the potential investor's currency;
- (d) understand thoroughly the terms of the Mortgage Pandbrieven and be familiar with the behaviour of any relevant indices and financial markets; and
- (e) be able to evaluate (either alone or with the help of a financial adviser) possible scenarios for economic, interest rate and other factors that may affect its investment and its ability to bear the applicable risks.

#### STABILISATION

In connection with the issue of any Tranche (as defined in the section headed "Overview of the Programme – Method of Issue") of Mortgage Pandbrieven, the Dealer or Dealers (if any) named as the stabilising manager(s) (the "Stabilising Manager(s)") (or any person acting on behalf of any Stabilising Manager(s)) in the applicable Final Terms may over-allot Mortgage Pandbrieven or effect transactions

with a view to supporting the market price of the Mortgage Pandbrieven at a level higher than that which might otherwise prevail. However, there is no assurance that the Stabilising Manager(s) (or any person acting on behalf of any Stabilising Manager) will undertake stabilisation action. Any stabilisation action may begin on or after the date on which adequate public disclosure of the terms of the offer of the relevant Tranche is made and, if begun, may be ended at any time, but it must end no later than the earlier of 30 calendar days after the issue date of the relevant Tranche and 60 calendar days after the date of the relevant Tranche and the relevant Tranche. Any stabilisation action or over-allotment must be conducted by the relevant Stabilising Manager(s) (or any person acting on behalf of any Stabilising Manager(s)) in accordance with all applicable laws and rules.

#### ENGLISH CONCEPTS

The Mortgage Pandbrieven are issued in accordance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations as further described in this Base Prospectus. The official text of the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations is in Dutch and in French and any discrepancies or differences created in the translation of legal concepts in this Base Prospectus are not binding and have no legal effect. If any questions arise on the accuracy of the information in relation to the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations contained in this Base Prospectus, please refer to the official Dutch and French version of the relevant legislative text, which shall prevail.

#### CURRENCIES

In this Base Prospectus, unless otherwise specified or the context otherwise requires, references to *euro*, *EUR* and  $\epsilon$  are to the currency introduced on 1 January 1999 pursuant to the Treaty establishing the European Community as amended by the Treaty on European Union and as amended from time to time.

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

| SECTION 1 | OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME   | 11  |
|-----------|---|-----|
| SECTION 2 | RISK FACTORS  | 25  |
| 2.1       | Risks linked to Belfius Bank  | 27  |
| 2.2.      | Risks linked to the Mortgage Pandbrieven  | 43  |
| SECTION 3 | DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE   | 47  |
| SECTION 4 | PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT   | 50  |
| SECTION 5 | PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION   | 51  |
|           | SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR BELGIAN<br>BONDS AND BELGIAN PANDBRIEVEN | 53  |
| 6.1       | Introduction  | 53  |
| 6.2       | Rules applicable to the special estate  | 56  |
| 6.3       | Specific rules applicable to the Belgian covered bonds                                  | 67  |
| 6.4       | Status and protection of the noteholders  | 69  |
| SECTION 7 | USE OF PROCEEDS   | 71  |
| SECTION 8 | TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE MORTGAGE PANDBRIEVEN  | 72  |
| 1         | Type, Form, Denomination, Title and Transfer  | 73  |
| 2         | Interest and Other Calculations   | 75  |
| 3         | Redemption, Purchase and Options  | 88  |
| 4         | Payments  | 93  |
| 5         | Tax Gross-up  | 93  |
| 6         | Status and ranking of Mortgage Pandbrieven  | 95  |
| 7         | Specific provisions required by the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations                   | 95  |
| 8         | Principal Paying Agent, Paying Agent, Fiscal Agent and Registrar provisions             | 97  |
| 9         | Notices   | 97  |
| 10        | Cover Pool Monitor  | 98  |
| 11        | Issuer Covenant   | 98  |
| 12        | Noteholders' Waiver   | 99  |
| 13        | Prescription  | 99  |
| 14        | Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders  | 99  |
| 15        | Noteholders' Representative   | 99  |
| 16        | Conflicts of Interest   | 100 |
| 17        | Meetings of Noteholders   | 100 |
| 18        | Amendments to the Conditions  | 100 |
| 19        | No Exchange of Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven  | 100 |
| 20        | Further Issues  | 100 |

| 21                                       | Currency Indemnity                                   | 101 |  |
|--|--|-----|--|
| 22                                       | Payment Default and Cross-Acceleration               |     |  |
| 23                                       | Post-Acceleration Priority of Payments               |     |  |
| 24                                       | Action by Noteholders' Representative                |     |  |
| 25                                       | Governing Law and Jurisdiction                       |     |  |
| SECTION 9                                | RULES OF ORGANISATION OF THE NOTEHOLDERS             |     |  |
| 1  | General  | 105 |  |
| 2  | Definitions and Interpretation                       | 105 |  |
| 3  | Convening a Meeting                                  |     |  |
| 4  | Chairman   |     |  |
| 5  | Quorum and Adjournment                               |     |  |
| 6  | Powers of Meetings                                   | 109 |  |
| 7  | Arrangements for Voting                              | 110 |  |
| 8  | Meeting Attendance                                   | 112 |  |
| 9  | Voting   | 112 |  |
| 10                                       | Effect and Notice of Resolutions                     |     |  |
| 11                                       | Minutes  |     |  |
| 12                                       | Written Resolution                                   |     |  |
| 13                                       | Further Regulations                                  |     |  |
| 14                                       | Appointment, Removal and Remuneration                | 114 |  |
| 15                                       | Duties and Powers of the Noteholders' Representative | 115 |  |
| 16                                       | Exoneration of the Noteholders' Representative       | 117 |  |
| 17                                       | Reliance on Information                              |     |  |
| 18                                       | Amendments and Modifications                         |     |  |
| 19                                       | Waiver   |     |  |
| 20                                       | Indemnity  |     |  |
| 21                                       | Liability  |     |  |
| SECTION 10 FORM OF FINAL TERMS 125       |  |     |  |
| PAR                                      | ΓΑ - CONTRACTUAL TERMS                               |     |  |
| PAR                                      | Г В - OTHER INFORMATION                              |     |  |
| SECTION 11 DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUER 141 |  |     |  |
| SECTION 12 TAXATION                      |  |     |  |
| SECTION 13 SUBSCRIPTION AND SALE         |  |     |  |
| SECTION 1                                | 14 GENERAL INFORMATION                               |     |  |

#### SECTION 1 OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

This overview constitutes a general description of the Programme for the purposes of Article 25.1(b) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 2019/980 supplementing the Prospectus Regulation, as amended, supplemented and/or complemented from time to time. It summarises the main terms applicable to the Mortgage Pandbrieven issued pursuant to the terms and conditions set out in this Base Prospectus (the "**Conditions**") and the final terms based on the form set out in this Base Prospectus (the "**Final Terms**").

The Issuer may from time to time issue Mortgage Pandbrieven under the Programme which are subject to terms and conditions and/or final terms not contemplated by this Base Prospectus, including (without limitation) in the case of Mortgage Pandbrieven governed by German law (Gedeckte Namensschuldverschreibungen) ("N Bonds"). In such circumstances, the relevant (form of) terms and conditions (and, if applicable, final terms) will be set out in a schedule to the Programme Agreement (as the same may be amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time).

This overview does not purport to be complete and is taken from, and is qualified in its entirety by the remainder of, this Base Prospectus and, in relation to the terms and conditions of any particular Series or Tranche of Mortgage Pandbrieven, the applicable Final Terms.

#### **PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

#### **Information relating to the Issuer**

| Issuer                                | Belfius Bank SA/NV (the " <b>Issuer</b> " or " <b>Belfius Bank</b> ") is a limited liability company of unlimited duration incorporated under Belgian law, licensed as a Belgian credit institution and registered with the Crossroads Bank for Enterprises under business identification number 0403.201.185. Its registered office is at 1210 Brussels, Place Charles Rogier 11, Belgium, telephone +32 22 22 11 11. |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| NBB issuer license                    | The " <b>Supervisory Authority</b> " (i.e. the NBB) and any other<br>supervisory authority to which relevant powers may be<br>transferred) has admitted the Issuer to the list of credit<br>institutions that are authorised to issue covered bonds on 6<br>November 2012.   |
| Information relating to the Programme |  |

DescriptionThe Belgian Mortgage Pandbrieven Programme (the<br/>"Programme") is a programme for the continuous offer of<br/>Belgian pandbrieven (Belgische pandbrieven/lettres de gage<br/>belges) (the "Mortgage Pandbrieven") in accordance with the<br/>Law of 25 April 2014 on the status and supervision of credit<br/>institutions and stockbroking firms (the "Banking Law") and<br/>its executing royal decrees and regulations (the "Belgian<br/>Covered Bonds Regulations") on any issue date (each, an<br/>"Issue Date").Programme licenseThe Supervisory Authority has admitted the Programme to the<br/>list of authorised programmes for the issuance of covered bonds

the

under

category Belgian pandbrieven (Belgische

pandbrieven/lettres de gage belges) on 6 November 2012. Upon

so being notified by the Issuer, the Supervisory Authority shall regularly update such list with the Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme and shall indicate that the Mortgage Pandbrieven constitute Belgian pandbrieven under the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations.

# Programme LimitEUR 10,000,000 (or the equivalent in other currencies at<br/>the date of issue) aggregate outstanding principal amount of<br/>Mortgage Pandbrieven at any time.

Belgian Mortgage PandbrievenThe Mortgage Pandbrieven will be issued as Belgian<br/>pandbrieven (Belgische pandbrieven/lettres de gage belges) in<br/>accordance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations.

All Mortgage Pandbrieven to be issued under the Programme will be covered by the same special estate (bijzonder vermogen/patrimoine spécial) (the "Special Estate"). The main asset class of the Special Estate will consist of Belfius Bank's residential mortgage loans within the meaning of the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations (the "Residential Mortgage Loans", and together with any other assets registered as cover assets (dekkingswaarden/actifs de couverture), the "Cover Assets"). The Issuer shall procure that the value of the Residential Mortgage Loans calculated in accordance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations (and including any collections in respect thereto) will at all times represent at least 105 per cent. of the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven of all Series. The Issuer will maintain a cover register in which both the issued Mortgage Pandbrieven and the Cover Assets are registered (the "Cover Register").

See Section 6.2.1 (Summary description of the legal framework for Belgian pandbrieven - Composition of the special estate) and Condition 11 (Issuer Covenant) for further information on the composition of the Special Estate.

The Mortgage Pandbrieven will constitute direct, unconditional, unsubordinated and unsecured obligations of the Issuer and will rank at all times at least *pari passu*, without any preference among themselves, with all other outstanding unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Issuer, present and future. In addition and pursuant to the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations, the Noteholders and any Other Creditors (as defined below in Condition 23) will benefit from a dual recourse consisting of (i) an exclusive right of recourse against the Special Estate and (ii) an unsecured, unsubordinated recourse against the general estate of the Issuer.

## Issuer Covenant The Issuer will covenant in favour of the Noteholders and the Noteholders' Representative to: (i) id id bit id <

Status and ranking of Mortgage

Pandbrieven

(i) comply with all obligations imposed on it under the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations;

(ii) ensure that the Special Estate will mainly consist of Residential Mortgage Loans;

(iii) ensure that the Special Estate will not contain any commercial mortgage loans, any residential mortgage backed securities, any commercial mortgage backed securities or any other asset backed securities;

(iv) ensure that the value of the Residential Mortgage Loans that are registered as Cover Assets in the Cover Register (and including any collections in respect thereto) (a) are calculated in accordance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations and (b) will at all times represent at least 105 per cent. of the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven of all Series (it being understood that any surplus above 105 per cent. may be composed of other eligible assets under the Programme);

(v) ensure that only Residential Mortgage Loans with a current loan to current value ratio of maximum 120 per cent. will be added to the Special Estate;

(vi) ensure that only fully drawn Residential Mortgage Loans will be added to the Special Estate;

(vii) ensure that the Special Estate will at all times include liquid bonds meeting the criteria set out in article 7 of the NBB Covered Bonds Regulation and which (a) are eligible as collateral for Eurosystem monetary policy purposes and intraday credit operations by the Eurosystem (b) have a credit quality step 1 as defined in the Capital Requirements Regulation (as defined in section 6.1.3), (c) are subject to a daily mark-to-market and have a market value which, after applying the European Central Bank ("ECB") haircut in accordance with the Guideline (EU) 2015/510 of the ECB of 19 December 2014 on the implementation of the Eurosystem monetary policy (as amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time), is higher than the amount of interest due and payable on the outstanding Mortgage Pandbrieven within a period of one year, (d) have a remaining maturity of more than one year, and (e) are not debt issued by the Issuer; and

(viii) provide regular investor reports with regard to, amongst other things, the composition of the Special Estate which will be made available on the website of the Issuer at www.belfius.be on a monthly basis.

Cross-Acceleration Upon service of an acceleration notice under any of the Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven, all Mortgage Pandbrieven will become immediately due and payable on the relevant acceleration date, together with any accrued interest, and they will rank *pari passu* among themselves.

Post-Acceleration Priority of All monies (other than amounts standing to the credit of a swap

#### Payments

collateral account which will be applied in accordance with the provisions of the relevant swap agreement) received or recovered by the Special Estate (whether in the administration, liquidation of the Special Estate or otherwise) following (i) the service of an Acceleration Notice or (ii) a liquidation of the Special Estate in accordance with Article 11,  $6^{\circ}$  or  $7^{\circ}$  of Annex III to the Banking Law, will be applied in the following order of priority (the "**Post-Acceleration Priority of Payments**"), in each case only if and to the extent that payments or provisions of a higher priority have been made:

- (a) *first*, in or towards satisfaction of all amounts due and payable, including any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, to the Cover Pool Administrator (including any of its representatives and delegates);
- (b) second, in or towards satisfaction of all amounts due and payable, including any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, to the Noteholders' Representative;
- (c) third, on a pari passu and pro rata basis, in or towards satisfaction of any Expenses which are due and payable to the Operating Creditors;
- (d) fourth, on a pari passu and pro rata basis, in or towards satisfaction of (i) any Pari Passu Swap Amounts, (ii) any Pari Passu Liquidity Amounts, and (iii) any payments of amounts due and payable to Noteholders pro rata and pari passu on each Series in accordance with the Conditions;
- (e) *fifth*, on a *pari passu* and *pro rata* basis, in or towards satisfaction of (i) any Junior Swap Amounts and (ii) any Junior Liquidity Amounts; and
- (f) *sixth*, thereafter any remaining monies will be paid to the general estate of the Issuer.

For the purposes of this provision, terms in capital letters have the following meaning:

"Expenses" means any costs, charges, liabilities, expenses or other amounts payable by the Issuer or by the Special Estate, as applicable, to any Operating Creditor plus any value added tax or any other tax or duty payable thereon.

"Hedge Counterparty" means a hedge counterparty under a swap agreement entered into by the Issuer in relation to the Special Estate.

"Junior Liquidity Amount" means each amount, including

any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, due and payable to a Liquidity Provider which under the relevant liquidity agreement are expressed to rank junior to interest and principal due to Noteholders and any other party ranking senior in accordance with the Post-Acceleration Priority of Payments.

"Junior Swap Amount" means any swap termination amount whereby the Hedge Counterparty is the defaulting party or any such other amount, including any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, due and payable to a Hedge Counterparty (in accordance with the relevant swap agreement) and which under the relevant swap agreement are expressed to rank junior to interest and principal due to Noteholders and any other party ranking senior in accordance with the Post-Acceleration Priority of Payments.

"Liquidity Provider" means a counterparty under a liquidity arrangement agreement entered into by the Issuer in relation to the Special Estate.

"Operating Creditor" means any of (1) the (Principal) Paying Agent, (2) the Fiscal Agent, (3) the Cover Pool Monitor, (4) the Registrar, (5) the Servicer, (6) any account bank holding assets on behalf of the Special Estate, (7) any stock exchange on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are listed, (8) the Issuer's statutory auditor(s), legal counsel and tax advisers for services provided for the benefit of the Special Estate, (9) the Rating Agencies in relation to any Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme, (10) any independent accountant or independent calculation agent for services provided for the benefit of the Special Estate, (11) any custodian in relation to the Programme, (12) any agent or party appointed in accordance with the Programme Documents or any other creditor of amounts due in connection with the management and administration of the Special Estate or (13) any other creditor which may have a claim against the Special Estate as a result of any services provided or contracts entered into in relation to the Mortgage Pandbrieven or the Progamme, as may from time to time be specified in the Conditions of any Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme.

"Other Creditor" means the Noteholders' Representative, any Operating Creditor, any Liquidity Provider, any Hedge Counterparty and the Cover Pool Administrator.

"Pari Passu Liquidity Amount" means each amount, including any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, due and payable to a Liquidity Provider and which under the relevant liquidity agreement are expressed to rank *pari* passu with interest or principal (as applicable) due to Noteholders.

"Pari Passu Swap Amount" means each amount, including

any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, due and payable to a Hedge Counterparty and which under the relevant swap agreement are expressed to rank *pari passu* with interest or principal (as applicable) due to Noteholders.

| Cross-Default | None  | (other   | than    | cross-acceleration | between | Series | of |
|---------------|-------|----------|---------|--------------------|---------|--------|----|
|               | Mortg | age Pano | lbrieve | en).               |         |        |    |

Negative Pledge

None.

#### Information relating to the parties involved

| Arranger               | Belfius Bank SA/NV  |
|------------------------|---|
| Dealers                | Barclays Bank Ireland PLC   |
|                        | Belfius Bank SA/NV  |
|                        | BNP Paribas   |
|                        | Citigroup Global Markets Europe AG  |
|                        | Citigroup Global Markets Limited  |
|                        | Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft  |
|                        | Credit Suisse Securities (Europe) Limited   |
|                        | Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft  |
|                        | DZ BANK AG Deutsche Zentral-Genossenschaftsbank,  |
|                        | Frankfurt am Main   |
|                        | J.P. Morgan Securities plc  |
|                        | Landesbank Baden-Württemberg  |
|                        | Natixis   |
|                        | Nomura International plc  |
|                        | Norddeutsche Landesbank - Girozentrale -  |
|                        | Société Générale  |
|                        | UniCredit Bank AG   |
|                        | The Issuer may from time to time terminate the appointment of   |
|                        | any Dealer under the Programme or appoint additional  |
|                        | Dealers either in respect of one or more Tranches or in respect of the whole Programme.   |
|                        |   |
| Fiscal Agent           | Belfius Bank SA/NV, unless otherwise specified in the applicable Final Terms.   |
| Principal Paying Agent | Belfius Bank SA/NV, unless otherwise specified in the applicable Final Terms.   |
| Paying Agent           | Belfius Bank SA/NV, unless otherwise specified in the applicable Final Terms.   |
| Registrar              | Belfius Bank SA/NV, unless otherwise specified in the applicable Final Terms.   |
| Servicer               | Belfius Bank SA/NV, unless otherwise specified in the applicable Final Terms.   |
| Clearing Systems       | The clearing system operated by the NBB-SSS or any successor<br>thereto (the "Securities Settlement System") (or any other<br>entity entitled by law to replace any such clearing system),<br>Euroclear Bank SA/NV ("Euroclear"), Clearstream Banking |

| Noteholders' Representative | Monte T<br>INTERBO<br>may be agr<br>applicable)<br>https://www<br>Stichting<br>Representa<br>Dutch law | "Clearstream Germany"), SIX SIS (Switzerland),<br>itoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France),<br>LSA (Portugal) and/or such other clearing system as<br>reed between the Issuer, the Fiscal Agent and (where<br>the relevant Dealer(s) (see in this respect:<br>w.nbb.be/nl/list-nbb-investor-icsds <sup>1</sup> ).<br>Belfius Mortgage Pandbrieven Noteholders'<br>tive, a foundation ( <i>stichting</i> ) incorporated under<br>on 31 October 2012. It has its registered office at<br>h. Its managing director is Amsterdamsch Trustee's<br>V. |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Cover Pool Monitor          | Young Ré<br>representat<br>accordance<br>Cover Poo<br>the Belgiat<br>arrangemen                        | Young Bedrijfsrevisoren BV o.v.v. CVBA/Ernst &<br>eviseurs d'Entreprises SC s.f.d. SCRL and its<br>ive (as approved by the Supervisory Authority in<br>e with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations). The<br>l Monitor will perform its duties in accordance with<br>n Covered Bonds Regulations and the contractual<br>nts that will be agreed upon between the Cover Pool<br>d the Issuer.   |
| Cover Pool Administrator    | circumstan<br>replace the  | n Covered Bonds Regulations provide that, in certain<br>ces of distress, the Supervisory Authority may<br>management of the Special Estate by entrusting it to<br>ol administrator. Such circumstances are any of the<br>upon the adoption of a measure as mentioned in<br>Article 236 of the Banking Law against the issuing<br>credit institution if such measure may, in the<br>opinion of the Supervisory Authority, have a<br>negative impact ( <i>negatieve impact/impact négatif</i> )<br>on the Noteholders;                               |
|                             | (b)  | upon the initiation of bankruptcy proceedings against the issuing credit institution;  |
|                             | (c)  | upon the removal of the issuing credit institution   |

(d) in circumstances where the situation of the issuing credit institution is such that it may seriously affect (*ernstig in gevaar kan brengen/mettre gravement en péril*) the interest of the Noteholders.

from the list of Belgian covered bonds issuers; or

The parties listed above (other than the Cover Pool Monitor and any Cover Pool Administrator) are appointed to act in respect of the Programme pursuant to the Programme Documents as further described under Section 5 (Programme Description) of this Base Prospectus (the "**Programme Documents**"). The relevant Programme Documents provide that other parties may be appointed from time to time and contain certain provisions in relation to the replacement of the above-mentioned parties.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The information contained in this link is not incorporated by reference.

### BASE PROSPECTUS OVERVIEW

### Information relating to the Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under this Base Prospectus

| Form of Mortgage Pandbrieven     | Mortgage Pandbrieven can be issued (i) in dematerialised form<br>(" <b>Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven</b> ") in accordance<br>with Article 7:35 et seq. of the Belgian Companies Code via a<br>book-entry system maintained in the records of the NBB-SSS in<br>its capacity as operator of the Securities Settlement System or<br>(ii) in registered form (" <b>Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven</b> ")<br>in accordance with Article 7:27 et seq. of the Belgian<br>Companies Code. No physical documents of title will be issued<br>in respect of Dematerialised or Registered Mortgage<br>Pandbrieven.   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Method of Issue                  | The Mortgage Pandbrieven will be issued in series (each a "Series"). Each Series may comprise one or more Tranches issued on the same or different issue dates. A "Tranche" means, in relation to a Series, Mortgage Pandbrieven which are identical in all respects (including as to listing). A "Series" means a Tranche of Mortgage Pandbrieven together with any further Tranche or Tranches of Mortgage Pandbrieven which are (i) expressed to be consolidated and form a single series and (ii) identical in all respects (including as to listing), save as to the issue date, the issue price, the first payment of interest and/or the Temporary ISIN Code and Temporary Common Code (if any and as defined in the applicable Final Terms). Once consolidated, the Mortgage Pandbrieven of each Series are intended to be interchangeable with all other Mortgage Pandbrieven of that Series. The specific terms of each Tranche will be set out in the applicable Final Terms. |
| Distribution                     | Mortgage Pandbrieven may be distributed by way of placement<br>on a syndicated or non-syndicated basis and may be offered and<br>subscribed by one or more Dealers, in each case in accordance<br>with the <b>Distribution Agreement</b> .   |
| Selling Restrictions             | United States, European Economic Area, United Kingdom,<br>Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Japan. See Section<br>entitled "Subscription and Sale".  |
| Issue Price                      | Mortgage Pandbrieven may be issued at their principal amount<br>or at a discount or premium to their principal amount.   |
| Delivery of Mortgage Pandbrieven | Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven will be credited to the<br>accounts held with the Securities Settlement System by<br>Euroclear, Clearstream Germany, SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte<br>Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France), INTERBOLSA<br>(Portugal) or other Securities Settlement System participants or<br>their participants. Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven will be<br>registered in a register maintained by the Issuer or by the  |

Registrar in accordance with Article 7:27 et seq. of the Belgian Companies Code.

Subject to compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and directives, Mortgage Pandbrieven may be issued in any currency agreed between the Issuer and the relevant Dealer(s) or investor (as applicable).

Subject to compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and directives, any maturity with a minimum maturity of one month from the date of original issuance as indicated in the applicable Final Terms.

The applicable Final Terms will indicate the scheduled maturity date of the Mortgage Pandbrieven (the "Maturity Date"). The relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven cannot be redeemed prior to their stated maturity, other than in certain specified events such as Redemption for Taxation Reasons and/or Redemption for Illegality. Furthermore, the applicable Final Terms may specify that the Mortgage Pandbrieven will be redeemable at the option of the Noteholders ("Noteholder Put") or at the option of the Issuer ("Issuer Call"), in each case upon giving notice to the Issuer or the Noteholders, as the case may be, on a date or dates specified prior to such stated maturity and at a price or prices and on such other terms as may be agreed in respect thereto.

Extended Maturity DateIf the Issuer fails to redeem the Mortgage Pandbrieven of a<br/>Series at their Final Redemption Amount in full within five<br/>Business Days after their Maturity Date, then:

Currencies

Maturities

Redemption

- save to the extent paragraph (III) below applies, the obligation of the Issuer to redeem such Series shall be automatically deferred to, and shall be due on, the date falling one year after such Maturity Date (the "Extended Maturity Date") as specified in the relevant Final Terms;
- II. the Issuer shall give notice of the extension of the Maturity Date to the Extended Maturity Date to the Noteholders of such Series, the Noteholders' Representative, the Rating Agencies, the Fiscal Agent and the Paying Agent and/or Registrar as soon as reasonably practicable, it being understood that a failure to notify shall not affect such extension of the Maturity Date;
- III. notwithstanding paragraph (V) below, if and to the extent that on any subsequent Interest Payment Date (as defined in the applicable Final Terms) falling prior to the Extended Maturity Date (each an "Extension Payment Date"), the Issuer has any available funds, then the Issuer shall (a) give notice thereof to the Noteholders of such Series, the Noteholders' Representative, the Fiscal Agent and the Paying Agent

and/or Registrar as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event at least two (2) Business Days prior to such Extension Payment Date and (b) apply such available funds to redeem the Mortgage Pandbrieven of such Series on such Extension Payment Date at their Final Redemption Amount;

- IV. save as otherwise provided for in the applicable Final Terms, interest shall (a) accrue on the unpaid portion of such Final Redemption Amount from (and including) the Maturity Date to (but excluding) the Extension Payment Date, the Extended Maturity Date or, as the case may be, the date the Mortgage Pandbrieven of such Series are fully redeemed in accordance with paragraph (V) below, (b) be payable in arrears on each Extension Payment Date (in respect of the Interest Period Date then ended) or, if earlier, the Extended Maturity Date or the date of any redemption pursuant to paragraph (V) below (c) accrue at the rate provided for in the applicable Final Terms; and
- V. to the extent that the Maturity Date of any other Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven falls prior to the Extended Maturity Date, the Maturity Date of such other Series shall also be extended on its Maturity Date in accordance with the terms and conditions applicable thereto, unless, on or prior to such Maturity Date, the Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven for which the Maturity Date has been previously extended is redeemed in full and all interest accrued in respect thereof is paid. In such circumstances, payment may be made on another date than an Extension Payment Date, provided that notice thereof is given to the Noteholders of such Series, the Noteholders' Representative, the Fiscal Agent and the Paying Agent and/or Registrar as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event at least two (2) Business Days prior to the relevant payment date.
- VI. In the circumstances described above, failure by the Issuer to redeem in full the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven on the Maturity Date or on any subsequent Extension Payment Date (or the relevant later date in case of an applicable grace period) shall not constitute a Payment Default (as defined below). However, failure by the Issuer to redeem in full the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven on the Extended Maturity Date or in accordance with paragraph (E) above shall be a failure to pay which may constitute a Payment Default.
- VII. Any payments which may be subject to an extension

as described above shall not be deemed to constitute an unconditional payment for the purpose of Article 7, §1 of the Covered Bonds Royal Decree.

- VIII. In case of a Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven to which an Extended Maturity Date applies, those Mortgage Pandbrieven may for the purposes of this Base Prospectus be:
  - i. Fixed Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven, Floating Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven or Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven in respect of the period from the Issue Date to (and including) the Maturity Date; and
  - Fixed Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven or Floating Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven in respect of the period from (but excluding) the Maturity Date to (and including) the Extended Maturity Date;

as set out in the applicable Final Terms.

In case the Mortgage Pandbrieven to which an Extended Maturity Date applies are Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven, the outstanding principal amount will, for such purpose, be the total amount otherwise payable by the Issuer but unpaid on the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven on the Maturity Date.

Failure by the Issuer to pay (i) any principal amount in respect of any Mortgage Pandbrief on the Extended Maturity Date or pursuant to Condition 3(j)(i)(E) (Redemption, Purchase and *Options – Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date*), or (ii) any interest in respect of any Mortgage Pandbrief within five (5) Business Days from the day on which such interest becomes due and payable, shall constitute a payment default ("Payment Default") if such failure remains unremedied for ten (10) Business Days after the Noteholders' Representative has given written notice thereof to the Issuer by registered mail or per courier and with return receipt ("Payment Notice"). In case of failure by the Noteholders' Representative to deliver such Payment Notice, any Noteholder may deliver such notice to the Issuer (with a copy to the Noteholders' Representative). The date on which a Payment Default occurs shall be the date on which the Noteholders' Representative or any Noteholder has given notice of such Payment Default plus ten (10) Business Days (the "Payment Default Date").

Without prejudice to the powers granted to the Cover Pool Administrator, if a Payment Default occurs in relation to a particular Series, the Noteholders' Representative may, and shall if so requested in writing by the Noteholders of at least  $66^{2/3}$  per cent. of the principal amount outstanding of the

#### **Payment Default**

relevant Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven then outstanding (excluding any Mortgage Pandbrieven which may be held by the Issuer), serve a notice on the Issuer ("Acceleration Notice") by registered mail or per courier and with return receipt that a Payment Default has occurred in relation to such Series, provided in each case it shall have been indemnified and/or secured and/or pre-funded to its satisfaction.

The Acceleration Notice will specify the date on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven become immediately due and payable, (the "Acceleration Date"), which will be at least two (2) Business Days after the Payment Default Date.

**Specified Denomination** Mortgage Pandbrieven will be in such denominations as may be specified in the applicable Final Terms (the "Specified Denomination"), save that (i) the minimum Specified Denomination of the Mortgage Pandbrieven will be such as may be allowed or required from time to time by the relevant central bank or regulatory authority (or equivalent body) or any laws or regulations applicable to the relevant Specified Currency and (ii) in the case of any Mortgage Pandbrieven which are to be admitted to trading on a regulated market within the EEA or the UK or offered to the public in a Relevant State in circumstances which require the publication of a prospectus under the Prospectus Regulation, the Specified Denomination shall be EUR 100,000 (or the equivalent of at least EUR 100,000 in any other currency as at the date of issuance of the Mortgage Pandbrieven). **Interest Periods and Rates of** The length of the Interest Periods for the Mortgage Pandbrieven

Interest Feriods and Kates of Interest and the applicable Rate of Interest or its method of calculation may differ from time to time or be constant for any Series. Mortgage Pandbrieven may have a Maximum Rate of Interest, a Minimum Rate of Interest or both. The use of Interest Accrual Periods permits the Mortgage Pandbrieven to bear interest at different rates in the same Interest Period. All such information will be set out in the applicable Final Terms.

**Governing Law** 

<u>Type of Mortgage Pandbrieven</u> Fixed Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven

**Floating Rate Mortgage** 

Pandbrieven

The Mortgage Pandbrieven will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, Belgian law.

Fixed Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven will bear interest payable in arrear on the date or dates in each year specified in the applicable Final Terms.

Floating Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven will bear interest payable in arrear and set separately for each Series as follows:

 (i) on the same basis as the floating rate under a notional interest rate swap transaction in the relevant Specified Currency governed by an agreement incorporating the ISDA Definitions (as defined in Section 8 (*Terms and Conditions of the Mortgage*)

Pandbrieven)), as published by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc.;

- (ii) by reference to EURIBOR or any risk-free reference rate replacing it (or such other benchmark as may be specified in the applicable Final Terms) as adjusted for any applicable margin as specified in the applicable Final Terms; or
- (iii) subject to a prospectus supplement (where applicable) on such other basis as may be agreed between the Issuer and the Dealer(s) or investor (as applicable).

Interest Periods will be specified in the applicable Final Terms.

Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven may be issued at their principal amount or at a discount to it and will not bear interest (except in the case of late payment or in case of extension of their Maturity Date, as set out in the Conditions).

#### Each Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme may be rated by Fitch France S.A.S. ("Fitch"), by Moody's Investors Service Ltd ("Moody's") and/or by Standard and Poor's Global Ratings Europe Limited ("S&P") and/or rated by such other rating agency as shall be specified in the Final Terms (each a "Rating Agency", together the "Rating Agencies").

Each of the Rating Agencies is established in the European Union and in the UK and is included in the updated list of credit rating agencies registered in accordance with the CRA Regulation published on the European Securities and Markets Authority's website (https://www.esma.europa.eu/).

Where a Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven is to be rated, such rating will be specified in the applicable Final Terms and will not necessarily be the same as the ratings assigned to Mortgage Pandbrieven previously issued under the Programme.

Whether or not a rating in relation to any Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven will be treated as having been issued by a credit rating agency established in the European Union and registered under the CRA Regulation will be disclosed in the applicable Final Terms. A security rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be subject to suspension, reduction or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating agency.

All payments of principal and interest by or on behalf of the Issuer in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven shall be made without withholding or deduction for any present or future taxes, duties, assessments or other charges of whatever nature imposed or levied by the Kingdom of Belgium or any political subdivision or any authority therein or thereof having power to

#### **General information**

Ratings

Tax Gross-up

|                                  | tax, unless the withholding or deduction of such taxes, duties, assessments or other charges is required by law or regulation. In that event, or if a clearing system or any participant in a clearing system withholds or deducts for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, duties, assessments or other charges of whatever nature imposed or levied by or on behalf of the Kingdom of Belgium or any political subdivision or any authority therein or thereof having power to tax, the Issuer shall, subject to certain exceptions (including the ICMA Standard EU Tax Exception), pay such additional amounts as may be necessary so that the net amounts received by the Noteholders after such withholding or deduction shall be not less than the respective amounts of principal and interest which would have been receivable in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven in the absence of such withholding or deduction, all as set out in Condition 5 ( <i>Tax Gross-up</i> ). |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Listing and Admission to Trading | Where specified in the applicable Final Terms, application may<br>be made for a Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven to be listed and<br>admitted to trading on the regulated market of Euronext<br>Brussels or such other stock exchange or market as shall be<br>specified in the applicable Final Terms. Alternatively, the Series<br>of Mortgage Pandbrieven may remain unlisted.  |
| Use of Proceeds                  | The net proceeds from the issuance of the Mortgage<br>Pandbrieven will be used by the Issuer for its general corporate<br>purposes. If, in respect of any particular issuance, there is a<br>particular identified use of proceeds, this will be stated in the<br>applicable Final Terms.  |

#### SECTION 2 RISK FACTORS

An investment in the Mortgage Pandbrieven involves a degree of risk. Prospective investors should carefully consider the risks set forth below and the other information contained in this Base Prospectus (including information incorporated by reference) before making any investment decision in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. The risks described below are risks which the Issuer believes may have a material adverse effect on the Issuer's financial condition and the results of its operations, the value of the Mortgage Pandbrieven or the Issuer's ability to fulfill its obligations under the Mortgage Pandbrieven. All of these factors are contingencies which may or may not occur. Additional risks and uncertainties, including those of which the Issuer's business, results of operations, financial condition or future prospectus or may result in other events that could cause investors to lose all or part of their investment.

Factors which the Issuer believes may be material for the purpose of assessing the market risks associated with the Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme are also described below. The Issuer has assessed the most material risks, taking into account the negative impact (including any relevant mitigation measures) of such risks on the Issuer and the probability of their occurrence ("Global Criticality"). Each risk factor relating to the Issuer also includes the Issuer's assessment of whether such Global Criticality can be assessed as high, medium or low.

The Issuer believes that the factors described below represent the principal risks inherent in investing in the Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme, but the inability of the Issuer to pay interest, principal or other amounts on or in connection with any Mortgage Pandbrieven may occur for other reasons which are not known to the Issuer or which the Issuer deems immaterial at this time.

Prospective investors should also read the detailed information set out elsewhere in the Base Prospectus (including any documents deemed to be incorporated in it by reference) and reach their own views prior to making any investment decision.

In case of doubt in respect of the risks associated with the Mortgage Pandbrieven and in order to assess their adequacy with their personal risk profile, investors should consult their own financial, legal, accounting and tax experts about the risks associated with an investment in the Mortgage Pandbrieven, the appropriate tools to analyze that investment, and the suitability of that investment in each investor's particular circumstances. No investor should purchase the Mortgage Pandbrieven described in the Base Prospectus unless that investor understands and has sufficient financial resources to bear the price, market, liquidity, structure, redemption and other risks associated with an investment in the Mortgage Pandbrieven. The market value of the Mortgage Pandbrieven is expected to fluctuate over time, and investors should be prepared to assume the market risks associated with the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

Capitalised terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall bear the meaning ascribed to them in the "Terms and Conditions of the Mortgage Pandbrieven" below. Any reference to any law, decree, regulation, directive or any implementing or other legislative measure shall be construed as a reference to such law, decree, regulation, directive or implementing or other legislative measure as the same may be amended, supplemented, restated or replaced from time to time.

#### Factors that may affect the Issuer's ability to fulfil its obligations under the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

Risk factors have been grouped as set out below:

- Risks related to Belfius Bank (Section 2.1); and
- Risks related to the Mortgage Pandbrieven (Section Error! Reference source not found.).

The risks associated with a particular Series may change over time. Prospective investors should seek advice from a professional financial and/or legal adviser in order to understand the risks associated with a particular Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven. More than one risk factor may have simultaneous effect with regard to the Mortgage Pandbrieven such that the effect of a particular risk factor may not be predictable. In addition, more than one risk factor may not be predictable. No assurance can be given as to the effect that any risk factor or combination of risk factors may have on the value of the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

#### 2.1 Risks linked to Belfius Bank

#### 2.1.1 Risks related to the Financial Situation and Business Activity

#### 2.1.1.1 COVID-19 and risk management (Global Criticality: High)

Since the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a public health emergency of international concern in January 2020, it has spread across the globe. The WHO has continuously raised its global risk outlook and announced more new cases outside of China than within for the first time on 26 February 2020. The outbreak is a major shock weighting on global financial markets and is now expected to heavily impact global economic growth. It is expected that there is significant disruption to economic activity, particularly a slowdown in production and a reduction in domestic and foreign demand and may consequently have an impact on the financial position of Belfius Bank. Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to materialize in almost all risks faced by the institution (including solvency, liquidity, insurance premiums, interest margin, fee income, ...).

**Credit Risk** is one of the most impacted risks. The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown measures are having a far-reaching impact on the financial situation of the Belgian economy for businesses as well as individuals. To help mitigate these impacts, Belfius Bank relied on actions taken internally together with decisions taken at both Belgian federal and at ECB levels.

The Belgian federal government installed an economic task force responsible for reducing the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic leading to two different programs designed to support the individuals, self-employed and businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic: a payment holiday scheme for different loan types and two guarantee schemes for certain new loans. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfius has adopted these schemes: support was provided to customers, business and corporate customers through deferment of payment on loans. In addition, loans under the guarantee schemes were granted to business and corporate customers.

Furthermore, Belfius Bank implemented in a timely manner **other own risk mitigation actions** such as transformation of mandates, request additional collaterals, enhanced work out strategy for defaulted loans and closer focus on the distressed loans (watch list). Especially for corporates, SME and self-employed two complementary approaches were applied. A bottom-up approach aiming at analyzing individual clients identified as "at COVID-19 risk" on the one hand and a continuous credit risk monitoring on the other hand. The former is executed by screening the portfolio with pluri-disciplinary teams and to implement risk mitigation actions. This in-depth analysis of the loan portfolio is conducted in waves in order to prioritize the most COVID-19 impacted sectors and companies with the lowest estimated resilience.

From the moment that the first indications on the wideness and potential severity of the COVID-19 pandemic became clear, a joint workforce across all departments of Belfius Bank was put in place to draw up a cartography of the potential COVID-19 impacts from a commercial, financial and credit risk perspectives. Based on this cartography, several workstreams were launched covering top-down analyses of riskier portfolio segments, bottom-up studies targeting the sensitivity and resilience of the Belfius Bank customer base to trigger direct risk mitigation actions and potential commercial

measures and specific stress test exercises with respect to RWA, Cost of Risk ("CoR") and liquidity in light of the COVID-19 impacts.

Finally, in order to facilitate the support to the real economy, prudential authorities have reduced capital requirements and taken **additional relaxation measures** – authorization to operate below the Pillar 2 Guidance and combined buffer requirement until at least end of 2022 and below the LCR until at least end of 2021, flexibility in implementation of bank specific supervisory measures (rescheduling on-site inspections, extending deadlines for remediation actions, etc.), relief in the composition of capital for Pillar 2 requirements as initially scheduled to come into effect in January 2021. In order to account for these requirements and to enable Belfius Bank to fully engage with its strategic role in the Belgian economy, the Risk Appetite Framework ("**RAF**") was updated to account for the fact that ECB continue to encourage banks to use their capital and liquidity buffers for lending purposes and loss absorption by adding more granularity in the RAF CET1 indicator. Belfius Bank does not alter its intrinsic appetite to risk but rather allows for a more granular follow-up accounting for this exceptional situation.

In view of the current economic environment, credit risks have increased substantially. Increased risk profiles and non-performing loans assessment will translate in a higher CoR and are putting downward pressure on Solvency and bottom-line P&L. It is important to highlight the still very material uncertainties in view of the unprecedented impact and nature of this crisis. The CoR approach follows a waterfall principle. The provisions for stage 1 & 2 are calculated in a mechanical mode, based on a view on the macro-economic conditions (past and future) (pillar 1). If Belfius Bank considers that certain risk pockets, defined in terms of sectors or groups of companies, are not sufficiently covered by the mechanical provisions, certain expert overlays are added (pillar 2). If, additionally, the assessment of certain individual counterparts indicates that they present a significantly increased credit risk, but are not yet in default, the provisions constituted could be insufficient. For these cases, an individual management adjustment on the expected credit loss ("ECL") in stage 2 is added (pillar 3). For counterparts in default status (stage 3), the normal impairment process is run and specific provisions are calculated and booked (pillar 4). Provision levels are based on an individual assessment of exposure and collateral. A number of corporate loans, that were already showing increased risk profiles pre-crisis, have shifted to default in 1H 2020, requiring additional specific impairments (stage 3). Some other loans resulted in release of impairments. However, one single corporate file explains about 60% of the observed increase in stage 3 CoR component. The CoR 1H 2020 of EUR 393 million is composed of an increase of ECLs in stages 1 and 2 for a net amount of EUR 312 million and a provision for defaulted loans of EUR 81 million. The net increase of EUR 312 million in stages 1 and 2 reflects the importance of the COVID-19 ECL overlays that were accounted for, in particular in the Business and Corporate segments. In order to cover for the increase of credit risk, linked to certain risk pockets in these segments, significant exposures were shifted from stage 1 to stage 2.

In terms of **market risk**, the impact is quite material as the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a chain of events in the markets that has led to a massive selloff across asset classes and a sharp increase in volatility affecting amongst others stock markets, credit spreads, interest rates and oil prices. Whereas markets appear to be now under recovery, there remains a risk of large market moves that could adversely affect the financial instruments value, including those measured at Fair Value through P&L. In

the case of Belfius Bank, the most important factor remains the credit spreads at Belfius Bank as these can mostly only be proxy hedged<sup>2</sup>. The rest of the impact arises from market movements in interest rates and other equity instruments<sup>3</sup>.

Because of the COVID-19 outbreak, **operational risk** is increasing and is being closely monitored. The business continuity plan has been activated.

Next to the operational, market and credit risk impacts, **other types of risk** are to be considered in light of the COVID-19 pandemic (Non-Financial Risk, Concentration Risk). In all time, as further described in the subsequent paragraphs, Belfius Bank is adopting cautious and conservative approaches. Its Tier 1 ratio and total capital ratio are solid while, thanks to a proactive liquidity management, Belfius is relying on solid reserves. The risks linked to the COVID-19 outbreak are further explained on a risk-by-risk basis in the following sections.

Finally, the impact of COVID-19 crisis on Belfius Insurance commercial activities and profit contribution has been scrutinized since the beginning of the crisis and is still the subject of a continued follow up. Actually, the business, the profitability and the solvency position are frequently monitored by Belfius governance bodies. They are also subject to an official reporting to the NBB, the Belgian prudential authority. This NBB reporting was first weekly and is at the current time on a monthly basis. The reinforced monitoring set in place is comprehensive and allows measuring the impacts and taking appropriate management actions when deemed relevant. The monitoring covers (i) the commercial activities both in life and non-life including the production, lapses and claims, (ii) the operations focusing on the business continuity in case of massive telework with special attention on productivity, IT performance & security and HR matters and (iii) the financial monitoring following up the investment portfolio and the profitability, solvency and liquidity of the insurance company. Several stress tests have been performed and updated providing also a forward-looking view. The business continuity has been ensured with massive telework allowing the pursue of operations with good results. The commercial activity did not entirely stop, and its performance bounced back to previous level in non-life after the lockdown period, while the combined ratio of H1 2020 has been good. Belfius Insurance has no or very low insurance exposure to COVID-19 (e.g., exclusions in business interruption, limited health business or no big death coverages of vulnerable people). The financial markets have mostly recovered, and the bonds & loans portfolio of the Belfius Insurance has a high credit quality (average rating A-) and a very low exposure to the vulnerable sectors limiting credit risk. If the low interest rates weight on future business in Life, it is not new, and the duration gap of Belfius Insurance is and remains small (<1 year). The solvency ratio of the undertaking (215% at H1 2020) although volatile remained

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Credit Risk at Belfius Bank arises from many transactions with corporate or public entities or projects. No liquid Credit Protection market exists for most of those counterparties. This means that no Credit Default Swaps ("**CDS**") referencing Belfius Bank's counterparties can be bought (or at least not at a reasonable price) to reduce its exposures to those. Therefore, Belfius Bank has to turn to alternative hedges if it wants to reduce its credit exposures. Alternatives are mostly CDS indices (referencing a panel of names) or proxy CDS (referencing similar names). Both are grouped under what Belfius Bank calls proxy hedging. The hypothesis behind proxy hedging is that Belfius bank's exposure is highly correlated with the indices or the proxies. This is particularly true in credit market as there is a high systemic component. However, idiosyncratic movements (purely related to our single name) may not be covered. Worst, a default on Belfius Bank's exposure will not systematically be linked to a cash flow from its credit protection hedges. Proxy hedging has therefore the purpose of reducing the P&L volatility but may not cover all the economic risk.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Net income from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss decreased with EUR 109.4 million to EUR -52 million (30 June 2019: EUR 58 million) following the negative impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on credit spreads as well as on equity markets.

strong and above its risk appetite trigger (>160%) all over the crisis. Some de-risking actions have been taken at an early stage decreasing the downside risk and enhancing the capital position of the undertaking. The estimated P&L remains at a good level despite this unprecedented crisis. The risks linked to the COVID-19 outbreak (Global criticality: High) can have an influence on the risks described hereafter.

#### 2.1.1.2 Credit Risk (Global Criticality: High)

**Credit risks** are inherent to a wide range of Belfius Bank's businesses. These include risks arising from changes in the credit quality of counterparties as well as the inability to recover amounts due from counterparties. This means that Belfius Bank is exposed to the risk that third parties (such as retail individuals, SMEs, corporates, trading counterparties, counterparties under credit default swaps, interest rate swaps and other derivative contracts, borrowers, issuers of securities which Belfius Bank holds, customers, clearing agents and clearing houses, exchanges, guarantors, (re)insurers and other financial intermediaries) owing Belfius Bank money, securities or other assets do not pay, deliver or perform under their obligations. Bankruptcy, lack of liquidity, downturns in the economy, real estate collateral value drops, operational failures or other factors may cause them to default on their obligations towards Belfius Bank.

In order to cover the **unexpected credit losses**, Belfius Bank applies the Advanced Internal Rating-Based approach ("**AIRB**") to derive its minimum own funds requirement. It consists of using three distinct internal models developed and maintained within Belfius Bank following the prescribed regulation (Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 and other EBA RTS): a Probability of Default ("**PD**"), a Loss-Given default ("**LGD**") and a Credit Conversion Factor ("**CCF**")<sup>4</sup> for every facility (note that the PD is by definition derived at client level). In order not to lead to a too volatile capital buffer along the economic cycle, the above-mentioned risk metrics are estimated across the cycle in downturn version (Through-The-Cycle ("**TTC**") estimates).

In order to cover the expected credit losses ("ECL"), Belfius Bank applies a provisioning methodology relying on IFRS9. Sets of PD, LGD and CCF models are also used to estimate the provisions to estimate the one-year and the Lifetime Expected Credit Losses for all facilities. The one-year horizon ECL is used for clients for which Belfius Bank does not perceive a material increase of credit risk since credit origination. For this latter population, a Lifetime ECL is calculated. Unlike that performed for the capital estimates, the provisions are expressed as Point-In-Time estimates ("PIT"). Hence, the level of provisions will be more important in time of crisis. Furthermore, the calculation is made retaining a forward-looking approach by inputting into the estimation a weighted mix of several macro-economic forward-looking scenario's (optimistic, neutral, pessimistic and stress cases). In light of the COVID-19 pandemic dampening measures have been implemented by national and regulatory authorities. These have been included in the ECL calculations. They refer, inter alia to changes to avoid, to some extent, pro-cyclicality in ECL calculations by giving a greater weight to long-term normalized outlook evidenced by past experience

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The CCF factor accounts for the expected evolution of the off-balance part of the exposure and is used to model the EAD (Exposure at Default).

when estimating long-term ECL, giving weight to TTC approach and to take into account for moratoria and guarantee schemes on a granular manner (bottom-up approach aiming at analyzing individual clients identified as "at COVID risk" on the one hand and a continuous credit risk monitoring on the other hand). Mixing expert judgement on a line by line basis of the main material portfolios together with a robust Early Warning Signal framework enriched with real time information is key in the credit risk monitoring.

The pro-active management of the ECL relies on the CoR metric. As explained above, the CoR approach follows a waterfall principle. At first, the provisions for expected losses are calculated in a mechanical mode, based on the macro-economic parameters as described above. Whenever Belfius Bank considers that certain risk pockets, defined in terms of sectors or groups of companies, are not sufficiently covered by these mechanical provisions, expert overlays are added. If, additionally, the assessment of certain individual counterparts indicates that they present a significantly increased credit risk, but are not yet in default, the provisions constituted could be insufficient. For these cases, an individual management adjustment on the expected credit loss is added. For non-performing counterparts the prevailing impairment process is run and specific provisions are calculated and booked based upon an individual assessment of exposure and collateral.

While risk across borrower classes remains relatively low, certain categories of loans are subject to higher credit risk. In particular, the NBB has expressed concern with regard to the evolution of the Belgian residential real estate market (Belfius Bank's outstanding exposure on mortgage loans as at 30 June 2020 stood at EUR 32.6 billion, which represents 35% of the outstanding loans to customers within Belfius Bank). In this perspective, the NBB (See Circular NBB 2019 27) established in 2019 new supervisory expectations towards the production of mortgage loans (limitation in terms of more risky facilities in terms of First Time Buyers, Loan-To-Value, Buy-To-Let Loans and Debt-To-Income). In line with these measures, Belfius Bank adopted a specific risk framework in order to comply with the NBB expectations regarding the tolerated shares related to these risk pockets. Simultaneously, a follow-up framework was put in place, including a close monitoring of the higher risk segments encompassing also longer repayment terms for instance. In case of downturn, effects of correlation between the subsegments of the real estate market and a spill-over effect between the real economy and the real estate market could amplify the effects. The fact that Belfius Bank real estate risk is geographically concentrated on the Belgian territory and that Belfius Bank is only active in the Belgian real economy, are potentially aggravating factors. Belfius Bank is also closely monitoring its exposures towards Commercial Real Estate as the development of the commercial activities of the bank is leading to an increase of exposure in this segment. This concentration risk is closely monitored in the Real Estate Risk Appetite Framework following maximum concentration levels on consolidated and sub-levels. Finally, the external rating agencies, Moody's, Fitch and S&P also emphasize the risks of increasing economic indebtedness and growing economic imbalances in Belgium, notably in the real estate sector.

Furthermore, in relation to Belfius Bank's lending to **Public institutions**, changes in budgetary and taxation policy may affect the asset quality of loans to municipalities. In addition, one key area of concern is the hospitals sector. Belgian hospitals have a low profitability. One third of hospitals in Belgium are making a loss. The sector is

undergoing a structural transformation after the Minister of Public Health launched the care reform plan: a multi-year plan reshaping of the hospital landscape. One of the effects is the regrouping of general hospitals into hospital networks. For Belfius Bank, this could lead to an increased concentration risk. The 6th state reform, assigning the power to recognize hospitals to the Regions, could also have an impact, as less public guarantees could be available for future financing. Of course, COVID-19 also had a huge impact on the hospital sector by putting exceptional resources into place to deal with the outbreak and the imposed postponement of all non-urgent surgery, consultations and medical imaging. Meanwhile, royal decrees were voted in order to compensate the ongoing financial impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, by making advances towards the hospital sector (whereas advances to the hospital sector mean advances made by the Belgian State). The objective of this financing is strictly limited to the problems & risks related to cash requirements arising from increased costs & the loss of activity. This segment is closely followed by the Belfius Bank.

Finally, since 2011, Belfius Bank has been engaged in a tactical de-risking of the exlegacy portfolios until end 2016. Belfius Bank has been successful in achieving its aim of bringing the risk profile of the ex-legacy portfolios in line with the risk profile of its Retail, Commercial, Corporate and Public segments. As from 1st of January 2017, the remainder of these ex-legacy portfolios have been integrated in Group Center and the remaining securities are being managed in natural run-off. An important component of these ex-legacy portfolios (total notional of Belfius Bank's ex-legacy portfolio as at 30 June, 2020 stood at EUR 21.4 billion) is the large outstanding stock of derivatives (total notional of Belfius Bank's ex-legacy derivatives portfolio as per June 30, 2020 stood at EUR 14.3 billion) and bonds composed of long-term inflation linked bonds issued by highly regulated UK utilities and infrastructure companies (total notional as at 30 June, 2020 stood at EUR 1.2 billion). These bonds are of satisfactory credit quality. Nevertheless, in the unlikely event of a default, the loss could be substantial but within the boundaries of the Belfius Bank risk appetite framework. The inflation linked nature of these bonds makes them furthermore sensitive to UK real interest rates<sup>5</sup>. Together with the outstanding stock of derivatives, they could have an important additional capital charge in terms of RWA as well as an increased need for collateral posting from Belfius Bank which could put the institution's overall liquidity under pressure in case of a liquidity crisis in the financial markets. The ex-legacy portfolio is constantly followed-up in terms of risks which may be hedged. But also, the possibility to exit the transactions anticipatively (through unwind, sell, novation,...) is regularly reassessed. Belfius Bank may by example cite the following actions points that were realized within the last 12 months:

an increase in the frequency of the follow-up even increased following the COVID-19 crisis: since September 2018, although their illiquidity, the risks and valuation of Credit Derivatives and value adjustments ("xVAs") are now reported and analysed on a daily basis, like all other trading positions. From the start of the COVID-19 crisis, a dashboard has been established, permitting an End-of-Day (EoD) view of the risks and positions of the dealing room;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The real interest rate is the rate of interest an investor, saver or lender receives (or expects to receive) after allowing for inflation. As such the "UK real interest rates" can be seen as the difference between the nominal Interest Rates levels in GBP (*i.e.*, swap rates) versus the expected Inflation Rates in UK RPI (*i.e.*, inflation swap rates).

- an update of the analysis of the credit quality of the Monoliners has been done. Those are counterparts or guarantors for the underlying of some Credit Derivatives and other ex-legacy positions;
- a concentration exercise has been done and a trimestrial monitoring of positions on Italy are done;
- a regular assessment is made in Risk Committees of the efficiency of hedge strategies of Interest Rates risks (directional or basis risks) and of the opportunity to take Credit Spread hedges. At start of the COVID-19 crisis, in concertation with the Management Board, additional hedges have been made to limit further the sensitivities to credit spreads. This was achieved through buying CDS on iTraxx (index). The different actions undertaken permit to reduce the Market Risk Earnings at Risk (EaR) and the volatility of the results;
- a methodology based on the "Economic Value Analysis" is still used to detect
  positions which could be good candidates for derisking. This led to the
  unwind of three types of positions in obligations within past year. Novation of
  uncollateralized derivatives (mainly with Caffil) have also been achieved,
  permitting Belfius Bank to further reduce their credit and market risks without
  further destroying economic value;
- and
- Belfius continued to reduce its stock of derivatives (from EUR 331 billion to EUR 316 billion) through different compression exercises last year. Specifically, for Dexia, the nominal of derivatives has reduced from EUR 21 billion to EUR 12.

This year, the Board of Directors of Belfius Bank approved a budget to perform management actions to decrease the risk profile of the ex-legacy portfolio mainly targeting the non-collateralized derivatives. With regards to **the ALM Liquidity bond portfolio** an important concentration is to be noted on long-term Italian sovereign bonds. The external rating agencies also point out the remaining ex-legacy portfolios as a potential rating pressure if not scaled back as planned. However, they also acknowledge the significant efforts that have been made since 2011 in terms of risk management. There can, however, be no assurance that the risk profile of these exlegacy portfolios will remain at current levels even though a regular close risk monitoring is performed.

The credit risk management relies on closely following up risk metrics as defined by the RAF on three distinct levels of granularity (the third level corresponds to operational limits) linked to defined acceptable risk limits. At the highest level, the percentage of Non-Performing Loans ("NPL"), Stressed potential loss on a single name, Real estate concentration and the Earning-at-Risk metric are key to manage and understand the evolution of credit risk within Belfius Bank. At a lower level, Residential Real estate and NPL percentage are assessed at a more granular level for the latter (e.g. business lines, CRE). Of course, in order to tackle potential evolution of credit risk, stress testing based on financial planning figures are also performed. Belfius Bank performed a RAF fundamental review at the end of 2019 with a broader risk coverage on the one hand and the introduction of a 2-level approach. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, the RAF indicators had been adjusted (CET1 ratio with respect to ECB relaxation measures with respect to capital requirements). Also, it was also decided to re-introduce a net income before taxes (NIBT) floor (like in the 2008 crisis) to reflect a conservative long-term through-the cycle estimated profitability.

No assurances can be given that the strategy and framework to control the general credit risk profile and to limit risk concentrations will be effective and that these risks will not have an adverse effect on Belfius Bank's results of operations, financial condition or prospects. Between 1 January 2020 and the date of this Base Prospectus, rating agencies took the following decisions: (i) on 30 March 2020, Fitch affirmed the long term rating of Belfius Bank at A- and revised the outlook from Stable to Negative and (ii) on 23 April 2020, S&P affirmed the long term rating of Belfius Bank at A-. Even with the COVID-19 impact, Belfius Bank's Solvency has been quite resilient so far, well within the RAF green zone. Belfius Bank expects the impact of deteriorating credit quality in the RWAs to come with delay over the coming quarters as the full impact of the COVID-19 on the credit quality has not materialized so far in significant downgrades impacting materially regulatory credit risk exposures. In the same context, an important level of provision has been taken in Q2 2020 to absorb this coming wave of potential new defaults.

At the end of June 2020, the CET 1-ratio amounted to 15.5%. CET 1 capital amounted to EUR 8,793 million. At the end of June 2020, RWA of Belfius Bank amounted to EUR 56,643 million. Overall, the volume impact on the whole credit portfolio caused an RWA increase of EUR 2.0 billion in 1H 2020. Since Q1 2020, Belfius Bank is subject to a regulatory add-on due to the new definition of default which was however offset by the extension of the SME supporting factor linked to the entry into force of the regulation EU 2020/873 of 24 June 2020. The impact of the COVID-19 on the credit quality has not materialised so far in RWA. The increase of defaults due to the trigger to default is based on 90 days past due on payment (three months delay). On the other hand, financial difficulties at retail and non-retail counterparty levels will increase with time (no more buffer of liquidity, end of support measures<sup>6</sup>). The provisions taken by Belfius Bank are meant to cover this future increase of credit risk.

Specific and detailed guidelines have been given to the credit analysts in the renotation or re-rating process to ensure the COVID-19 crisis is adequately taken into account in a harmonised manner within Belfius Bank. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, Belfius Bank made a detailed analysis of its credit risk portfolio and increased its IFRS 9 provisions materially in line with the strongly deteriorated economical environment, leading to a cost of risk through P&L strongly increasing from EUR 30 million in 1H 2019 to EUR 393 million in 1H 2020 (or approximately 30 bps of the outstandings), of which EUR 311 million (24 bps) can economically be labeled as our current best estimate "ex-ante provisioning" of expected losses due to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The deferral of payments for mortgages and non-financial companies has been in place since April and had initially been expected to last until 31 October 2020 for a maximum of six months. Recently, it has been decided to prolong the support measures until the end of the year 2020 provided that the borrower so requests.

#### 2.1.1.3 Profitability (Global Criticality: High)

Belfius Bank's strategy is based on the development of a strong commercial franchise that is to be supported by solid risk and financial profile foundations, a strategy even more relevant since the COVID-19 crisis. This translates into growing commercial activities, further growing their footprints in a through the cycle profitable way and investments in future business model developments, based on solid solvency foundations

Changes in the profitability and changes in the expectations about the future profitability can influence the secondary market value of Belfius Bank's liabilities. Though the Belfius Bank management and the regulatory authorities via the **Supervisory Review and Evaluation process** ("SREP") always strive for a sound and profitable business model, profitability can never be guaranteed as it depends to some extent on external market factors.

Besides the general economic and competitive climate, monetary policy is among the most important factors determining bank profitability. By influencing the level of the interest rates and the shape of the interest rate curve, the European Central Bank (ECB) impacts in an important way the **Net interest Rate Margin** ("**NIM**") of commercial banks, like Belfius Bank. This NIM contains the bank revenues from its normal lending and borrowing activity and for Belfius Bank it constitutes a non-negligible part of the overall income. By making interest rates negative and by massively buying government bonds, the ECB exerts a negative pressure on this NIM, potentially reducing total profitability. Moreover, the interest rates that Belfius Bank must pay on its regulated deposits cannot go negative but are, by law, floored at 0.11% per year. This constitutes a cost for the bank, as retail deposits are an important source of funding. This cost increases when market rates decrease further. Depending on future evolutions of the economy and the inflation rate, the ECB may push interest rates further into negative territory and/or flatten the rate curve even further.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the profitability of the bank decreased mainly driven by a higher CoR (driven itself by higher level of provision to absorb the ECLs). Profitability remains a challenge for Belfius Bank in the COVID-19 pandemic environment (low rates, slow growth...) and is closely monitored in a proactive manner (Interest Rate Risk Management relying on the Economic Value of Equity and its measure of change – Basis Point Value, Earning at Risk and Value at Risk calculation). As already flagged above, and again in light of the COVID-19 crisis, Belfius Bank made a detailed analysis of its credit risk portfolio and increased its IFRS 9 provisions materially in line with the strongly deteriorated economical environment, leading to a cost of risk through P&L strongly increasing from EUR 30 million in 1H 2019 to EUR 393 million in 1H 2020 (or approximately 30 bps of the outstandings), of which EUR 311 million (24 bps) can economically be labeled as our current best estimate "ex-ante provisioning" of expected losses due to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

#### 2.1.1.4 Market Risk (Global Criticality: High)

Market Risks are inherent to a range of Belfius Bank's businesses. Apart from the interest rate risk which is specified under Section "2.1.1.2. Profitability", Belfius Bank is particularly sensitive to P&L volatility stemming from xVAs. These value adjustments are mostly related to the ex-legacy portfolio described here above.

Moreover, the hedging of structured retail products with illiquid equity indices as underlying has structurally increased the equity risk. New derivative single stock activity might also bring additional equity risk.

More elaborately, market risk within Belfius Bank is focused on all Financial Markets activities of the bank and encompasses, as mentioned above, interest rate risk, spread risk and associated credit risk/liquidity risk, foreign exchange risk, equity risk (or price risk), inflation risk and commodity price risk. To mitigate the market risk impact, important management actions have been taken, such as additional hedges and reduction of open positions. This has, amongst others, led to reduced credit spread sensitivities.

In view of the intensified volatilities on the financial markets, the market risks due to the COVID-19 crisis, have increased in 1H 2020, resulting in downwards pressures on the P&L mainly related to fair values accounted for in P&L (like credit valuation adjustment ("CVA") and funding valuation adjustment ("FVA")), remaining hedge inefficiencies and non-basic financial instruments' fair values booked in P&L. The regulatory CVA exposure decreased with EUR 627 million due to active management of counterparty credit risk including additional CVA hedges, unwinding of uncollateralised swaps with financial counterparts and an increased use of CCP clearing. The regulatory market risk exposure increased with EUR 252 million to EUR 1,567 million. This increase is mainly due to the volatility on the financial markets caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this increase was mitigated by ECB measures regarding value at risk ("VaR") overshootings.

Market risk RWA has also increased since the end 2019 (increased by EUR 253 million up to EUR 1.6 billion, in line with higher IR Var). This increase is mainly due to the volatility on the financial markets caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. However, this increase was mitigated by some hedging, some opportunistic derisking in the derivatives book and a softening regulation on VaR overshootings during the COVID-19 crisis.

#### 2.1.1.5 Liquidity (Global Criticality: Medium)

Liquidity risk consists of the risk that Belfius Bank will not be able to meet both expected and unexpected current and future cash-flows and collateral needs.

The liquidity risk at Belfius Bank is mainly stemming from:

- the variability of the amounts of commercial funding collected from Retail and Private customers, small, medium-sized and large companies, public and similar customers and the way these funds are allocated to customers through all type of loans;
- the volatility of the collateral that is to be deposited at counterparties in respect of derivatives and repo transactions (so called cash & securities collateral). This volatility is stemming from evolving MTM of derivatives in Belfius Bank's balance sheet, as a function of plenty of (market) parameters in this context, the amount to be collateralized is volatile;

- the value of the liquid reserves<sup>7</sup> by virtue of which Belfius Bank can collect funding on the repo market and/or from the ECB. In this context, the value of the securities used as collateral, instead of cash, is volatile; and
- the capacity to obtain interbank and institutional funding.

The monitoring of the liquidity risk is done through internal and regulatory liquidity Key Risk Indicators ("**KRI**") that are reported on a regular basis and the compliance with those KRI is also tested under stress scenarios. Next to the **Internal Liquidity Ratio** (working with a 3-month horizon), the short and long-term liquidity risk are managed, respectively, by means of the regulatory Liquidity Coverage Ratio (**LCR** – 1-month horizon) and the Net Stable Funding Ratio (**NSFR** – 1 year). At end of Q2 2020, the LCR and NSFR stand at 134% and 122% respectively. These same metrics amounted respectively to 130% and 116% at end 2019.

At the moment, the 3 indicators do not show material future liquidity risk and are even pushed upwards thanks to Belfius Bank's participation to the third targeted longer-term refinancing operations of the **ECB (T-LTRO III)** and a recent increased funding from commercial banking only partially offset by a decrease of the wholesale funding.

The driving factors behind these sources of liquidity risk are to a certain extent beyond the control of Belfius Bank as they are linked to the evolution of the financial and interbank markets, and to the banking regulations. As the funds collected from retail and other clients constitute an important share of Belfius Bank's liabilities, adverse market events such as unexpectedly strong and lasting increase in interest rates may trigger changes in the behavior of our clients in such a way that liquidity risk actually materializes despite Belfius Bank's prudent liquidity management. Further to this, and related to the **ex-legacy portfolio**, collateral outflows linked to Belfius Bank's large outstanding stock of derivatives and bonds composed of long-term inflation linked bonds issued by highly regulated UK utilities and infrastructure companies may arise, depending on the movement of the UK real interest rate. This risk is closely monitored by Belfius Bank.

The first half year of 2020 was focused on the management of the liquidity risk under the COVID-19 crisis. From the start thereof, Belfius Bank has been able to maintain its already strong liquidity position, mainly thanks to a strong increase in commercial deposits which compensated the temporary general (not Belfius Bank specific) difficulties on the short-term institutional funding markets and the increase of commercial assets also driven by moratoria and increased drawing on credit lines. In June 2020, Belfius Bank participated in the TLTRO III.4 for an additional amount of EUR 10.2 billion, as such reaching a total amount of EUR 13 billion TLTRO III. Belfius Bank reached end of June 2020 a 12 month average LCR of 134%, as such continuing to respect internal risk limits. The NSFR, based on our current interpretation of current Basel III rules, stood at 122% end of June 2020, an increase also explained by the participation in the TLTRO III.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Liquid reserves are reserves that are available on a good timely manner such as available cash and cash equivalents, highly liquid securities (includes government, agency and government guaranteed) as well as other unencumbered central bank eligible assets.

In summary, the liquidity of Belfius Bank's **position remains strong** and was reinforced with the participation to the TLTRO III leading to a LCR of 169% and a liquidity buffer reaching 12.7bn by end of June 2020.

## 2.1.1.6 Competition (Global Criticality: Medium)

Belfius Bank faces strong competition across all its markets from local and international financial institutions including banks, life insurance companies and mutual insurance organizations. The presence of Belfius Bank solely limited to Belgium, as described in its internal Risk Statement, can be assessed as a competitive disadvantage compared to its competitors. While Belfius Bank believes it is positioned to compete effectively with these competitors, there can be no assurance that increased competition will not adversely affect Belfius Bank's pricing policy and lead to losing market shares in one or more markets in which it operates.

Competition is also affected by other factors such as changes in consumer demand and regulatory actions. Moreover, competition can increase as a result of internet and mobile technologies changing customer behaviors, the rise of mobile banking and the threat of banking business being developed by non-financial companies, all of which may reduce the profits of Belfius Bank.

The introduction of the Payment Services Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market ("PSD2"), may enable the emergence of payment aggregators, which could in turn reduce the relevance of traditional bank platforms and weaken brand relationships. The development of ecosystems – which lead to the abolition of borders across economic sectors – could further exacerbate these threats.

Foremost failure by Belfius Bank to manage the competitive dynamics to which it is exposed could have a material adverse effect on its business, financial condition, results of operations, and prospects. Nevertheless, Belfius Bank remains confident about its business model targeting the Belgian perimeter, its pro-active and deep work around new technologies and its evolution towards a modern banking platform (e.g. Belfius Bank Mobile app ranked #1 in Belgium and #2 in Europe -Siapartner analysis).

In order to stay ahead of this risk, Belfius Bank relies at several levels on benchmarking assessments (Cost of Risk, RWA, Commercial Real Estate Activities, Macro assumptions in ST exercise, Results of Transversal EBA Benchmarking assessment, etc.).

## 2.1.1.7 Operational – Non Financial Risks (Global Criticality: Medium)

Non-Financial Risk ("NFR") covers all risks that are not "financial risks" (such as market, ALM, liquidity, credit and insurance risks). NFR therefore covers among others operational risks (including fraud, HR, IT, IT security, business continuity, outsourcing, data-related risks, privacy, ...) as well as reputational, compliance and legal risks.

Belfius Bank's losses stemming from operational incidents remain stable and limited through time. The main areas of encountered operational losses were essentially due to incidents associated with external fraud and incidents in relation to execution, delivery and process management. Other categories remain limited in amount but not necessarily in number of events. When focusing on specific risks:

- Information Security: Threats against data and information are their loss of integrity, their loss of confidentiality and their unplanned unavailability. The mission of information security is to guard against these threats. An information security strategy derived from these principles has been approved by mainly focusing on IT and IT security risks. The organization has a framework applicable to all actions pertaining to information security. Belfius Bank's Risk Appetite Framework monitors and supports the information security strategy. It includes qualitative statements and quantitative KRI explicitly related to information security stipulating how Belfius Bank wants to meet the highest standards of information security (e.g. the 'Be Aware' and 'Be Resilient' metrics). The KRI's are monitoring the matching between Belfius Bank's Risk Appetite and the reality on the field (e.g. number of personal data breached)
- Data protection: On 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") became applicable. This introduced a number of new aspects compared to the old European directive from 1995. In general, the GDPR grants more rights to natural persons - such as Belfius Bank's customers - and imposes more obligations on processors and controllers of personal data - including Belfius Bank and its partners/suppliers.

The respect for privacy and the protection of personal data is a key commitment at Belfius Bank. GDPR conformity is integrated into the processes to offer products, innovative digital tools, services and information sharing to its clients.

- Anti-Money laundering and fraud management: In line with the overall commitment to deliver value-adding products and services, Belfius Bank wants to be extremely severe when assessing capacities with regards to fraud. A zero-tolerance policy is applicable for all forms of fraud (internal, external as well as mixed fraud). Based on the actual figures, Belfius Bank's fraud losses remain limited. However, fraud risks are in constant evolution and require specific attention. In this context, no less than 12 KRIs are monitored within the Risk Appetite Framework of Belfius Bank (e.g. number of correct client identification, number of clients in sensitive sectors, Know Your Transaction Fund repatriations, number of open recommendations,...). This monitoring is closely followed especially with a perceived increase risk of fraud in these COVID-19 turbulent times.
- Model risk: Model risk is a type of risk that occurs when a financial model is used to measure quantitative information, such as Belfius Bank credit and market models or value transactions, and the model fails or performs inadequately leading to adverse outcomes for the firm. Model risk is monitored within Belfius Bank by means of indicators checking the number of open recommendations by model, the known uncertainties surrounding the model development steps, the results of the model's back testing, their maintenance level. Concerning credit risk models, an important change in the regulation leads to the need of re-developing some IRBA models for the requirements targeting the model uncertainty framework is more strict and granular. Furthermore, and due to the COVID-19 crisis, the historical set of data used to build the models upon might not reflect stressed figures as currently observed. This leads to an extra layer of uncertainty that will drive Belfius Bank to an even closer model risk monitoring in the coming months. In the same context,

some market risk models will also be updated to fine tune the accounting of uncertainties around estimates.

#### 2.1.2 Legal risk and Regulatory risk

#### 2.1.2.1 Regulatory Risk (Global Criticality: Medium)

As it is the case for all credit institutions, Belfius Bank's business activities are subject to substantial regulation and regulatory oversight in the jurisdictions in which it operates, mainly in Belgium.

Recent years were marked by significant changes to regulatory regimes, including the endorsement by the EU of the amendment of various regulations, inter alia, the revised rules on capital requirements (CRR II/CRD V) and resolution (BRRD/SRM-R). The "EU revised Banking Package" has been agreed in April 2019 and will further reduce risks in the banking sector by even more reinforcing banks' ability to withstand potential shocks. The EU Revised Banking Package was published in the EU Official Journal on 7 June 2019 and covers among others: a binding leverage ratio, including a surcharge for the Banks considered as G-SIBs and O-SII, a binding NSFR ratio, a new method for the measurement of counterparty credit risk (SA-CCR), a broader application of the SME supporting factor, a reporting requirement to supervisory authorities under a revised market risk framework (Fundamental Review of the Trading Book), an enhanced framework for the interest rate risk in the Banking book and a revision of the treatment of large exposures.

In addition to new modelling requirements (EBA Guidance on PD, LGD modelling, downturn assessment), on 7 December 2017 the Basel Committee announced a final agreement on the finalisation of Basel III (initially applicable as from 2022, it has been postponed due to COVID-19 crisis to 2023). It contains various rules on capital and liquidity requirements. The 2017 reforms (Basel IV) complement the initial Basel III. This will result in an increase of the capital requirements for CET1. Belfius Bank expects this impact to be manageable and is already well busy with models redevelopment for instance. Such impact can preliminary be assessed around 1.00%-1.25% of CET1 ratio. As the Basel Committee does not have the power to issue legally binding regulation, the Basel IV standards have to be translated by national authorities, possibly with some national discretions, leading to possible deviation in the abovementioned estimated CET1 impact. Furthermore, some future requirements are still unclear with respect to the treatment of Sovereign and Public exposures. With important concentration in these segments due to the business model of Belfius Bank, this could also have a material impact on the bank's ratio.

Belfius Bank's business and earnings are also affected by fiscal and other policies that are adopted by the various regulatory authorities of the European Union, foreign governments and international agencies. The nature and impact of future changes to such policies are not predictable and are beyond Belfius Bank's control.

Belfius Bank conducts its business subject to on-going regulation and associated regulatory risks, including the effects of changes in the laws, regulations, policies and interpretations mainly in Belgium but also in the other regions in which Belfius Bank does business. As for all other financial institutions, changes in supervision and regulation, in particular in Belgium, could materially affect Belfius Bank's business, the products and services offered by it or the value of its assets.

Any future changes to the **derivatives regulations** could affect Belfius Bank in particular, especially in relation to its remaining outstanding notional amount of derivatives with Dexia-entities and non-collateralized interest rate derivatives with international non-financial counterparties. As of today, the interest rate benchmark reforms (LIBOR in particular) leave uncertainties with regard to the conditions that shall apply for the transition of the stock of derivatives, which could affect Belfius Bank. This topic is closely followed-up by the institution. In more details, the reference rates and indices, including interest rate benchmarks, such as the EURIBOR and the LIBOR, which are used to determine the amounts payable under financial instruments or the value of such financial instruments ("**Benchmarks**") have, in recent years, been the subject of political and regulatory scrutiny as to how they are created and operated. This has resulted in regulatory reform and changes of existing Benchmarks. These reforms and changes may cause a Benchmark to perform differently than it has done in the past or to be discontinued. Any change in the performance of a Benchmark or its discontinuation, could have a material adverse effect on any Mortgage Pandbrieven referencing or linked to such Benchmark.

## 2.2. Risks linked to the Mortgage Pandbrieven

### 2.2.1. Liquidity risk

The maturity and amortisation profile of the Cover Assets may not match the repayment profile and maturities of the Mortgage Pandbrieven, therefore creating a need for liquidity solutions at the level of the Programme.

The liquidity risk at Programme level is mitigated by the 180-days liquidity test provided by the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulation which requires that the Cover Assets must generate sufficient liquidity or include enough liquid assets over a period of 6 months in order to enable the Issuer to make all unconditional payments on the Mortgage Pandbrieven falling due during the following 6 months (see Section 6.2.3.4). To comply with the test, the Issuer is entitled to enter into a liquidity facility or to hold liquid assets (see Section 6.2.3.4). Under the terms of the Mortgage Pandbrieven, the Issuer furthermore has the option to subscribe to its own Mortgage Pandbrieven for liquidity purposes (including, without limitation, for transactions with the European Central Bank) (see Condition 3(g)(Redemption, Purchase and Options – Purchases) and 3(h) (Redemption, Purchase and Options – Subscription to own Mortgage Pandbrieven). Also, the maturity of the Mortgage Pandbrieven will automatically be extended if and to the extent that the Issuer would not be in a position to repay the Mortgage Pandbrieven within five (5) Business Days of their Maturity Date or if, on the Maturity Date, there is another Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven outstanding which was previously extended and which the Issuer fails to fully redeem on or prior to the Maturity Date. Any payment which is subject to such an extension shall, however, not be considered as an unconditional payment on the Mortgage Pandbrieven for purposes of the Liquidity Test.

### 2.2.2. Market risk

The interest rate risk is one of the central risks of interest-bearing Mortgage Pandbrieven. The interest rate level on the money and capital markets may fluctuate on a daily basis and cause the value of the Mortgage Pandbrieven to change on a daily basis. The interest rate risk is a result of the uncertainty with respect to future changes in the level of market interest rate. In particular, holders of Fixed Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven and Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven are exposed to an interest rate risk that could result in a decrease in value if the level of the market interest rate increases. In general, the effects of this risk increase as the market interest rates increase.

Changes in market interest rates have a substantially stronger impact on the prices of Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven than on the prices of interest bearing Mortgage Pandbrieven because the discounted issue prices are substantially below par. If market interest rates increase, Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven can suffer higher price losses than other Mortgage Pandbrieven having the same maturity and credit rating. Due to their leverage effect, Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven are a type of investment associated with a particularly high price risk.

Moreover, mismatches are possible in the rates of interest received on the Cover Assets and the rates of interest payable under Mortgage Pandbrieven (which may, for example, be fixed rates or floating rates). This risk is mitigated by overcollateralisation and/or derivatives, in line with the regulatory requirements.

### 2.2.3. Extension risk

The terms and conditions of the Mortgage Pandbrieven issued pursuant to this Base Prospectus contain an Extended Maturity Date, as a result of which the Maturity Date will be automatically extended by one year if the Issuer fails to redeem the Mortgage Pandbrieven in full within five Business Days of their Maturity Date or if, on the Maturity Date, there is another Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven outstanding which was previously extended and which the Issuer fails to fully redeem on or prior to the Maturity Date. Accordingly, Noteholders are exposed to an extension risk. In that event, the Mortgage Pandbrieven will bear interest on the principal amount outstanding of the Mortgage Pandbrieven in accordance with the applicable Final Terms. Moreover, to the extent that the Issuer has sufficient funds available to redeem the relevant Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven on any Interest Payment Date falling after such extension, the Issuer shall be required to redeem the outstanding principal amount under such Mortgage Pandbrieven on any such Extension Payment Date (or any other date in accordance with Condition 3(j)(i)(E) (Redemption, Purchase and Options- Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date).

The extension of the maturity of the particular Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven from the Maturity Date to the Extended Maturity Date will not result in any right of the Noteholders to accelerate payments or take action against the Special Estate and no payment will be payable to the Noteholders in that event other than as set out in the Conditions and applicable Final Terms. The payment of the remaining unpaid amount shall become due and payable on the Extended Maturity Date.

Noteholders should also note that an extension of the maturity of a particular Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven will not automatically trigger an extension of the maturity date of any other Series. This would only be the case where the maturity date of such other Series falls prior to the Extended Maturity Date of the particular extended Series and such extended Series have not been redeemed in full on such Maturity Date.

### 2.2.4. Value and maintenance of the Special Estate

The Noteholders will have an exclusive claim on the Special Estate together with the Other Creditors. The Cover Tests (as defined in Section 6.2.3.2) applicable to the Special Estate are intended to ensure that the Issuer maintains an adequate amount of Cover Assets in the Special Estate to enable the Issuer to meet its obligations under the Mortgage Pandbrieven. Since the economic value of the Cover Assets may increase or decrease, the value of the Special Estate may decrease over time (e.g., if there is a general decline in property values or an increase in borrower defaults). The Issuer makes no representation, warranty or guarantee that the value of a real estate asset will remain at the same level as it was on the date of the origination of the related Residential Mortgage Loan or at any other time.

A combination of increasing household indebtedness and stable or declining housing prices in Belgium could increase the financial vulnerability of some Belgian mortgage borrowers, especially young and/or low-income borrowers. Certain geographic regions of Belgium may from time to time experience weaker regional economic conditions and housing markets or be directly or indirectly affected by natural disasters or civil disturbances. Residential Mortgage Loans in such areas will experience higher rates of loss and delinquency than Residential Mortgage Loans generally. The ability of the borrowers to make payments on Residential Mortgage Loans may also be affected by factors which do not necessarily affect property values, such as adverse economic conditions generally in particular geographic areas or industries, or affecting particular segments of the borrowers).

As Residential Mortgage Loans with respect to properties located in Belgium constitute the main asset class of the Special Estate, the above factors (or a combination of them) may have an adverse effect on mortgage borrowers' ability to meet their mortgage payment obligations. This could reduce the value of the Residential Mortgage Loans and, ultimately, could result in losses for the Noteholders (and Other Creditors) if the Special Estate is liquidated.

In addition, although the Cover Tests (and the Issuer's obligation to remedy breaches of the Cover Tests) are intended to ensure that the value of the Special Estate (as determined in accordance with the

Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations) is greater than the outstanding principal amount of Mortgage Pandbrieven covered by the Special Estate, no assurance can be given that the Issuer will be in a position to originate or add Residential Mortgage Loans to the Special Estate in the future or that the income generated by or proceeds resulting from any sale or realisation of the Cover Assets will at the time of realisation be sufficient to enable the Issuer to meet its obligations under the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

# 2.2.5. Set-off risk

Under Belgian law, legal set-off occurs where two persons hold claims against each other, provided, in general, that their debts exist, are fungible, liquid (*vaststaand/liquide*) and due (*opeisbaar/exigible*). As a result, set-off rights may arise in respect of cross-claims between an underlying debtor of a Residential Mortgage Loan and the Issuer, potentially reducing amounts receivable by the Special Estate.

Pursuant to the Mobilisation Law (as defined in Section 6.1.2), the underlying debtor of a Residential Mortgage Loan may no longer invoke set-off of its debt with any claim that it would have against the Issuer if the claim of the underlying debtor would only arise, or the conditions for set-off (as set out in the preceding paragraph) would only be met, after (i) notification of the registration/transfer of the Residential Mortgage Loan to the Special Estate or (ii) the opening of bankruptcy proceedings against the Issuer.

The Special Estate may nevertheless still be subject to the rights of the underlying debtors of Residential Mortgage Loans to invoke set-off against the Special Estate to the extent that the relevant claims against the Issuer arise, or the conditions for set-off against the Issuer are met, prior to the earlier of (i) the notification of the registration of the loan or (ii) the opening of bankruptcy proceedings against the Issuer. The exercise of set-off rights by underlying debtors may adversely affect the value of the Special Estate, may additionally affect any sale proceeds of the Special Estate and may ultimately affect the ability of the Issuer or, as the case may be, the Cover Pool Administrator to make payments under the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

### 2.2.6. Taxation

Potential investors in the Mortgage Pandbrieven should be aware that they may be required to pay taxes or documentary charges or other duties in accordance with the laws and practices of the country where the Mortgage Pandbrieven are purchased or sold to other jurisdictions. Potential investors are advised not to rely upon the tax summary contained in this Base Prospectus but to consult their own independent tax advisers regarding their individual taxation with respect to the acquisition, holding, sale and redemption of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. Only these advisers are in a position to duly consider the specific situation of the potential investor. In addition, potential purchasers should be aware that tax regulations and their application by the relevant taxation authorities change from time to time. Accordingly, it is not possible to predict the precise tax treatment, which will apply at any given time. This risk factor has to be read in connection with the taxation sections of this Base Prospectus.

# 2.2.7. Change of law (including tax law)

The Terms and Conditions of the Mortgage Pandbrieven are, save to the extent referred to therein, based on legislation in effect as at the date of issue of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. No assurance can be given as to the impact of any possible judicial decision or changes to the laws (including tax laws) in Belgium, other jurisdictions (such as FATCA under US law) or on a supranational level (e.g. EU Financial Transaction Tax, the impact of the transposition of the new covered bond directive (Directive

(EU) 2019/2162<sup>8</sup>) into national legislation and on the existing Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations,...) or administrative practice after the date of issue of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. Investors should note that the provisions of the Terms and Conditions contain certain provisions dealing with a change of law. Such provisions will be applied, in accordance with the law in force at the relevant time.

In addition, any relevant law (including tax law) or practice applicable as at the date of this Base Prospectus and/or the date of purchase or subscription of the Mortgage Pandbrieven may change at any time (including during any subscription period or the term of the Mortgage Pandbrieven). Any such change may have an adverse effect on a Mortgage Pandbrieven Holder, including that the Mortgage Pandbrieven may be redeemed before their due date, their liquidity may decrease and/or the tax treatment of amounts payable or receivable by or to an affected Noteholder may be less than otherwise expected by such Noteholder.

#### 2.2.8. Secondary Market Risk

Mortgage Pandbrieven will at the time of their issuance not benefit from a trading market. Although application may be made (without this being an obligation) for a particular Series of dematerialized Mortgage Pandbrieven for listing and admission to trading on the regulated market of Euronext Brussels or another stock exchange, there is no assurance that such application will be accepted or that an active trading market will develop or that any listing or admission to trading will be maintained. Also, a particular Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven may upon issue and placement not be widely distributed.

Accordingly, no assurance can be given that a market will ever develop, and, if a market does develop, it may not be liquid. Therefore, investors may not be able to sell their Mortgage Pandbrieven easily or at prices that will provide them with a yield comparable to similar investments that have a developed secondary market. If an active or liquid secondary market develops, it may not continue for the life of the Mortgage Pandbrieven or it may not provide investors with liquidity of investment with the result that an investor may not be able to find a buyer to buy its Mortgage Pandbrieven readily or at prices that will enable the investor to realise a desired yield.

This holds particularly true for any Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven that are sensitive to interest rate, currency or market risks, that are designed for specific investment objectives or strategies or that have been structured to meet the investment requirements of limited categories of investors. These types of Mortgage Pandbrieven generally would have a more limited secondary market and a higher price volatility than conventional debt securities. Lack of liquidity may have a materially adverse effect on the market value of Mortgage Pandbrieven.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> The Directive lays down investor protection rules concerning requirements for issuing covered bonds, the structural features of covered bonds, covered bond public supervision and publication requirements in relation to covered bonds. The Directive needs to be transposed into national law by 8 July 2021 and the transposing measures need to apply as from 8 July 2022.

# SECTION 3 DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

This Base Prospectus should be read and construed in conjunction with:

- the audited consolidated accounts of Belfius Bank for the years ended 31 December 2018<sup>9</sup> and 31 December 2019<sup>10</sup>, including the reports of the statutory auditors in respect thereof;
- the disclosure document on "Alternative Performance Measures" (the "**APM**") for the years ended 31 December 2018<sup>11</sup> and 31 December 2019<sup>12</sup>;
- the half-yearly report ended 30 June 2020 (the "Half-Yearly Report 2020<sup>13</sup>");
- the disclosure document on the APM for the half-year ended 30 June  $2020^{14}$ ;
- the Terms and Conditions of the Mortgage Pandbrieven set out at pages 59 to 91 of the Base Prospectus dated 30 September 2019 relating to Belfius Bank's EUR 10,000,000,000 Belgian Mortgage Pandbrieven Programme<sup>15</sup>.

Such documents shall be incorporated in and form part of this Base Prospectus, save that any statement contained in a document which is incorporated by reference herein shall be modified or superseded for the purpose of this Base Prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein modifies or supersedes such earlier statement (whether expressly, by implication or otherwise). Any statement so modified or superseded shall not, except as so modified or superseded, constitute a part of this Base Prospectus.

In respect of any issuance of a new Tranche increasing a Series issued under a previous base prospectus, the present Base Prospectus should be read and construed in conjunction with the conditions (set out in Section 8) of the relevant base prospectus, which are incorporated by reference in the present Base Prospectus.

Copies of all documents incorporated by reference in this Base Prospectus may be obtained without charge from the offices of the Issuer and on the website of the Issuer at www.belfius.be. Potential investors in the Mortgage Pandbrieven should be aware that any website referred to in this Base Prospectus does not form part of this Base Prospectus and has not been scrutinised or approved by the FSMA.

The tables below set out the relevant page references for:

• the (i) consolidated balance sheet, (ii) consolidated statement of income, (iii) consolidated statement of comprehensive income, (iv) consolidated statement of change in equity (v) consolidated cash flow statement, (vi) audit report on the consolidated accounts, (vii) notes to the consolidated financial statements, (viii) non-consolidated balance sheet, (ix) non-consolidated statement of income and (x)

 $<sup>^9\</sup> https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/ratios-en-rapporten/belfius-reports/en/bel_RA_2018\_en.pdf$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/ratios-en-rapporten/belfius-reports/en/bel\_RA2019\_eng.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/ratios-en-rapporten/belfius-reports/en/APM.pdf

 $<sup>^{12}\</sup> https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/ratios-en-rapporten/belfius-reports/en/APM_FY_2019.pdf$ 

 $<sup>^{13}\</sup> https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/ratios-en-rapporten/belfius-reports/en/1H\% 202020\% 20 Half-yearly\% 20 Report.pdf$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/ratios-en-rapporten/belfius-reports/en/APM%201H%202020.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/debt-issuances/-belgian-mortgage-pandbrieven-programme/prospectus-andsupplements/2019/Base-prospectus-Belfius-Mortgage-Pandbrieven.pdf

audit report on the non-consolidated accounts for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2019, the APM of 2018 and 2019; and

• the (i) unaudited consolidated balance sheet, (ii) unaudited consolidated statement of income, (iii) unaudited consolidated statement of comprehensive income, (iv) unaudited consolidated statement of change in equity, (v) unaudited consolidated cash flow statement, (vi) audit limited review report on the consolidated accounts and (vii) notes to the consolidated interim financial statements of Belfius Bank for the period ended 30 June 2020, (viii) information on the COVID-19 crisis, as set out in the Half-Yearly Report 2020, and the APM for the half-year ended 30 June 2020.

Information contained in the documents incorporated by reference other than information listed in the table below is for information purposes only, and does not form part of this Base Prospectus. The non-incorporated parts of such documents are not relevant for the investor or are covered elsewhere in the Base Prospectus. The consolidated balance sheet and consolidated statement of income of Belfius Bank for the years 2018 and 2019 can also be found in the section headed "*Description of the Issuer*" on pages 142 to 190 of this Base Prospectus.

### **Belfius Bank SA/NV**

|  | Annual<br>Report 2018<br>(English<br>version)<br>audited | Annual<br>Report2019<br>(English<br>version)<br>audited | Half-Yearly<br>Report 2020<br>(English version)<br>(unaudited –<br>condensed) |
|--|--|---|---|
| consolidated balance sheet                     | 144  | 176   | 80  |
| consolidated statement of income               | 148  | 178   | 82  |
| consolidated statement of comprehensive income | 150  | 180   | 84  |
| consolidated statement of change of equity     | 152  | 182   | 86  |
| consolidated cash flow statement               | 158  | 187   | 91  |
| audit report on the consolidated accounts      | 318  | 326   | 150   |
| notes to the consolidated financial statements | 161  | 189   | 95  |
| non-consolidated balance sheet                 | 330  | 336   | N/A   |
| non-consolidated statement of income           | 333  | 339   | N/A   |
| audit report on the non-consolidated accounts  | 33616  | 34117   | N/A   |
| information on the COVID-19 crisis             | N/A  | N/A   | 11, 44 to 57, 93  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> The statutory report on the non-consolidated account is not included in the English version, but reference in such version is made to the French and the Dutch versions, available on this website: https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/ratios-en-rapporten/belfius-reports/fr/bel\_RA\_2018\_fr.pdf (French version - on page 392) and https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/ratios-en-rapporten/belfius-reports/nl/bel\_RA\_2018\_nl.pdf (Dutch version - on page 398).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The statutory report on the non-consolidated account is not included in the English version, but reference in such version is made to the French and the Dutch versions, available on this website: https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/ratios-en-rapporten/belfius-reports/fr/bel\_RA1019\_fr.pdf (French version - on page 390) and https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/ratios-en-rapporten/belfius-reports/nl/bel\_RA2019\_nl.pdf (Dutch version - on page 398).

# APM for the financial years ended 31 december 2018, 31 December 2019 and 30 June 2020

|                               |   | Bellius Bank SA/NV                          |   |  |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
|                               | Alternative<br>performance<br>measures 2018 | Alternative<br>performance<br>measures 2019 | Alternative<br>performance<br>measures 1H2020 |  |
| common equity tier 1 ratio    | 1   | 1   | 1   |  |
| tier 1 ratio                  | 1   | 1   | 1   |  |
| total capital ratio           | 2   | 1   | 1   |  |
| leverage ratio                | 2   | 1   | 1   |  |
| solvency II ratio             | 2   | 2   | 1   |  |
| net interest margin           | 3   | 2   | 2   |  |
| cost-income ratio             | 3   | 3   | 2   |  |
| asset quality ratio           | 4   | 3   | 3   |  |
| coverage ratio                | 4   | 3   | 3   |  |
| liquidity coverage ratio      | 5   | 2   | 2   |  |
| net stable funding ratio      | 5   | 2   | 2   |  |
| return on equity              | 6   | 4   | 3   |  |
| total savings and investments | 7   | 5   | 5   |  |
| total loans to customers      | 8   | 6   | 6   |  |
| ALM liquidity bond portfolio  | 9   | 6   | 6   |  |
| ALM yield bond portfolio      | 9   | 6   | 6   |  |
| credit guarantee portfolio    | 9   | 7   | 7   |  |
| funding diversification       | 10  | 7   | 7   |  |
| adjusted results              | 12  | 10  | 10  |  |

# **Belfius Bank SA/NV**

# SECTION 4 PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

Under Article 23(1) of the Prospectus Regulation, the Issuer is required to prepare a supplement to the Base Prospectus without undue delay if a significant new factor, material mistake or material inaccuracy relating to the information included in the Base Prospectus occurs, provided it is capable of affecting the assessment of the Mortgage Pandbrieven and which arises or is noted between the time when the Base 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.

If at any time the Issuer shall be required to prepare a supplement pursuant to Article 23(1) of the Prospectus Regulation, the Issuer will prepare and make available an appropriate supplement to this Base Prospectus which, in respect of any subsequent issuance of Mortgage Pandbrieven to be listed and admitted to trading on Euronext Brussels' regulated market, shall constitute a prospectus supplement in accordance with Article 23(1) of the Prospectus Regulation.

The obligation to supplement this Base Prospectus in the event of significant new factors, material mistakes or material inaccuracies does not apply when this Base Prospectus is no longer valid. This Base Prospectus shall be valid for a period of twelve months from its date of approval.

# SECTION 5 PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The Issuer may from time to time issue Mortgage Pandbrieven under this Programme. The aggregate outstanding principal amount of Mortgage Pandbrieven in euro shall not at any time exceed EUR 10,000,000,000 (or the euro equivalent at the date of issuance in the case of other currencies). All Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven outstanding from time to time shall be included in a list which can be consulted on the website of the Supervisory Authority at www.nbb.be.

Holders of Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme (and the Other Creditors) will benefit from an exclusive recourse against the same Special Estate. The main asset class of the Special Estate will consist of Residential Mortgage Loans. The eligible residential mortgage loan pool is determined in line with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations. The selection of the Residential Mortgage Loans out of that eligible residential mortgage loan pool, that are registered as Cover Assets, is based on criteria such as (but not limited to) maturity, type of interest rate, etc. in order to optimise the management of the Programme. The value of the Residential Mortgage Loans calculated in accordance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations (and including any collections in respect thereof) will at all times represent at least 105 per cent. of the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven of all Series. Both the issued Mortgage Pandbrieven and the Residential Mortgage Loans and any other Cover Assets will be registered in the Cover Register. Investor reports with details on, among others, the composition of the Special Estate will be made available on the website of the Issuer (www.belfius.be) on a monthly basis.

Under the Programme, the Issuer may issue Mortgage Pandbrieven subject to the terms and conditions (and relevant Final Terms) set out in this Base Prospectus, but the Issuer may also from time to time issue Mortgage Pandbrieven subject to terms not contemplated by this Base Prospectus (including (without limitation) in the case of N Bonds). In the latter case, the relevant terms or form of terms of the Mortgage Pandbrieven are or, as the case may be, will be set out in a schedule to the Programme Agreement.

# I. Programme Agreements

### 5.1 Programme Agreement

The Programme Agreement is an over-arching agreement initially dated 8 November 2012, as amended and/or supplemented and/or restated from time to time, containing certain common terms (the "Common Terms") which will apply to all Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme (including (without limitation) N Bonds). These Common Terms include the Post-Acceleration Priority of Payments, the Payment Default provision and cross-acceleration, the Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders, the Noteholders' Waiver, certain provisions required by the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulation, certain Issuer Covenants, and specify, for the avoidance of doubt, that all the holders of Mortgage Pandbrieven will be represented by the Noteholders' Representative and will benefit from an exclusive recourse against the Special Estate. The Programme Agreement further provides that a Programme Resolution will be required for any amendment to the Common Terms, unless (i) the Noteholders' Representative is of the opinion that such amendment will not be materially prejudicial to the interests of the Noteholders or (ii) that the amendment is of a formal, minor or technical nature or, in the opinion of the Noteholders' Representative, to correct a manifest error or to comply with mandatory provisions of law. The Programme Agreement also provides that no Residential Mortgage Loans can be deregistered from the Special Estate without prior approval of the Cover Pool Monitor in case such deregistration would lead to a decrease of the ratio between the value of the Cover Assets and the outstanding principal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. No such approval is required for the deregistration of Residential Mortgage Loans with a value of zero nor for a substitution (i.e. a replacement of the Residential Mortgage Loan by another) whereby the value of the Cover Assets does not decrease due to this substitution.

### 5.2 Noteholders' Representative Agreement

Pursuant to the Noteholders' Representative Agreement, initially dated 8 November 2012, as amended and/or supplemented and/or restated from time to time, the holders of the Mortgage Pandbrieven (and the Other Creditors which have agreed thereto) will be represented by the Noteholders' Representative which shall have the powers and rights conferred on it by the applicable terms and conditions, the Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders and the Noteholders' Representative Agreement.

# 5.3 Agency Agreement

The Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Base Prospectus will also have the benefit of an Agency Agreement (unless otherwise specified), initially dated 8 November 2012, as amended and/or supplemented and/or restated from time to time, pursuant to which the relevant (principal) paying agent, fiscal agent, registrar and calculation agent shall be appointed.

## 5.4 Distribution Agreement

Pursuant to and subject to the terms of the Distribution Agreement, initially dated 8 November 2012, as amended and/or supplemented and/or restated from time to time, the Issuer may agree with the Dealers that are party thereto to issue Mortgage Pandbrieven. The Issuer may also decide to issue Mortgage Pandbrieven which are not subject to the Distribution Agreement.

## 5.5 Clearing Services Agreement

The Issuer has entered into a Clearing Services Agreement on 19 September 2016 with the NBB-SSS replacing any previous ones, in its capacity as operator of the Securities Settlement System, and the Principal Paying Agent in relation to Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven which will be represented by a book-entry in the records of the Securities Settlement System.

This Base Prospectus, the Programme Agreement, the Noteholders' Representative Agreement, the Agency Agreement, the Distribution Agreement, the Clearing Services Agreement and any other agreement or document entered into from time to time under or in connection with the Programme (as the same may be amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time) and designated as a programme document constitute together the programme documents (the "**Programme Documents**"). Unless otherwise specified, the Programme Documents will be governed by Belgian law.

Pursuant to the terms of the Programme Documents, the Issuer shall be entitled to vary, approve or terminate the appointment of any agent or party thereto and/or appoint any additional or substitute agent or party (including (without limitation) in relation to the issue of any Mortgage Pandbrieven or N Bonds). The Issuer may also enter into any other agreement or document as it may from time to time deem necessary or appropriate in relation to the Programme or issuance of any Mortgage Pandbrieven. Each of the Programme Documents shall further contain specific provisions for the amendment, supplement, replacement and/or restatement of such agreement and a reference to any Programme Document shall be deemed a reference to such agreement as the same may from time be time be amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated.

# II. N Bonds and other terms

N Bonds are typically issued to certain German institutional investors and contain certain specific provisions which may differ from some of the terms and conditions that apply to the Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under this Base Prospectus. For instance, N Bonds may be governed by German law. Moreover, they are usually not listed. Accordingly, a prospectus is usually not required for their offering and the form of the terms applicable thereto will, at the relevant time of issuance, be annexed to the Programme Agreement.

### **SECTION 6**

# SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR BELGIAN COVERED BONDS AND BELGIAN PANDBRIEVEN

The following is a brief summary of certain features of the legal framework governing the issuance of Belgian covered bonds, as at the date of this Base Prospectus. This summary description is not, and does not purport to be, a complete description addressing all aspects of the Belgian legal framework pertaining to Belgian covered bonds. Accordingly, it is qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable laws and regulations.

### 6.1 Introduction

#### 6.1.1 Background

A new dedicated regulatory regime for the issuance of covered bonds by Belgian credit institutions was adopted in August 2012. The Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations (as defined below) contemplate a full on balance structure with a right of dual recourse for noteholders (an exclusive recourse against the special estate (together with certain other creditors) and an unsecured claim against the general estate of the issuing credit institution).

#### 6.1.2 Legislative framework

The legislative framework for Belgian covered bonds is established by the following laws, decrees and regulations (as the same may be amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time, the "Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations"):

- The Law of 3 August 2012 establishing a legal regime for Belgian covered bonds (*Wet van 3 augustus 2012 tot invoering van een wettelijke regeling voor Belgische covered bonds/Loi du 3 août 2012 instaurant un régime légal pour les covered bonds belges*), which has been incorporated in the Law of 25 April 2014 on the status and supervision of credit institutions and stockbroking firms (*Wet van 25 april 2014 op het statuut van en het toezicht op kredietinstellingen en beursvennootschappen/Loi du 25 avril 2014 relative au statut et au contrôle des établissements de crédit et des sociétés de bourse*) (as amended from time to time, the "**Banking Law**");
- The Law of 3 August 2012 on various measures to facilitate the mobilisation of claims in the financial sector (*Wet van 3 augustus 2012 betreffende diverse maatregelen ter vergemakkelijking van de mobilisering van schuldvorderingen in de financiële sector/Loi du 3 août 2012 relative à des mesures diverses pour faciliter la mobilisation de créances dans le secteur financier*) (as amended from time to time, the "**Mobilisation Law**");
- The Royal Decree of 11 October 2012 on the issuance of Belgian covered bonds by Belgian credit institutions (Koninklijk Besluit van 11 oktober 2012 betreffende de uitgifte van Belgische covered bonds door kredietinstellingen naar Belgisch recht/Arrêté Royal du 11 octobre 2012 relatif à l'émission de covered bonds belges par des établissements de crédit de droit belge) (as may be amended from time to time, the "Covered Bonds Royal Decree").
- The Royal Decree of 11 October 2012 on the cover pool administrator in the context of the issuance of Belgian covered bonds by a Belgian credit institution (Koninklijk Besluit van 11 oktober 2012 betreffende de portefeuillebeheerder in het kader van de uitgifte van Belgische covered bonds door een kredietinstelling naar Belgisch recht/Arrêté Royal du 11 octobre 2012 relatif au gestionnaire de portefeuille dans le cadre de l'émission de covered bonds belges par un établissement de crédit de droit belge) (as may be amended from time to time, the "Cover Pool Administrator Royal Decree");

- The Regulation of the NBB concerning the practical modalities for the application of the Law of 3 August 2012 that establishes a legal regime for Belgian covered bonds dated 29 October 2012 (*Circulaire van 29 oktober 2012 over de praktische regels voor de toepassing van de wet van 3 augustus 2012 tot invoering van een wettelijke regeling voor Belgische covered bonds/Circulaire du 29 octobre 2012 relative aux modalités pratiques d'application de la loi du 3 août 2012 instaurant un régime légal pour les covered bonds)* (the "NBB Covered Bonds Regulation"); and
- The Regulation of the NBB addressed to the statutory auditors and the cover pool monitors of Belgian credit institutions with respect to their involvement in the context of the issuance of Belgian covered bonds dated 29 October 2012 (*Circulaire van 29 oktober 2012 aan de portefeuillesurveillanten bij kredietinstellingen naar Belgisch recht die Belgische covered bonds uitgeven/ Circulaire du 29 octobre 2012 aux surveillants de portefeuille auprès d'établissements de crédit de droit belge qui émettent des covered bonds belges*) (the "NBB Cover Pool Monitor Regulation").

## 6.1.3 Belgian covered bonds and Belgian pandbrieven

Pursuant to Article 1, 1° of Annex III to the Banking Law, covered bonds are debt instruments which:

- (a) are issued by a credit institution governed by Belgian law which is authorised to issue covered bonds and included in the list referred to in Article 82, §3, 1° of the Banking Law;
- (b) are included itself or, if issued under a programme, the programme and each debt instrument issued thereunder is included in the list of Belgian covered bonds referred to in Article 82, §3, 2° of the Banking Law; and
- (c) are covered by a special estate on the balance sheet of the issuing credit institution.

Article 6 of the Banking Law and Article 2 of Annex III to the Banking Law provide that covered bonds which comply with the Belgian capital adequacy legislation implementing the European capital adequacy rules, *i.e.* at present CRD V, may be referred to as Belgian pandbrieven (*Belgische pandbrieven/lettres de gage belges*). Covered bonds comply with the CRD V if they are bonds as defined in Article 52(4) of Directive 2009/65/EC of 13 July 2009 on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transfereable securities (UCITS) (the "UCITS Directive") and if the Cover Assets comply with the eligibility requirements and valuation rules as set out in Article 129 of CRR.

Pursuant to Article 13 of the Covered Bonds Royal Decree, covered bonds which comply with the requirements set out in the Covered Bonds Royal Decree will be deemed to comply with the UCITS Directive and the CRD V and may therefore be referred to as Belgian pandbrieven (*Belgische pandbrieven/lettres de gage belges*).

The covered bonds issued under the Programme are referred to as Mortgage Pandbrieven as they comply with the relevant requirements for Belgian pandbrieven (*Belgische pandbrieven/lettres de gage belges*).

## 6.1.4 Dual authorisation by the Supervisory Authority

A Belgian credit institution must be authorised by the Supervisory Authority, prior to being entitled to issue Belgian covered bonds. The authorisation of the Supervisory Authority comprises:

 (a) a general authorisation in relation to the organisational capacity of the credit institution to issue Belgian covered bonds and to ensure appropriate follow-up (the "General Authorisation"); and (b) a special authorisation for each issue programme or particular issuance (if not issued under a programme), to ascertain whether such programme or issuance meets relevant legal requirements (the "**Specific Authorisation**").

On its website, the Supervisory Authority will publish:

- (a) a list of credit institutions that are authorised to issue Belgian covered bonds (www.nbb.be); and
- (b) a list that specifies, per credit institution, the programmes (and the issuances thereunder) or issuances that have been authorised. This list is divided into a list of covered bonds and a list of Belgian pandbrieven (www.nbb.be).

#### 6.1.4.1. General Authorisation

To obtain a General Authorisation, the credit institution must, among other things, provide information on its financial position, long-term strategy, tasks and responsibilities in relation to the issuance of Belgian covered bonds, risk management policy, internal audit, decision-making processes and reporting processes in relation to the issuance of Belgian covered bonds and IT systems. The financial position must demonstrate that the interests of its creditors other than the noteholders will be protected. The credit institution's statutory auditor must report to the Supervisory Authority on the credit institution's organisational capacity to issue Belgian covered bonds prior to and after the issuance of Belgian covered bonds.

The Supervisory Authority will only grant the General Authorisation to the extent that, on the basis of the information referred to above, it is satisfied:

- (a) that the administrative and accounting organisation of the issuing credit institution allows it to operate in accordance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations, in particular as regards its capacity to segregate the Cover Assets from its general estate; and
- (b) that the financial position of the issuing credit institution, specifically with respect to its solvency, is sufficient to safeguard the interests of its creditors, other than the noteholders and other creditors that are or can be identified in the issue conditions.

### 6.1.4.1. Specific Authorisation

To obtain a Specific Authorisation, the credit institution must, among other things, provide information on the impact of the issuance on the liquidity position of the issuing credit institution, the quality of the Cover Assets and the extent to which the maturity dates of the Belgian covered bonds coincide with those of the Cover Assets. The credit institution will also have to demonstrate that it continues to comply with the requirements of the General Authorisation and the cover pool monitor (*portefeuillesurveillant/surveillant de portefeuille*) will need to report to the Supervisory Authority (see Section 6.2.4) on the compliance by the issuing credit institution with the requirements of the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations prior to and after the issuance of Belgian covered bonds.

The Supervisory Authority will only grant the Specific Authorisation to the extent that, on the basis of the above information, it is satisfied that the following conditions have been met:

(a) the issuing credit institution has obtained a General Authorisation; and

(b) the Cover Assets meet the requirements of the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations (see Section 6.2.3.1).

# 6.2 Rules applicable to the special estate

### 6.2.1 Composition of the special estate

The estate of a credit institution that issues Belgian covered bonds is by operation of law split into a general estate and into specified special estates. There will be one special estate per authorised issue programme or stand-alone issuance, as the case may be.

The credit institution that issues Belgian covered bonds must maintain a register in which all Belgian covered bonds and the Cover Assets are registered (the "**Cover Register**").

The special estate includes by operation of law:

- (a) all assets registered in the Cover Register (the "Cover Assets");
- (b) the assets (cash or financial instruments) received as collateral in the context of hedging instruments which are part of the special estate;
- (c) all security interests and sureties, guarantees or privileges under whichever form that have been granted in relation to Cover Assets as well as rights under insurance policies and other contracts in relation to the Cover Assets or the management of the special estate;
- (d) all sums that the relevant credit institution holds as a result of the recovery (reimbursement or payment) of assets or of the rights mentioned above for the account of the special estate or otherwise held for the special estate; and
- (e) the mandatory reserves with the NBB to the extent that these are linked to the special estate.

Pursuant to a revindication mechanism provided by Article 3, §2, second indent of Annex III to the Banking Law, the ownership rights of the special estate in respect of cash that cannot be identified in the general estate will be transferred to unencumbered assets of the general estate that will be selected by taking into account criteria specified in the terms and conditions of the relevant issuance (hereinafter referred to as the "issue conditions").

### 6.2.2 Allocation of the special estate

Each special estate is exclusively allocated to satisfy the obligations to the relevant noteholders and any other creditors that are specifically mentioned or can be identified based on the criteria set out in the relevant issue conditions. The latter category of creditors will generally include the various parties that are involved in the structuring and the management of the special estate and relevant Belgian covered bonds. These may include, *inter alia*, the noteholders' representative, the cover pool administrator, the cover pool monitor and relevant hedge counterparties.

The distribution or priority rules in relation to the obligations towards the noteholders and the obligations towards such other creditors of the special estate must be determined in the issue conditions and in the agreements that are entered into in the framework of the relevant issue programme or issuance of Belgian covered bonds.

Creditors of the issuing credit institution (other than noteholders and creditors that are or can be identified in the issue conditions or the agreements that are entered into in the framework of the relevant issue programme or issuance of Belgian covered bonds) may not exercise any rights against or attach any assets of the special estate.

In the case of a liquidation of the special estate, the proceeds thereof will be allocated to the noteholders and the other creditors that are or can be identified in the issue conditions or the agreements that are entered into in the framework of the relevant issue programme or issuance of Belgian covered bonds in accordance with the priority of payments determined in the issue conditions.

#### 6.2.3 Rules applicable to the Cover Assets

Prior to the issuance of Belgian covered bonds, the credit institution and cover pool monitor (see Section 6.2.4) must take all reasonable measures to ensure that the issuing credit institution meets the following requirements:

- (a) the Cover Assets meet the qualitative requirements and limits set out in the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations (see Section 6.2.3.1);
- (b) the Cover Assets meet the Cover Tests (see Section 6.2.3.2);
- (c) the Cover Assets meet the Liquidity Test (see Section 6.2.3.4); and
- (d) the Cover Register and the registration of Cover Assets therein meet the requirements set out in the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations (see Section 6.2.3.5).

Furthermore, the credit institution must establish risk management policies in relation to interest rate and currency exchange risks. The credit institution must ensure that the liquidity generated by such hedging instruments is sufficient to meet the applicable tests in the case of sudden and unexpected movements and/or, as the case may be, dispose of other assets that can be sold or mobilised quickly in order to provide relevant coverage.

The issuing credit institution, its statutory auditor and the cover pool monitor will have ongoing obligations to provide to the Supervisory Authority periodic information on compliance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations.

### 6.2.3.1 Types of eligible assets

The special estate may be composed of assets falling within any of the following five categories: residential mortgage loans (including residential mortgage backed securities ("**RMBS**")) (category 1), commercial mortgage loans (including commercial mortgage backed securities ("**CMBS**")) (category 2), public sector exposures (including public asset backed securities ("**ABS**")) (category 3), exposures to credit institutions (category 4) and hedging instruments (category 5).

(a) Mortgage Loans

The special estate may include residential mortgage loans or commercial mortgage loans:

(i) <u>Residential mortgage loans (category 1)</u>: mortgage receivables secured by a mortgage on residential real estate located in the European Economic Area ("EEA"). Mortgage receivables relating to residential real estate under construction or in development can only be included in the special estate if they do not represent more than 15 per cent. of all the residential mortgage loans included in the special estate. (ii) <u>Commercial mortgage loans (category 2)</u>: mortgage receivables secured by a mortgage on commercial real estate located in the EEA. Mortgage receivables relating to commercial real estate under construction or in development may not be included in the special estate.

In order to qualify for residential and commercial mortgage loans, the credit institution must be the beneficiary of a first-ranking mortgage.

Residential real estate is real property that is destined for housing or for leasing *(huur/location)* housing by the owner.

Commercial real estate is real property that is primarily used for industrial or commercial purposes or for other professional activities, such as offices or other premises intended for the exercise of a commercial or services activity.

Pursuant to the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations, a residential mortgage loan which is partly secured by a mortgage mandate may be included in the Special Estate. Subject to certain valuation rules (see Section 6.2.3.3), (a portion of) the amounts secured by the mortgage mandate may be taken into account for purposes of the Cover Tests.

Investors should be aware that such mortgage mandate will only provide a security interest giving preference over other creditors once the mandate has been exercised and a mortgage has been registered. Prior to such exercise, third parties acting in good faith may register prior-ranking mortgages.

Once a mandate is exercised by the relevant agents (*mandaathouders/titulaires de mandat*) in accordance with the terms of the mandate, the ensuing mortgage will rank at the highest level available at the time of registration of such mortgage. To the extent that the mortgage secures any other loans made by Belfius Bank to the same grantor, the proceeds of any enforcement will in principal be shared *pro rata* among the various loans (including any such loans that are still with the general estate) (see also Condition 7(c)).

- (b) <u>Public sector exposures (category 3)</u>: receivables on or guaranteed or insured by (i) central, regional or local authorities of member states of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), (ii) central banks of these member states, (iii) public sector entities of these member states or (iv) multilateral development banks or international organisations that qualify for a 0 per cent. risk weighting as set out in Article 117 CRR.
- (c) RMBS, CMBS and ABS issued by securitisation vehicles that securitise exposures on assets primarily composed of the assets sub (a) and/or (b) above and that meet the following conditions:
  - the securitisation vehicle is governed by the laws of a member state of the EEA;
  - (ii) the securitisation positions qualify for credit quality step 1 as set out in Article 251 CRR and are part of the most senior tranche of securitisation positions;
  - (iii) at least 90 per cent. of the underlying assets are composed of only one of the categories of residential mortgage loans, commercial mortgage loans or public sector exposures;

- (iv) the underlying assets have been originated by a group-related entity of the issuing credit institution; and
- (v) the most subordinated tranche is fully retained by the issuing credit institution or a group-related entity.

Securities issued by securitisation vehicles are only recognised as Cover Assets within the limits imposed by the CRD V (which permits covered bonds to benefit from a favourable weighting in the context of the "own funds" regulation applicable to credit institutions).

- (d) <u>Exposures to credit institutions (category 4)</u>: claims against credit institutions that have the status of credit institution under the law of a member state of the OECD and cash held on account with these credit institutions, as well as sums held by the issuing credit institution for the benefit of the special estate.
- (e) <u>Hedging instruments (category 5)</u>: positions resulting from one or more hedging instruments linked to one or more Cover Assets or Belgian covered bonds concerned, as well as sums paid under these positions. The counterparty of these instruments must have the status of a credit institution under an OECD member state.

The hedging instruments may only cover interest rate risk, currency exchange risk or other risks linked to the Cover Assets or the Belgian covered bonds.

The hedging instruments may only be included in the special estate if recovery measures or bankruptcy proceedings opened against the issuing credit institution do not automatically result in the early termination (close-out) of these instruments and if the relevant hedge counterparty cannot invoke an early termination (close-out) in such circumstances. The issuing credit institution may not include hedging instruments in one of the novation or netting agreements to which it is a party.

The credit institution must be able to demonstrate that the default risk of the counterparty is limited. This can be established if the counterparty qualifies for:

- credit quality step 1 or 2 according to Article 120 CRR for Belgian covered bonds that qualify for credit quality step 1; or
- (ii) credit quality steps 1, 2 or 3 according to Article 120 CRR for Belgian covered bonds that qualify for credit quality steps 2 or lower.

Hedging instruments registered in the Cover Register are part of the special estate. Collateral posted with the Issuer under such hedging instrument is part of the special estate by operation of law and can only be used for obligations in relation to the special estate in accordance with the issue conditions and the relevant hedging instrument.

If the hedge counterparty is a group-related entity of the issuing credit institution, it must have the status of credit institution in an EEA Member State and must benefit from credit quality step 1 (as defined in Article 120 CRR). Moreover, the net risk positions arising from these hedging instruments towards these counterparties have to be covered by financial instruments or values as contemplated in Article 197 CRR.

Amounts paid as reimbursement, collection or payment of interest on claims or assets included in the special estate as part of the relevant categories may be taken into account as Cover Assets that are a part of their respective category.

# 6.2.3.2 Cover Tests

At the time of the issuance and as long as any Belgian covered bonds remain outstanding, the issuing credit institution must, in respect of each special estate, meet the following cover tests:

- (a) the value of the assets falling within one of the categories 1, 2 and 3 (including, respectively, RMBS, CMBS and ABS) must represent at least 85 per cent. of the principal amount of the Belgian covered bonds outstanding (the "85 per cent. Asset Coverage Test"). As a result, three general types of Belgian covered bond programmes can be distinguished on the basis of their main underlying asset class: (i) residential mortgage loans; (ii) commercial mortgage loans; or (iii) public sector exposures.
- (b) the value of the Cover Assets must provide an excess cover such that their value exceeds the outstanding principal amount of the Belgian covered bonds. Per special estate, the value of the Cover Assets must represent at least 105 per cent. of the outstanding principal amount of the issued Belgian covered bonds (the "Over-Collateralisation Test"). As a result, the special estate must at all times be over-collateralised by at least 5 per cent.; and
- (c) the Cover Assets must, during the entire duration of the relevant Belgian covered bonds, provide a sufficient cover for (i) the payment of principal and interest on the Belgian covered bonds, (ii) the obligations towards other creditors that are or can be identified in the issue conditions and (iii) the management of the special estate. For each special estate, the sum of interest, principal and all other revenues generated by the Cover Assets must be sufficient to cover the sum of all interest, principal and charges of the Belgian covered bonds (the "Amortisation Test"),

all three together, the "Cover Tests".

### 6.2.3.3 Cover assets valuation methodology

For the purpose of the 85 per cent. Asset Coverage Test and the Over-Collateralisation Test, the value of the Cover Assets of each category is determined as follows:

(a) **Residential mortgage loans**: the lesser of (i) the outstanding loan amount, (ii) 80 per cent. of the market value of the residential real estate and (iii) the value of the mortgage.

If the residential real estate over which a mortgage has been created is located in Belgium, the value of the mortgage in respect of a residential mortgage loan will be equal to the amount of the mortgage registration in first rank, plus any amounts of mortgages in subsequent ranks (provided that there are no other creditors with prior-ranking mortgage rights *(zonder dat andere schuldeisers zich in een tussenpositie bevinden/sans interposition d'autres créanciers)*).

If the mortgage is supplemented with a mortgage mandate, the value of the mortgage will be equal to the lesser of (a) the sum of the amount of the mortgage registration in first rank, plus any amounts of mortgages in sequentially lower ranks (provided that there are no other creditors with prior-ranking mortgage

rights (zonder dat andere schuldeisers zich in een tussenpositie bevinden/sans interposition d'autres créanciers)) and the amount for which a mortgage mandate has been granted and (b) the amount of the mortgage registration in first rank, plus the amount of any mortgage in sequentially lower ranks (provided that there are no other creditors with prior-ranking mortgage rights (zonder dat andere schuldeisers zich in een tussenpositie bevinden/sans interposition d'autres créanciers)), divided by 0.6.

If the residential real estate over which the mortgage has been created is located outside Belgium, the value of the mortgage in respect of such residential mortgage loan will be equal to the amount of the mortgage registration in first rank, plus the amount of any mortgages in sequentially lower ranks (provided that there are no other creditors with prior-ranking mortgage rights *(zonder dat andere schuldeisers zich in een tussenpositie bevinden/sans interposition d'autres créanciers*)). Mortgage mandates are not taken into consideration.

Residential real estate may only be taken into consideration for purposes of the valuation calculations of the Cover Assets if the requirements set out in Article 208 of the CRR and the valuation rules set out in Article 229 CRR have been complied with. This does not prejudice the possibility to take into account the value of mortgage mandates, as set out above. If deemed necessary, the Supervisory Authority can impose further requirements with respect to the valuation of immovable real estate.

The value of the real estate is to be tested regularly for residential real estate. A more regular control shall occur in case of significant changes to the market conditions. To this effect, customary methods and benchmarks (such as the Stadimindex) may be used.

(b) Commercial mortgage loans: the lesser of (i) the outstanding loan amount, (ii) 60 per cent. of the sales value of the commercial real estate and (iii) the value of the mortgage.

The value of the mortgage in respect of a commercial mortgage loan equals the amount of the mortgage registration in first rank, accrued (if applicable) with the amount of the mortgages in sequentially lower ranks (provided that there are no other creditors with prior-ranking mortgage rights (zonder dat andere schuldeisers zich in een tussenpositie bevinden/sans interposition d'autres créanciers)). Mortgage mandates are not taken into consideration.

Commercial real estate may only be taken into consideration for purposes of the valuation calculations if the eligibility requirements that apply to residential mortgage loans have been met.

- (c) Public sector exposures: To the extent that the counterparty is a member of the European Union, the value is equal to the book value in the books of the issuing credit institution (or limited to the amount guaranteed or insured by the relevant entities). If the counterparty is not a member of the European Union, the value will be zero. There is, however, an exception for non-EU counterparty exposure:
  - (i) in case the non-EU counterparty qualifies for credit quality step 1 (as set out in Article 129 CRR); or

(ii) in case the non-EU counterparty qualifies for credit quality step 2 (as set out in Article 129 CRR) and this exposure does not exceed 20 per cent. of the principal amount of Belgian covered bonds outstanding.

In such case, the value will be equal to the book value.

- (d) RMBS, CMBS and ABS issued by securitisation vehicles: the value of the receivables corresponds to the lesser of (i) the book value in the books of the issuing credit institution and (ii) the amount of the assets that are underlying to the securitisation, applying the valuation rules set forth above per analogy.
- (e) **Hedging instruments**: no value is given to that category for the purpose of the 85 per cent. Asset Coverage Test and the Over-Collateralisation Test.
- (f) Exposure to credit institutions: no valuation is given to this category for the purpose of the 85 per cent. Asset Coverage Test. No valuation is given to this category for purposes of the Over-Collateralisation Test unless:
  - (i) the counterparty benefits from a credit quality step 1 as defined in Article 120 CRR. Receivables which are deposits can only be taken into account for the Over-Collateralisation Test, provided that their maturity date does not exceed 12 months from the date on which they are recorded in the Cover Register; or
  - the counterparty benefits from a credit quality step 2 and the maturity does not exceed 100 days from their registration in the Cover Register; and

in both cases, the value will be equal to the amount at which the assets are registered in the accounting statements of the issuing credit institution.

No assets that are 90 days past due or of which the issuer considers it unlikely that it will recover the full value, may be registered in the Special Estate.

In any event, the value of an asset that is 90 days past due is zero. The value of an asset that is 30 days past due will only be taken into account for 50 per cent. of the value as set out above.

However, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Supervisory Authority has communicated (on 13 March 2020) on how the value of an asset should be adjusted for the COVID-19 payment holidays (the "**Moratorium**").

The following will apply to exposures that fall under the Moratorium and that are at the same time part of the cover pool of a Belgian covered bond.

Exposures with less than 30 days past due at the date the Moratorium measures are applied to them, can be taken into account for 100% of their coverage value.

Exposures with more than 30 days past due at the date the Moratorium measures are applied to them, should be valued at 50% of their coverage value.

Exposures which are defaulted at the date the Moratorium measures are applied to them, shall be valued at 0% of their coverage value.

#### Further rules for valuation

Moreover, the rules and methodologies for the purposes of valuing the real estate will have to comply with the specific rules set out in Article 5 of the NBB Covered Bonds Regulation (*Circulaire van 23 oktober 2012 over de praktische regels voor de toepassing van de wet van 3 augustus 2012 tot invoering van een wettelijke regeling voor Belgische covered bonds/Circulaire du 23 octobre 2012 relative aux modalités pratiques d'application de la loi du 3 août 2012 instaurant un régime légal pour les covered bonds*).

In accordance with said Article 5, the market value will have to be justified in a clear and transparent manner on the basis of a document established by a person who is independent from the persons who are in charge of granting the relevant loans. An expert report will be required for real estate which has a value of more than 3 million euro or 2 per cent. of the amount of the relevant covered bonds. Otherwise, the value of the real estate can be determined on the basis of the sales value as established in the notarial deed at the time of sale or the valuation report of the architect in the case of real estate in construction. The credit institution must apply a prudent valuation procedure.

For such purposes, the credit institution can make use of a customary valuation methodology used for the determination of the market value. The methodologies fall into two categories. In the first category, the intrinsic value of the real estate is taken as the basis for determining the sales value (which includes a method on the basis of comparison points and on the basis of intrinsic value). The second category is based on future yield value (and includes methods on the basis of yield and discounted cash flow). In order to be accepted by the Supervisory Authority, the value must be obtained by using more than one of these valuation methodologies and it is adviseable to combine methodologies of the two categories.

The value of the real estate must be controlled on a periodic basis, being at least once a year for commercial real estate and at least once every three years for residential real estate. A more frequent control will be required in the case of a significant change in the market conditions. For such control, use can be made of customary indexation parameters such as Stadimindex. Moreover, real estate must be revalued if the credit institution has information which indicates that the value has decreased significantly. Such revaluation also needs to be carried out by an independent person who has the necessary qualifications. Real estate which has a value of more than 3 million euro or 2 per cent. of the amount of the relevant covered bonds must be revalued at least once every three years.

#### 6.2.3.4 Liquidity Test

At the time of the issuance and for so long as any Belgian covered bonds remain outstanding, the Cover Assets per special estate must, over a period of six months, generate sufficient liquidity or include sufficient liquid assets in order to enable the issuing credit institution to make all unconditional payments on the Belgian covered bonds (including principal, interest and other costs relating to the management and administration of the special estate) falling due during the following six months (the "Liquidity Test").

Liquid assets are assets that (i) meet the criteria set out in Section 6.2.3.1 above and (ii) qualify as liquid assets under the Regulation of the NBB of 2 June 2015 on the liquidity of credit institutions, as approved by a royal decree of 5 July 2015.

To comply with the Liquidity Test, the issuing credit institution will be entitled to enter into a liquidity facility, provided that the counterparty is a credit institution that is not part of the group and that benefits from the credit quality step 1 (as defined in Article 120 of the CRR).

The liquidity that is made available pursuant to the liquidity facility is taken into account for the calculation of the Liquidity Test, provided that:

- (a) the liquidity facility can be used only for payment on the Belgian covered bonds; and
- (b) the funds drawn under the liquidity facility cannot be used for any other activities.

The funds drawn under the liquidity facility will be part of the special estate by operation of law.

If an issuing credit institution fails to meet the requirements of the Liquidity Test, it will have 14 days to take the necessary redress measures to meet the relevant requirements. As long as an issuing credit institution has not taken the necessary redress measures, it is not allowed to issue new Belgian covered bonds (under a programme or on a stand-alone basis).

## 6.2.3.5 The Cover Register

As from their registration in the Cover Register, the assets, including the relevant hedging instruments, that are part of the relevant special estate, constitute the Cover Assets. Such registration and allocation to the Cover Assets is valid and enforceable against third parties.

The amounts that are paid by way of repayment, recovery or payment of interests on claims or assets included in the special estate, may be applied as Cover Assets that form part of their respective category and are registered in the Cover Register, until the point at which such amounts are used for other purposes.

Upon their removal from the Cover Register, the assets or the hedging instruments will no longer constitute Cover Assets. Such deregistration is valid and enforceable towards third parties.

The Cover Register must at least contain the following information:

- (a) the characteristics per series of issued Belgian covered bonds, including their nominal value, maturity date and interest rate(s); and
- (b) the characteristics of assets that constitute the Cover Assets, including the category, the type of contract, the nominal value, the currency, the issue date or origination date and the maturity date of the assets, the date of registration in the Cover Register, the identity of the counterparties, information regarding redemption, interest rates, guarantees and the value of the assets.

If any of the above characteristics of an asset changes, this must be reflected in the Cover Register as soon as possible.

The assets, hedging instruments and the outstanding debt instruments that are part of the special estate must be registered in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) the Cover Assets, which are registered in the Cover Register, must at all times be identifiable in the accounts and systems of the issuing credit institution;
- (b) each transaction regarding Cover Assets must be immediately registered in the Cover Register and at the latest on the same day by close of business;
- (c) each registration in and/or amendment to the Cover Register must be traceable;
- (d) the issuing credit institution must be able to copy the content of the Cover Register at all times; and
- (e) at the end of each month, the content of the Cover Register must be copied to a durable medium and kept for a period of 5 years after the maturity date of the Belgian covered bonds. The standard procedures of the issuing credit institution for back-up and archiving can be used to this end, provided that the relevant storage method is acceptable to the statutory auditor, the cover pool monitor and the Supervisory Authority.

Protective measures must be taken to prevent unauthorised persons from making modifications to the Cover Register, or to prevent damages to or destruction of the Cover Register. To this end, the issuing credit institution must keep an updated (back-up) copy of the Cover Register in another location.

### 6.2.3.6 Sanctions in case of breach

If the issuing credit institution is (and remains) unable to meet the requirements which apply to it as issuing credit institution of Belgian covered bonds, the Supervisory Authority can grant a grace period during which this situation must be resolved. If the situation is not resolved after expiry of this grace period, the Supervisory Authority can remove the credit institution from the list of Belgian covered bond issuers and revoke the issuing credit institution's authorisation to issue Belgian covered bonds. As mentioned above, for so long as the issuing credit institution is in breach of the Liquidity Test, it shall not be allowed to issue new Belgian covered bonds, regardless of the granting of any grace period by the Supervisory Authority.

In urgent circumstances, the Supervisory Authority can remove an issuing credit institution from the list of credit institutions that are authorised to issue Belgian covered bonds, without any grace period. The Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations provide that this will not affect the registration of outstanding Cover Assets.

The Supervisory Authority can also publish warnings to indicate that a credit institution has failed to comply with the Supervisory Authority's requests to meet the requirements of the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations within a specified grace period. In addition, as part of its general supervisory function under the Banking Law, the Supervisory Authority can – after hearing or inviting the issuing credit institution for a hearing – impose a fine of maximum EUR 2,500,000 per breach or EUR 50,000 per day of non-compliance.

The Supervisory Authority has the power to impose administrative penalties on issuing credit institutions. Such administrative penalties may range from EUR 2,500 to EUR 2,500,000.

#### 6.2.4 Cover pool monitor

For each issue programme or (as the case may be) stand-alone issuance, the issuing credit institution must appoint a cover pool monitor (*portefeuillesurveillant/surveillant de* 

*portefeuille*) approved by the Supervisory Authority. The cover pool monitor must be an auditor who is not the statutory auditor of the issuing credit institution. The cover pool monitor will issue periodic reports to the NBB on the issuing credit institution's compliance with the legal and regulatory framework applicable to Belgian covered bonds.

(a) Prior to the first issuance of Belgian covered bonds

Prior to the issuance of Belgian covered bonds, the cover pool monitor must verify whether the issuing credit institution meets the requirements listed in Section 6.2.3. It is the responsibility of the cover pool monitor to determine the procedures that must be observed to that effect. The Supervisory Authority can also request that the cover pool monitor performs other tasks and verifications.

(b) Following the issuance of Belgian covered bonds

Following the first issuance of Belgian covered bonds, the cover pool monitor must verify, at least once a year whether the issuing credit institution complies with the requirements set out in Section 6.2.3. If the issuing credit institution does not comply with such requirements, the cover pool monitor must immediately inform the Supervisory Authority and the issuing credit institution.

Furthermore, the cover pool monitor must verify at least once a month whether the Cover Tests, the Liquidity Test and the requirements in relation to the Cover Register are met. The cover pool monitor must immediately inform the Supervisory Authority if the issuing credit institution no longer satisfies such requirements.

#### 6.2.5 Cover pool administrator

#### 6.2.5.1 Appointment

The Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations provide that, in certain circumstances of distress (as described in more detail in the paragraph below), the Supervisory Authority may replace the management of the special estate by entrusting it to a cover pool administrator.

The Supervisory Authority may appoint a cover pool administrator (*portefeuillebeheerder/gestionnaire de portefeuille*) in the following circumstances:

- upon the adoption of a measure as mentioned in Article 236 of the Banking Law against the issuing credit institution if such measure may, in the opinion of the Supervisory Authority, have a negative impact (*negatieve impact/impact négatif*) on the noteholders;
- (b) upon the initiation of bankruptcy proceedings against the issuing credit institution;
- (c) upon the removal of the issuing credit institution from the list of Belgian covered bonds issuers; and
- (d) in circumstances where the situation of the issuing credit institution is such that it may seriously affect (*ernstig in gevaar kan brengen/mettre gravement en péril*) the interest of the noteholders.

To be appointed as cover pool administrator, the candidate will have to demonstrate that it has the necessary experience, professionalism and organisation to carry out its tasks. Credit institutions established in the European Economic Area which are licensed to issue covered bonds with respect to similar assets or manage portfolios of mortgage loans or other assets which qualify as cover assets, are deemed to satisfy such criteria.

Following its appointment, the cover pool administrator is legally entrusted with all powers that are necessary for the management of the special estate. Its remit is to ensure that the obligations towards the noteholders and the other creditors that are, or can be, identified on the basis of the issue conditions are complied with.

### 6.2.5.2 Cover Pool Administrator Royal Decree

The Cover Pool Administrator Royal Decree specifies the tasks of the cover pool administrator. These include, among other things, the payment of interest and principal on the covered bonds, collection of moneys from the Cover Assets (including any enforcement), entering into relevant hedging and liquidity transactions and carrying out of certain administrative tasks.

The cover pool administrator will also have to test compliance with the Cover Tests and inform the NBB and the noteholders' representative thereof. In case it sells any assets, it will have to ensure that this is done at the best possible market conditions. The consent of the Supervisory Authority and the noteholders' representative will be required for any transaction (including a sale of any cover assets) if as a result the Cover Tests, the Liquidity Test or contractual provisions would no longer be met or if there is a risk that these would no longer be met.

The Royal Decree further specifies that the cover pool administrator will be required to consult with the noteholders' representative in circumstances where, following an insolvency of the credit institution and with the consent of the Supervisory Authority, it deems it necessary to liquidate the Special Estate and redeem the covered bonds because it is of the view that the cover assets are no longer sufficient to cover the obligations under the covered bonds. Such consultation with the noteholders' representative will in particular be required if the Cover Tests and/or the Liquidity Test are no longer met.

### 6.3 Specific rules applicable to the Belgian covered bonds

### 6.3.1 Representation of the noteholders

The issue conditions can (and are generally expected to) provide that the noteholders will be represented by a representative. The representative may be appointed by the issuing credit institution. Thereafter, a representative may be appointed by the general meeting of noteholders in accordance with the issue conditions.

The representative may be dismissed by the noteholders at a general meeting, subject to appointing one or more (new) representatives by simple majority of votes, in replacement thereof.

The representative may represent and bind the noteholders within the boundaries of the powers that are assigned to it (as may be specified in the relevant issue conditions or the appointment decision). The noteholders must be consulted on any decision relating to the liquidation of the special estate upon initiation of bankruptcy proceedings against the issuing credit institution (see below).

The representative of the noteholders can also represent other creditors of the same special estate, provided that:

(a) the relevant creditor agrees with such representation; and

(b) the issue conditions of the relevant Belgian covered bonds contain appropriate rules to deal with potential conflicts of interest.

The representative must perform its duties in the sole interest of the noteholders and, as the case may be, the interest of the other creditors that it represents. Furthermore, it must give account of its performance as may be required by the terms of the issue conditions or the appointment decision.

### 6.3.2 Limitation of the amount of Belgian covered bonds

A credit institution cannot issue any further Belgian covered bonds if the amount of cover assets exceeds 8 per cent. of the issuing credit institution's total assets. The Supervisory Authority can specify which assets are to be taken into account for the purpose of calculating this 8 per cent. limit and how such assets should be valued.

The Supervisory Authority can request the issuing credit institution to further limit the amount of Belgian covered bonds to be issued if it deems this necessary in order to protect the rights of the general creditors of the issuing credit institution, other than the noteholders.

On the other hand, in case of exceptional circumstances on the financial markets which effect the issuing credit institution and which warrant an increased use of this source of financing, the Supervisory Authority can temporarily allow such credit institution to issue Belgian covered bonds beyond the 8 per cent. limit. In the report relating to the Covered Bonds Royal Decree, it is specified that such a temporary exemption would be warranted in circumstances where the credit institution would no longer have access to unsecured funding.

The Supervisory Authority recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has put pressure on cash and capital markets, negatively impacting the access conditions to unsecured funding sources while constraining issuing credit institutions to strengthen their liquidity buffers.

Following Article 10§1 of the Covered Bonds Royal Decree dated 11 October 2012, the Supervisory Authority can temporarily allow a credit institution to issue Belgian covered bonds beyond the 8 per cent. limit. The Supervisory Authority, recognizing the difficult context that credit institutions are facing following the COVID-19 crisis, has taken action to facilitate the issuance of Belgian covered bonds by temporarily increasing the issuance threshold limit for Belfius from 8 per cent. to 12.5 per cent. with effect from 19 May 2020, to end on 31 May 2021.

This temporary granting does not waive the rights of the Supervisory Authority to request the issuing credit institution to limit the amount of Belgian covered bonds to be issued if it deems this necessary in order to protect the rights of the general creditors of the issuing credit institution, other than the noteholders.

### 6.3.3 Subscription of own Belgian covered bonds

The issuing credit institution may subscribe to or invest in its own Belgian covered bonds. However, to the extent that these Belgian covered bonds are held by the issuing credit institution, such credit institution will not be able to exercise the rights set out in Articles 7:162 to 7:174 of the Belgian Companies Code (to the extent applicable) or similar rights set out in the articles of association of the issuing credit institution or in the issue conditions, unless otherwise provided in the issue conditions.

#### 6.3.4 Conditions to issuance of Belgian covered bonds

As set out in Section 6.1.4, an Issuer can only issue Belgian covered bonds after having obtained a general license from the Supervisory Authority authorising it to issue covered bonds

as well as a specific license in relation to the programme (or stand alone issue, as the case may be).

Subsequently, an Issuer may be restricted from issuing further Belgian covered bonds in certain circumstances. In particular, this could be the case if the Supervisory Authority removes the Issuer from the list of Belgian covered bond issuers and revokes its license (see Section 6.2.3.6) or if the Supervisory Authority imposes a certain limit on the aggregate amount of Belgian pandbrieven that can be issued and the Issuer would exceed such limit with a new issue (see Section 6.3.2). Moreover, if the Issuer fails to meet the Liquidity Test and is not able to remedy thereto within 14 days, it will be prevented from further issuing Belgian covered bonds as long the Liquidity Test is not met (see Section 6.2.3.4).

#### 6.4 Status and protection of the noteholders

#### 6.4.1 Dual recourse

The holders of Belgian covered bonds benefit from a dual recourse against (i) the general estate, on the one hand, and (ii) the relevant special estate of the issuing credit institution, on the other hand. The noteholders rank *pari passu* among themselves (together with any other creditor specified in the issue conditions) and have exclusive claims with respect to the assets that form the special estate. With respect to other assets (i.e., assets of the general estate) of the issuing credit institution, noteholders rank *pari passu* with unsecured and unsubordinated creditors of the issuing credit institution.

In a going concern, the expectation is that all payments falling due under the Belgian covered bonds will be satisfied out of the general estate. Following the opening of a liquidation procedure in respect of the Issuer, payments will be made by the special estate.

### 6.4.2 Opening of bankruptcy proceedings

#### 6.4.2.1 Protection of the special estate

If bankruptcy proceedings are opened against a credit institution that has issued Belgian covered bonds, such bankruptcy proceedings will be limited to the general estate of the credit institution. The special estate (including its debts, obligations and Cover Assets) will not fall within the bankrupt estate of the credit institution and will be treated separately. Moreover, the bankruptcy proceedings do not cause the obligations and debts of the special estate to become due and payable. The bankruptcy administrator has a legal obligation to cooperate with the Supervisory Authority and the cover pool administrator in order to enable them to manage the special estate in accordance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations.

In addition, upon a bankruptcy or liquidation of a credit institution, all sums and payments relating to the assets constituting the special estate that are collected by or for the behalf of the special estate are, by operation of law, automatically excluded from the bankruptcy estate and exclusively allocated to the special estate. Moreover, creditors of the credit institution's general estate cannot exercise any recourse against, nor attach any assets that fall within, the special estate.

A special mechanism has been created to protect cash held by the issuing credit institution on behalf of the special estate. Pursuant to this mechanism, the ownership rights of the special estate as regarding cash that cannot be identified in the general estate will be transferred to unencumbered assets of the general estate that will be selected by taking into account criteria specified in the issue conditions. These mechanics aim to reduce the commingling risk that would arise if the bank accounts of the special estate are held with the issuer of the covered bonds.

The aim is for the Belgian covered bonds to remain outstanding until their stated maturity, notwithstanding a bankruptcy of the issuing credit institution or a subsequent transfer of the special estate to another institution.

### 6.4.2.2 Liquidation of the special estate in specific circumstances

Notwithstanding the above, the cover pool administrator may, in the case of bankruptcy proceedings and subject to consultation with the noteholders' representative and approval of the Supervisory Authority, transfer the special estate (assets and liabilities) and its management to an institution which will be entrusted with performing obligations to the noteholders in accordance with the issue conditions.

In addition, the cover pool administrator may in certain circumstances proceed with the liquidation of the special estate and with the early repayment of the Belgian covered bonds. This is, however, only possible if, following the opening of bankruptcy proceedings against the issuing credit institution:

- (a) the cover pool administrator is of the opinion that the Cover Assets are not sufficient to satisfy the obligations under the Belgian covered bonds (subject to the approval by the Supervisory Authority and consultation of the noteholders' representative (which shall be required in case of breach of the Cover Tests or the Liquidity Test)); or
- (b) a decision is taken to this effect by majority vote at a noteholders' meeting at which at least two thirds of the outstanding principal amount of Belgian covered bonds is represented.

In case the special estate is liquidated, the positive balance (if any) will automatically fall within the general estate. This means that Cover Assets that are part of the special estate only return to the general estate once all Belgian covered bonds have been repaid in full. However, on the initiation of bankruptcy proceedings against the issuing credit institution, the bankruptcy administrator is entitled, after consultation with the Supervisory Authority, to require that assets which are with certainty no longer necessary as Cover Assets, be re-transferred to the general estate.

### 6.4.3 Transfer of the special estate

The Special Estate could be transferred to a third party, either as a result of (i) the application of the resolution tools (*afwikkelingsinstrumenten/instruments de résolution*) taken in accordance with Book II, Title VIII of the Banking Law, or (ii) following the commencement of bankruptcy proceedings or recovery measures, if the Cover Pool Administrator decides to transfer in accordance with Article 11, 5° of Annex III to the Banking Law. The Banking Law provides that, in the case of such a transfer, the rights of the noteholders against the special estate will be maintained and will follow the special estate.

# SECTION 7 USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds from the issuance of the Mortgage Pandbrieven (including N Bonds) by the Issuer will be used by the Issuer for its general corporate purposes. If, in respect of any particular issuance of Mortgage Pandbrieven, there is a particular identified use of proceeds, this will be stated in the applicable Final Terms.

## **SECTION 8**

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE MORTGAGE PANDBRIEVEN

Unless otherwise specified, the following are the terms and conditions (the "**Conditions**") which shall apply to the Mortgage Pandbrieven, as completed, supplemented, amended and/or varied in accordance with the provisions of Part A of the relevant final terms based on the form set out in the Base Prospectus (the "**Final Terms**"). The text of the terms and conditions will not be endorsed on physical documents of title but will be constituted by the following text as completed, amended or varied by the relevant Part A of the Final Terms.

The Issuer may also issue from time to time Mortgage Pandbrieven under the Belgian Mortgage Pandbrieven Programme (the "**Programme**") which shall be subject to terms and conditions and/or final terms not contemplated by the base prospectus adopted in relation to the Programme (the "**Base Prospectus**"). In such circumstances, the relevant terms or form of terms of such Mortgage Pandbrieven will be set out in a schedule to the Programme Agreement (as defined below).

All capitalised terms that are not defined in these Conditions will have the meanings given to them in the relevant Final Terms. Save where an intention to the contrary appears, references in the Conditions to "**Mortgage Pandbrieven**" are to the Mortgage Pandbrieven of one Series only, not to all Mortgage Pandbrieven that may be issued under the Programme.

The Mortgage Pandbrieven are issued by Belfius Bank SA/NV (the "Issuer" or "Belfius Bank") in series, each a "Series", having one or more issue dates and on terms otherwise identical (or identical save as to the issue date, first payment of interest, the issue price, and/or the Temporary ISIN Code and Temporary Common Code (if any and as defined in the applicable Final Terms)). Once consolidated, the Mortgage Pandbrieven of each Series are intended to be interchangeable with all other Mortgage Pandbrieven of the same Series. Each Series may comprise one or more Tranches issued on the same or different issue dates. A "Tranche" means Mortgage Pandbrieven which are identical in all respects (including as to listing). The specific terms of each Tranche (including, without limitation, the aggregate principal amount, issue price, redemption price thereof, and interest, if any, payable thereunder) will be determined by the Issuer and the relevant Dealer(s) at the date of issuance and will be set out in the Final Terms of such Tranche. In these Conditions, "Noteholder" or "holder of any Mortgage Pandbrief" means the person in whose name a Registered Mortgage Pandbrief is registered or, as the case may be, the person evidenced as holding the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrief by the book-entry system maintained in the records of the clearing system operated by the National Bank of Belgium (the "NBB-SSS") or any successor thereto (the "Securities Settlement System"), its participants or any recognised accountholder within the meaning of Article 7:35 of the Belgian Companies Code. Any reference to "amount(s)" should be construed as a reference to such amount in euro (if the amount is denominated in euro) or its euro equivalent (if the amount is not denominated in euro).

The Mortgage Pandbrieven are issued pursuant to the amended and restated programme agreement dated 8 November 2012 (as amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time, the "**Programme Agreement**") between the Issuer, Stichting Belfius Mortgage Pandbrieven, as Noteholders' Representative in its capacity as representative of the Noteholders and of any other creditors that are holders of claims covered by the Special Estate and that have agreed to be so represented (the "**Noteholders' Representative**") and any other party named therein. The powers and rights conferred on the Noteholders' Representative are laid down in these Conditions, the Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders and in the contractual arrangements between the Noteholders' Representative and the Issuer (the noteholders' representative agreement, initially dated 8 November 2012 and as amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time, the "**Noteholders' Representative Agreement**"). Furthermore, the Mortgage Pandbrieven will have the benefit of an amended and restated agency agreement dated 8 November 2012 (as amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time, the "**Noteholders' Representative Agreement**"). Furthermore, the Mortgage Pandbrieven will have the benefit of an amended and restated agency agreement dated 8 November 2012 (as amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time, the "**Agency Agreement**") between the Issuer, Belfius Bank (among

others) in its capacity as fiscal agent for Mortgage Pandbrieven (the "Fiscal Agent") and the other agents named therein.

The principal paying agent, the paying agents, the fiscal agent, the registrar and the calculation agent(s) for the time being (if any) are referred to below, respectively, as the "**Principal Paying Agent**", the "**Paying Agents**" (which expression shall, unless the context requires otherwise, include the Principal Paying Agent), the "**Fiscal Agent**", the "**Registrar**" and the "**Calculation Agent(s)**". The Noteholders are deemed to have notice of and have accepted to be bound by all of the provisions of the Programme Agreement, the Noteholders' Representative Agreement and the Agency Agreement applicable to them.

Any reference herein to any agreement, document, law, decree or regulation shall be construed as a reference to such agreement, document, law, decree or regulation as the same may be supplemented, varied, recast, amended and/or restated from time to time.

The Programme Agreement, the Noteholders' Representative Agreement, the Agency Agreement, the Distribution Agreement and the Articles of Association of the Issuer are available, during normal business hours on any Business Day, for inspection free of charge at the specified offices of the Issuer and each of the Paying Agents for the period of 12 months following the date of this Base Prospectus.

## 1 Type, Form, Denomination, Title and Transfer

### (a) *Type of Belgian pandbrieven*

The Mortgage Pandbrieven are issued as Belgian pandbrieven (*Belgische pandbrieven/lettres de gage belges*) in accordance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations and are covered by the same special estate (*bijzonder vermogen/patrimoine spécial*) (the "**Special Estate**"). The main asset class of the Special Estate will consist of Belfius Bank's residential mortgage loans within the meaning of the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations (the "**Residential Mortgage Loans**", and together with any other assets registered as cover assets (*dekkingswaarden/actifs de couverture*), the "**Cover Assets**"). The Issuer shall procure that the value of the Residential Mortgage Loans which are part of the Special Estate calculated in accordance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations (and including any collections in respect thereof) represents at all times at least 105 per cent. of the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven of all Series. The Supervisory Authority has admitted the Programme to the list of authorised programmes for the issuance of covered bonds under the category Belgian pandbrieven (*Belgische pandbrieven/lettres de gage belges*) on 6 November 2012. Upon so being notified by the Issuer, the Supervisory Authority shall regularly update such list with the Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme and shall indicate that the Mortgage Pandbrieven constitute Belgian pandbrieven under the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations.

### (b) Form and Denomination

The Mortgage Pandbrieven can be issued in dematerialised form ("Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven") or in registered form ("Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven").

Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven are issued in dematerialised form via a book-entry system maintained in the records of the Securities Settlement System in accordance with Article 7:35 et seq. of the Belgian Companies Code and will be credited to the accounts held with the Securities Settlement System by Euroclear Bank SA/NV ("Euroclear"), Clearstream Banking Frankfurt ("Clearstream Germany"), SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France), INTERBOLSA (Portugal), or other Securities Settlement System participants or their participants. The Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven are accepted for clearance through the Securities Settlement System, and are accordingly subject to the applicable clearing regulations, including the Belgian law of 6 August 1993 on transactions in certain securities (*Wet betreffende de transacties met bepaalde* 

effecten/Loi relative aux opérations sur certaines valeurs mobilières), its implementing royal decrees of 26 May 1994 and 14 June 1994 and the rules of the Securities Settlement System and its annexes, as issued or modified by the NBB-SSS from time to time (the laws, decrees and rules mentioned in this Condition being referred to herein as the "Securities Settlement System Regulations"). If at any time, the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven are transferred to another clearing system, not operated or not exclusively operated by the NBB-SSS, these Conditions shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to such successor clearing system operator or any additional clearing system and additional clearing system operator (any such clearing system, an "Alternative Clearing System").

Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven will be registered in a register maintained by the Issuer or by a registrar on behalf of the Issuer (the "**Registrar**") in accordance with Article 7:23 et seq. of the Belgian Companies Code. Holders of Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven can obtain a certificate demonstrating the registration of the Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven in the register.

All Mortgage Pandbrieven of the same Series shall have the denomination shown in the applicable Final Terms as Specified Denomination. In the case of any Mortgage Pandbrieven which are to be admitted to trading on a regulated market within the EEA or the UK or offered to the public in a Relevant State of the EEA or the UK in circumstances which require the publication of a prospectus under the Prospectus Regulation, the Specified Denomination shall be EUR 100,000 (or the equivalent of at least EUR100,000 in any other currency as at the date of issuance of the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven).

(c) Title and Transfer

Title to and transfer of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven will be evidenced only by records maintained by the Securities Settlement System, Euroclear, Clearstream Germany, SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France), INTERBOLSA (Portugal), or other Securities Settlement System participants and in accordance with the applicable procedures of the Securities Settlement System, Euroclear, Clearstream Germany, SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France), INTERBOLSA (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France), INTERBOLSA (Portugal), and other Securities Settlement System participants.

Title to and transfer of Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven shall pass by registration of the transfer by the Issuer or by the Registrar in a register in accordance with Article 7:23 et seq. of the Belgian Companies Code. In case of a sale or transfer of the Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven, the transferor and transferee thereof will be obliged to complete the relevant transfer documents and certificates which can be found on www.belfius.be or can be obtained from the Registrar.

Except as ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction or as required by law, the holder of any Mortgage Pandbrief shall be deemed to be and may be treated as its absolute owner for all purposes, whether or not it is overdue and regardless of any notice of ownership, trust or an interest in it, any writing on it or its theft or loss and no person shall be liable for so treating the holder.

## (d) Transfer Free of Charge

Transfer of Mortgage Pandbrieven on registration, transfer, partial redemption or exercise of an option shall be effected without charge by or on behalf of the Issuer and/or the Registrar, but upon payment of any tax or other governmental charges that may be imposed in relation to it (or the giving of such indemnity as the Registrar may require).

(e) Closed Periods

No Noteholder may require the transfer of a Registered Mortgage Pandbrief to be registered (i) during the period of 15 calendar days ending on (but excluding) the due date for redemption of that Mortgage

Pandbrief, (ii) during the period of 15 calendar days before (but excluding) any date on which Mortgage Pandbrieven may be called for redemption by the Issuer at its option pursuant to Condition 3(f) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Redemption at the option of the Issuer and exercise of Issuer's option*), (iii) after any such Mortgage Pandbrief has been called for redemption or (iv) during the period of 15 calendar days ending on (and including) any Record Date.

## 2 Interest and Other Calculations

(a) Rate of Interest on Fixed Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven

Each Fixed Rate Mortgage Pandbrief bears interest on its outstanding principal amount from and including the Interest Commencement Date at the rate per annum (expressed as a percentage) equal (subject as provided in Condition 2(g)) (Interest and Other Calculations – Margin, Maximum Rate of Interest, Minimum Rate of Interest, Final Redemption Amounts, Early Redemption Amounts and Optional Redemption Amounts and Rounding)) to the Rate of Interest, such interest being payable in arrear on each Interest Payment Date. The amount of interest payable shall be determined in accordance with Condition 2(h) (Interest and Other Calculations – Calculations).

- (b) Rate of Interest on Floating Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven
  - (A) Each Floating Rate Mortgage Pandbrief bears interest on its outstanding principal amount from the Interest Commencement Date at the rate per annum (expressed as a percentage) equal (subject as provided in Condition 2(g)) (Interest and Other Calculations – Margin, Maximum Rate of Interest, Minimum Rate of Interest, Final Redemption Amounts, Early Redemption Amounts and Optional Redemption Amounts and Rounding)) to the Rate of Interest, such interest being payable in arrear on each Interest Payment Date. The amount of interest payable shall be determined in accordance with Condition 2(h) (Interest and Other Calculations – Calculations). The "Interest Payment Date" means the date shown in the applicable Final Terms as a Specified Interest Payment Date, or, if no Specified Interest Payment Date is shown in the applicable Final Terms, Interest Payment Date shall mean each date which falls the number of months or other period shown therein as the Interest Period after the preceding Interest Payment Date or, in the case of the first Interest Payment Date, after the Interest Commencement Date.
  - (B) Where ISDA Determination is specified in the applicable Final Terms as the manner in which the Rate of Interest is to be determined, the Rate of Interest for each Interest Accrual Period shall be determined by the Calculation Agent as a rate equal to the relevant ISDA Rate. For the purposes of this sub-paragraph (B), "ISDA Rate" for an Interest Accrual Period means a rate equal to the Floating Rate that would be determined by the Calculation Agent under a Swap Transaction under the terms of an agreement incorporating the ISDA Definitions and under which:
    - (a) the Floating Rate Option is as specified in the applicable Final Terms;
    - (b) the Designated Maturity is a period specified in the applicable Final Terms; and
    - (c) the relevant Reset Date is the first day of that Interest Accrual Period, unless otherwise specified in the applicable Final Terms.

For the purposes of this sub-paragraph (B), "Floating Rate", "Calculation Agent", "Floating Rate Option", "Designated Maturity", "Reset Date" and "Swap Transaction" have the meanings given to those terms in the ISDA Definitions.

- (C) Where Screen Rate Determination is specified in the applicable Final Terms as the manner in which the Rate of Interest is to be determined, the Rate of Interest for each Interest Accrual Period will, subject as provided below, be either:
  - (1) the offered quotation; or
  - (2) the arithmetic mean of the offered quotations,

(expressed as a percentage rate per annum) for the Reference Rate which appears or appear, as the case may be, on the Relevant Screen Page as at 11.00 a.m. (Brussels time in the case of EURIBOR) on the Interest Determination Date in question as determined by the Calculation Agent. If five or more of such offered quotations are available on the Relevant Screen Page, the highest (or, if there is more than one such highest quotation, one only of such quotations) and the lowest (or, if there is more than one such lowest quotation, one only of such quotations) shall be disregarded by the Calculation Agent for the purpose of determining the arithmetic mean of such offered quotations. The amount of interest payable shall be determined in accordance with Condition 2(h) (*Interest and Other Calculations*).

If the Reference Rate from time to time in respect of Floating Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven is specified in the applicable Final Terms as being other than EURIBOR, the Rate of Interest in respect of such Mortgage Pandbrieven will be determined as provided in the applicable Final Terms.

For the purposes of the foregoing:

- (a) if the Relevant Screen Page is not available or if, sub-paragraph (C)(1) above applies and no such offered quotation appears on the Relevant Screen Page or if sub-paragraph (C)(2) above applies and fewer than three such offered quotations appear on the Relevant Screen Page in each case as at the time specified above, subject as provided below, the Calculation Agent shall request, if the Reference Rate is EURIBOR, the principal Eurozone office of each of the Reference Banks, to provide the Calculation Agent with its offered quotation (expressed as a percentage rate per annum) for the Reference Rate, if the Reference Rate is EURIBOR, at approximately 11.00 a.m. (Brussels time) on the Interest Determination Date in question. If two or more of the Reference Banks provide the Calculation Agent with such offered quotations, the Rate of Interest for such Interest Accrual Period shall be the arithmetic mean of such offered quotations as determined by the Calculation Agent; and
- (b) if paragraph (a) above applies and the Calculation Agent determines that fewer than two Reference Banks are providing offered quotations, subject as provided below, the Rate of Interest shall be the arithmetic mean of the rates per annum (expressed as a percentage) as communicated to (and at the request of) the Calculation Agent by the Reference Banks or any two or more of them, at which such banks were offered, if the Reference Rate is EURIBOR, at approximately 11.00 a.m. (Brussels time) on the relevant Interest Determination Date, deposits in the Specified Currency for a period equal to that which would have been used for the Reference Rate by leading banks in, if the Reference Rate is EURIBOR, the Eurozone inter-bank market, or, if fewer than two of the Reference Banks provide the Calculation Agent with such offered rates, the offered rate for deposits in the Specified Currency for a period equal to that which would have been used for the Reference Rate, or the arithmetic mean of the offered rates for

deposits in the Specified Currency for a period equal to that which would have been used for the Reference Rate, at which, if the Reference Rate is EURIBOR, at approximately 11.00 a.m. (Brussels time), on the relevant Interest Determination Date, any one or more banks (which bank or banks is or are, in the opinion of the Issuer, suitable for such purpose) informs the Calculation Agent it is quoting to leading banks in, if the Reference Rate is EURIBOR, the Eurozone inter-bank market, provided that, if the Rate of Interest cannot be determined in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, the Rate of Interest shall be determined as at the last preceding Interest Determination Date (though substituting, where a different Margin or Maximum Rate of Interest or Minimum Rate of Interest is to be applied to the relevant Interest Accrual Period from that which applied to the last preceding Interest Period, the Margin or Maximum Rate of Interest or Minimum Rate of Interest relating to the relevant Interest Accrual Period, instead of the Margin or Maximum Rate of Interest or Minimum Rate of Interest relating to that last preceding Interest Accrual Period).

#### (c) Linear Interpolation

Where Linear Interpolation is specified in the Final Terms as applicable in respect of an Interest Accrual Period, the Rate of Interest for such Interest Accrual Period shall be calculated by the Calculation Agent by straight line linear interpolation by reference to two rates based on the relevant Reference Rate (where Screen Rate Determination is specified hereon as applicable) or the relevant Floating Rate Option (where ISDA Determination is specified hereon as applicable), one of which shall be determined as if the Applicable Maturity were the period of time for which rates are available next shorter than the length of the relevant Interest Accrual Period and the other of which shall be determined as if the Applicable Maturity were the period of time for which rates are available next longer than the length of the relevant Interest Accrual Period provided however that if there is no rate available for the period of time next shorter or, as the case may be, next longer, then the Calculation Agent shall determines such rate at such time and by reference to such sources as it determines appropriate.

"Applicable Maturity" means: (a) in relation to Screen Rate Determination, the period of time designated in the Reference Rate and (b) in relation to ISDA Determination, the Designated Maturity.

#### (d) Rate of Interest on Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven

Where a Mortgage Pandbrief, the Rate of Interest of which is specified to be Zero Coupon, is repayable prior to the Maturity Date and is not paid when due, the amount due and payable prior to the Maturity Date shall be, unless otherwise provided in the applicable Final Terms, the Early Redemption Amount (as defined in Condition 3(b)) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Early Redemption*) of such Mortgage Pandbrief. As from the Maturity Date, the Rate of Interest for any overdue principal of such a Mortgage Pandbrief shall be a rate per annum (expressed as a percentage) equal to the Amortisation Yield (as defined in Condition 3(b) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Early Redemption*).

#### (e) Accrual of interest and late payment interest

Subject as provided in Condition 2(j) (Interest and Other Calculations – Interest Rate and Payments from the Maturity Date in the event of extension of maturity of the Mortgage Pandbrieven up to the Extended Maturity Date), interest shall cease to accrue on each Mortgage Pandbrief on the due date for redemption unless (i) payment of principal is improperly withheld or refused, in which event interest shall continue to accrue at the Rate of Interest in the manner provided in this Condition to the Relevant Date (as defined in Condition 5 (Tax Gross-up)) or (ii) a Mortgage Pandbrief is partially redeemed, in

which event interest shall only cease to accrue in respect of the redeemed part of such Mortgage Pandbrief.

#### (f) Business Day Convention

If any date referred to in these Conditions that is specified to be subject to adjustment in accordance with a Business Day Convention would otherwise fall on a day that is not a Business Day, then, if the Business Day Convention specified is (i) the Following Business Day Convention, such date shall be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day, or (ii) the Modified Following Business Day Convention, such date shall be postponed to the next day that is a Business Day unless it would thereby fall into the next calendar month, in which event such date shall be brought forward to the immediately preceding Business Day, or (iii) the Preceding Business Day Convention, such date shall be brought forward to the immediately preceding Business Day. In the event of Mortgage Pandbrieven cleared through the Securities Settlement System, the Following Business Day Convention will always be applicable.

## (g) Margin, Maximum Rate of Interest, Minimum Rate of Interest, Final Redemption Amounts, Early Redemption Amounts and Optional Redemption Amounts and Rounding

- (i) If any Margin is specified in the applicable Final Terms (either (x) generally, or (y) in relation to one or more Interest Accrual Periods), an adjustment shall be made to all Rates of Interest (in the case of (x)), or the Rate of Interest for the specified Interest Accrual Periods (in the case of (y)), by adding (if a positive number) or subtracting the absolute value (if a negative number) of such Margin, subject always to the next paragraph.
- (ii) If any Maximum Rate of Interest or Minimum Rate of Interest, Final Redemption Amount, Early Redemption Amount or Optional Redemption Amount is specified in the applicable Final Terms, then any Rate of Interest, Final Redemption Amount, Early Redemption Amount or Optional Redemption Amount shall be subject to such maximum or minimum, as the case may be.
- (iii) For the purposes of any calculations required pursuant to these Conditions (unless otherwise specified), (x) all percentages resulting from such calculations shall be rounded, if necessary, to the nearest one hundred-thousandth of a percentage point (with halves being rounded up), (y) all figures shall be rounded to seven significant figures (with halves being rounded up) and (z) all currency amounts that fall due and payable shall be rounded to the nearest unit of such currency (with halves being rounded up), save in the case of Japanese yen, which shall be rounded down to the nearest Japanese yen. For these purposes "unit" means the lowest amount of such currency that is available as legal tender in the country of such currency.

## (h) Calculations

The amount of interest payable per Calculation Amount (as determined in the applicable Final Terms) in respect of any Mortgage Pandbrief for any Interest Accrual Period shall be equal to the product of the Rate of Interest, the Calculation Amount specified in the applicable Final Terms, and the Day Count Fraction for such Interest Accrual Period, unless a Fixed Coupon Amount (or a formula for its calculation) is applicable to such Interest Accrual Period, in which case the amount of interest payable per Calculation Amount in respect of such Mortgage Pandbrief for such Interest Accrual Period shall equal such Fixed Coupon Amount (or be calculated in accordance with such formula). Where any Interest Period comprises two or more Interest Accrual Periods, the amount of interest payable per Calculation Amount in respect of such Interest Period shall be the sum of the Fixed Coupon Amounts payable in respect of each of those Interest Accrual Periods. In respect of any other period for which

interest is required to be calculated, the provisions above shall apply save that the Day Count Fraction shall be for the period for which interest is required to be calculated.

(i) Determination and Publication of Rates of Interest, Interest Amounts, Final Redemption Amounts, Early Redemption Amounts and Optional Redemption Amounts

The Calculation Agent shall, as soon as practicable on each date as the Calculation Agent may be required to calculate any rate or amount, obtain any quote or make any determination or calculation, determine such rate and calculate the Interest Amounts for the relevant Interest Accrual Period, calculate the Final Redemption Amount, Early Redemption Amount or Optional Redemption Amount, obtain such quote or make such determination or calculation, as the case may be, and cause the Rate of Interest and the Interest Amounts for each Interest Accrual Period and the relevant Interest Payment Date and, if required to be calculated, the Final Redemption Amount, Early Redemption Amount or Optional Redemption Amount to be notified to the Principal Paying Agent, the Issuer, each of the Paying Agents, the Noteholders, the Noteholders' Representative, any other Calculation Agent appointed in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven that is to make a further calculation upon receipt of such information and, if the Mortgage Pandbrieven are listed on a stock exchange and the rules of such exchange so require, such stock exchange as soon as possible after their determination but in no event later than (i) the commencement of the relevant Interest Period, if determined prior to such time, in the case of notification to such stock exchange of a Rate of Interest and Interest Amount, or (ii) in all other cases, the fourth Business Day after such determination. Where any Interest Payment Date or Interest Period Date is subject to adjustment pursuant to Condition 2(f) (Business Day Convention), the Interest Amounts and the Interest Payment Date so published may subsequently be amended (or appropriate alternative arrangements made by way of adjustment) without notice in the event of an extension or shortening of the Interest Period. The determination of each Rate of Interest, Interest Amount, Final Redemption Amount, Early Redemption Amount and Optional Redemption Amount, the obtaining of each quote and the making of each determination or calculation by the Calculation Agent(s) shall (in the absence of manifest error) be final and binding upon all parties.

- (j) Interest Rate and Payments from the Maturity Date in the event of extension of maturity of the Mortgage Pandbrieven up to the Extended Maturity Date
  - (i) If the maturity of the Mortgage Pandbrieven is extended beyond the Maturity Date in accordance with Condition 3(j) (Redemption, Purchase and Options - Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date), the Mortgage Pandbrieven shall bear interest from (and including) the Maturity Date to (but excluding) the earlier of (i) the relevant Interest Payment Date after the Maturity Date on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are redeemed in full, (ii) the Extended Maturity Date, or (iii) the date on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are redeemed in full in accordance with Condition 3(j)(i)E (Redemption, Purchase and Options - Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date), subject to Condition 2(e) (Interest and Other Calculations -Accrual of interest and late payment interest). In that event, interest shall be payable on those Mortgage Pandbrieven at the rate determined in accordance with Condition 2(j)(ii) on the outstanding principal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven in arrears on the relevant interest payment date (i.e., on the Extension Payment Date on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are redeemed in full, the Extended Maturity Date or the date on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are redeemed in full in accordance with Condition 3(j)(i)E (Redemption, Purchase and Options - Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date), as applicable). The final Interest Payment Date shall fall no later than the Extended Maturity Date.
  - (ii) If the maturity of the Mortgage Pandbrieven is extended beyond the Maturity Date in accordance with Condition 3(j) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date*), the rate of interest payable from time to time in respect of the

outstanding principal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven on each Interest Payment Date after the Maturity Date in respect of the Interest Period ending immediately prior to the relevant Interest Payment Date will be as specified in the applicable Final Terms and, where applicable, determined by the Principal Paying Agent or, where the applicable Final Terms specifies a Calculation Agent, the Calculation Agent so specified, two Business Days after the Maturity Date in respect of the first such Interest Period and thereafter as specified in the applicable Final Terms.

- (iii) In the case of Mortgage Pandbrieven which are Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven up to (and including) the Maturity Date, for the purposes of this Condition 2(j) the outstanding principal amount shall be the total amount otherwise payable by the Issuer on the Maturity Date less any payments made by the Issuer in respect of such amount in accordance with these Conditions.
- (iv) This Condition 2(j) shall only apply to Mortgage Pandbrieven if the Issuer has insufficient funds available to redeem those Mortgage Pandbrieven in full within five Business Days after the Maturity Date or if, on such Maturity Date, there is another Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven outstanding which was previously extended and which the Issuer fails to fully redeem on or prior to the Maturity Date, and the maturity of those Mortgage Pandbrieven is automatically extended up to the Extended Maturity Date in accordance with Condition 3(j) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date*).

## (k) Calculation Agent

The Issuer shall procure that there shall at all times be one or more Calculation Agents if provision is made for them in the applicable Final Terms and for so long as any Mortgage Pandbrief is outstanding (as defined in the Agency Agreement). Where more than one Calculation Agent is appointed in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven, references in these Conditions to the Calculation Agent shall be construed as each Calculation Agent performing its respective duties under the Conditions. The Calculation Agent may not resign its duties without a successor having been appointed as aforesaid. Nevertheless if the Calculation Agent is unable or unwilling to act as such or if the Calculate any Interest fails duly to establish the Rate of Interest for an Interest Accrual Period or to calculate any Interest Amount, Final Redemption Amount, Early Redemption Amount or Optional Redemption Amount, as the case may be, or to comply with any other requirement, the Issuer may calculate this amount in such manner as it shall deem fair and reasonable in all circumstances but taking into account the provisions of the applicable Final Terms. In making such determination or calculation, the Issuer may rely on a leading bank or financial institution to act as such in its place. The Issuer will give notice of such calculations in accordance with this Condition 2 (*Interest and Other Calculations*).

#### (1) Benchmark replacement

In addition, notwithstanding the other provisions in this Condition 2, if the Issuer determines that a Benchmark Event occurs in relation to the relevant Reference Rate specified in the applicable Final Terms when any Rate of Interest (or the relevant component part thereof) remains to be determined by reference to such Reference Rate, then the following provisions shall apply to the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven:

(i) the Issuer shall use reasonable endeavours, as soon as reasonably practicable, to appoint and consult with an Independent Adviser with a view to the Issuer determining (without any requirement for the consent or approval of the Noteholders) (A) a Successor Rate (as defined below) or, failing which, an Alternative Reference Rate (as defined below), for purposes of

determining the Rate of Interest (or the relevant component part thereof) applicable to the Mortgage Pandbrieven and (B) in either case, an Adjustment Spread (as defined below);

- (ii) if the Issuer is unable to appoint an Independent Adviser prior to the IA Determination Cut-Off Date (as defined below), the Issuer (acting in good faith and in a commercially reasonable manner) may still determine (A) a Successor Rate or, failing which, an Alternative Reference Rate and (B) in either case, an Adjustment Spread in accordance with this Condition 2(l);
- (iii) if a Successor Rate or, failing which, an Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable) is determined in accordance with paragraphs (i) or (ii) above, such Successor Rate or, failing which, Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable) shall be the Reference Rate for each of the future Interest Periods (subject to the subsequent operation of, and to adjustment as provided in, this Condition 2(1));
- if the Issuer, following consultation with the Independent Adviser (if any) and acting in good (iv) faith, determines a Successor Rate or, failing which, an Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable) in accordance with the above provisions, the Issuer may (without any requirement for the consent or approval of the Noteholders) also specify changes to these Terms and Conditions, including but not limited to (A) the Day Count Fraction, Relevant Screen Page, Business Day Convention, Business Days, Interest Determination Date, and/or the definition of Reference Rate applicable to the Mortgage Pandbrieven and (B) the method for determining the fall-back rate in relation to the Mortgage Pandbrieven, in any such case in order to ensure the proper operation of such Successor Rate or Alternative Reference Rate or any Adjustment Spread (as applicable). If the Issuer, following consultation with the Independent Adviser (if any) and acting in good faith, determines that an Adjustment Spread is required to be applied to the Successor Rate or the Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable) and determines the quantum of, or a formula or methodology for determining, such Adjustment Spread, then such Adjustment Spread shall be applied to the Successor Rate or the Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable). If the Issuer is unable to determine the quantum of, or a formula or methodology for determining, such Adjustment Spread, then the Successor Rate or Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable) will apply without an Adjustment Spread. For the avoidance of doubt, the Fiscal Agent and any other agents party to the Agency Agreement shall, at the direction and expense of the Issuer, effect such consequential amendments to the Agency Agreement and these Terms and Conditions as may be required in order to give effect to the application of this Condition 2(1). No consent shall be required from the Noteholders in connection with determining or giving effect to the Successor Rate or Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable) or such other changes, including for the execution of any documents or other steps to be taken by the Fiscal Agent and any other agents party to the Agency Agreement (if required or useful); and
- (v) the Issuer shall promptly, following the determination of any Successor Rate, Alternative Reference Rate or Adjustment Spread (as applicable), give notice thereof to the Calculation Agent, the Fiscal Agent and, in accordance with Condition 10, the Noteholders. Such notice shall specify the effective date(s) for such Successor Rate or Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable), the Adjustment Spread (if any) and any consequential changes made to the Agency Agreement and these Terms and Conditions (if any),

provided that the determination of any Successor Rate, Alternative Reference Rate or Adjustment Spread (as applicable) and any other related changes to the Mortgage Pandbrieven, shall be made in accordance with the relevant Applicable Banking Regulations (if applicable).

An Independent Adviser appointed pursuant to this Condition 2(l) shall act in good faith as an expert and (in the absence of bad faith or fraud) shall have no liability whatsoever to the Calculation Agent, the Fiscal Agent or the Noteholders for any advice given to the Issuer in connection with any determination made by the Issuer pursuant to this Condition 2(l).

Without prejudice to the obligations of the Issuer under this Condition 2(l), the Reference Rate and the other provisions in this Condition 2 will continue to apply unless and until the Calculation Agent has been notified of the Successor Rate or Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable), the Adjustment Spread (if any) and any consequential changes made to the Agency Agreement and these Terms and Conditions (if any).

(m) Definitions

In these Conditions, unless the context otherwise requires, the following defined terms shall have the meanings set out below:

"Adjustment Spread" means a spread (which may be positive or negative) or formula or methodology for calculating a spread, which the Issuer, following consultation with the Independent Adviser (if any) and acting in good faith, determines is required to be applied to the Successor Rate or the Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable) in order to reduce or eliminate, to the extent reasonably practicable in the relevant circumstances, any economic prejudice or benefit (as applicable) to the Noteholders as a result of the replacement of the Reference Rate with the Successor Rate or the Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable) and is the spread, formula or methodology which:

- (i) in the case of a Successor Rate, is formally recommended in relation to the replacement of the Reference Rate with the Successor Rate by any Relevant Nominating Body; or
- (ii) in the case of a Successor Rate for which no such recommendation has been made or in the case of an Alternative Reference Rate, the Issuer, following consultation with the Independent Adviser (if any) and acting in good faith, determines is recognised or acknowledged as being in customary market usage in international debt capital markets transactions which reference the Reference Rate, where such rate has been replaced by the Successor Rate or the Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable); or
- (iii) if no such customary market usage is recognised or acknowledged, the Issuer, following consultation with the Independent Adviser (if any) and acting in good faith, determines is recognised or acknowledged as being the industry standard for over-the-counter derivative transactions which reference the Reference Rate, where such rate has been replaced by the Successor Rate or the Alternative Reference Rate (as applicable); or
- (iv) if no such industry standard is recognised or acknowledged, the Issuer, in its discretion, following consultation with the Independent Adviser (if any) and acting in good faith, determines to be appropriate.

"Alternative Reference Rate" means the rate that the Issuer determines has replaced the relevant Reference Rate in customary market usage in the international debt capital markets for the purposes of determining rates of interest (or the relevant component part thereof) in respect of bonds denominated in the Specified Currency and of a comparable duration to the relevant Interest Period, or, if the Issuer determines that there is no such rate, such other rate as the Issuer determines in its discretion is most comparable to the relevant Reference Rate.

"Applicable Banking Regulation" means at any time, the laws, regulations, rules, guidelines and policies of the Lead Regulator, or of the European Parliament and Council then in effect in Belgium,

relating to capital adequacy and applicable to the Issuer at such time (for the avoidance of doubt, including as at the Issue Date the rules contained in, or implementing, CRD V).

"Banking Law" means the Law of 25 April 2014 on the status and supervision of credit institutions and stockbroking firms (*Wet van 25 april 2014 op het statuut van en het toezicht op de kredietinstellingen en beursvennootschappen/Loi du 25 avril 2014 relative au statut et au contrôle des établissements de crédit et des sociétés de bourse*), as amended from time to time.

"Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations" means the Banking Law and its executing royal decrees and regulations, as amended from time to time.

"Benchmark Event" means:

- (i) the relevant Reference Rate ceasing to be published for a period of at least five Business Days or ceasing to exist; or
- (ii) a public statement by the administrator of the relevant Reference Rate stating that it will, by a specified date within the following six months, cease to publish the relevant Reference, permanently or indefinitely (in circumstances where no successor administrator has been appointed that will continue publication of the relevant Reference Rate); or
- (iii) a public statement by the supervisor of the administrator of the relevant Reference Rate stating that the relevant Reference Rate has been or will be, by a specified date within the following six months, permanently or indefinitely discontinued; or
- (iv) a public statement by the supervisor or the administrator of the relevant Reference Rate that means that the relevant Reference Rate will be prohibited from being used within the following six months; or
- (v) it has become unlawful for the Calculation Agent, the Fiscal Agent or any other agents party to the Agency Agreement to calculate any payments due to be made to any Noteholders using the relevant Reference Rate.

"Business Day" means:

- (i) in the case of a currency other than euro, a day (other than a Saturday or Sunday) on which banks are open for general business in Belgium and on which commercial banks settle payments in the principal financial centre for such currency; and
- (ii) in the case of euro, a day (a) other than a Saturday or Sunday on which the NBB-SSS is operating and (b) on which banks are open for general business in Belgium and (c) (if a payment in euro is to be made on that day), which is a business day for the TARGET2 System (a "TARGET Business Day"); and
- (iii) in the case of a currency other than euro and one or more business centres (the "Business Centre(s)"), as specified in the applicable Final Terms, a day (other than a Saturday or a Sunday) on which banks are open for general business in Belgium and on which commercial banks settle payments in such currency in each of the Business Centres.

"Cover Pool Administrator" means a cover pool administrator (*portefeuillebeheerder/gestionnaire de portefeuille*) appointed to manage the Special Estate in any of the circumstances as described in Article 8 of Annex III to the Banking Law.

"Cover Pool Monitor" means a cover pool monitor (*portefeuilesurveillant/surveillant de portefeuille*) appointed in accordance with Article 16, §1 of Annex III to the Banking Law.

"Day Count Fraction" means, in respect of the calculation of an amount of interest on any Mortgage Pandbrief for any period of time (from and including the first day of such period to but excluding the last) (whether or not constituting an Interest Period or an Interest Accrual Period, the "Calculation Period"):

- (i) if "Actual/Actual or Actual/Actual-ISDA" is specified in the applicable Final Terms, the actual number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 365 (or, if any portion of that Calculation Period falls in a leap year, the sum of (A) the actual number of days in that portion of the Calculation Period falling in a leap year divided by 366 and (B) the actual number of days in that portion of the Calculation Period falling in a non-leap year divided by 365);
- (ii) if "Actual/365 (Fixed)" is specified in the applicable Final Terms, the actual number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 365;
- (iii) if "Actual/360" is specified in the applicable Final Terms, the actual number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 360;
- (iv) if "30/360", "360/360" or "Bond Basis" is specified in the applicable Final Terms, the number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 360 calculated on a formula basis as follows:

Day Count Fraction = 
$$\frac{(360 \times (Y_2 - Y_1)) + (30 \times (M_2 - M_1)) + (D_2 - D_1)}{360}$$

where:

"Y<sub>1</sub>" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

" $Y_2$ " is the year, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

" $M_1$ " is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"M<sub>2</sub>" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

" $D_1$ " is the first calendar day, expressed as a number, of the Calculation Period, unless such number would be 31, in which case  $D_1$  will be 30; and

" $D_2$ " is the calendar day, expressed as a number, immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period, unless such number would be 31 and  $D_1$ , is greater than 29, in which case  $D_2$  will be 30;

(v) if "30E/360" or "Eurobond Basis" is specified in the applicable Final Terms, the number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 360 calculated on a formula basis as follows:

Day Count Fraction =  $\frac{(360 \times (Y_2 - Y_1)) + (30 \times (M_2 - M_1)) + (D_2 - D_1)}{360}$ 

where:

"Y<sub>1</sub>" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"Y<sub>2</sub>" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

" $M_1$ " is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"M<sub>2</sub>" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

" $D_1$ " is the first calendar day, expressed as a number, of the Calculation Period, unless such number would be 31, in which case  $D_1$  will be 30; and

" $D_2$ " is the calendar day, expressed as a number, immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period, unless such number would be 31, in which case  $D_2$  will be 30;

(vi) if "**30E/360 (ISDA)**" is specified in the applicable Final Terms, the number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 360, calculated on a formula basis as follows:

Day Count Fraction = 
$$\frac{(360 \times (Y_2 - Y_1)) + (30 \times (M_2 - M_1)) + (D_2 - D_1)}{360}$$

where:

"Y<sub>1</sub>" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

" $Y_2$ " is the year, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

" $M_1$ " is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"M<sub>2</sub>" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

" $D_1$ " is the first calendar day, expressed as a number, of the Calculation Period, unless (i) that day is the last day of February or (ii) such number would be 31, in which case  $D_1$  will be 30; and

" $D_2$ " is the calendar day, expressed as a number, immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period, unless (i) that day is the last day of February but not the Maturity Date or (ii) such number would be 31, in which case  $D_2$  will be 30;

- (vii) if "Actual/Actual-ICMA" is specified in the applicable Final Terms,
  - (aa) if the Calculation Period is equal to or shorter than the Determination Period during which it falls, the number of days in the Calculation Period divided by the product of (x) the number of days in such Determination Period and (y) the number of Determination Periods normally ending in any year; and
  - (bb) if the Calculation Period is longer than one Determination Period, the sum of:
    - (x) the number of days in such Calculation Period falling in the Determination Period in which it begins divided by the product of (1) the number of days in such Determination Period and (2) the number of Determination Periods normally ending in any year; and
    - (y) the number of days in such Calculation Period falling in the next Determination Period divided by the product of (1) the number of days in such Determination Period and (2) the number of Determination Periods normally ending in any year

where:

"Determination Period" means the period from and including an Interest Determination Date in any year to but excluding the next Interest Determination Date; and

"Interest Determination Dates" means the dates specified in the applicable Final Terms or, if none is so specified, the Interest Payment Date and, assuming no Broken Amounts are payable according to the applicable Final Terms, the Interest Commencement Date.

"**Eurozone**" means the region composed of member States of the European Union that adopt the single currency in accordance with the EC Treaty (as defined in the ISDA Definitions).

**"IA Determination Cut-Off Date"** means no later than five Business Days prior to the relevant Interest Determination Date relating to the next succeeding Interest Period.

"**Independent Adviser**" means an independent financial institution of international repute or other independent financial adviser experienced in the international debt capital markets, in each case selected and appointed by the Issuer at its own expense.

"Interest Accrual Period" means the period beginning on (and including) the Interest Commencement Date and ending on (but excluding) the first Interest Period Date and each successive period beginning on (and including) an Interest Period Date and ending on (but excluding) the next succeeding Interest Period Date.

## "Interest Amount" means:

- (i) in respect of an Interest Accrual Period, the amount of interest payable per Calculation Amount for that Interest Accrual Period and which, in the case of Fixed Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven, and unless otherwise specified in the applicable Final Terms, shall mean the Fixed Coupon Amount or Broken Amount specified in the applicable Final Terms as being payable on the Interest Payment Date ending the Interest Period of which such Interest Accrual Period forms part; and
- (ii) in respect of any other period, the amount of interest payable per Calculation Amount for that period.

"Interest Commencement Date" means the Issue Date or such other date as may be specified in the applicable Final Terms.

"Interest Determination Date" means, with respect to a Rate of Interest and Interest Accrual Period, the date specified as such in the applicable Final Terms or, if none is so specified, (i) the first day of such Interest Accrual Period if the Specified Currency is Sterling or (ii) the day falling two Business Days in London for the Specified Currency prior to the first day of such Interest Accrual Period if the Specified Currency or (iii) the day falling two TARGET Business Days prior to the first day of such Interest Accrual Period if the Specified Currency is euro.

"Interest Period" means the period beginning on (and including) the Interest Commencement Date and ending on (but excluding) the First Interest Payment Date and each successive period beginning on (and including) an Interest Payment Date and ending on (but excluding) the next succeeding Interest Payment Date unless otherwise specified herein.

"Interest Period Date" means each Interest Payment Date, unless otherwise specified herein.

"**ISDA Definitions**" means the 2006 ISDA Definitions, as published by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc., unless otherwise specified herein.

"Issuer" means Belfius Bank SA/NV and shall, with respect to the management of the Special Estate following the appointment of a Cover Pool Administrator and where the context so requires, be deemed to be a reference to the Cover Pool Administrator.

"Lead Regulator" means the NBB, ECB or any successor entity primarily responsible for the prudential supervision of the Issuer.

"NBB-SSS" means the National Bank of Belgium in its capacity as operator of the Securities Settlement System.

"**Rate of Interest**" means the rate of interest payable from time to time in respect of this Mortgage Pandbrief and that is either specified or calculated in accordance with the provisions herein.

"**Rating Agency**" means any rating agency (or its successor) who, at the request of the Issuer, assigns, and for as long it assigns, one or more ratings to the Mortgage Pandbrieven under the Programme from time to time, which may include Moody's, Fitch, S&P or any such other rating agency as shall be specified in the Final Terms.

"**Reference Banks**" means in the case of a determination of EURIBOR, the principal Eurozone office of four major banks in the Eurozone inter-bank market, selected by the Calculation Agent or as specified herein.

"Reference Rate" means the rate specified as such in the applicable Final Terms.

"**Relevant Date**" in respect of any payment means whichever is the later of (i) the date on which such payment first becomes due and (ii), (if any amount of the money payable is improperly withheld or refused) the date on which the full amount of such money outstanding is made or (if earlier) the date seven calendar days after that on which notice is duly given to the Noteholders that, upon further presentation of the Mortgage Pandbrief being made in accordance with the Conditions, such payment will be made, provided that payment is in fact made upon such presentation.

"Relevant Nominating Body" means, in respect of a Reference Rate:

- the central bank for the currency to which the Reference Rate relates, or any central bank or other supervisory authority which is responsible for supervising the administrator of the Reference Rate; or
- (ii) any working group or committee sponsored by, chaired or co-chaired by or constituted at the request of (A) the central bank for the currency to which the Reference Rate relates, (B) any central bank or other supervisory authority which is responsible for supervising the administrator of the Reference Rate, (C) a group of the aforementioned central banks or other supervisory authorities or (D) the Financial Stability Board or any part thereof.

"**Relevant Screen Page**" means such page, section, caption, column or other part of a particular information service as may be specified in the applicable Final Terms (or any successor or replacement page, section, caption, column or other part of a particular information service).

"**Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders**" means the rules of organisation of the Noteholders as set out in Section 9 of the Base Prospectus.

"Servicer" means, in relation to the Residential Mortgage Loans, Belfius Bank SA/NV, or such other servicer as may be appointed from time to time.

"**Specified Currency**" means the currency specified as such in the applicable Final Terms or, if none is specified, the currency in which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are denominated.

"Successor Rate" means the rate that the Issuer determines is a successor to, or replacement of, the Reference Rate which is formally recommended by any Relevant Nominating Body.

"Supervisory Authority" means National Bank of Belgium (*Nationale Bank van België/Banque Nationale de Belgique*) ("NBB") and any other supervisory authority to which relevant powers may be transferred.

"**TARGET2 System**" means the Trans-European Automated Real-Time Gross Settlement Express Transfer (known as TARGET2) System which was launched on 19 November 2007 or any successor thereto.

## **3** Redemption, Purchase and Options

(a) Final Redemption

Unless previously redeemed in whole or in part, purchased and cancelled as provided below or its maturity is extended in accordance with these Conditions, each Mortgage Pandbrief shall be finally redeemed on the Maturity Date specified in the applicable Final Terms at its Final Redemption Amount (which, unless otherwise provided, is its principal amount).

## (b) *Early Redemption*

- (A) Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven
  - (i) The Early Redemption Amount payable in respect of any Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrief, upon redemption of such Mortgage Pandbrief pursuant to Condition 3(c) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Redemption for Illegality*), Condition 3(d) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Redemption for Taxation Reasons*), Condition 3(i) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Cancellation*) or Condition 22 (*Payment Default and Cross-Acceleration*) shall be the Amortised Face Amount (calculated as provided below) of such Mortgage Pandbrief, unless otherwise specified in the applicable Final Terms.
  - (ii) Subject to sub-paragraph (iii) below, the "Amortised Face Amount" of any such Mortgage Pandbrief shall be the scheduled Final Redemption Amount of such Mortgage Pandbrief on the Maturity Date discounted at a rate per annum (expressed as a percentage) equal to the Amortisation Yield compounded annually. If none is shown in the applicable Final Terms, the "Amortisation Yield" shall be such rate as would produce an Amortised Face Amount equal to the issue price of the Mortgage Pandbrieven if they were discounted back to their issue price on the Issue Date.
  - (iii) If the Amortised Face Amount payable in respect of any such Mortgage Pandbrief upon its redemption pursuant to Condition 3(c) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Redemption for Illegality*), Condition 3(d) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Redemption for Taxation Reasons*), Condition 3(i) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Cancellation*) or Condition 22 (*Payment Default and Cross-Acceleration*) is not paid when due, the Final Redemption Amount due and payable in respect of such Mortgage Pandbrief shall be the Amortised Face Amount of such Mortgage Pandbrief as defined in sub-paragraph (ii) above, except that such sub-paragraph shall have effect as though the reference therein to the date on which the Mortgage Pandbrief becomes due and payable were replaced by a reference to the Relevant Date. The calculation of the Amortised Face Amount in accordance with this sub-paragraph shall continue to be made until the Relevant Date, unless the Relevant Date falls on or after the Maturity Date, in which case the amount due and payable shall be the scheduled Final Redemption Amount of

such Mortgage Pandbrief on the Maturity Date together with any interest that may accrue in accordance with Condition 2 (*Interest and Other Calculation*).

Where such calculation is to be made for a period of less than one year, it shall be made on the basis of the Day Count Fraction as provided in the applicable Final Terms.

(B) Other Mortgage Pandbrieven

The Early Redemption Amount payable in respect of any Mortgage Pandbrief (other than Mortgage Pandbrieven described in (A)(i) above), upon redemption of such Mortgage Pandbrief pursuant to Condition 3(c) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Redemption for Illegality*), Condition 3(d) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Redemption for Taxation Reasons*), Condition 3(i) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Cancellation*) or Condition 22 (*Payment Default and Cross-Acceleration*) shall be the Final Redemption Amount together with interest accrued to the date fixed for redemption, unless otherwise specified in the applicable Final Terms.

#### (c) Redemption for Illegality

The Mortgage Pandbrieven may be redeemed at the option of the Issuer in whole, but not in part, on the next Interest Payment Date or at any time, on giving not less than 30 nor more than 60 calendar days' notice to the Noteholders in accordance with Condition 9 (*Notices*) (which notice shall be irrevocable), at their Early Redemption Amount, if the Issuer notifies the Noteholders' Representative immediately before the giving of such notice that it has, or will, before the next Interest Payment Date of any Mortgage Pandbrief of any Series or Tranche, become unlawful for the Issuer to (i) make any payments or (ii) comply with its obligations under the Mortgage Pandbrieven, or (iii) allow any Mortgage Pandbrieven to remain outstanding, as a result of any change in, or amendment to, the applicable laws or regulation or any change in the application or official interpretation of such laws or regulations, which change or amendment has become or will become effective before the next Interest Payment Date. Prior to the publication of any notice of redemption pursuant to this paragraph, the Issuer shall deliver to the Principal Paying Agent and the Noteholders' Representative a certificate signed by a representative of the Issuer stating that it is entitled to effect such redeemption and setting forth a statement of facts showing that the condition to the right of the Issuer to redeem for illegality has occurred.

#### (d) Redemption for Taxation Reasons

The Mortgage Pandbrieven may be redeemed at the option of the Issuer in whole, but not in part, on the next Interest Payment Date or at any time, on giving not less than 30 nor more than 60 calendar days' notice to the Noteholders in accordance with Condition 9 (*Notices*) (which notice shall be irrevocable), at their Early Redemption Amount, if the Issuer would, on the occasion of the next payment due in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven, become obliged to pay on any Mortgage Pandbrief of any Series or Tranche additional amounts pursuant to Condition 5 (*Tax Gross-up*) as a result of any change in, or amendment to, the laws or regulations of the Kingdom of Belgium or any political subdivision or any authority therein or thereof having the power to tax, or any change in the application or official interpretation of such laws or regulations (including a finding by a court of competent jurisdiction), which change or amendment becomes effective on or after the Issue Date of the first Tranche of the relevant Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven. Prior to the publication of any notice of redemption pursuant to this paragraph, the Issuer shall deliver to the Principal Paying Agent and the Noteholders' Representative a certificate signed by a representative of the Issuer stating that it is entitled to effect such redemption and setting forth a statement of facts showing that it would otherwise be obliged to pay such additional amounts as a result of such change or amendment, and an opinion of

independent legal advisers of recognised standing to the effect that the Issuer, has or will become obliged to pay such additional amounts as a result of such change or amendment.

#### (e) *Redemption at the option of the Noteholders*

If a Noteholder Put is specified in the applicable Final Terms, the Issuer shall, at the option of the Noteholder and upon the Noteholder giving not less than 15 nor more than 30 calendar days' notice (or such other notice period as specified in the applicable Final Terms) to the Issuer (which notice shall be irrevocable), upon the expiry of such notice, redeem, subject to, and in accordance with, the terms specified in the applicable Final Terms, in whole (but not in part), such Mortgage Pandbrieven on the Optional Redemption Date and at the Optional Redemption Amount together, if appropriate, with interest accrued to (but excluding) the Optional Redemption Date.

To exercise such option that may be set out in the applicable Final Terms, the Noteholder must deposit with a Paying Agent at its specified office a duly completed option exercise notice (the "Exercise Notice") in the form obtained from any Paying Agent or the Registrar, as the case may be, with a copy to be sent to the Issuer at the Address specified in the Final Terms within the notice period. In the case of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven, the Noteholder shall transfer, or cause to be transferred, the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven to be redeemed to the account of the Paying Agent, as specified in the Exercise Notice.

#### (f) Redemption at the option of the Issuer and exercise of Issuer's option

If an Issuer Call or an option of the Issuer is specified in the applicable Final Terms, the Issuer may, subject to compliance by the Issuer with all the relevant laws, regulations and directives and upon giving not less than seven days' (or such other notice period as may be specified in the applicable Final Terms) irrevocable notice to the Noteholders in accordance with Condition 9 (*Notices*), redeem or exercise any Issuer's option in relation to all or, if so provided, some of the Mortgage Pandbrieven on any Optional Redemption Date, as the case may be. Any such redemption of Mortgage Pandbrieven shall be at their Optional Redemption Amount together with interest accrued to the date fixed for redemption, if any. Any such redemption or exercise must relate to the Mortgage Pandbrieven of a nominal amount at least equal to the Minimum Redemption Amount to be redeemed specified in the applicable Final Terms.

All Mortgage Pandbrieven in respect of which any such notice is given shall be redeemed, or the Issuer's option exercised, on the date specified in such notice in accordance with this Condition 3(f).

In the case of a partial redemption of or a partial exercise of an Issuer's option in respect of Mortgage Pandbrieven, the redemption may be effected by reducing the principal amount of all such Mortgage Pandbrieven in a Series in proportion to the aggregate principal amount redeemed.

So long as the Mortgage Pandbrieven are admitted to trading on a regulated market and the rules of, or applicable to, such regulated market require, the Issuer shall, each time that there has been a partial redemption of the Mortgage Pandbrieven, cause to be published (i) as long as such Mortgage Pandbrieven are admitted to trading on the regulated market of Euronext Brussels and the rules of such exchange so permit, on the website of Euronext Brussels (www.euronext.com), (ii) as long as such Mortgage Pandbrieven are admitted to trading on a regulated market other than Euronext Brussels and the rules of such exchange so permit, on the website of such exchange, or (iii) in a leading newspaper with general circulation in the city where the regulated market on which such Mortgage Pandbrieven are admitted to trading is located (but only if the rules of that exchange so require), which in the case of the Regulated Market of Euronext Brussels is expected to be *De Tijd* and *L'Écho*, a notice specifying the aggregate outstanding principal amount of Mortgage Pandbrieven.

### (g) Purchases

The Issuer and any of its subsidiaries may at any time purchase Mortgage Pandbrieven in the open market or otherwise at any price.

Unless otherwise indicated in the Final Terms, Mortgage Pandbrieven so purchased by the Issuer may be held in accordance with Article 12, §1 of Annex III to the Banking Law or cancelled in accordance with Condition 3(i) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Cancellation*) below.

(h) Subscription to own Mortgage Pandbrieven

The Issuer may subscribe to its own Mortgage Pandbrieven.

(i) *Cancellation* 

All Mortgage Pandbrieven purchased or subscribed by or on behalf of the Issuer may be surrendered for cancellation, and shall if surrendered, together with all Mortgage Pandbrieven redeemed by the Issuer, be cancelled forthwith (together with all rights relating to payment of interest and other amounts relating to such Mortgage Pandbrieven). Any Mortgage Pandbrieven so surrendered for cancellation may not be reissued or resold and the obligations of the Issuer in respect of any such Mortgage Pandbrieven shall be discharged.

- (j) Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date
  - (i) If the Issuer fails to redeem the Mortgage Pandbrieven of a Series at their Final Redemption Amount in full within five Business Days after their Maturity Date, then:
    - A. save to the extent paragraph (C) below applies, the obligation of the Issuer to redeem such Series shall be automatically deferred to, and shall be due on, the date falling one year after such Maturity Date (the "Extended Maturity Date" as specified in the relevant Final Terms);
    - B. the Issuer shall give notice of the extension of the Maturity Date to the Extended Maturity Date to the Noteholders of such Series, the Noteholders' Representative, the Rating Agencies, the Fiscal Agent and the Paying Agent and/or Registrar as soon as reasonably practicable, it being understood that a failure to notify shall not affect such extension of the Maturity Date;
    - C. notwithstanding paragraph (E) below, if and to the extent that on any subsequent Interest Payment Date (as defined in the applicable Final Terms) falling prior to the Extended Maturity Date (each an "**Extension Payment Date**"), the Issuer has available funds, then the Issuer shall (a) give notice thereof to the Noteholders of such Series, the Noteholders' Representative, the Fiscal Agent and the Paying Agent and/or Registrar as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event at least two Business Days prior to such Extension Payment Date and (b) apply such available funds to redeem the Mortgage Pandbrieven of such Series on such Extension Payment Date at their Final Redemption Amount;
    - D. save as otherwise provided for in the applicable Final Terms, interest shall (a) accrue on the unpaid portion of such Final Redemption Amount from (and including) the Maturity Date to (but excluding) the Extension Payment Date, the Extended Maturity Date or, as the case may be, the date the Mortgage Pandbrieven of such Series are fully redeemed in accordance with paragraph (E) below, (b) be payable in arrear on each Extension Payment Date (in respect of the Interest Period then ended) or, if earlier, on

the Extended Maturity Date or the date of any redemption pursuant to paragraph (E) below and (c) accrue at the rate provided for in the applicable Final Terms; and

- E. to the extent that the maturity date of any other Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven falls prior to the Extended Maturity Date, the maturity date of such other Series shall also be extended on its maturity date in accordance with the terms and conditions applicable thereto, unless, on or prior to such maturity date, the Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven for which the Maturity Date has been previously extended is redeemed in full and all interest accrued in respect thereto is paid. In such circumstances, payment may be made on another date than an Extension Payment Date, provided that notice thereof is given to the Noteholders of such Series, the Noteholders' Representative, the Fiscal Agent and the Paying Agent and/or Registrar as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event at least two Business Days prior to the relevant payment date.
- (ii) Subject to paragraph (E) above, an extension of one Series does not automatically imply the extension of other Series.
- (iii) In the case the Mortgage Pandbrieven to which an Extended Maturity Date applies are Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrieven, the outstanding principal amount will for the purposes of this Condition 3(j) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date*) be the total amount otherwise payable by the Issuer but unpaid on the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven on the Maturity Date.
- (iv) Any extension of the maturity of Mortgage Pandbrieven under this Condition 3(j) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date*) shall be irrevocable. Where this Condition 3(j) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date*) applies, failure by the Issuer to redeem in full the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven on the Maturity Date or on any subsequent Extension Payment Date (or the relevant later date in case of an applicable grace period) shall not constitute a Payment Default (as defined below). However, failure by the Issuer to redeem in full the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven on the Extended Maturity Date or in accordance with paragraph (E) above shall be a failure to pay which may constitute a Payment Default.
- (v) Any payments which may be subject to an extension in accordance with this Condition 3(j) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date*) shall not be deemed to constitute an unconditional payment for the purpose of Article 7, §1 of the Royal Decree of 11 October 2012 on the issuance of Belgian covered bonds by Belgian credit institutions.
- (vi) If the maturity of any Mortgage Pandbrieven is extended up to the Extended Maturity Date in accordance with this Condition 3(j) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date*), for so long as any of those Mortgage Pandbrieven remains outstanding, the Issuer shall not issue any further Mortgage Pandbrieven, unless the proceeds of issuance of such further Mortgage Pandbrieven are applied by the Issuer on issuance in redeeming in whole or in part the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven in accordance with the terms hereof.
- (vii) This Condition 3(j) (Redemption, Purchase and Options Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date) shall only apply if the Issuer has insufficient funds available to redeem those Mortgage Pandbrieven in full within five Business Days after their Maturity Date or if, on such Maturity Date, there is another Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven outstanding which was previously extended and which the Issuer fails to fully redeem on or prior to the Maturity Date.

# 4 Payments

## (a) Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven

Payment of principal and interest in respect of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven will be made in accordance with the applicable rules and procedures of the Securities Settlement System, Euroclear, Clearstream Germany, SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France), INTERBOLSA (Portugal), and any other Securities Settlement System participant. Upon receipt of any payment in respect of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven, the Securities Settlement System, Euroclear, Clearstream Germany, SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France), INTERBOLSA (Portugal), and any other Securities Settlement System participant, System, Euroclear, Clearstream Germany, SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France), INTERBOLSA (Portugal), and any other Securities Settlement System participant, shall immediately credit the accounts of the relevant account holders with the payment.

## (b) Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven

Payments of principal and interest in respect of Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven shall be paid to the person shown on the register maintained by the Issuer or by the Registrar at the close of business on the 15<sup>th</sup> calendar day before the due date for payment thereof (the "**Record Date**").

## (c) Payments Subject to Fiscal Laws

Save as provided in Condition 5 (*Tax Gross-up*), payments will be subject in all cases to any other applicable fiscal or other laws and regulations in the place of payment or other laws and regulations to which the Issuer or its agents under this Programme agree to be subject and the Issuer will not be liable for any taxes or duties of whatever nature imposed or levied by such laws, regulations or agreements.

## (d) Non-Business Day

If any date for payment in respect of any Mortgage Pandbrief is not a Business Day, the holder shall not be entitled to payment until the next following Business Day nor to any interest or other sum in respect of such postponed payment, unless otherwise specified in the Final Terms.

## 5 Tax Gross-up

All payments of principal and interest by or on behalf of the Issuer in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven, shall be made without withholding or deduction for any present or future taxes, duties, assessments or other charges of whatever nature ("**Taxes**") imposed or levied by the Kingdom of Belgium or any political subdivision or any authority therein or thereof having power to tax, unless the withholding or deduction of such taxes, duties, assessments or other charges is required by law or regulation.

In that event, or if a clearing system or any participant in a clearing system withholds or deducts for, or on account of, any present or future taxes, duties, assessments or other charges of whatever nature imposed or levied by or on behalf of the Kingdom of Belgium or any political subdivision or any authority therein or thereof having the power to tax, the Issuer shall pay such additional amounts as may be necessary in order that the net amounts received by the Noteholders after such withholding or deduction shall be not less than the respective amounts of principal and interest which would have been receivable in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven in the absence of such withholding or deduction; except that no such additional amounts shall be payable:

- (i) with respect to any payment in respect of any Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrief:
  - (1) Other connection: to, or to a third party on behalf of, a holder who is (i) entitled to avoid such deduction or withholding by making a declaration of non-residence or other similar claim for exemption, or (ii) liable to such taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges in respect of such Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrief by reason of his having some connection with

Belgium other than by reason of (a) the mere holding of or (b) the receipt of principal, interest or other amount in respect of the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrief; or

- (2) Non-Eligible Investors: to, or to a third party on behalf of, a holder who on the date of acquisition of such Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrief, was not an Eligible Investor or who was an Eligible Investor on the date of acquisition of such Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrief but, for reasons within the Noteholder's control, ceased to be an Eligible Investor or at any relevant time on or after the issuance of the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven otherwise failed to meet any other condition for the exemption of Belgian withholding tax pursuant to the Law of 6 August 1993 relating to certain securities; or
- (3) Conversion into registered Mortgage Pandbrieven: to, or to a third party on behalf of, a holder who is liable to such Taxes because the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven were converted into Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven upon his/her request and could no longer be cleared through the Securities Settlement System, or
- (4) Paying Agent not being a Securities Settlement System participant (or their participants): presented for payment by or on behalf of a holder who would have been able to avoid such withholding or deduction by presenting the relevant Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrief to another Paying Agent in a Member State of the EU.
- (ii) with respect to any payment in respect of any Registered Mortgage Pandbrief:
  - (1) Other connection: to, or to a third party on behalf of, a holder who is (i) entitled to avoid such deduction or withholding by making a declaration of non-residence or other similar claim for exemption, or (ii) liable to such taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges in respect of such Registered Mortgage Pandbrief by reason of his having some connection with Belgium other than by reason of (a) the mere holding of or (b) the receipt of principal, interest or other amount in respect of the Registered Mortgage Pandbrief; or
  - (2) Not Exempt Investors: to a holder who is not an Exempt Investor; or
  - (3) Issuer not a financial institution anymore: where such withholding or deduction is imposed for reason of the holder of the Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven, at the time of the relevant interest payment, not benefitting from a full exemption from Belgian interest withholding tax due to the Issuer no longer qualifying as a financial institution as referred to in the Articles 105, 1°, a) and 107, §2, 5°, b) of the Royal Decree implementing the Belgian Income Tax Code 1992; or
  - (4) Zero Coupon / Capitalisation of interest: which is issued as a Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrief or any other Registered Mortgage Pandbrief which provides for the capitalisation of interest.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Issuer shall be entitled to withhold and deduct any amounts required to be deducted or withheld pursuant to an agreement described in Section 1471(b) of the US Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (the "**Code**") or otherwise imposed pursuant to Sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code (or any regulations thereunder or official interpretations thereof) or an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the United States and another jurisdiction facilitating the implementation thereof (or any law implementing such an intergovernmental agreement) (any such withholding or deduction, a "**FATCA Withholding**") and the Issuer shall not be required to pay any additional amounts in respect of FATCA Withholding. For the avoidance of doubt, the Issuer shall not be required to pay any additional amounts in respect of FATCA Withholding by a clearing system or any participant in a clearing system.

As used in this Condition, "**Eligible Investor**" means those entities (i) which are referred to in Article 4 of the Belgian Royal Decree of 26 May 1994 on the deduction of withholding tax (as amended from time to time)

and (ii) which rightfully hold the Mortgage Pandbrieven in an exempt account (X-Account) in the Securities Settlement System.

As used in this Condition, "**Exempt Investor**" means a Noteholder that, as of the relevant Interest Payment Date, (i) is not a tax resident in Belgium, (ii) does not use the income producing assets to exercise a business or professional activity in Belgium, (iii) has been the owner (*eigenaar/propriétaire*) or usufructuary (*vruchtgebruiker/usufruitier*) of the Registered Mortgage Pandbrief in respect of which it is entitled to the payment of interest, uninterruptedly for the entire relevant Interest Period, (iv) was registered with the Issuer as the holder of Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven during the same Interest Period as mentioned under (iii) above, (v) has provided the Issuer with an executed Tax Status Certificate with respect to such interest payment executed by or on behalf of such holder on or before the date such Tax Status Certificate is required to be delivered to the Issuer pursuant to Article 118, §1, 1° of the Royal Decree of 27 August 1993 implementing the Belgian Income Tax Code 1992, and (vi) complies with any further requirement imposed by any successor provision to the current relevant Belgian tax provisions.

In these Conditions, "**Tax Status Certificate**" means the certificate required by Article 117, §6 of the Royal Decree of 27 August 1993 implementing the Belgian Income Tax Code 1992 (or any successor provision).

References in these Conditions to (i) "**principal**" shall be deemed to include any premium payable in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven, all Final Redemption Amounts, Early Redemption Amounts, Optional Redemption Amounts, Amortised Face Amounts and all other amounts in the nature of principal payable pursuant to Condition 3 (*Redemption, Purchase and Options) or* any amendment or supplement to it, (ii) "**interest**" shall be deemed to include all Interest Amounts and all other amounts payable pursuant to Condition 2 (*Interest and Other Calculations*) or any amendment or supplement to it and (iii) "principal" and/or "interest" shall be deemed to include any additional amounts that may be payable under this Condition 5 (*Tax Gross-up*).

## 6 Status and ranking of Mortgage Pandbrieven

The Mortgage Pandbrieven are issued in accordance with and are subject to the provisions of the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations. They will constitute direct, unconditional, unsubordinated and unsecured obligations of the Issuer and will rank at all times *pari passu*, without any preference among themselves, with all other outstanding unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Issuer, present and future. In addition and pursuant to the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations, the Noteholders, together with the holders of any other Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme and any Other Creditors as defined in Condition 23 (*Post-Acceleration Priority of Payments*), will benefit from a dual recourse consisting of (i) an exclusive recourse against the Special Estate and (ii) an unsecured, unsubordinated recourse against the general estate of the Issuer.

## 7 Specific provisions required by the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations

## (a) Criteria for transfer of assets from the general estate

For the purpose of Article 3, §2, second indent of Annex III to the Banking Law, the following criteria shall be applied in circumstances where amounts must be transferred to the Special Estate but cannot be identified within the general estate of the Issuer. In such circumstances, the general estate shall transfer to the Special Estate (in consultation between the Cover Pool Administrator or the Cover Pool Monitor (as applicable) and the Issuer or the bankruptcy administrator of the Issuer (as applicable)), instead of the relevant amounts, unencumbered assets that for determining the amount will be taken into account at their market value and after applying the Haircut (as defined below) in an equal amount determined in the following order of priority:

- (i) *first*, credit quality step 1 bonds that are ECB eligible and/or level 1 assets as described in the liquidity risk framework calculation of the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (as pursuant to the Capital Requirements Regulation);
- (ii) failing which, credit quality step 2 bonds that are ECB eligible and/or level 2 assets as described in the liquidity risk framework calculation of the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (as pursuant to the Capital Requirements Regulation);
- (iii) failing which, bonds other than (i) or (ii) above that are eligible in repo transactions;
- (iv) failing which, bonds other than (i), (ii) or (iii) above;
- (v) failing which, public sector exposure other than (i), (ii), (iii) or (iv);
- (vi) failing which, Residential Mortgage Loans; and
- (vii) *failing any of the above*, such assets as may be selected on behalf of the Special Estate by the Cover Pool Monitor or Cover Pool Administrator (as applicable) in its sole discretion.

### "Haircut" means:

- (i) for unencumbered assets as defined in (i) and (ii) above, the ECB haircut in accordance with the Guideline (EU) 2015/510 of the ECB of 19 December 2014 on the implementation of the Eurosystem monetary policy (as may be amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time);
- (ii) for unencumbered assets as defined in (iii) and (iv) above, 20 per cent.; and
- (iii) for unencumbered assets as defined in (v) to (vii) above, 25 per cent.

"CRD V" means the Capital Requirements Directive and the Capital Requirements Regulation.

"Capital Requirements Directive" means Directive 2013/36/EU of 26 June 2013 on access to the activity of credit institutions and the prudential supervision of credit institutions and investment firms, as amended from time to time.

"Capital Requirements Regulation" means Regulation (EU) No. 575/2013 of 26 June 2013 on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms and amending Regulation (EU) No. 648/2012, as amended from time to time.

(b) Use of collateral provided under hedging arrangements

Collateral provided under hedging arrangements in relation to the Mortgage Pandbrieven or the Cover Assets can only be used for obligations in relation to the Special Estate and in accordance with the relevant hedging arrangement.

(c) Allocation of proceeds from enforcement of security interest

In circumstances where a security interest (including mortgages and mortgage mandates) secure claims of both the Special Estate and the general estate of the Issuer, proceeds from the enforcement of any such security interest shall be shared *pro rata* between the Special Estate and the general estate on a *pari passu* basis to the extent that the relevant claims of the general estate relate to Residential Mortgage Loans and such loans were granted to the relevant debtor prior to the date on which the loan(s) which benefit from the same security were registered with the Special Estate. To the extent that (i) the relevant claims of the general estate do not relate to Residential Mortgage Loans or (ii) relate to Residential Mortgage Loans but were granted after the date on which the loans which benefit from the same security estate after the date on which the loans which benefit from the same security estate do not relate to Residential Mortgage Loans or (ii) relate to Residential Mortgage Loans but were granted after the date on which the loans which benefit from the same security estate.

security interest shall be applied in priority to satisfy the obligations due in respect of the loans registered with the Special Estate (and only upon satisfaction in full of the relevant claims of the Special Estate shall any of the proceeds be applied against the claims of the general estate which are also secured by such security interest).

# 8 Principal Paying Agent, Paying Agent, Fiscal Agent and Registrar provisions

The names of the initial Paying Agents, the Fiscal Agent and the initial Registrar and their initial specified offices are set out below.

The Issuer is entitled to vary or terminate the appointment of any Paying Agent, the Fiscal Agent and the Registrar and/or appoint additional or other Paying Agents or Registrars, provided that:

- (1) there will at all times be a Principal Paying Agent, a Fiscal Agent and, as long as any Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven of any Series are outstanding, a Registrar for that Series;
- (2) so long as the Mortgage Pandbrieven are listed on any stock exchange or admitted to listing by any other relevant authority, there will at all times be a Paying Agent with a specified office in such place as may be required by the rules and regulations of the relevant stock exchange (or any other relevant authority).

Any variation, termination, appointment or change shall only take effect (other than in the case of bankruptcy, when it shall be of immediate effect) after not less than 30 nor more than 45 calendar days' prior notice thereof shall have been given to the Noteholders in accordance with Condition 9 (*Notices*).

## 9 Notices

All notices to holders of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven (including notices to convene a meeting of Noteholders) will be deemed to have been validly given if given through the Securities Settlement System, the systems of Euroclear, Clearstream Germany, SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France), INTERBOLSA (Portugal), or any other Securities Settlement System participant and their participants in accordance with the procedures of the relevant clearing system.

All notices to holders of Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven (including notices to convene a meeting of Noteholders) will be mailed by regular post, by fax or by e-mail to the holders at their respective addresses or fax numbers appearing in the register maintained by the Issuer or by the Registrar, or by such other means as accepted by such holders.

If sent by post, notices will be deemed to have been given on the fourth Business Day after the date of mailing. If sent by fax, notices will be deemed to have been given upon receipt of a confirmation of the transmission. If sent by e-mail, when the relevant receipt of such communication being read is given, or where no read receipt is requested, by the sender at the time of sending provided that no delivery failure notification is received by the sender within 24 hours of sending such communication.

For so long as Mortgage Pandbrieven are listed on Euronext Brussels (or another regulated market) and if the rules of that exchange so require, any notice to the Noteholders shall be published on the website of Euronext Brussels (www.euronext.com) (or the website of such other regulated market) and if (and only if) the rules of that exchange so require, such notice shall also be published in a daily newspaper of general circulation in Belgium (which is expected to be *De Tijd* and L'Écho).

If any such publication is not practicable, notice shall be validly given if published in another leading daily English language newspaper with general circulation in Europe.

Any such notice shall be deemed to have been given on the date of such publication or, if published more than once or on different dates, on the date of the first publication as provided above or, in the case of direct

notification, any such notice shall be deemed to have been given on the date immediately following the date of notification.

Notwithstanding the above, the Noteholders' Representative shall be at liberty to approve any other method of giving notice to Noteholders if, in its opinion, such other method is reasonable having regard to the thenprevailing market practice and rules of the competent authority, stock exchange, clearing system or, as the case may be, quotation system on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are then admitted to trading.

## **10** Cover Pool Monitor

The Cover Pool Monitor will fulfil the tasks as set out in the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations and which is confirmed in an agreement between the Cover Pool Monitor and the Issuer. In addition, the Cover Pool Monitor and the Issuer have agreed that no Residential Mortgage Loans can be deregistered from the Special Estate without the prior approval from the Cover Pool Monitor in case such deregistration would lead to a decrease of the ratio between the value of the Cover Assets and the outstanding principal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. No approval is required for deregistration of Residential Mortgage Loans with a value of zero nor for a substitution whereby the value of the Cover Assets does not decrease due to this substitution

## 11 Issuer Covenant

For so long as the Mortgage Pandbrieven are outstanding, the Issuer hereby covenants in favour of the Noteholders and the Noteholders' Representative to:

- (i) comply with all obligations imposed on it under the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations;
- (ii) ensure that the Special Estate will mainly consist of Residential Mortgage Loans;

(iii) ensure that the Special Estate will not contain any commercial mortgage loans, any residential mortgage backed securities, any commercial mortgage backed securities or any other asset backed securities;

(iv) ensure that the value of the Residential Mortgage Loans that are registered as Cover Assets in the Cover Register (and including any collections in respect thereto) (a) are calculated in accordance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations and (b) will at all times represent at least 105 per cent. of the aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven of all Series (it being understood that any surplus above 105 per cent. may be composed of other eligible assets under the Programme);

(v) ensure that only Residential Mortgage Loans with a current loan to current value ratio of maximum 120 per cent. will be added to the Special Estate;

(vi) ensure that only fully drawn Residential Mortgage Loans will be added to the Special Estate;

(vii) ensure that the Special Estate will at all times include liquid bonds meeting the criteria set out in Article 7 of the NBB Covered Bonds Regulation and which (a) are eligible as collateral for Eurosystem monetary policy purposes and intra-day credit operations by the Eurosystem (b) have a credit quality step 1 as defined in the Capital Requirements Regulation, (c) are subject to a daily mark-to-market and have a market value which, after applying the ECB haircut in accordance with the Guideline of the ECB of 19 December 2014 on the implementation of the Eurosystem monetary policy (as may be amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time), is higher than the amount of interest due and payable on the outstanding Mortgage Pandbrieven within a period of one year, (d) have a remaining maturity of more than one year, and (e) are not debt issued by the Issuer; and

(viii) provide regular investor reports with regard to, amongst others, the composition of the Special Estate which will be made available on the website of the Issuer at www.belfius.be on a monthly basis.

## 12 Noteholders' Waiver

The Noteholders waive, to the fullest extent permitted by law (i) all their rights whatsoever pursuant to Article 1184 of the Belgian Civil Code to rescind (*ontbinden/résoudre*), or demand in legal proceedings the rescission (*ontbinding/résolution*) of, the Mortgage Pandbrieven and (ii) all their rights whatsoever in respect of Mortgage Pandbrieven pursuant to Article 7:64 of the Belgian Companies Code (right to rescind (*ontbinden/résoudre*).

# 13 Prescription

Claims against the Issuer for payment in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven shall be prescribed and become void, unless made within 10 years (in the case of principal) or five years (in the case of interest) from the appropriate Relevant Date in respect of them.

## 14 Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders

The Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders are attached to, and form an integral part of, these Conditions. References in these Conditions to the Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders include such rules as from time to time modified in accordance with the provisions contained therein and any agreement or other document expressed to be supplemental thereto.

Articles 7:162 to 7:174 of the Belgian Companies Code relating to the noteholders' meeting shall not apply to any issuance of the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

# **15** Noteholders' Representative

As long as the Mortgage Pandbrieven are outstanding, there shall at all times be a representative of the Noteholders (the "Noteholders' Representative") in accordance with Article 14, §2 of Annex III to the Banking Law, who has the power to exercise the rights conferred on it by these Conditions, the Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders and the law in order to protect the interests of the Noteholders. The Noteholders' Representative must give account of its performance in accordance with the Noteholders' Representative Agreement.

The Issuer has appointed Stichting Belfius Mortgage Pandbrieven Noteholders' Representative as Noteholders' Representative and the Noteholders' Representative has accepted such appointment for the period commencing on the Issue Date and, subject to early termination of its appointment, ending on the date on which all Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven have been cancelled or redeemed in accordance with these Conditions and on which all claims of the Other Creditors (to the extent represented by the Noteholders' Representative) against the Special Estate have been settled.

By reason of holding Mortgage Pandbrieven, each Noteholder:

- recognises the Noteholders' Representative as its representative and (to the fullest extent permitted by law) agrees to be bound by any agreement entered into from time to time by the Noteholders' Representative in such capacity as if such Noteholder were a signatory thereto; and
- (ii) acknowledges and accepts that the Issuer shall not be liable, except in case of fraud, in respect of any loss, liability, claim, expenses or damage suffered or incurred by any of the Noteholders as a result of the performance by the Noteholders' Representative of its duties or the exercise of any of its rights under these Conditions (including the Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders).

The Noteholders' Representative can also be appointed to represent Other Creditors provided that those Other Creditors agree with such representation.

## 16 Conflicts of Interest

The Noteholders' Representative shall have regard to the overall interests of the Noteholders and of the Other Creditors that have agreed to be represented by the Noteholders' Representative. The Noteholders' Representative shall not be obliged to have regard to any interests arising from circumstances particular to individual Noteholders or such Other Creditors whatever their number.

The Noteholders' Representative shall, as regards the powers, authorities and discretions vested in it, except where expressly provided otherwise, have regard to the interests of both the Noteholders and the Other Creditors of the Issuer which it represents but if, in the opinion of the Noteholders' Representative, there is a conflict between their interests the Noteholders' Representative will have regard solely to the interest of the Noteholders.

### 17 Meetings of Noteholders

### (a) Meetings of Noteholders

The Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders contain provisions for convening meetings of Noteholders to consider any matter affecting their interests, including the sanctioning by Extraordinary Resolution of a modification or waiver of any provision of the Conditions applicable to any relevant Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven. For the avoidance of doubt, any such modification or waiver shall be subject to the consent of the Issuer.

All meetings of Noteholders will be held in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders. Articles 7:162 to 7:174 of the Belgian Companies Code with respect to Noteholders' meetings will not apply to any issuance of Mortgage Pandbrieven.

### (b) Written Resolutions

A written resolution signed by the holders of 75 per cent. in principal amount of the relevant Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven outstanding shall take effect as if it were an Extraordinary Resolution. A written resolution signed by the holders of 50 per cent. in principal amount of the relevant Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven outstanding shall take effect as if it were an Ordinary Resolution. To the extent permitted by the applicable law, a written resolution signed by the holders of 50 per cent. in principal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven outstanding as if they were a single Series shall take effect as if it were a Programme Resolution. Such resolutions in writing may be contained in one document or several documents in the same form, each signed by or on behalf of one or more Noteholders.

## 18 Amendments to the Conditions

Amendments to the Conditions shall be made in accordance with the Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders, and in particular in accordance with Articles 6.1, 6.3 and 18 thereof.

## 19 No Exchange of Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven

Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven may not be exchanged for Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven.

### 20 Further Issues

The Issuer may from time to time without the consent of the Noteholders create and issue further Mortgage Pandbrieven having the same terms and conditions as the Mortgage Pandbrieven (so that, for the avoidance of doubt, references in these Conditions to "**Issue Date**" shall be to the first issue date of the Mortgage Pandbrieven) and so that the same shall be consolidated and form a single series with such Mortgage Pandbrieven, and references in these Conditions to "Mortgage Pandbrieven" shall be construed accordingly.

## 21 Currency Indemnity

Any amount received or recovered in a currency other than the currency in which payment under the relevant Mortgage Pandbrief is due (whether as a result of, or of the enforcement of, a judgment or order of a court of any jurisdiction or otherwise) by the Issuer to any Noteholder in respect of any sum expressed to be due to it from the Issuer shall only constitute a discharge to the Issuer, to the extent of the amount in the currency of payment under the relevant Mortgage Pandbrief that the recipient is able to purchase with the amount so received or recovered in that other currency on the date of that receipt or recovery (or, if it is not practicable to make that purchase on that date, on the first date on which it is practicable to do so). If the amount received or recovered is less than the amount expressed to be due to the recipient under any Mortgage Pandbrief, the Issuer shall indemnify it against any loss sustained by it as a result. In any event, the Issuer shall indemnify the recipient for the Noteholder, as the case may be, to demonstrate that it would have suffered a loss had an actual purchase been made. These indemnities constitute a separate and independent obligation, shall give rise to a separate and independent cause of action, shall apply irrespective of any indulgence granted by any Noteholder and shall continue in full force and effect despite any other judgment, order, claim or proof for a liquidated amount in respect of any sum due under any Mortgage Pandbrief, or any other judgment or order.

#### 22 Payment Default and Cross-Acceleration

Failure by the Issuer to pay (i) any principal amount in respect of any Mortgage Pandbrief on the Extended Maturity Date or pursuant to Condition 3(j)(i)(E) (*Redemption, Purchase and Options – Extension of Maturity up to Extended Maturity Date*), or (ii) any interest in respect of any Mortgage Pandbrief within five (5) Business Days from the day on which such interest becomes due and payable, shall constitute a payment default ("**Payment Default**") if such failure remains unremedied for ten (10) Business Days after the Noteholders' Representative has given written notice thereof to the Issuer by registered mail or per courier and with return receipt ("**Payment Notice**"). In case of failure by the Noteholders' Representative to deliver such Payment Notice, any Noteholder may deliver such Payment Notice to the Issuer (with a copy to the Noteholders' Representative). The date on which a Payment Default occurs shall be the date on which the Noteholders' Representative or any Noteholder has given notice of such Payment Default plus ten (10) Business Days (the "**Payment Default Date**").

Without prejudice to the powers granted to the Cover Pool Administrator, if a Payment Default occurs in relation to a particular Series, the Noteholders' Representative may, and shall if so requested in writing by the Noteholders of at least 66<sup>2/3</sup> per cent. of the outstanding principal amount of the relevant Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven then outstanding (excluding any Mortgage Pandbrieven which may be held by the Issuer), serve a notice on the Issuer ("Acceleration Notice") by registered mail or per courier and with return receipt that a Payment Default has occurred in relation to such Series, provided in each case it shall have been indemnified and/or secured and/or pre-funded to its satisfaction.

The Acceleration Notice will specify the date on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven become immediately due and payable (the "Acceleration Date"), which will be at least two Business Days after the Payment Default Date. A copy of the Acceleration Notice shall be sent to the NBB-SSS, the Noteholders, the Rating Agencies and the Cover Pool Monitor.

From and including the Acceleration Date:

- (i) the Mortgage Pandbrieven shall become immediately due and payable at their Early Redemption Amount;
- (ii) if a Payment Default is triggered with respect to a Series, each Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven will cross accelerate at the Acceleration Date against the Issuer, becoming due and payable, and they will rank *pari passu* among themselves;

- (iii) the Noteholders' Representative on behalf of the Noteholders, shall have a claim against the Issuer for an amount equal to the Early Redemption Amount and any other amount due under the Mortgage Pandbrieven; and
- (iv) the Noteholders' Representative on behalf of the Noteholders shall be entitled to take any steps and proceedings against the Issuer to enforce the provisions of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. The Noteholders' Representative may, at its discretion and without further notice, take such steps and/or institute such proceedings against the Issuer as it may think fit to enforce such payments, but it shall, subject to be indemnified and/or prefunded to its satisfaction, not be bound to take any such proceedings or steps, unless requested or authorised by an Extraordinary Resolution.

Accordingly and for the avoidance of doubt, if an acceleration date occurs under any of the outstanding Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven (as such term is defined under the Series under which such acceleration date occurs), the Mortgage Pandbrieven shall cross accelerate on such acceleration date in accordance with item (ii) above (as set out in the conditions applicable to such Series) and shall become immediately due and payable.

All notifications, opinions, determinations, certificates, calculations, quotations and decisions given, expressed, made or obtained for the purposes of this Condition 22 by the Noteholders' Representative shall (in the absence of wilful default, bad faith or manifest error) be binding on the Issuer, the Noteholders and (in such absence as aforesaid) no liability to the Noteholders or the Issuer shall attach to the Noteholders' Representative in connection with the exercise or non-exercise by it of its powers, duties and discretions hereunder.

# 23 Post-Acceleration Priority of Payments

All monies (other than amounts standing to the credit of a swap collateral account which will be applied in accordance with the provisions of the relevant swap agreement) received or recovered by the Special Estate (whether in the administration, the liquidation of the Special Estate or otherwise) following (i) the service of an Acceleration Notice or (ii) a liquidation of the Special Estate in accordance with Article 11, 6° or 7° of Annex III to the Banking Law, will be applied in the following order of priority (the "**Post-Acceleration Priority of Payments**"), in each case only if and to the extent that payments or provisions of a higher priority have been made:

- (a) *first*, in or towards satisfaction of all amounts due and payable, including any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, to the Cover Pool Administrator (including any of its representatives and delegates);
- (b) *second*, in or towards satisfaction of all amounts due and payable, including any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, to the Noteholders' Representative;
- (c) *third*, on a *pari passu* and *pro rata* basis, in or towards satisfaction of any Expenses which are due and payable to the Operating Creditors;
- (d) fourth, on a pari passu and pro rata basis, in or towards satisfaction of (i) any Pari Passu Swap Amounts, (ii) any Pari Passu Liquidity Amounts, and (iii) any payments of amounts due and payable to Noteholders pro rata and pari passu on each Series in accordance with these Conditions;
- (e) *fifth*, on a *pari passu* and *pro rata* basis, in or towards satisfaction of (i) any Junior Swap Amounts and (ii) any Junior Liquidity Amounts;
- (f) *sixth*, thereafter any remaining monies will be paid to the general estate of the Issuer.

"Expenses" means any costs, charges, liabilities, expenses or other amounts payable by the Issuer or by the Special Estate, as applicable, to any Operating Creditor plus any value added tax or any other tax or duty payable thereon.

"Hedge Counterparty" means a hedge counterparty under a swap agreement entered into by the Issuer in relation to the Special Estate.

"Junior Liquidity Amount" means each amount, including any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, due and payable to a Liquidity Provider which under the relevant liquidity agreement are expressed to rank junior to interest and principal due to Noteholders and any other party ranking senior in accordance with the Post-Acceleration Priority of Payments.

"Junior Swap Amount" means any swap termination amount whereby the Hedge Counterparty is the defaulting party or any such other amount, including any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, due and payable to a Hedge Counterparty (in accordance with the relevant swap agreement) and which under the relevant swap agreement are expressed to rank junior to interest and principal due to Noteholders and any other party ranking senior in accordance with the Post-Acceleration Priority of Payments.

"Liquidity Provider" means a counterparty under a liquidity arrangement agreement entered into by the Issuer in relation to the Special Estate.

"Operating Creditor" means any of (1) the (Principal) Paying Agent, (2) the Fiscal Agent, (3) the Cover Pool Monitor, (4) the Registrar, (5) the Servicer, (6) any account bank holding assets on behalf of the Special Estate, (7) any stock exchange on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are listed, (8) the Issuer's statutory auditor(s), legal counsel and tax advisers for services provided for the benefit of the Special Estate, (9) the Rating Agencies in relation to any Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme, (10) any independent accountant or independent calculation agent for services provided for the benefit of the Special Estate, (11) any custodian in relation to the Programme, (12) any agent or party appointed in accordance with the Programme Documents or any other creditor of amounts due in connection with the management and administration of the Special Estate and (13) any other creditor which may have a claim against the Special Estate as a result of any services provided or contracts entered into in relation to the Mortgage Pandbrieven or the Programme, as may from time to time be specified in the Conditions of any Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme.

"Other Creditor" means the Noteholders' Representative, any Operating Creditor, any Liquidity Provider, any Hedge Counterparty and the Cover Pool Administrator.

"**Pari Passu Liquidity Amount**" means each amount, including any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, due and payable to a Liquidity Provider and which under the relevant liquidity agreement are expressed to rank *pari passu* with interest or principal (as applicable) due to Noteholders.

"**Pari Passu Swap Amount**" means each amount, including any costs, charges, liabilities and expenses, due and payable to a Hedge Counterparty and which under the relevant swap agreement are expressed to rank *pari passu* with interest or principal (as applicable) due to Noteholders.

## 24 Action by Noteholders' Representative

Only the Noteholders' Representative may enforce the rights of the Noteholders under the Mortgage Pandbrieven and/or the Programme Documents against the Issuer (or Special Estate, as applicable). Unless explicitly provided otherwise in the Conditions, no person shall be entitled to proceed directly against the Issuer to enforce the performance of any provision of the Mortgage Pandbrieven and/or the Programme Documents.

However, if the Noteholders' Representative does not react or does not take any action within ten (10) calendar days of being so directed by the Noteholders in accordance with the Conditions and the Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders, then the Noteholders shall have individual rights to enforce the performance of any provision of the Mortgage Pandbrieven and/or the Programme Documents. Such rights remain however subject to the required quorums, where applicable.

## 25 Governing Law and Jurisdiction

## (a) *Governing Law*

The Mortgage Pandbrieven (and any non-contractual obligations arising out of or in connection with the Mortgage Pandbrieven) are governed by, and construed in accordance with, Belgian law.

# (b) Jurisdiction

The Dutch speaking *(Nederlandstalige/Néerlandophones)* courts of Brussels, Belgium are to have jurisdiction to settle any disputes that may arise out of or in connection with any Mortgage Pandbrieven (including any disputes relating to any non-contractual obligations arising out of or in connection with the Mortgage Pandbrieven).

# SECTION 9 RULES OF ORGANISATION OF THE NOTEHOLDERS

# TITLE I GENERAL PROVISIONS

## 1 General

- 1.1 Each Noteholder is a member of the Organisation of the Noteholders.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Organisation of the Noteholders is to co-ordinate the exercise of the rights of the Noteholders and, more generally, to take any action necessary or desirable to protect the interest of the Noteholders.
- 1.3 The Organisation of the Noteholders in respect of each Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme by Belfius Bank SA/NV is created concurrently with the issuance and subscription of the Mortgage Pandbrieven and each such Series is governed by these Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders. Articles 7:162 to 7:174 of the Belgian Companies Code shall not apply.
- 1.4 These Rules shall remain in full force and effect until full repayment or cancellation of all the Mortgage Pandbrieven of whatever Series.
- 1.5 The contents of these Rules are deemed to be an integral part of the Conditions of the Mortgage Pandbrieven of each Series issued by the Issuer.

## 2 Definitions and Interpretation

## 2.1 Definitions

In these Rules:

"**Block Voting Instruction**" means a document issued by a Recognised Accountholder or the Securities Settlement System in accordance with Article 7.1;

"Clearing Services Agreement" means the clearing services agreement in relation to the Programme, entered into on or about 19 September 2016 and as updated, revised, supplemented, amended and/or restated or replaced from time to time, between the Issuer, the NBB-SSS and the principal paying agent, acting as domiciliary agent

"Conditions" means the terms and conditions and the Final Terms of the Mortgage Pandbrieven of the relevant Series or Tranche issued by the Issuer;

"**Common Terms**" means the terms and conditions which are common to all Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme as set out in the Programme Agreement;

"**Distribution Agreement**" means the distribution agreement in relation to the Base Prospectus, for Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Base Prospectus, initially dated 8 November 2012 and as updated, revised, supplemented, amended and/or restated from time to time, between the Issuer, the arranger and the dealers;

"Extraordinary Resolution" means a resolution passed at a meeting duly convened and held in accordance with these Rules and with respect to matters referred to under Article 6.1;

"Liabilities" means any loss, damage, cost, charge, claim, demand, expense, judgment, action, proceeding or other liability whatsoever (including, without limitation, in respect of taxes, duties,

levies, imposts and other charges) and including any value added tax or similar tax charged or chargeable in respect thereof and legal fees and expenses;

"**Noteholders' Representative**" means Stichting Belfius Mortgage Pandbrieven Noteholders' Representative or the noteholders' representative which may be appointed by the Noteholders in accordance with Article 14 (as applicable);

"Ordinary Resolution" means any resolution passed at a meeting duly convened and held in accordance with these Rules and with respect to matters referred to under Article 6.2;

"Organisation of the Noteholders" means the organisation of the Noteholders that is created upon the issuance of the Mortgage Pandbrieven and that is governed by these Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders;

"**Programme Documents**" means the Base Prospectus, the Programme Agreement, the Noteholders' Representative Agreement, the Agency Agreement, the Distribution Agreement, the Clearing Services Agreement and any other agreement or document entered into from time to time under or in connection with the Programme (as the same may be amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time) and designated as a programme document;

"**Programme Resolution**" means any resolution passed at a meeting duly convened and held in accordance with these Rules and with respect to matters referred to under Article 6.3;

"**Recognised Accountholder**" means, in relation to one or more Mortgage Pandbrieven, the recognised accountholder (*erkende rekeninghouder/teneur de compte agréé*) within the meaning of Article 7:35 of the Belgian Companies Code with which a Noteholder holds such Mortgage Pandbrieven on a securities account;

"Resolution" means an Ordinary Resolution, an Extraordinary Resolution or a Programme Resolution;

"Rules" or "Rules of Organisation of the Noteholders" means these rules governing the Organisation of the Noteholders;

"Voting Certificate" means a certificate issued by a Recognised Accountholder or the Securities Settlement System in accordance with Article 7.1; and

"Written Resolution" means a resolution in writing as referred to in Article 12.

Capitalised words used in these Rules and not otherwise defined herein, shall have the meaning and the construction ascribed to them in the Conditions.

#### 2.2 Interpretation

In these Rules:

- (a) references to the *Issuer* are to Belfius Bank SA/NV and shall, with respect to the management of the Special Estate following the appointment of a Cover Pool Administrator and where the context so requires, be deemed to be a reference to the Cover Pool Administrator;
- (b) references to a *meeting* are to a meeting of Noteholders of a single Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven (except in case of a meeting to pass a Programme Resolution, in which case the Mortgage Pandbrieven of all Series are taken together as a single Series) and include, unless the context otherwise requires, any adjournment;
- (c) references to *Mortgage Pandbrieven* and *Noteholders* are only to the Mortgage Pandbrieven of the Series in respect of which a meeting has been, or is to be, called and to the holders of those Mortgage Pandbrieven, respectively; and

(d) any reference to an *Article* shall, except where expressly provided to the contrary, be a reference to an article of these Rules.

# TITLE II MEETINGS OF THE NOTEHOLDERS

## **3** Convening a Meeting

#### 3.1 Initiative

The Issuer or the Noteholders' Representative (as the case may be) may convene a meeting at any time. A meeting shall be convened by the Noteholders' Representative (i) upon the request in writing of Noteholders holding not less than one fifth of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the relevant Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven or (ii) in the case of a proposed liquidation of the Special Estate in accordance with Article 11, 6° or 7 of Annex III to the Banking Law.

The Issuer or the Noteholders' Representative can convene a single meeting of Noteholders of more than one Series if in the opinion of the Noteholders' Representative the subject matter of the meeting is relevant to the Noteholders of each of those Series.

## 3.2 Time and place

Every meeting shall be held at a time and place approved by the Noteholders' Representative.

### 3.3 Notice

At least 14 calendar days' notice (exclusive of the day on which the notice is given and of the day on which the relevant meeting is to be held) specifying the date, time and place of the meeting shall be given to the Noteholders in accordance with Condition 9 (*Notices*) with a copy to the Issuer, the Cover Pool Administrator or the Noteholders' Representative, as the case may be. The notice shall set out the full text of any resolutions to be proposed. In addition, the notice shall explain (i) how holders of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven may obtain Voting Certificates and use Block Voting Instructions and the details of the time limits applicable and (ii) the formalities and procedures to validly cast a vote at a meeting in respect of Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven.

## 4 Chairman

The chairman of a meeting shall be such person (who may, but need not be, a Noteholder) as the Issuer or the Noteholders' Representative (as applicable) may nominate in writing, but if no such nomination is made or if the person nominated is not present within 15 minutes after the time fixed for the meeting, the meeting shall be chaired by the person elected by the majority of the voters present, failing which, the Noteholders' Representative shall appoint a chairman. The chairman of an adjourned meeting need not be the same person as was chairman at the original meeting.

### 5 Quorum and Adjournment

### 5.1 Quorum

The quorum at any meeting the purpose of which is to pass an Ordinary Resolution, an Extraordinary Resolution concerning matters referred to under Article 6.1 (a) to (d) or a Programme Resolution concerning matters referred to under Article 6.3 (a) to (c), will be one or more persons holding or representing at least 50 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Mortgage Pandbrieven of the relevant Series (with the Mortgage Pandbrieven of all Series taken together as a

single Series in case of a Programme Resolution), or, at an adjourned meeting, one or more persons being or representing Noteholders of the relevant Series for the time being outstanding, whatever the outstanding principal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven so held or represented.

At any meeting the purpose of which is to pass an Extraordinary Resolution concerning matters referred to under Article 6.1 (e) to (i), the quorum will be one or more persons holding or representing not less than two thirds of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Mortgage Pandbrieven of such Series or, at any adjourned meeting, one or more persons being or representing not less than one third of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Mortgage Pandbrieven of such Series for the time being outstanding.

At any meeting the purpose of which is to pass a Programme Resolution concerning matters referred to under Article 6.3 (d), the quorum will be one or more persons holding or representing not less than two thirds of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Mortgage Pandbrieven of all Series taken together as a single Series, including at an adjourned meeting.

No business (except choosing a chairman) shall be transacted at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the commencement of business. If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes from the time initially fixed for the meeting, it shall, if convened on the request of Noteholders, be dissolved. In any other case it shall be adjourned until such date, not less than 7 nor more than 42 calendar days later, and be held at such time and place as the chairman may decide.

| Purpose of the meeting  | Required proportion for<br>an initial meeting to be<br>quorate | Required proportion for an adjourned meeting to be quorate |
|---|--|--|
| To pass any Ordinary<br>Resolution  | 50%  | No minimum proportion                                      |
| To pass any Extraordinary<br>Resolution concerning<br>matters referred to under<br>Article 6.1 (a) to (d) | 50%  | No minimum proportion                                      |
| To pass any Extraordinary<br>Resolution concerning<br>matters referred to under<br>Article 6.1 (e) to (i) | Two thirds   | One third  |
| To pass any Programme<br>Resolution concerning<br>matters referred to under<br>Article 6.3 (a) to(c)      | 50%  | No minimum proportion                                      |
| To pass any Programme<br>Resolution concerning<br>matters referred to under<br>Article 6.3 (d)            | Two thirds   | Two thirds   |

Mortgage Pandbrieven held by the Issuer shall not be taken into account for the calculation of the required quorum.

# 5.2 Adjournment

The chairman may (and shall if directed by a meeting) adjourn the meeting "from time to time and from place to place". Only business which could have been transacted at the original meeting may be transacted at a meeting adjourned in accordance with this Article 5.2.

## 5.3 Notice following adjournment

At least 10 calendar days' notice of a meeting adjourned for want of quorum shall be given in the same manner as for an original meeting and that notice shall state the quorum required at the adjourned meeting.

Except in case of a meeting to consider an Extraordinary Resolution or a Programme Resolution, it shall not be necessary to give notice of the resumption of a Meeting which has been adjourned for any other reason.

# 6 Powers of Meetings

# 6.1 Extraordinary Resolution

A meeting shall, subject to the Conditions and only with the consent of the Issuer, and without prejudice to any powers conferred on other persons by these Rules, have power by Extraordinary Resolution:

- (a) to approve any modification, abrogation, variation or compromise in respect of (i) the rights of the Noteholders' Representative, the Issuer, the Noteholders or any of them, whether such rights arise under the Programme Documents or otherwise, or (ii) these Rules, the Conditions or any Programme Document in respect of the material obligations of the Issuer under or in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven (other than as referred to under (e) to (i) or under Article 6.3);
- (b) to discharge or exonerate, whether retrospectively or otherwise, the Noteholders' Representative from any liability in relation to any act or omission for which the Noteholders' Representative has or may become liable pursuant or in relation to these Rules, the Conditions or any Programme Document;
- (c) to give any authority or approval which under these Rules or the Conditions is required to be given by Extraordinary Resolution;
- (d) to authorise the Noteholders' Representative (subject to it being indemnified and/or secured to its satisfaction) or any other person to execute all documents and do all things necessary to give effect to any Extraordinary Resolution;
- (e) to waive any breach or authorise any proposed breach by the Issuer of its obligations in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven or to waive the occurrence of a Payment Default;
- (f) to change any date fixed for payment of principal or interest in respect of the Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven, to reduce or cancel the amount of principal or interest payable on any date in respect of the Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven or to alter the method of calculating the amount of any payment in respect of the Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven on redemption or maturity or the date for any such payment;
- (g) to effect the exchange or substitution of the Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven for, or the conversion of the Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven into, shares, bonds or other obligations or securities of the Issuer;

- (h) to change the currency in which amounts due in respect of the Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven are payable; and
- (i) to change the quorum required at any meeting of the Noteholders or the majority required to pass any Extraordinary Resolution or a Programme Resolution.

# 6.2 Ordinary Resolution

A meeting shall, subject to the Conditions and only with the consent of the Issuer, and without prejudice to any powers conferred on other persons by these Rules, have power to decide by Ordinary Resolution on any business which is not listed under Article 6.1 (Extraordinary Resolution) or under Article 6.3 (Programme Resolution).

#### 6.3 **Programme Resolution**

A meeting shall, subject to the Conditions and without prejudice to any powers conferred on other persons by these Rules or the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations, have power by Programme Resolution:

- (a) to remove or replace (i) the Noteholders' Representative or (ii) the managing director of the Noteholders' Representative pursuant to Article 14;
- (b) with the consent of the Issuer, to amend the Common Terms;
- (c) to evaluate the Cover Pool Administrator's proposal or decision to liquidate the Special Estate and the early repayment of the Mortgage Pandbrieven in accordance with Article 11, 6° of Annex III to the Banking Law; and
- (d) to proceed with the liquidation of the Special Estate and the early repayment of the Mortgage Pandbrieven in accordance with Article 11, 7° of Annex III to the Banking Law.

#### 7 Arrangements for Voting

#### 7.1 Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven

No votes shall be validly cast at a meeting in respect of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven, unless in accordance with a Voting Certificate or Block Voting Instruction. Articles 7:162 to 7:174 of the Belgian Companies Code shall not apply.

Votes can only be validly cast in accordance with Voting Certificates and Block Voting Instructions in respect of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven held to the order or under the control and blocked by a Recognised Accountholder and which have been deposited at the registered office of the Issuer or any other person appointed thereto not less than three and not more than six Business Days before the time for which the meeting to which the relevant voting instructions and Block Voting Instructions relate, has been convened or called. The Voting Certificate and Block Voting Instructions shall be valid for as long as the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven continue to be so held and blocked. During the validity thereof, the holder of any such Voting Certificate or (as the case may be) the proxies named in any such Block Voting Instruction shall, for all purposes in connection with the relevant meeting, be deemed to be the holder of the Mortgage Pandbrieven to which such Voting Certificate or Block Voting Instruction shall, for all purposes in connection with the relevant meeting, be deemed to be the holder of the Mortgage Pandbrieven to which such Voting Certificate or Block Voting Instruction shall, for all purposes in connection with the relevant meeting, be deemed to be the holder of the Mortgage Pandbrieven to which such Voting Certificate or Block Voting Instruction relates.

In default of a deposit, the Block Voting Instruction or the Voting Certificate shall not be treated as valid, unless the chairman of the meeting decides otherwise before the meeting or adjourned meeting proceeds to business.

# Voting Certificates

A Voting Certificate shall:

- (a) be issued by a Recognised Accountholder or the Securities Settlement System;
- (b) state that on the date thereof (i) Mortgage Pandbrieven (not being Mortgage Pandbrieven in respect of which a Block Voting Instruction has been issued which is outstanding in respect of the meeting specified in such Voting Certificate and any such adjourned meeting) of a specified principal amount outstanding were held to its order or under its control and blocked by it and (ii) that no such Mortgage Pandbrieven will cease to be so held and blocked until the first to occur of:
  - the conclusion of the meeting specified in such Voting Certificate or, if applicable, any such adjourned meeting; and
  - the surrender of the Voting Certificate to the Recognised Accountholder or Securities Settlement System who issued the same; and
- (c) further state that until the release of the Mortgage Pandbrieven represented thereby the bearer of such certificate is entitled to attend and vote at such meeting and any such adjourned meeting in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven represented by such certificate.

#### **Block Voting Instructions**

A Block Voting Instruction shall:

- (a) be issued by a Recognised Accountholder;
- (b) certify that (i) Mortgage Pandbrieven (not being Mortgage Pandbrieven in respect of which a Voting Certificate has been issued which is outstanding in respect of the meeting specified in such Block Voting Instruction and any such adjourned meeting) of a specified principal amount outstanding were held to its order or under its control and blocked by it and (ii) that no such Mortgage Pandbrieven will cease to be so held and blocked until the first to occur of:
  - the conclusion of the meeting specified in such document or, if applicable, any such adjourned meeting; and
  - the giving of notice by the Recognised Accountholder to the Issuer, stating that certain of such Mortgage Pandbrieven cease to be held with it or under its control and blocked and setting out the necessary amendment to the Block Voting Instruction;
- (c) certify that each holder of such Mortgage Pandbrieven has instructed such Recognised Accountholder that the vote(s) attributable to the Mortgage Pandbrieven so held and blocked should be cast in a particular way in relation to the resolution or resolutions which will be put to such meeting or any such adjourned meeting and that all such instructions cannot be revoked or amended during the period commencing 3 Business Days prior to the time for which such meeting or any such adjourned meeting is convened and ending at the conclusion or adjournment thereof;
- (d) state the principal amount outstanding of the Mortgage Pandbrieven so held and blocked, distinguishing with regard to each resolution between (i) those in respect of which instructions have been given as aforesaid that the votes attributable thereto should be cast in favour of the resolution, (ii) those in respect of which instructions have been so given that the votes attributable thereto should be cast against the resolution and (iii) those in respect of which instructions have been so given to abstain from voting; and

(e) naming one or more persons (each hereinafter called a "**proxy**") as being authorised and instructed to cast the votes attributable to the Mortgage Pandbrieven so listed in accordance with the instructions referred to in (d) above as set out in such document.

# 7.2 Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven

Articles 7:162 to 7:174 of the Belgian Companies Code shall not apply. The formalities and procedures to validly cast a vote at a meeting in respect of Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven shall be such formalities and procedures as described in the notice referred to in Article 3.3.

# 8 Meeting Attendance

The following may attend and speak at a meeting:

- (a) Noteholders and their proxies;
- (b) the chairman;
- (c) the Issuer, the Noteholders' Representative (through their respective representatives) and their respective financial and legal advisers; and
- (d) the Dealers and their advisers.

# 9 Voting

# 9.1 Voting by show of hands

Every question submitted to a meeting shall be decided in the first instance by a show of hands. Unless a poll is validly demanded before or at the time that the result is declared, the chairman's declaration that on a show of hands a resolution has been passed, passed by a particular majority, rejected or rejected by a particular majority shall be conclusive, without proof of the number of votes cast for, or against, the resolution. Each voter shall have one vote. Where there is only one voter, this Article 9.1 shall not apply and the resolution will immediately be decided by means of a poll.

#### 9.2 Voting by poll

A demand for a poll shall be valid if it is made by the chairman, the Issuer, the Noteholders' Representative or one or more Noteholders present or validly represented at the meeting and representing or holding not less than one fiftieth of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the relevant Series of the outstanding Mortgage Pandbrieven. A poll shall be taken in such manner and (subject as provided below) either at once or after such adjournment as the chairman directs, but any poll demanded on the election of the chairman or on any question of adjournment shall be taken at the meeting without adjournment. A valid demand for a poll shall not prevent the continuation of the relevant meeting for any other business as the chairman directs. The result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which it was demanded as at the date it was taken.

On a poll each voter has one vote in respect of each integral currency unit of the specified Currency of such Series or such other amount as the Noteholders' Representative may stipulate in its absolute discretion in nominal amount of the outstanding Mortgage Pandbrieven represented or held by such voter. Without prejudice to the obligations of proxies, a person entitled to more than one vote need not use them all or cast them all in the same way.

# 9.3 Mortgage Pandbrieven held by the Issuer

In case Mortgage Pandbrieven are held by the Issuer, the Issuer shall not have any voting rights with respect to such Mortgage Pandbrieven.

# 9.4 Equality of votes

In case of equality of votes the chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to any other votes which he may have.

## 9.5 Voting majority

An Extraordinary Resolution shall be validly passed by a voting majority of at least 66<sup>2/3</sup> per cent. of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven for which votes have been cast. An Ordinary Resolution shall be validly passed by a simple majority of at least 50 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven for which votes have been cast plus one vote. A Programme Resolution shall be validly passed by a simple majority of at least 50 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven for which votes have been cast plus one vote. A Programme Resolution shall be validly passed by a simple majority of at least 50 per cent. of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the Mortgage Pandbrieven for which votes have been cast plus one vote, with the Mortgage Pandbrieven of all Series taken together as a single Series.

#### 10 Effect and Notice of Resolutions

A Resolution shall be binding on all the Noteholders, whether or not present at the meeting, when it has been validly passed in accordance with these Rules and each of them shall be bound by it and be bound to give effect to it accordingly.

Save as the Noteholders' Representative may otherwise agree, notice of the result of every vote on a Resolution shall be given to the Noteholders in accordance with Condition 9 (*Notices*), with a copy to the Issuer, the Cover Pool Administrator (as the case may be) and the Noteholders' Representative within 14 calendar days of the conclusion of the meeting but failure to do so shall not invalidate the resolution. Notice of the result of a voting on a Programme Resolution shall also be given to the Rating Agencies to the extent any rated Mortgage Pandbrieven are outstanding, unless otherwise agreed upon between the Issuer and the relevant Rating Agency.

#### 11 Minutes

Minutes of all resolutions and proceedings at each meeting shall be made. The chairman shall sign the minutes, which shall be *prima facie* evidence of the proceedings recorded therein. Unless and until the contrary is proved, every such meeting in respect of the proceedings of which minutes have been summarised and signed shall be deemed to have been duly convened and held and all resolutions passed or proceedings transacted at it to have been duly passed and transacted.

#### 12 Written Resolution

A written resolution signed by the holders of 75 per cent. in nominal amount of the relevant Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven outstanding shall take effect as if it were an Extraordinary Resolution. A written resolution signed by the holders of 50 per cent. in nominal amount of the relevant Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven outstanding shall take effect as if it were an Ordinary Resolution. To the extent permitted by the applicable law, a written resolution signed by the holders of 50 per cent. in nominal amount of the Mortgage Pandbrieven outstanding as if they were a single Series shall take effect as if it were a Programme Resolution. Such resolutions in writing may be contained in one document or several documents in the same form, each signed by or on behalf of one or more Noteholders.

# 13 Further Regulations

Subject to all other provisions contained in these Rules and with the consent of the Issuer, the Noteholders' Representative may prescribe such further regulations regarding the holding of meetings of Noteholders and attendance and voting as the Noteholders' Representative may determine in its sole discretion.

# TITLE III NOTEHOLDERS' REPRESENTATIVE

#### 14 Appointment, Removal and Remuneration

#### 14.1 Appointment and removal of the Noteholder's Representative

The Issuer has appointed the Noteholders' Representative as legal representative of the Noteholders under the Noteholders' Representative Agreement. In accordance with Article 14 of Annex III to the Banking Law, the Noteholders shall be entitled to remove the Noteholders' Representative by Programme Resolution provided that (i) they appoint a new Noteholders' Representative and (ii) neither the managing director of the Noteholders' Representative nor the Noteholders' Representative so removed shall be responsible for any costs or expenses arising from any such removal.

#### 14.2 Eligibility Criteria

The managing director of the Noteholders' Representative shall have the necessary professional and organisational capacity and experience to perform the tasks entrusted to the Noteholders' Representative.

#### 14.3 Appointment, removal and resignation of the managing director

A resolution to appoint or to remove the managing director of the Noteholders' Representative is made by Programme Resolution of the Noteholders, except for the appointment of the first managing director of the Noteholders' Representative which will be Amsterdamsch Trustee's Kantoor B.V.

A new managing director shall accede to the existing management agreement by way of an accession letter and by doing so, agrees to be bound by the terms of such agreement.

Pursuant to the Noteholders' Representative's articles of association, its managing director ceases to hold office in the following cases:

- (a) upon voluntary resignation, provided that a successor managing director is appointed;
- (b) in the case of a legal entity, upon the ceasing to exist as legal entity, or, in the case of an individual, upon its death;
- (c) upon the managing director being declared bankrupt, applying for a suspension of payments or petitioning for application of the debt restructuring provision referred to in the Dutch bankruptcy act in respect of the managing director, provided that a successor managing director is appointed;
- (d) upon removal from office by the court in cases provided for by the laws of the Netherlands;
- (e) upon removal from office by the board of the Noteholders' Representative, provided that a successor managing director is appointed ; and
- (f) upon removal from office by a Programme Resolution of the Noteholders in accordance with Article 14.1, provided that (i) they appoint a new managing director which shall meet the eligibility criteria set out under Rule 14.2, (ii) the Other Creditors (to the extent represented by the Noteholders' Representative) have been notified thereof and (iii) neither the managing director so removed nor the Noteholders' Representative shall be responsible for any costs or expenses arising from any such removal.

Except in case of Article 14.3(f), any successor managing director shall be appointed by the Noteholders' Representative's board (bestuur). In case no managing director is in office, a managing

director shall be appointed by the courts of Amsterdam on request by any person having an interest or by the public prosecutor.

Unless the managing director is removed or resigns in accordance with this Article, it shall remain in office until the date on which all Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven have been cancelled or redeemed and on which all claims of the Other Creditors (to the extent represented by the Noteholders' Representative) against the Special Estate have been settled.

Any removal or resignation of the managing director shall also be binding upon the Other Creditors that have chosen to be represented by the Noteholders' Representative.

The Noteholders' Representative shall inform the Noteholders and the Other Creditors (to the extent represented by the Noteholders' Representative) of any removal or resignation of the managing director and any appointment of a successor managing directors as soon as reasonably practicable.

#### 14.4 Remuneration

The Issuer shall pay to the Noteholders' Representative a remuneration for its services as Noteholders' Representative as agreed in the Noteholders' Representative Agreement or a separate fee letter.

#### 15 Duties and Powers of the Noteholders' Representative

#### **15.1** Legal representative

The Noteholders' Representative is the legal representative of the Noteholders and has the power to exercise the rights conferred on it by these Rules, the Conditions, the Noteholders' Representative Agreement and the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations in order to protect the interests of the Noteholders in accordance with Article 14, §2 of Annex III to the Banking Law. The Noteholders' Representative can also be appointed to represent the Other Creditors provided that those Other Creditors agree with such representation. Any conflict of interest between the Noteholders and such Other Creditors will be dealt with in accordance with Article 16.2(r) and Condition 16.

#### 15.2 Acceptance of terms and conditions

The Noteholders' Representative can at the request of the Issuer approve the (form of) terms and conditions which are different from the Conditions (as defined in the Programme Agreement) currently attached to the Programme Agreement for the issuance of Mortgage Pandbrieven not contemplated by Schedule 2 of the Programme Agreement.

#### 15.3 Meetings and Resolutions of Noteholders

Unless the relevant Resolution provides to the contrary, the Noteholders' Representative is responsible for implementing all Resolutions of the Noteholders. The Noteholders' Representative has the right to convene and attend meetings of Noteholders to propose any course of action which it considers from time to time necessary or desirable provided that it shall convene a meeting (i) upon the request in writing of Noteholders holding not less than one fifth of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of the relevant Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven or (ii) in the case of a proposed liquidation of the Special Estate in accordance with Article 11, 6° or 7° of Annex III to the Banking Law.

#### 15.4 Judicial proceedings

The Noteholders' Representative is authorised to represent the Noteholders in any judicial proceedings including any bankruptcy or similar proceedings in respect of the Issuer.

#### 15.5 Consents given by the Noteholders' Representative

Any consent or approval given by the Noteholders' Representative in accordance with these Rules may be given on such terms as the Noteholders' Representative deems appropriate and, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in these Rules, such consent or approval may be given retrospectively.

In accordance with the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations, the Noteholders' Representative may give any consent or approval, exercise any power, authority or discretion or take any similar action if it is satisfied that the interests of the Noteholders will not be materially prejudiced thereby.

#### **15.6** Payment Default

Failure by the Issuer to pay (i) any principal amount or (ii) any interest in respect of any Mortgage Pandbrief in accordance with the Conditions will upon receipt of a payment notice constitute a payment default ("**Payment Default**"). The Noteholders' Representative shall give written notice thereof to the Issuer by registered mail or per courier and with return receipt ("**Payment Notice**"). In case of failure by the Noteholders' Representative to deliver such Payment Notice, any Noteholder can deliver such notice to the Issuer (with a copy to the Noteholders' Representative).

The Noteholders' Representative shall inform the Noteholders upon its receipt of a notice in writing from the Issuer of the occurrence of such a failure to pay. However, the Noteholders' Representative shall not be bound to take any steps to ascertain whether any Payment Default has happened and, until it shall have actual knowledge or express notice to the contrary, the Noteholders' Representative shall be entitled to assume that no Payment Default has happened and that the Issuer is observing and performing all the obligations on its part contained in the Mortgage Pandbrieven and under the other Programme Documents.

Without prejudice to the powers granted to the Cover Pool Administrator, if a Payment Default occurs in relation to a particular Series, the Noteholders' Representative may, and shall if so requested in writing by the Noteholders of at least 66<sup>2/3</sup> per cent. of the outstanding principal amount of the relevant Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven then outstanding (excluding any Mortgage Pandbrieven which may be held by the Issuer), serve a notice on the Issuer ("Acceleration Notice") by registered mail or per courier and with return receipt that a Payment Default has occurred in relation to such Series, provided in each case it shall have been indemnified and/or secured and/or pre-funded to its satisfaction.

The Acceleration Notice will specify the date on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven become immediately due and payable (the "Acceleration Date"), which will be at least two Business Days after the date of Payment Default. A copy of the Acceleration Notice shall be sent to the Supervisory Authority and to the Noteholders.

The Noteholders' Representative may in accordance with the Conditions, the Belgian Covered Bonds Regulations and the Programme Documents instruct the relevant (Principal) Paying Agent, the other agents under the Programme and Registrar or any of them to act thereafter, until otherwise instructed by the Noteholders' Representative, to effect payments on the terms provided in the Agency Agreement (with consequential amendments as necessary and save that the Noteholders' Representative's liability under any provisions thereof for the indemnification, remuneration and payment of out of pocket expenses of the agents under the Programme shall be limited to amounts for the time being received or recovered by the Noteholders' Representative under any of the Programme Documents and available to the Noteholders' Representative for such purpose) and thereafter to hold all sums, documents and records held by them in respect of Mortgage Pandbrieven on behalf of the Noteholders' Representative.

#### 15.7 Programme Limit

The Noteholders' Representative will not enquire as to whether or not any Mortgage Pandbrieven are issued in breach of the programme limit equal to EUR 10,000,000,000 (or the equivalent in other currencies at the date of issuance) aggregate outstanding principal amount of Mortgage Pandbrieven at any time (the "**Programme Limit**").

#### 15.8 Application of proceeds

The Noteholders' Representative shall not be responsible for the receipt or application by the Issuer of the proceeds of the issuance of Mortgage Pandbrieven.

#### 15.9 Delegation

The Noteholders' Representative may in the exercise of the powers, discretions and authorities vested in it – in the interest of the Noteholders – whether by power of attorney or otherwise, delegate to any person or persons some, but not all, of the powers, discretions or authorities vested in it as aforesaid.

Any such delegation may be made upon such conditions and subject to such regulations (including power to sub-delegate) as the Noteholders' Representative may think fit in the interest of the Noteholders. The Noteholders' Representative shall use all reasonable care in the appointment of any such delegate and shall be responsible for the actions of such delegate. The Noteholders' Representative shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, give notice to the Issuer of the appointment of any delegate and any renewal, extension and termination of such appointment, and shall procure that any delegate shall give notice to the Issuer of the appointment of any sub-delegate as soon as reasonably practicable.

#### 15.10 Discretions

Save as expressly otherwise provided herein, the Noteholders' Representative shall have absolute discretion as to the exercise or non-exercise of any right, power and discretion vested in the Noteholders' Representative by these Rules or by operation of law.

#### **15.11** Obtaining instructions

In connection with matters in respect of which the Noteholders' Representative is entitled to exercise its discretion hereunder (including but not limited to forming any opinion in connection with the exercise or non-exercise of any discretion) the Noteholders' Representative has the right (but not the obligation) to convene a meeting of Noteholders in order to obtain the Noteholders' instructions as to how it should act. Prior to undertaking any action, the Noteholders' Representative shall be entitled to request that the Noteholders indemnify it, prefund it and/or provide it with security as specified in Article 16.2 to its satisfaction.

#### 16 Exoneration of the Noteholders' Representative

#### 16.1 Limited obligations

The Noteholders' Representative shall not assume any obligations or responsibilities in addition to those expressly provided herein and in the Programme Documents.

## 16.2 Specific limitations

Without limiting the generality of Article 16.1, the Noteholders' Representative:

(a) shall not be under any obligation to take any steps to ascertain whether a Payment Default or any other event, condition or act, the occurrence of which would cause a right or remedy to become exercisable by the Noteholders' Representative hereunder or under any other relevant document, has occurred and, until the Noteholders' Representative has actual knowledge or express notice to the contrary, it shall be entitled to assume that no Payment Default or such other event, condition or act has occurred;

- (b) shall not be under any obligation to monitor or supervise the observance and performance by the Issuer or any other parties of their obligations contained in these Rules or the Conditions and, until it shall have actual knowledge or express notice to the contrary, the Noteholders' Representative shall be entitled to assume that the Issuer and each other relevant party are duly observing and performing all their respective obligations;
- (c) shall not be under any obligation to disclose (unless and to the extent so required under these Rules, the Conditions or by applicable law) to any Noteholders or any other party, any information (including, without limitation, information of a confidential, financial or price sensitive nature) made available to the Noteholders' Representative by the Issuer or any other person in respect of the Special Estate or, more generally, of the Programme and no Noteholders shall be entitled to take any action to obtain from the Noteholders' Representative any such information;
- (d) except as expressly required in these Rules, shall not be under any obligation to give notice to any person of its activities in performance of the provisions of these Rules or the Conditions;
- (e) shall not be responsible for investigating the legality, validity, effectiveness, adequacy, suitability or genuineness of these Rules, or of any other document or any obligation or rights created or purported to be created hereby or thereby or pursuant hereto or thereto, nor shall be responsible for assessing any breach or alleged breach by the Issuer and any other party to the transaction, and (without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) it shall not have any responsibility for or have any duty to make any investigation in respect of or in any way be liable whatsoever for:
  - (i) the nature, status, creditworthiness or solvency of the Issuer;
  - (ii) the existence, accuracy or sufficiency of any legal or other opinion, search, report, certificate, valuation or investigation delivered or obtained or required to be delivered or obtained at any time in connection herewith;
  - (iii) the suitability, adequacy or sufficiency of any collection procedure operated by the Issuer or compliance therewith;
  - (iv) the failure by the Issuer to obtain or comply with any license, consent or other authorisation in connection with the registration or administration of the assets contained in the Special Estate; and
  - (v) any accounts, books, records or files maintained by the Issuer, the Principal Paying Agent or any other person in respect of the Special Estate or the Mortgage Pandbrieven;
- (f) shall not be responsible for the receipt or application by the Issuer of the proceeds of the issuance of the Mortgage Pandbrieven or the distribution of any of such proceeds to the persons entitled thereto;
- (g) shall have no responsibility for procuring or maintaining any rating of the Mortgage Pandbrieven by any credit or rating agency or any other person;
- (h) shall not be responsible for investigating any matter which is the subject of any recital, statement, warranty, representation or covenant by any party other than the Noteholders' Representative contained herein or any certificate, document or agreement relating thereto or

for the execution, legality, validity, effectiveness, enforceability or admissibility in evidence thereof;

- (i) shall not be liable for any failure, omission or defect in registering or filing or procuring registration or filing of or otherwise protecting or perfecting these Rules or the Conditions;
- (j) shall not be bound or concerned to examine or enquire into or be liable for any defect or failure in the right or title of the Issuer in relation to the assets contained in the Special Estate or any part thereof, whether such defect or failure was known to the Noteholders' Representative or might have been discovered upon examination or enquiry or whether capable of being remedied or not;
- (k) shall not be under any obligation to guarantee or procure the repayment of the receivables contained in the Special Estate or any part thereof;
- (1) shall not be responsible for reviewing or investigating any report relating to the Special Estate or any part thereof provided by any person;
- (m) shall not be responsible for or have any liability with respect to any loss or damage arising from the realisation of the Special Estate or any part thereof;
- (n) shall not be responsible (except as expressly provided in these Rules) for making or verifying any determination or calculation in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven or the Special Estate;
- (o) shall not be under any obligation to insure the Special Estate or any part thereof;
- (p) shall, when in these Rules or the Conditions it is required in connection with the exercise of its powers, authorities or discretions to have regard to the interests of the Noteholders, have regard to the overall interests of the Noteholders of each Series as a class of persons and shall not be obliged to have regard to any interests arising from circumstances particular to individual Noteholders whatever their number and, in particular but without limitation, shall not have regard to the consequences of such exercise for individual Noteholders (whatever their number) resulting from their being for any purpose domiciled or resident in, or otherwise connected with, or subject to the jurisdiction of, any particular territory or taxing authority, and the Noteholders' Representative shall not be entitled to require, nor shall any Noteholders be entitled to claim, from the Issuer, the Noteholders' Representative or any other person any indemnification or payment in respect of any tax consequence of any such exercise upon individual Noteholders;
- (q) shall not, if in connection with the exercise of its powers, authorities or discretions, it is of the opinion that the interest of the Noteholders of any one or more Series would be materially prejudiced thereby, exercise such power, authority or discretion without the approval of such Noteholders by Extraordinary Resolution;
- (r) shall, as regards the powers, authorities and discretions vested in it, except where expressly provided otherwise, have regard to the interests of both the Noteholders and the Other Creditors of the Issuer which it represents but if, in the opinion of the Noteholders' Representative, there is a conflict between their interests the Noteholders' Representative will have regard solely to the interest of the Noteholders;
- (s) may refrain from taking any action or exercising any right, power, authority or discretion vested in it until it has been indemnified and/or secured and/or pre-funded to its satisfaction against any and all actions, proceedings, claims and demands which might be brought or made against it and against all Liabilities suffered, incurred or sustained by it as a result. Nothing shall require the Noteholders' Representative to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any

financial liability in the performance of its duties or the exercise of any right, power, authority or discretion hereunder if it has grounds for believing the repayment of such funds or adequate indemnity against, or security for, such risk or liability is not reasonably assured; and

(t) shall not be liable or responsible for any Liabilities directly or indirectly suffered or incurred by the Issuer, any Noteholders or any other person which may result from anything done or omitted to be done by it in accordance with the provisions of these Rules or the Conditions except insofar as the same are incurred as a result of fraud, gross negligence or wilful default of the Noteholders' Representative.

# 16.3 Illegality

No provision of these Rules shall require the Noteholders' Representative to do anything which may be illegal or contrary to applicable law or regulations or to expend moneys or otherwise take risks in the performance of any of its duties, or in the exercise of any of its powers or discretion. The Noteholders' Representative may refrain from taking any action which would or might, in its opinion, be contrary to any law of any jurisdiction or any regulation or directive of any agency of any state, or if it has reasonable grounds to believe that it will not be reimbursed for any funds it expends, or that it will not be indemnified against any loss or Liabilities which it may incur as a consequence of such action. The Noteholders' Representative may do anything which, in its opinion, is necessary to comply with any such law, regulation or directive as aforesaid.

# 17 Reliance on Information

# 17.1 Advice

The Noteholders' Representative may act on the advice of a certificate, opinion or confirmation of, or any written information obtained from, any lawyer, accountant, banker, broker, tax advisor, credit or rating agency or other expert, notwithstanding that such advice, opinion, certificate, report, engagement letter or other document contain a monetary or other limit in the liability of the providers of such advice, opinion or written information, whether obtained by the Issuer, the Noteholders' Representative or otherwise, and shall not be liable for any loss occasioned by so acting. Any such opinion, advice, certificate or information may be sent or obtained by letter, telegram, e-mail or fax transmission and the Noteholders' Representative shall not be liable for acting on any opinion, advice, certificate or information purporting to be so conveyed although the same contains some error or is not authentic.

#### 17.2 Certificates of Issuer

The Noteholders' Representative shall be at liberty to accept as sufficient evidence:

- (a) as to any fact or matter *prima facie* within the Issuer's knowledge, a certificate duly signed by a director of the Issuer;
- (b) that such is the case, a certificate of a director of the Issuer to the effect that any particular dealing, transaction, step or thing is expedient;

and the Noteholders' Representative shall not be bound in any such case to call for further evidence or be responsible for any loss that may be incurred as a result of acting on such certificate unless any of its officers in charge of the administration of these Rules shall have actual knowledge or express notice of the untruthfulness of the matters contained in the certificate.

#### 17.3 Resolution or direction of Noteholders

The Noteholders' Representative shall not be responsible for acting upon any resolution purporting to be a Written Resolution or to have been passed at any meeting of Noteholders in respect whereof minutes have been made and signed or a direction of the requisite percentage of Noteholders, even though it may subsequently be found that there was some defect in the constitution of the meeting of Noteholders or the passing of the Written Resolution or the giving of such directions or that for any reason the resolution purporting to be a Written Resolution or to have been passed at any meeting or the giving of the direction was not valid or binding upon the Noteholders.

# 17.4 Ownership of the Mortgage Pandbrieven

The Noteholders' Representative, in order to ascertain ownership of the Mortgage Pandbrieven, may fully rely on:

- the book-entries in the records of the Securities Settlement System, its participants or any Recognised Accountholder in accordance with Article 7:35 et seq. of the Belgian Companies Code, as far as the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven are concerned; and
- the register held in accordance with Article 7:23 et seq. of the Belgian Companies Code, as far as the Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven are concerned.

#### 17.5 Clearing Systems

The Noteholders' Representative shall be at liberty to call for and to rely on as sufficient evidence of the facts stated therein, a certificate, letter or confirmation certified as true and accurate and signed on behalf of such clearing system as the Noteholders' Representative considers appropriate, or any form of record made by any clearing system, to the effect that at any particular time or throughout any particular period any particular person is, or was, or will be, shown in its records as entitled to a particular number of Mortgage Pandbrieven.

#### 17.6 Certificates of Parties to Programme Documents

The Noteholders' Representative shall have the right to call for and to rely on written certificates issued by any party to the Programme Documents (other than the Issuer):

- (a) in respect of every matter and circumstance for which a certificate is expressly provided for under the Conditions or any Programme Document;
- (b) as any matter or fact *prima facie* within the knowledge of such party; or
- (c) as to such party's opinion with respect to any issuance,

and the Noteholders' Representative shall not be required to seek additional evidence in respect of the relevant fact, matter or circumstances and shall not be held responsible for any Liabilities incurred as a result of having failed to do so unless any of its officers has actual knowledge or express notice of the untruthfulness of the matter contained in the certificate.

#### 17.7 Auditors

The Noteholders' Representative shall not be responsible for reviewing or investigating any auditors' report, certificate or engagement letter and may rely on the contents of any such report or certificate, notwithstanding that such advice, opinion, certificate, report, engagement letter or other document contain a monetary or other limit in the liability of the providers of such advice, opinion or written information.

#### 17.8 Investor reports

The Noteholders' Representative shall be at liberty to rely on as sufficient evidence of the facts stated therein, the regular investor reports provided by the Issuer with regard to, among others, the composition of the Special Estate which will be made available on the website of the Issuer at www.belfius.be on a monthly basis.

#### 18 Amendments and Modifications

The Noteholders' Representative may from time to time and without the consent or sanction of the Noteholders concur with the Issuer and any other relevant parties in making any modification to the Conditions or to the Common Terms:

- (a) if the Noteholders' Representative is of the opinion that such modification will not be materially prejudicial to the interests of any of the Noteholders of any Series; or
- (b) if such modification is of a formal, minor or technical nature or, in the opinion of the Noteholders' Representative is to correct a manifest error or to comply with mandatory provisions of law.

Any such modification shall be binding upon the Noteholders and, unless the Noteholders' Representative otherwise agrees, shall be notified by the Issuer to the Noteholders in accordance with Condition 9 (*Notices*) as soon as practicable thereafter.

The Noteholders' Representative shall be bound to concur with the Issuer and any other party in making any of the above-mentioned modifications if it is so directed by an Extraordinary Resolution (Conditions) or a Programme Resolution (Common Terms) and if it is indemnified and/or secured and/or pre-funded to its satisfaction against all Liabilities to which it may thereby render itself liable or which it may incur by so doing.

Upon the Issuer's request, the Noteholders' Representative shall, without the consent or sanction of any of the Noteholders, concur with the Issuer in making any modifications to the Conditions or to the Common Terms that the Issuer may decide in its discretion in order to comply with any criteria of the Rating Agency which may be published after the signing of the initial agreement(s) for the issuance of and subscription for the Mortgage Pandbrieven and which the Issuer certifies to the Noteholders' Representative in writing are required to avoid a downgrade, withdrawal or suspension of the then current ratings assigned by a Rating Agency to any Series of the Mortgage Pandbrieven, provided that the Noteholders' Representative shall not be obliged to agree to any modification which, in the sole opinion of the Noteholders' Representative, as applicable, would have effect of (i) exposing the Noteholders' Representative, as applicable, to any liability against which it has not been indemnified and/or secured and/or prefunded to its satisfaction or (ii) increasing the obligations or duties, or decreasing the protections, of the Noteholders' Representative, as applicable in these Rules or the Conditions. For the avoidance of doubt, such modification may include, without limitation, modifications which would allow any hedge counterparty and/or liquidity facility provider not to post collateral in circumstances where it previously would have been obliged to do so. The Rating Agencies are not responsible for any of the decisions that the Noteholders' Representative may or may not take based on any rating confirmation or other papers published by such Rating Agency.

# 19 Waiver

#### **19.1** Waiver of Breach

The Noteholders' Representative may at any time and from time to time in its sole discretion, without prejudice to its rights in respect of any subsequent breach, condition, event or act, but only if, and in so far as, in its opinion the interests of the holders of any Mortgage Pandbrieven then outstanding shall not be materially prejudiced thereby, authorise or waive, on such terms and subject to such conditions

(if any) as it may decide, any of the obligations of or rights against the Issuer or any other relevant party to the Programme.

# **19.2 Binding Nature**

Any authorisation, waiver or determination referred in Article 19.1 shall be binding on the Noteholders.

# **19.3** Restriction on powers

The Noteholders' Representative shall not exercise any powers conferred upon it by this Article 19:

- (a) in contravention of any express direction by an Extraordinary Resolution but so that no such direction shall affect any authorisation, waiver or determination previously given or made, and only if it shall be indemnified and/or secured and/or pre-funded to its satisfaction against all Liabilities to which it may thereby render itself liable or which it may incur by so doing; or
- (b) so as to authorise or waive any obligation or right against the Issuer relating to a matter as referred to under Article 6.1(e) to (i), unless holders of Mortgage Pandbrieven of the relevant Series have, by Extraordinary Resolution, so authorised its exercise.

# 19.4 Notice of waiver

Unless the Noteholders' Representative agrees otherwise, the Issuer shall cause any such authorisation, waiver or determination as referred in Article 19.1 to be notified to the Noteholders, as soon as practicable after it has been given or made in accordance with Condition 9 (*Notices*).

# 20 Indemnity

# 20.1 Indemnification by the Issuer

Except in the case of Article 20.2 below, the Issuer covenants with and undertakes to the Noteholders' Representative to indemnify the Noteholders' Representative on demand against any Liabilities which are properly incurred by the Noteholders' Representative or any other person appointed by the Noteholders' Representative or any other person appointed by the Noteholders' Representative in the execution, or the purported execution, of the powers, authorities and discretions vested in it by the Programme Documents, in, or in connection with, (except insofar as the same are incurred because of the gross negligence, wilful default or fraud of the Noteholders' Representative or such other third parties):

- (a) the performance of the terms of the Mortgage Pandbrieven and the Programme Documents;
- (b) anything done or purported to be done by the Noteholders' Representative or any appointee under the Mortgage Pandbrieven or any other Programme Document; or
- (c) the exercise or attempted exercise by or on behalf of the Noteholders' Representative or any appointee of any of the powers of the Noteholders' Representative or any appointee or any other action taken by or on behalf of the Noteholders' Representative with a view to or in connection with enforcing any obligations of the Issuer or any other person under any Programme Document.

#### 20.2 Indemnification by the Noteholders

In the case the Noteholders' Representative or any other person appointed by the Noteholders' Representative under the Programme Documents has acted upon any resolution or direction referred to in Article 17.3, each Noteholder covenants with and undertakes to the Noteholders' Representative to indemnify the Noteholders' Representative on demand and *pro rata* according to its share in the

aggregate outstanding principal amount of Mortgage Pandbrieven at the time of such resolution or direction against any Liabilities which are properly incurred (except insofar as the same are incurred because of the gross negligence, wilful default or fraud of the Noteholders' Representative or such other third parties) by the Noteholders' Representative or any appointee as a result of its acting in relation to that resolution or direction.

# 21 Liability

# 21.1 Liability of the Noteholders' Representative

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules, the Noteholders' Representative shall not be liable for any act, matter or thing done or omitted in any way in connection with the Mortgage Pandbrieven, these Rules or the Conditions except in relation to its own fraud, gross negligence or wilful default.

The Noteholders' Representative is entitled to assume, for the purposes of exercising any power, authority, duty or discretion under or in relation to the Conditions and these Rules, that such exercise will not be materially prejudicial to the interests of any of the Noteholders if a Rating Agency has confirmed in writing that the then current ratings of the Mortgage Pandbrieven would not be adversely affected by such exercise. However, the Noteholders' Representative shall not be obliged to seek such confirmation from any Rating Agency. In being entitled to rely on the fact that any Rating Agency has confirmed that the ratings that may be applied to the Mortgage Pandbrieven would not be adversely affected, it is hereby acknowledged by the Noteholders' Representative and the Noteholders that the above does not impose or extend any actual or contingent liability for the relevant Rating Agency to the Noteholders' Representative, the Noteholders or any other person or create any legal relations between the relevant Rating Agency and the Noteholders' Representative, the Noteholders or any other person whether by way of contract or otherwise. The Rating Agencies are not responsible for any of the decisions that the Noteholders' Representative may or may not take based on any rating confirmation or other papers published by such Rating Agency.

# 21.2 Liability of the Issuer

Except in the case of fraud of the Issuer, each Noteholder and each Other Creditor represented by the Noteholders' Representative acknowledges and accepts that the Issuer shall not be liable, in respect of any loss, liability, claim, expenses or damage suffered or incurred by any of the Noteholders or the Other Creditors represented by the Noteholders' Representative as a result of the performance by the Noteholders' Representative (or its delegate) of its duties or the exercise of any of its rights under the Conditions and these Rules.

# SECTION 10 FORM OF FINAL TERMS

Set out below is the form of Final Terms which will be completed for each Tranche of Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme.

MiFID II PRODUCT GOVERNANCE - Solely for the purposes of the product approval process of each Manufacturer (i.e., each person deemed a manufacturer for purposes of the EU Delegated Directive 2017/593, hereinafter referred to as a Manufacturer), the target market assessment in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven as of the date hereof has led to the conclusion that: (i) the target market for the Mortgage Pandbrieven is eligible counterparties and professional clients each as defined in Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, "MiFID II"); and (ii) all channels for distribution of the Mortgage Pandbrieven to eligible counterparties and professional clients are appropriate. Any person subsequently offering, selling or recommending the Mortgage Pandbrieven (a "Distributor") should take into consideration each Manufacturer's target market assessment. A distributor subject to MiFID II is, however, responsible for undertaking its own target market assessment in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven (by either adopting or refining a Manufacturer's target market assessment) and determining appropriate distribution channels.

PROHIBITION OF SALES TO EEA AND UK RETAIL INVESTORS – The Mortgage Pandbrieven are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available to and should not be offered, sold or otherwise made available to any retail investor in the European Economic Area ("EEA") or the United Kingdom ("UK"). For these purposes, a retail investor means a person who is one (or more) of: (i) a retail client as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU ("MiFID II"); (ii) a customer within the meaning of Directive 2016/97/EU ("IDD"), where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or (iii) not a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Regulation (as defined below). Consequently, no key information document required by Regulation (EU) No 1286/2014 (the "PRIIPs Regulation") for offering or selling the Mortgage Pandbrieven or otherwise making them available to retail investors in the EEA or the UK has been prepared and therefore offering or selling the Mortgage Pandbrieven or otherwise making them available to any retail investor in the EEA or the UK may be unlawful under the PRIIPS Regulation.

PROHIBITION OF SALES TO CONSUMERS – The Mortgage Pandbrieven are not intended to be offered, sold or otherwise made available, and will not be offered, sold or otherwise made available, in Belgium to "consumers" (*consommateurs/consumenten*) within the meaning of the Belgian Code of Economic Law (*Code de droit économique/Wetboek van economisch recht*), as amended.

Final Terms dated [•]

**Belfius Bank SA/NV** 

Issue of [Aggregate Nominal Amount of Tranche] [Title of Mortgage Pandbrieven]

under the EUR 10,000,000,000 Belgian Mortgage Pandbrieven Programme

# PART A - CONTRACTUAL TERMS

Terms used herein shall be deemed to be defined as such for the purposes of the Conditions set forth in the Base Prospectus dated [•] [and the Prospectus Supplement dated [•]] which [together] constitute[s] a base prospectus for the purposes of the Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 (as amended, the "**Prospectus Regulation**"). This document constitutes the Final Terms of the Mortgage Pandbrieven described herein for the purposes of Article 8.4 of the Prospectus Regulation and must be read in conjunction with such Base Prospectus and any supplement thereto. Full information on the Issuer and the offer of the Mortgage Pandbrieven is only available on the basis of the combination of these Final Terms and the Base Prospectus and any supplement thereto. The Base Prospectus and any supplement thereto are available for inspection during normal business hours at the office of the Fiscal Agent and [the office of the Issuer] and are available for viewing on the website of the Issuer.

# [The following alternative language applies if the first tranche of an issuance which is being increased was issued under a Base Prospectus (or equivalent) with an earlier date.]

Terms used herein shall be deemed to be defined as such for the purposes of the terms and conditions (the "Conditions") set forth in the [Base Prospectus] dated [original date] [and the Prospectus Supplement dated [•]]. This document constitutes the Final Terms of the Mortgage Pandbrieven described herein for the purposes of Article 8.4 of the Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 (as amended, the "Prospectus Regulation") and must be read in conjunction with the Base Prospectus dated [current date] [and the Prospectus Supplement dated [•]], which [together] constitutes a base prospectus for the purposes of the Prospectus Regulation, save in respect of the Conditions which are extracted from the [Base Prospectus] dated [original date] [and the Prospectus Supplement dated [•]] and are attached hereto. Full information on the Issuer and the offer of the Mortgage Pandbrieven is only available on the basis of the combination of these Final Terms and the [Base Prospectus dated [current date] [and the Prospectus Supplement dated [•]]. The Base Prospectus dated [current date] [Prospectuses] [and the Prospectus Supplement dated [•]] are available for inspection during normal business hours at the office of the Principal Paying Agent and [the office of the Issuer] and [is/are] available for viewing on the website of the Issuer.

# [The following alternative language applies if no prospectus is required in accordance with the Prospectus Regulation.]

The [Final Terms] do not constitute final terms for the purposes of Article 8.4 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 (as amended, the "**Prospectus Regulation**"). The Issuer is not offering the [Mortgage Pandbrieven] in any jurisdiction in circumstances which would require a prospectus pursuant to the Prospectus Regulation. Nor is any person authorised to make such an offer of the [Mortgage Pandbrieven] on behalf of the Issuer in any jurisdiction. In addition, no application has been made (nor is it proposed that any application will be made) for listing the [Mortgage Pandbrieven] on any stock exchange.

[Include whichever of the following apply or specify as "Not Applicable" (N/A). Note that the numbering should remain as set out below, even if "Not Applicable" is indicated for individual paragraphs or sub-paragraphs. Italics denote guidance for completing the Final Terms.]

[When completing any final terms, or adding any other final terms or information, consideration should be given as to whether such terms or information constitute "significant new factors" and consequently trigger the need for a supplement to the Base Prospectus under Article 23 of the Prospectus Regulation.]

| 1 | Issuer: |                 | Belfius | Bank   | (with | Legal  | Entity | Identifier | number |
|---|---------|-----------------|---------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
|   |         |                 | A5GWL   | .FH3KN | M7YV2 | SFQL84 | 4)     |            |        |
| 2 | (i)     | Series Number:  | [•]     |        |       |        |        |            |        |
|   | (ii)    | Tranche Number: | [•]     |        |       |        |        |            |        |

|    | (iii)   | [Date on which the<br>Mortgage Pandbrieven<br>become fungible: | [Not Applicable/The Mortgage Pandbrieven shall be<br>consolidated, form a single series and be interchangeable<br>for trading purposes with the Mortgage Pandbrieven of<br>[ <i>Series</i> ] [ <i>Tranche</i> ] issued on [ <i>insert date</i> /the Issue Date]<br>with effect from [the date that is 40 calendar days<br>following the Issue Date]/[the Issue Date]]  |
|----|---------|--|--|
| 3  | Specif  | fied Currency or Currencies:                                   | [•]  |
| 4  | Aggre   | egate Principal Amount:  |  |
|    | (i)     | Series:  | [•]  |
|    | [(ii)   | Tranche:   | [•]]   |
| 5  | Issue ] | Price:   | [•] per cent. of the Aggregate Principal Amount [plus accrued interest from [ <i>insert date</i> ] ( <i>in the case of fungible issuances only, if applicable</i> )]   |
| 6  | (i)     | Specified Denomination:  | [•] [and integral multiples of [•] thereof]  |
|    |         |  | [EUR 100,000 or the equivalent of at least EUR 100,000 in<br>any other currency at the date of issue [(in the case of any<br>Mortgage Pandbrieven which are to be admitted to trading<br>on a regulated market within the EEA or the UK or offered<br>to the public in a member state of the EEA or the UK in<br>circumstances which require the publication of a<br>prospectus under the Prospectus Regulation)]] |
|    | (ii)    | Calculation Amount:  | <ul> <li>[•]</li> <li>[If only one Specified Denomination, insert the Specified Denomination. If more than one Specified Denomination, insert the highest common factor] [Note: There must be a common factor in the case of two or more Specified Denominations]</li> </ul>   |
| 7  | (i)     | Issue Date:  | [•]  |
|    | (ii)    | Interest Commencement Date:                                    | [•] [Issue Date] [Not Applicable]  |
| 8  | Matur   | ity Date:  | [Specify date or (for Floating Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven<br>or any other rate where the Interest Period end date(s) are<br>adjusted) Interest Payment Date falling in or nearest to the<br>relevant month and year]  |
| 9  | Exten   | ded Maturity Date:   | [insert date] [the date should be that falling one year after<br>the Maturity Date]  |
| 10 | Intere  | st Basis:  |  |
|    | (i)     | Period to (but excluding)<br>Maturity Date                     | [[•] per cent. Fixed Rate]   |
|    |         |  | [[•] month [ <i>EURIBOR</i> ] +/- Margin Floating Rate]  |
|    |         |  | [Zero Coupon]  |

|    |      |  | (further particulars specified below)   |
|----|------|--|---|
|    | (ii) | Period from Maturity Date<br>(including) to Extended<br>Maturity Date (excluding)        | [[•] per cent. Fixed Rate]  |
|    |      |  | [[•] month [EURIBOR] +/- Margin Floating Rate]  |
|    |      |  | (further particulars specified below)   |
| 11 | Rede | mption/Payment Basis:  | Subject to any purchase and cancellation or early redemption, the Mortgage Pandbrieven will be redeemed at [[•]/[100]] per cent. of their principal amount.                                   |
| 12 | Note | holder Put/Issuer Call:  | [Noteholder Put]  |
|    |      |  | [Issuer Call]   |
|    |      |  | [(Further particulars specified below)]   |
|    |      |  | [Not applicable]  |
| 13 | (i)  | Status of the Mortgage<br>Pandbrieven:   | "Belgische pandbrieven/Lettres de gage belges".   |
|    | (ii) | Date of additional [Board]<br>approval for issuance of<br>Mortgage Pandbrieven obtained: | <ul> <li>[•] [and [•], respectively]]</li> <li>(N.B. Only relevant where Board (or similar) authorisation<br/>is required for the particular tranche of Mortgage<br/>Pandbrieven)]</li> </ul> |

# PROVISIONS RELATING TO INTEREST (IF ANY) PAYABLE

# 14 Fixed Rate Mortgage Pandbrief Provisions

| (I)  | To Maturity Date                                       | [Applicable/Not Applicable]   |
|------|--|---|
| (II) | From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date        | [Applicable/Not Applicable]   |
|      |  | (If (I) and/or (II) above are not applicable, delete the remaining sub-paragraphs of this paragraph)  |
| (i)  | Rate[(s)] of Interest:                                 |   |
|      | (a) To Maturity Date                                   | [•] per cent. per annum payable in arrear [annually/semi-<br>annually/quarterly/monthly]  |
|      | (b) From Maturity Date up to<br>Extended Maturity Date | [Not Applicable]/[[•] per cent. per annum payable in arrear<br>[annually/semi-annually/quarterly/monthly]   |
| (ii) | Interest Period Dates:                                 | (Only to be included for other than fixed coupon amounts)   |
|      | (a) To Maturity Date                                   | <ul> <li>[•] [[month] [and [•] [month]] in each year] / [in each month] from and including [•] up to and including [•] [adjusted in accordance with the specified Business Day Convention]/[not subject to any adjustment]</li> </ul> |
|      | (b) From Maturity Date up to                           | [•] [[month] [and [•] [month]] in each year] / [in each month] from and including [•] up to and including the   |

| Extended Maturity Date | Extension Payment Date on which the Mortgage              |
|------------------------|---|
|                        | Pandbrieven are redeemed in full or the Extended Maturity |
|                        | Date, or on any other date on which the Mortgage          |
|                        | Pandbrieven are fully redeemed in accordance with         |
|                        | Condition 3(j)(i)E, whichever occurs earlier[ subject in  |
|                        | each case to adjustment in accordance with the specified  |
|                        | Business Day Convention]/[not subject to any adjustment]  |
|                        |   |

- (iii) Interest Payment Date(s):
  - (a) To Maturity Date
  - (b) From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date

- (iv) Fixed Coupon Amount[(s)]:
  - (a) To Maturity Date
  - (b) From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date
- (v) Broken Amount(s):
  - (a) To Maturity Date
  - (b) From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date
- (vi) Day Count Fraction:
  - (a) To Maturity Date
  - (b) From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date
- (vii) Interest Determination Dates:
  - (a) To Maturity Date

[•] [[month] [and [•] [month]] in each year] / [in each month] up to and including [•] [adjusted in accordance with the specified Business Day Convention/[not subject to any adjustment]

[•] [[month] [and [•] [month]] in each year] / [in each month] from and including [•] up to and including the Extension Payment Date on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are redeemed in full or the Extended Maturity Date, or on any other date on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are fully redeemed in accordance with Condition 3(j)(i)E, whichever occurs earlier[ subject in each case to adjustment in accordance with the specified Business Day Convention]/[not subject to any adjustment].

[Not applicable] /[•] per Calculation Amount [Not applicable] /[•] per Calculation Amount

[Not applicable] / [●] per Calculation Amount, payable on the Interest Payment Date falling [in/on] [●]

[Not applicable]/ [•] per Calculation Amount, payable on the Interest Payment Date falling [in/on] [•]

[Actual/Actual]/[Actual/Actual-ISDA/[Actual/365 (Fixed)]/[Actual/360]/[30/360]/[360/360]/[Bond Basis]/[30E/360]/[Eurobond Basis]/[30E/360 (ISDA)]/[Actual/Actual-ICMA]

[Not Applicable]/ [Actual/Actual]/[Actual/Actual-ISDA/[Actual/365 [Fixed)]/[Actual/360]/[30/360]/ [360/360]/[Bond Basis]/[30E/360]/[Eurobond Basis]/[30E/360 (ISDA)]/[Actual/Actual-ICMA]

[•] [[month] [and [•] [month]] in each year] / [in each month] [adjusted in accordance with the specified Business Day Convention]/[not subject to any adjustment]] (insert regular interest payment dates, ignoring issue date or

maturity date in the case of a long or short first or last coupon. N.B. only relevant where Day Count Fraction is Actual/Actual ([ICMA])) [•] [[month] [and [•] [month]] in each year] / [in each (b) From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date month] from and including [•] up to and including the Extension Payment Date on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are redeemed in full or the Extended Maturity Date, or on any other date on which payment is made in accordance with Condition 3(j)(i)E, whichever occurs earlier, [subject in each case to adjustment in accordance with the specified Business Day Convention]/ [Not subject to any adjustment] (insert regular interest payment dates, ignoring issue date or maturity date in the case of a long or short first or last coupon. N.B. only relevant where Day Count Fraction is Actual/Actual ([ICMA])) (viii) Other terms relating to the method [Not Applicable/give details] of calculating interest for Fixed Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven: (ix) Business Day Convention (a) To Maturity Date [Following Business Day Convention/Modified Following Business Day Convention/ Preceding Business Day Convention] (b) From Maturity Date up to [Following Business Day Convention/Modified Following Extended Maturity Date Business Day Convention/ Preceding Business Day Convention] **Floating Rate Mortgage Pandbrief Provisions** (I) To Maturity Date [Applicable/Not Applicable] (II) From Maturity Date up to [Applicable/Not Applicable] Extended Maturity Date (If (I) and/or (II) are not applicable, delete the remaining sub-paragraphs of this paragraph)

- (i) Specified Interest Payment Dates:
  - (a) To Maturity Date

15

(b) From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date [•] in each year from and including [•] up to and including
[•] [adjusted in accordance with the specified Business Day Convention]/[not subject to any adjustment]

[•] in each [year/month], from and including [•] up to and including the Extension Payment Date on which the Mortgage Pandbrieven are redeemed in full or the Extended Maturity Date, or on any other date on which payment is made in accordance with Condition 3(j)(i)E, whichever occurs earlier, [subject in each case to adjustment in accordance with the specified Business Day Convention]/[not subject to any adjustment]

| (ii)  | Intere                             | est Periods:   |  |  |  |
|-------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
|       | (a)                                | To Maturity Date   | [Not Applicable]/[[•] [subject to adjustment in accordance<br>with the specified Business Day Convention]/[, not subject<br>to any adjustment, as the Business Day Convention in (v)<br>below is specified to be Not Applicable]]  |  |  |
|       |                                    | From Maturity Date up to<br>Extended Maturity Date   | [Not Applicable]/[[•] [subject to adjustment in accordance<br>with the specified Business Day Convention]/[, not subject<br>to any adjustment, as the specified Business Day<br>Convention is specified to be Not Applicable]]]  |  |  |
| (iii) | Intere                             | est Period Dates:  |  |  |  |
|       | (a)                                | To Maturity Date   | [Not Applicable]/[•][ subject to adjustment in accordance<br>with the specified Business Day Convention]/[Not subject<br>to adjustment, as the specified Business Day Convention]<br>is specified to be Not Applicable]]<br>(not applicable unless different from Interest Payment<br>Dates)         |  |  |
|       | (b)                                | From Maturity Date up to<br>Extended Maturity Date   | [Not Applicable] [[•][ subject to adjustment in accordance<br>with the specified Business Day Convention]/[, not subject<br>to any adjustment, as the specified Business Day<br>Convention] is specified to be Not Applicable]]]<br>(not applicable unless different from Interest Payment<br>Dates) |  |  |
| (iv)  | ) First Interest Payment Date: [•] |  |  |  |  |
| (v)   | Busir                              | ness Day Convention:   |  |  |  |
|       | (a)                                | To Maturity Date   | [Following Business Day Convention/Modified Following<br>Business Day Convention/Preceding Business Day<br>Convention] /[Not applicable]   |  |  |
|       | (b)                                | From Maturity Date up to<br>Extended Maturity Date   | [Following Business Day Convention/Modified Following<br>Business Day Convention/Preceding Business Day<br>Convention] /[Not applicable]   |  |  |
| (vi)  |                                    | her in which the Rate(s) of<br>est is/are to be determined:  |  |  |  |
|       | (a)                                | To Maturity Date   | [Not Applicable] [Screen Rate Determination/ISDA Determination]  |  |  |
|       | (b)                                | From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date  | [Not Applicable] [Screen Rate Determination/ISDA Determination]  |  |  |
| (vii) | the R<br>Intere                    | responsible for calculating<br>ate(s) of Interest and/or<br>est Amount(s) (if not the<br>alation Agent): |  |  |  |
|       | (a)                                | To Maturity Date   | [•]  |  |  |
|       | (b)                                | From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date  | [Not Applicable]/[•]   |  |  |

(viii) Screen Rate Determination:

| (v  | iii)Scr | een Rate Determination:                                      |  |
|-----|---------|--|--|
|     | (a)     | To Maturity Date   | [Applicable]/[Not Applicable]  |
|     |         | – Reference Rate:  | [•] month [EURIBOR]  |
|     |         | <ul> <li>Interest Determination</li> <li>Date(s):</li> </ul> | [•]  |
|     |         | <ul> <li>Relevant Screen Page:</li> </ul>                    | [•]  |
|     | (b)     | From Maturity Date up to<br>Extended Maturity Date           | [Applicable]/[Not Applicable]  |
|     |         | – Reference Rate:  | [•] month [EURIBOR]  |
|     |         | <ul> <li>Interest Determination</li> <li>Date(s):</li> </ul> | [•]  |
|     |         | <ul> <li>Relevant Screen Page:</li> </ul>                    | [•]  |
| (iz | x) ISE  | A Determination:   |  |
|     | (a)     | To Maturity Date   | [Applicable]/[Not Applicable]  |
|     |         | <ul> <li>Floating Rate Option:</li> </ul>                    | [•]  |
|     |         | <ul> <li>Designated Maturity:</li> </ul>                     | [•]  |
|     |         | <ul> <li>Reset Date:</li> </ul>                              | [•]  |
|     |         | [- ISDA Definitions  | [2006]]  |
|     | (b)     | From Maturity Date up to<br>Extended Maturity Date           | [Applicable]/[Not Applicable]  |
|     |         | – Floating Rate Option:                                      | [•]  |
|     |         | <ul> <li>Designated Maturity:</li> </ul>                     | [•]  |
|     |         | – Reset Date:  | [•]  |
|     |         | [- ISDA Definitions  | [2006]]  |
| (x  | ) [Lii  | near Interpolation:  | [Not Applicable]/[Applicable] – the Rate of Inte<br>[long/short] [first/last] Interest Accrual Period<br>calculated using Linear Interpolation]<br>( <i>specify for each short or long interest period</i> ) |
| (x  | i) Ma   | rgin(s):   |  |
|     | (a)     | To Maturity Date   | [[+/-][•] per cent. per annum]/[Not Applicable]  |
|     | (b)     | From Maturity Date up to<br>Extended Maturity Date           | [[+/-][•] per cent. per annum]/[Not Applicable]  |
| (x  | ii) Mi  | nimum Rate of Interest:                                      |  |
|     | (a)     | To Maturity Date   | [[•] per cent. per annum]/[Not Applicable]   |
|     | (b)     | From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date              | [[+/-][•] per cent. per annum]/[Not Applicable]  |
| (x  | iii)Ma  | ximum Rate of Interest:                                      |  |
|     | (a)     | To Maturity Date   | [[•] per cent. per annum] [Not Applicable]   |
|     | (b)     | From Maturity Date up to                                     | [[+/-][•] per cent. per annum]/[Not Applicable]  |
|     |         |  |  |

of Interest for the Period shall be

# Extended Maturity Date

16

| (xiv)  | ) Day (  | Count Fraction:                                    |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | (a)  | To Maturity Date                                   | [Actual/Actual]/[Actual/Actual-ISDA/[Actual/365<br>(Fixed)]/[Actual/360]/[30/360]/[360/360]/[Bond<br>Basis]/[30E/360]/[Eurobond Basis]/[30E/360<br>(ISDA)]/[Actual/ Actual-ICMA] |
|  | (b)  | From Maturity Date up to<br>Extended Maturity Date | [Actual/Actual]/[Actual/Actual-ISDA/[Actual/365<br>(Fixed)]/[Actual/360]/[30/360]/[360/360]/[Bond<br>Basis]/[30E/360]/[Eurobond Basis]/[30E/360<br>(ISDA)]/[Actual/ Actual-ICMA] |
| (xv)   | <ul> <li>(xv) Fall back provisions, rounding<br/>provisions, denominator and any<br/>other terms relating to the method<br/>of calculating interest on Floating<br/>Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven, if<br/>different from those set out in the<br/>Conditions:</li> </ul> |  |  |
|  | (a)  | To Maturity Date                                   | [Not Applicable]/[•]   |
|  | (b)  | From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date    | [Not Applicable]/[•]   |
| Zero Coupon Mortgage Pandbrief<br>Provisions |  |  | [Applicable]/[Not Applicable]<br>(If not applicable, delete the remaining sub-paragraphs of<br>this paragraph)   |
| (i)  | Amo  | rtisation Yield:                                   | [●] per cent. per annum  |
| (ii)   | Any<br>deterr  | other formula/basis of mining amount payable:      | [•]  |
| (iii)  | Day (  | Count Fraction:                                    |  |
|  | (a)  | To Maturity Date                                   | [Actual/Actual]/[Actual/Actual-ISDA/[Actual/365<br>(Fixed)]/[Actual/360]/[30/360]/[360/360]/[Bond<br>Basis]/[30E/360]/[Eurobond Basis]/[30E/360<br>(ISDA)]/[Actual/ Actual-ICMA] |
|  | (b)  | From Maturity Date up to<br>Extended Maturity Date | [Actual/Actual]/[Actual/Actual-ISDA/[Actual/365<br>(Fixed)]/[Actual/360]/[30/360]/[360/360]/[Bond<br>Basis]/[30E/360]/[Eurobond Basis]/[30E/360<br>(ISDA)]/[Actual/ Actual-ICMA] |
| (iv)   | Busir  | ness Day Convention                                |  |
|  | (a)  | To Maturity Date                                   | [Following Business Day Convention/Modified Following<br>Business Day Convention/ Preceding Business Day<br>Convention][Not applicable]  |
|  | (b)  | From Maturity Date up to Extended Maturity Date    | [Following Business Day Convention/Modified Following<br>Business Day Convention/ Preceding Business Day<br>Convention] [Not applicable]   |

# PROVISIONS RELATING TO REDEMPTION

| 17 | Issue          | er Cal       | 1  | [Applicable/Not Applicable]   |
|----|----------------|--------------|--|---|
|    |                |              |  | (If not applicable, delete the remaining sub-paragraphs of this paragraph)  |
|    | (I)            | Opt          | ional Redemption Date(s):  | [•] subject to adjustment in accordance with the specified Business Day Convention]/[not subject to any adjustment]   |
|    | (II)           | of e<br>met  | ional Redemption Amount(s)<br>ach Mortgage Pandbrief and<br>hod, if any, of calculation of<br>h amount(s): | [●] per Calculation Amount  |
|    | (III)          | If re<br>(a) | edeemable in part:<br>Minimum Redemption<br>Amount:  | [●] per Calculation Amount  |
|    |                | (b)          | Maximum Redemption<br>Amount:  | <ul><li>[•] per Calculation Amount</li></ul>  |
|    | (IV)           | Not          | ice period:  | [Not Applicable]/[•] If setting notice periods which are<br>different from those provided in the Conditions, the Issuer<br>is advised to consider the practicalities of distribution of<br>information through intermediaries, for example, clearing<br>systems and custodians, as well as any other notice<br>requirements which may apply, for example, as between the<br>Issuer and Principal Paying Agent |
| 18 | Noteholder Put |              |  | [Applicable/Not Applicable]   |
|    |                |              |  | (If not applicable, delete the remaining sub-paragraphs of this paragraph)  |
|    | (I)            | Opt          | ional Redemption Date(s):  | [•] [subject to adjustment in accordance with the specified<br>Business Day Convention] [Not subject to adjustment]   |
|    | (II)           | of e<br>met  | ional Redemption Amount(s)<br>ach Mortgage Pandbrief and<br>hod, if any, of calculation of<br>h amount(s): | [●] per Calculation Amount  |
|    | (III)          | Not          | ice period:  | [•] If setting notice periods which are different from those provided in the Conditions, the Issuer is advised to consider the practicalities of distribution of information through intermediaries, for example, clearing systems and custodians, as well as any other notice requirements which may apply, for example, as between the Issuer and Principal Paying Agent                                    |
|    | (IV)           | Add          | lress for notices  | BELFIUS BANK SA/NV<br>Long Term Funding<br>Place Charles Rogier 11<br>1210 Brussels<br>Belgium<br>Tel.: +32 2 250 70 64   |

E-mail: DBBTFMLTFDBBDL@belfius.be] / [•]

With a copy to:

BELFIUS BANK SA/NV Transaction Services Securities (Transaction Release and Custody Management) RT 15/06 Place Charles Rogier 11 1210 Brussels Belgium Tel.: +32 2 222 14 08 Fax: +32 2 285 10 87 E-mail: cmtransrelease@belfius.be; cmcustodymgt@belfius.be] / [●]

[•] per Calculation Amount

# 19 Final Redemption Amount of each Mortgage Pandbrief

#### 20 Early Redemption Amount

Early Redemption Amount(s) of each Mortgage Pandbrief payable on redemption for illegality or for taxation reasons or other early redemption and/or the method of calculating the same (if required or if different from that set out in the Conditions): [•] per Calculation Amount

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO THE MORTGAGE PANDBRIEVEN

| 21 | Form of Mortgage Pandbrieven: | [Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven/Registered<br>Mortgage Pandbrieven]   |
|----|-------------------------------|--|
| 22 | Business Centre(s)            | (Only applicable for currencies other than euro)<br>[•]  |
| 23 | Consolidation provisions:     | [Not Applicable/The provisions in Condition 20 (Further Issues) apply]   |
| 24 | Other final terms:            | [Not Applicable/give details] (When adding any other final<br>terms consideration should be given as to whether such<br>terms constitute "significant new factors" and<br>consequently trigger the need for a supplement to the Base<br>Prospectus under Article 23 of the Prospectus Regulation.) |

# **Purpose of Final Terms**

These Final Terms comprise the final terms required for issuance [and admission to trading on the regulated market of Euronext Brussels of the Mortgage Pandbrieven described herein] pursuant to the EUR 10,000,000 Belgian Mortgage Pandbrieven Programme of Belfius Bank SA/NV as Issuer.

# Responsibility

The Issuer accepts responsibility for the information contained in these Final Terms. [[ $\bullet$ ] has been extracted from [ $\bullet$ ]. The Issuer confirms that such information has been accurately reproduced and that, so far as it is aware, and is able to ascertain from information published by [ $\bullet$ ], no facts have been omitted which would render the reproduced information inaccurate or misleading.]<sup>18</sup>

Signed on behalf of the Issuer:

By: ..... Duly authorised

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Only to be included if any information in the Final Terms is extracted from a third party source.

# **PART B - OTHER INFORMATION**

#### 1 LISTING AND ADMISSION TO TRADING

(i) Admission to trading:

admission to trading:

[Application has been made for the Mortgage Pandbrieven to be listed on [Euronext Brussels] and admitted to trading on the Regulated Market of [Euronext Brussels] with effect from [•]] [Not Applicable.] (*Where documenting a fungible issuance need to indicate that the original Mortgage Pandbrieven are already admitted to trading.*)

(ii) Estimate of total expenses related to

#### 2 RATINGS

Ratings:

The Mortgage Pandbrieven to be issued are expected to be rated:

[S&P: [●]]

[•]

[Moody's:  $[\bullet]$ ]

[Fitch: [•]]

[[Other]: [•]]

[and endorsed by [insert details]]<sup>19</sup>

(The above disclosure should reflect the rating allocated to Mortgage Pandbrieven of the type being issued under the Programme generally or, where the issuance has been specifically rated, that rating.)

*Insert one (or more) of the following options, as applicable:*<sup>20</sup>

[[Insert legal name of particular credit rating agency entity providing rating] is established in the EU and registered under Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009, as amended (the "CRA Regulation").]

[[Insert legal name of particular credit rating agency entity providing rating] is established in the EU and has applied for registration under Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009, as amended (the "CRA Regulation"), although notification of the registration decision has not yet been provided.]

[Insert legal name of particular credit rating agency entity providing rating] is established in the EU and is neither registered nor has it applied for registration under Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009, as amended

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> "and endorsed by ...": Insert this wording where one or more of the ratings included in the Final Terms has been endorsed by an EU registered credit rating agency for the purposes of Article 4(3) of the CRA Regulation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> A list of registered Credit Rating Agencies is published on the ESMA website (https://www.esma.europa.eu/).

# (the "CRA Regulation").

[Insert legal name of particular credit rating agency entity providing rating] is not established in the EU but the rating it has given to the [Mortgage Pandbrieven] is endorsed by [insert legal name of credit rating agency], which is established in the EU and registered under Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009, as amended, supplemented or replaced (the "CRA Regulation").

[[Insert legal name of particular credit rating agency entity providing rating] is not established in the EU but is certified under Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009, as amended, supplemented or replaced (the "CRA Regulation").]

[[Insert legal name of particular credit rating agency entity providing rating] is not established in the EU and is not certified under Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009, as amended supplemented or replaced (the "**CRA Regulation**") and the rating it has given to the Mortgage Pandbrieven is not endorsed by a credit rating agency established in the EU and registered under the CRA Regulation.]

[Need to include a brief explanation of the meaning of the ratings if this has previously been published by the rating provider.]

3 LEGAL ADVISERS

To Belfius Bank SA/NV

To the Dealers

[•] [only to be included where there was a specific legal advisor for a particular issuance]

[•] [only to be included where there was a specific legal advisor for a particular issuance]

[•] (See "Use of Proceeds" wording in Base Prospectus – if reasons for offer different from

# 4 INTERESTS OF NATURAL AND LEGAL PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE

"So far as the Issuer is aware, no person involved in the offer of the Mortgage Pandbrieven has an interest material to the offer."

# 5 REASONS FOR THE OFFER AND ESTIMATED NET PROCEEDS

Reasons for the offer:

general funding purposes of the Issuer, will need to include those reasons here.)
[•]]

[Estimated net proceeds:

6 [Fixed Rate Mortgage Pandbrieven only -YIELD

Indication of yield:

[•] Calculated as *[include details of method of calculation in summary form]* on the Issue Date. As set out above, the yield is calculated at the Issue Date

# 7 OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Intended to be held in a manner which would allow Eurosystem eligibility:

on the basis of the Issue Price. It is not an indication of future yield.]

[Yes] [No].

[Note that the designation "yes" simply means that the Mortgage Pandbrieven are intended upon issuance to be deposited in accordance with the rules of the relevant clearing system (where applicable) and does not necessarily mean that the Mortgage Pandbrieven will be recognised as eligible collateral for Eurosystem monetary policy and intra-day credit operations by the Eurosystem either upon issuance or at any or all times during their life. Such recognition will depend upon satisfaction of the Eurosystem eligibility criteria.]

| ISIN:  | [•]  |
|--|--|
| [Temporary ISIN:                               | [•]]   |
| Common Code:                                   | [•]  |
| [Temporary Common Code:                        | [•]]   |
| [CFI:  | [Not Applicable/[•]]                           |
| [FISN:   | [Not Applicable/[•]]                           |
| Any clearing system(s) other than the clearing | [Not Applicable/give name(s) and number(s)[and |

address(es)]]

Any clearing system(s) other than the clearing system operated by the National Bank of Belgium, Euroclear, Clearstream Germany, SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France) and INTERBOLSA (Portugal) and the relevant identification number(s):

Delivery:

Names and addresses of additional Paying Agent(s) (if any):

Name and address of Calculation Agent (if any):

[Relevant Benchmark[s]:

#### 8 **DISTRIBUTION**

Method of distribution:

Delivery [against/free of] payment

[•]

[Not applicable]/ Applicable]/[[*specify benchmark*] is provided by [*administrator legal name*]. As at the date hereof, [*administrator legal name*][appears]/[does not appear] in the register of administrators and benchmarks established and maintained by ESMA pursuant to Article 36 (Register of administrators and benchmarks) of the Benchmark Regulation.]/[As far as the Issuer is aware, as at the date hereof, [*specify benchmark*] does not fall within the scope of the Benchmark Regulation.]

[Syndicated/Non-syndicated]

<sup>[•]</sup> 

(I) If syndicated, names of Managers:

(II) Stabilising Manager(s) (if any):

If non-syndicated, name and address of Dealer:

Additional Selling Restrictions:

US Selling Restrictions:

[Not Applicable/give names of entities]
[Not Applicable/give names]
[Not Applicable/give name and address]

## [Not Applicable/give details]

[For the purpose of this issuance, the US Selling Restrictions are deleted and replaced by the following selling restriction wording: "The Mortgage Pandbrieven have not been and will not be registered under the Securities Act and, subject to certain exceptions, may not be offered or sold within the United States. Each relevant Dealer/Manager under this issuance has agreed that it will not offer or sell any Mortgage Pandbrieven within the United States, except as permitted by the Distribution Agreement. The Mortgage Pandbrieven are being offered and sold outside the United States in reliance on Regulation S. In addition, until 40 calendar days after the commencement of the offering, an offer or sale of the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven within the United States by any dealer may violate the registration requirements of the Securities Act."] [Text to be included where Reg. S. Compliance Category 1 is selected]

[Reg. S Compliance [Category 1/Category 2]; TEFRA not applicable]

# SECTION 11 DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUER

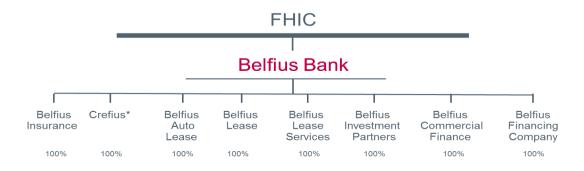
# 11.1. Belfius Bank profile

Belfius Bank SA/NV ("**Belfius Bank**") is a public limited company (*naamloze vennootschap/société anonyme*) established on 23 October 1962 for an unlimited duration and incorporated under Belgian law which collects savings from the public. The Issuer is licensed as a credit institution in accordance with the Banking Law. It is registered with the Crossroads Bank for Enterprises under business identification number 0403.201.185 and has its registered office at 1210 Brussels, Place Charles Rogier 11, Belgium. Belfius Bank's LEI code is A5GWLFH3KM7YV2SFQL84.

The share capital of Belfius Bank as at 30 June 2020 was three billion, four hundred and fifty-eight million, sixty-six thousand, two hundred and twenty-seven euro and forty-one cents (EUR 3,458,066,227.41) and is represented by 359,412,616 registered shares. The shareholding of Belfius Bank is as follows: 359,407,616 registered shares are held by the public limited company of public interest Federal Holding and Investment Company (FHIC), in its own name, but on behalf of the Belgian State, and 5,000 registered shares are held by the public limited company certi-Fed. Certi-Fed is a fully-owned subsidiary of FHIC. Belfius Bank shares are not listed.

At the end of June 2020, total consolidated balance sheet amounted to EUR 188.5 billion.

With an essentially Belgian balance sheet for its commercial activities and customers from all segments, Belfius Bank is in a position to act as a universal bank "of and for Belgian society". Belfius Bank is committed to maximal customer satisfaction and added social value by offering products and providing services with added value through a modern distribution model. Thanks to a prudent investment policy and a carefully managed risk profile, Belfius Bank aspires to a sound financial profile that results in a solid liquidity and solvency position.



# Simplified Group structure (as at the date of this Base Prospectus)

\* Crefius is involved in granting and managing mortgages loans

Belfius and its consolidated subsidiaries are referred to in this simplified group structure chart as "Belfius".

# 11.2. Main commercial subsidiaries

# **Belfius** Insurance

Insurance company marketing life and non-life insurance products, savings products and investments for individuals, the self-employed, liberal professions, companies and the public and social sector. At the end of June 2020, total consolidated balance sheet of Belfius Insurance amounted to EUR 21 billion<sup>21</sup>.

# Crefius

Company servicing and managing mortgage loans. At the end of June 2020, total balance sheet of Crefius amounted to EUR 41 million<sup>22</sup>.

# Belfius Auto Lease

Company for operational vehicle leasing and car fleet management, maintenance and claims management services. At the end of June 2020, total balance sheet of Belfius Auto Lease amounted to EUR 420 million<sup>23</sup>.

# Belfius Lease

Company for financial leasing and renting of professional capital goods. At the end of June 2020, total balance sheet of Belfius Lease amounted to EUR 954 million<sup>24</sup>.

# **Belfius Lease Services**

Financial leasing and renting of professional capital goods to the self-employed, companies and liberal professions. At the end of June 2020, total balance sheet of Belfius Lease Services amounted to EUR 2,023 million<sup>25</sup>.

# Belfius Commercial Finance

Company for financing commercial loans to debtors, debtor in-solvency risk cover and debt recovery from debtors (factoring). At the end of June 2020, total balance sheet of Belfius Commercial Finance amounted to EUR 900 million<sup>26</sup>.

# Belfius Investment Partners

Company for administration and management of funds. At the end of June 2020, total balance sheet of Belfius Investment Partners amounted to EUR 151 million<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Belfius 1H 2020 Results - Presentation to analysts and investors, slide 56, available at: https://www.belfius.be/about-us/en/investors/resultsreports/results

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Total IFRS balance sheet before consolidation adjustments

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 23}$   $\,$  Total IFRS balance sheet before consolidation adjustments

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Total IFRS balance sheet before consolidation adjustments

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Total IFRS balance sheet before consolidation adjustments

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Total IFRS balance sheet before consolidation adjustments

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Total IFRS balance sheet before consolidation adjustments

# 11.3. Financial results

# 11.3.1.Results 2019

In 2019, the net consolidated result for Belfius, before and after tax (group share), was EUR 918 million and EUR 667 million respectively. Belfius Banking Group contributed EUR 460.9 million and Belfius Insurance contributed EUR 206.7 million.

Total income was EUR 2,489 million, an increase of 5% over 2018. Both net interest income of EUR 1,488 million (+3%) and net fee and commission income of EUR 563 million (+5%) of the bank rose, despite a very challenging financial environment characterised by persistent low interest rates and the continued risk aversion of customers regarding investments. Belfius' insurance business, both in Life and Non-Life, contributed EUR 295 million and EUR 199 million respectively to total earnings. Taking account of the negative impact of EUR 205 million in banking levies, other income was EUR -56 million.

Belfius was also successful in keeping its costs under tight control, limiting its overheads to EUR 1,452 million (+2%), while at the same time implementing an investment programme in innovative digital solutions for its customers and recruiting additional commercial and specialist talent for the further development of its services. Combined with increased revenues, this resulted in a substantially improved Cost-Income ratio of 58%, compared to 60% in 2018.

As the result of the increased credit risk on a small number of specific files in the corporate sector, cost of risk rose to EUR 118 million. Without this impact, the cost of risk for the overall credit portfolio remained historically low and continued to progress in line with what can be expected in relation to the current strong growth in credit-related activities.

The tax expense including deferred taxes increased with EUR 35 million, or 16%, to EUR 252 million for the year ended 31 December 2019, compared to EUR 217 million for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Total equity increased by EUR 546.4 million, or 5.5%, to EUR 10.5 billion as at 31 December 2019 compared to EUR 10.0 billion as at 31 December 2018. The increase was mainly due to the profit for the period of EUR 667 million (group share). This was partially offset by the payment of the full year 2018 dividend of EUR 363 million (of which EUR 100 million was already paid as interim dividend in the second half of 2018) and an interim dividend of EUR 100 million on the 2019 profits paid in August 2019. Following the ECB recommendation to banks not to pay dividends during the COVID-19 crisis, Belfius has decided not to pay out an additional dividend of EUR 161 million for the year 2019 but to integrate this result in retained earnings.

At the end of 2019, CET 1 ratio amounted to  $15.9\%^{28}$ . CET 1 capital amounted to EUR 8,941 million and the regulatory risk exposure of Belfius increased to EUR 56,398 million. At the end of 2019, the Belfius leverage ratio – based on the current CRR/CRD IV legislation – stood at 6.0%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Based on the decision of the General Assembly of 29 April 2020 to pay only an ordinary dividend of EUR 100 million in respect of the accounting year 2019

# 11.3.2. Results 1H 2020

# 11.3.2.1. Financial results

Consolidated net income 1H 2020 reached EUR 21 million, much lower than in 1H 2019 (EUR 304 million), mainly due to impact of the COVID-19 crisis on cost of risk and on fair values through P&L (accounted for in other income and in life insurance income), while net interest income, fee & commission income as well as non-life insurance income remained solid. The operational costs ended up in line with 1H 2019 level. The contribution to the profit 1H 2020 of Belfius Bank and Belfius Insurance is EUR -68 million and EUR +89 million respectively.

1H 2020 total income amounted to EUR 1,132 million, EUR 23 million lower than 1H 2019.

- Still growing net interest income bank (EUR 779 million in 1H 2020 vs EUR 738 million in 1H 2019) thanks to higher outstanding loans with, on average, a higher margin more than offsetting the negative impact from lower interest rates and higher non-maturing deposits in 1H 2020. The negative impact (upfront modification loss) from the moratorium on mortgage loans amounted to EUR 9.5 million in 1H 2020. The net interest income bank was also supported by the large restructuring of a specific corporate leasing file.
- Higher net fee and commission income bank (EUR 302 million in 1H 2020 vs EUR 268 million in 1H 2019), mainly due to higher management fees and entry fees.
- Strong increase of non-life insurance income (EUR 129 million in 1H 2020 vs EUR 90 million in 1H 2019) thanks to a better Net Combined Ratio as a consequence of the COVID-19 lockdown period and related lower claims frequencies in some branches.
- Lower life insurance income (EUR 115 million in 1H 2020 vs EUR 171 million in 1H 2019), due to the negative impact on financial results on life insurance reserves' investments, particularly from financial instruments accounted for in fair value through P&L.
- Other income amounted to EUR -193 million in 1H 2020, a strong decrease from the level in1H 2019 (EUR -112 million). Although other income includes the capital gain for the bank on the (partial) sale of buildings (EUR 23 million), this was more than offset by the bank levies for the year (EUR 222 million in 1H 2020 versus EUR 205 million in 1H 2019) and the negative impact of items booked at fair value through P&L due to the widening of the credit and funding spreads in 1Q 2020.

Costs are broadly stable (EUR 711 million in 1H 2020 vs EUR 710 million in 1H 2019), despite increasing investments in data and digitalization innovation efforts, thanks to lower FTE and costs savings from operations impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Cost-income ratio stood at 63% in 1H 2020, compared to 61% in 1H 2019.

Overall, in current challenging macro-economic context, Belfius is still able to further grow its net interest income, net fee and commission income and non-life insurance income, and to contain its operating costs, leading to an overall resilient pre-provision income (before credit cost risk) of EUR 421 million in 1H 2020 (vs EUR 445 million in 1H 2019), even considering the negative impacts from the financial markets' turmoil (especially in 1Q 2020), impacting negatively fair value of financial instruments accounted in fair value through P&L.

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, Belfius made a detailed analysis of its credit risk portfolio and increased its IFRS 9 provisions materially in line with the strongly deteriorated economical environment, leading to a cost of risk through P&L strongly increasing from EUR 30 million in 1H 2019 to EUR 393 million in 1H 2020 (or approximately 30 bps of the outstandings<sup>29</sup>), of which EUR 311 million (24 bps) can economically be

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Calculated as the 1H 2020 YTD cost of risk divided by FIRST HALF average (i) loans and advances due from credit institutions (excl. cash collateral) and from customers measured at amortized costs, (ii) debt securities and equity instruments measured at amortized costs and at FV through OCI (excl. participations and equity) and (iii) guarantees granted.

labelled as our current best estimate "ex-ante provisioning" of expected losses due to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

As a result, the net income before taxes amounted to EUR 26 million in 1H 2020, compared to EUR 414 million in 1H 2019.

The tax expenses amounted to EUR 5 million in 1H 2020 compared to EUR 110 million in 1H 2019, mainly due to lower taxable profit in entities of Belfius. The Effective Tax Rate in 1H 2020 stood at 19%.

As a consequence, consolidated net income 1H 2020 reached EUR 21 million, much lower than in 1H 2019 (EUR 304 million).

In terms of solidity metrics, in current unprecedented circumstances, Belfius continues to display sound solvency and risk metrics. The CET 1-ratio amounted to 15.5% end of June 2020, down 33 bps compared to end 2019. This evolution is explained by a decrease of the CET 1 capital (-26 bps) and a limited increase of the regulatory risk exposures (-7 bps). The total capital ratio amounted to 19.0% end of June 2020, compared to 19.2% end 2019. The Leverage ratio amounted to 5.6% end of June 2020, slightly lower than end 2019 (6.0%).

The LCR and the NSFR stand at 134% and 122% respectively. The Solvency II-ratio for Belfius Insurance equals a solid 215% at the end of June 2020. The asset quality ratio stood at 1.97% as of June 2020.

Total shareholders' equity (Net Asset Value) amounted to EUR 9.7 billion at the end of June 2020 (versus close to EUR 10 billion at the end of December 2019), a slight negative evolution mainly due to negative evolutions in financial instruments booked at fair value through OCI.

11.3.2.2. Impacts of the COVID-19 crisis

Since the first months of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has massively disrupted the world in many respects, including from a social and economic point of view, on top of its dramatic sanitary impacts.

Belgium has also been severely affected by the COVID-19. The authorities announced on 17 March 2020 a nationwide lockdown, requesting individuals to stay at home and companies to implement homeworking whenever possible. This lockdown was maintained until 4 May. Since then, the authorities have regularly adapted the measures and restrictions, depending on the evolution of the situation.

Belfius reacted very early to the COVID-19 situation by first designing a crisis governance, with daily and weekly crisis Management Board meetings since February 2020, in order to address all key aspects of Belfius' general functioning, including:

- the operational risks, especially for safeguarding the health of our staff and the business continuity of our services towards our customers,
- and the financial risks, including the impacts on the financial markets, on liquidity and solvency, on credit risks and profit & loss accounts.

With regard to the operational aspects, Belfius was fully ready for the lockdown and the subsequent homeworking mode, including from an IT viewpoint. The branch network remained open, although direct interactions were carried out under strict conditions. As expected, the incoming calls (either to the branches or to our call center Belfius Connect) significantly increased during the lockdown. In addition, customers also shifted a lot of their banking interactions to the digital channels. As an example, the number of investment transactions signed digitally more than doubled from former levels during the COVID-19 crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown measures are also having a far-reaching impact on the financial situation of the businesses and individuals across the country. To help mitigate these impacts, the Belgian federal government quickly installed an economic task force responsible for reducing the economic consequences of the COVID-19 virus pandemic leading to two different programmes designed to support the

individuals, self-employed and businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis : a Payment Holiday scheme for different loan types and two Guarantee Schemes for certain new loans.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, Belfius has played a prominent role in these schemes. During 1H 2020:

- Support to customers through deferment of payment on 16,166 mortgage loans (total portfolio of EUR 1.6 billion). In addition, contractual payment deferments were also granted to customers on 8,331 mortgage loans (total portfolio of EUR 918 million);
- Support to business and corporate customers through deferment of payment on 24,261 loans and 14,483 leasing contracts (total portfolio of EUR 4.3 billion and EUR 818 million respectively);
- In addition, 491 of so-called COVID-19 loans under the Guarantee Schemes were granted to business and corporate customers (for a total of EUR 329 million).

On the insurance side, Belfius Insurance also executed support to its customers, including through the delay of premium payments (especially on insurance policies related to mortgage loans) and extended covers (a.o. for health care facility volunteers and for the delivery / take away activity).

Belfius was of course not immune to the sharp decline in economic activity, the volatility of the financial markets, the widening of credit spreads and the increased cost of risk. Its 1H 2020 financials have been materially impacted, a.o. with following specifically COVID-19 related<sup>30</sup> elements:

- A credit cost of EUR 393 million based on the IFRS 9 expected credit losses analysis. The underlying macro-economic factors and scenarios led to a cost of risk of EUR 145 million. The management overlays on expected credit losses for certain risk pockets that were particularly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic added a further EUR 167 million. Finally, EUR 81 million were booked for a limited number of corporate clients that migrated to stage 3 in 1H 2020.
- A modification loss of EUR 9.5 million was accounted for as a result of the payments deferments granted on mortgages loans for so-called "vulnerable clients", following the moratorium granted on mortgage loans.
- The net income from financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss was negatively impacted, following the negative impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on credit spreads as well as equity markets.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> This list does not intend to be complete, but to give a first high level summary. Moreover, some elements mentioned could be directly linked to other factors than the COVID-19 crisis, as for instance some migration of loan files to stage 3

# 11.4. Minimum CET 1 Ratio Requirement (SREP)

Since 2Q 2020, Belfius must comply with a minimum CET 1-ratio of 9.625%, that is composed of:

| Minimum CET 1 Requirement                                       |        |
|---|--------|
| (In %)  | 1H2020 |
| Pillar I minimum  | 4.5%   |
| Pillar II requirement   | 1.125% |
| Capital conservation buffer                                     | 2.5%   |
| Buffer for (other) domestic systemically important institutions | 1.5%   |
| MINIMUM CET 1 - RATIO REQUIREMENT                               | 9.625% |
| Countercyclical buffer  | 0.00%  |
| MINIMUM CET 1 - RATIO REQUIREMENT (incl. CCyB)                  | 9.625% |

The ECB has also confirmed the Pillar 2 Guidance (P2G) for Belfius of 1% CET 1-ratio for 2020.

Further to these regulatory requirements, before the COVID-19 crisis, Belfius defined in its Risk Appetite Framework that, in normal market circumstances and under stable regulations, it would strive to respect a minimum operational CET 1-ratio of 13.5%, on solo and consolidated levels.

Following the COVID-19 crisis, and policymakers' request to and Belfius' intention and strategy to continue to support the Belgian economy in these circumstances, the Board of Directors of Belfius of 28 May 2020 decided to allow Belfius to operate, if need be, during this crisis, on a temporarily basis and for credit risk deterioration, provisioning and/or loss absorption purposes only, within a CET 1 ratio range of 12.5% to 13.5%. If that situation were to occur during COVID-19 crisis times, Belfius would still intend to revert in a timely way to the former minimum operational CET 1 ratio level of 13.5% once the economical and financial context would normalize again.

# 11.5. Activities

Analytically, Belfius splits its activities and accounts in three segments: Retail and Commercial (RC), Public and Corporate (PC) and Group Center (GC); with RC and PC containing the key commercial activities of Belfius.

- Retail and Commercial (RC), managing the commercial relationships with individual customers and with small & medium sized enterprises both at bank and insurance level.
- Public and Corporate (PC), managing the commercial relationships with public sector, social sector and corporate clients both at bank and insurance level.
- Group Center (GC), containing the residual results not allocated to the two commercial segments. This mainly consists of results from Bond and Derivative portfolio management.

# 11.5.1. Retail and Commercial (RC)

# 11.5.1.1. RC business description

Belfius Bank offers individuals, self-employed persons, the liberal professions (i.e. doctors, lawyers, etc.) and SMEs a comprehensive range of retail, commercial, private banking, wealth management and insurance products and services. Belfius Bank serves its 3.7 million customers through its integrated omni-channel distribution network, which includes more than 611 branches, its modern interaction platform Belfius Connect, and a large number of automatic self-banking machines. Belfius has also been developing a digital strategy and is now a leader in mobile banking with over 1.5 million active mobile users.

Belfius Insurance, a subsidiary of Belfius Bank, offers insurance products to its customers through the Belfius Bank branch network, as well as through the tied agent network of DVV/LAP insurance. Belfius' bankinsurance model is fully integrated, with insurance expertise offered through Belfius Bank branches and the omni-channel distribution network. It also offers insurance products through Corona Direct Insurance, which is, according to Assuralia, the fastest growing full direct insurer in Belgium. Corona operates exclusively via digital media and call channels. Through its Elantis and DVV/LAP brands, Belfius Insurance also offers mortgage loans and consumer loans to its customers.

Belfius Insurance is overall the fifth largest insurer<sup>31</sup> in Belgium

#### 11.5.1.2. RC commercial performance in 1H 2020

The commercial activity continues to show excellent dynamics. In this COVID-19 crisis environment, we saw a very strong increase in Savings and Investments' outstandings of RC customers reaching EUR 117.0 billion with a growth of EUR 2.8 billion in 1H 2020, stemming as expected during such uncertain crisis-times from the large increase in Non Maturing Deposits (saving and sight accounts).

On-balance sheet deposits amounted EUR 76.1 billion on 30 June 2020, up +6.0% from the end of 2019. This was driven by good growth in the funds deposited in current and savings accounts, which reached EUR 18.0 billion (+17.1%) and EUR 49.6 billion (+5.3%) respectively at the end of June 2020. The investments in term products continued to decrease: -35.8% for savings certificates and -34.0% for term accounts.

Off-balance sheet investments have held up well and amounted to EUR 30.7 million on 30 June 2020, with a limited decrease of 2.8% over 1H 2020, despite the economic turmoil, unfavourable market conditions and market volatility.

Life insurance reserves for investment products amounted to EUR 10.2 billion, down 6.3% compared to the end of 2019. Investments in Branch 21 life insurance guaranteed products decreased due to the low interest rates environment, but that drop was partially offset by an increase in Branch 23 unit-linked products.

Total loans to RC customers rose strongly to EUR 54.8 billion at the end of June 2020. The increase occurred mainly in mortgage loans (+2.8% vs end of 2019) and business loans (+4.0%). Mortgage loans, which account for two thirds of all loans, amounted to EUR 36.5 billion at the end of June 2020, while consumer loans and business loans stood at EUR 1.7 billion and EUR 16.1 billion respectively.

New long term loans granted to retail and commercial clients during 1H 2020 amounted to EUR 5.4 billion compared to EUR 5.8 billion in 1H 2019. In 1H 2020, the new production of mortgage loans slightly decreased from EUR 3.1 billion in 1H 2019 to EUR 2.9 billion. During the same period, EUR 2.2 billion in new long-term business loans were granted, in line with 1H 2019.

Total insurance gross written premiums from customers in the Retail and Commercial segment amounted to EUR 661 million in 1H 2020, compared to EUR 770 million in 1H 2019, a decrease of 14%.

Life insurance production<sup>32</sup> stood at EUR 808 million in 1H 2020<sup>33</sup>, a decrease of 20% compared to 1H 2019<sup>34</sup>. The COVID-19 crisis and low interest rates (guaranteed rates at a historical low level) have weighted on the sales of investment products (including on Branch 21, on Branch 44). 1H 2019 had also benefited from a record production in Branch 23 products investing in Belfius Bank (structured) bond issuances.

Non-life insurance gross written premiums in 1H 2020 stood at EUR 329 million, up 4.3% compared to 1H 2019, mainly thanks to the bank distribution channel (increase by more than 11.4%).

The "one-stop-shopping" concept of Belfius continued to work effectively. The mortgage loan cross-sell ratio for property insurance stood at 84.7% in 1H 2020 stable comparted to 1H 2019. With a ratio of 134% in 1H

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Based on the Assuralia 2018 Study

<sup>32</sup> Gross Written Premiums and transfers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Of which EUR 331 million Gross Written Premiums and EUR 477 million transfers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Of which EUR 454 million Gross Written Premiums and EUR 552 million transfers

2020 Belfius also continued to show a solid mortgage loan cross-sell ratio for credit balance insurance (although slightly decreasing compared to 1H 2019 at 138%).

Total Life insurance reserves in the Retail and Commercial segment amounted to EUR 12.3 billion, a decrease of 5.1% since the end of 2019 at EUR 13.0 billion. Unit-linked reserves (Branch 23) increased by 4.3% (however impacted by negative market effect due to COVID-19 crisis), while traditional guaranteed life reserves (Life Branch 21/26) decreased by 8.8%, demonstrating the ongoing life product mix transformation from guaranteed products to unit-linked products.

Belfius continues to set the pace in mobile banking in Belgium and further developed its digitally supported business model. On 30 June 2020, Belfius apps for smartphones and tablets had 1,495,000 users (+5.6% compared to end of 2019) and were consulted by these customers on average (slightly more than) once a day. The very high satisfaction figures show that continuous innovation, combined with our focus on user-friendliness and usefulness for the customer pays off.

Belfius continues to extend the functionalities of its direct channels. In 1H 2020, 70% of the new pension saving contracts, 45% of the new credit cards and 37% of the new savings accounts were subscribed via direct channels.

RC net income after tax decreased strongly from EUR 236 million in 1H 2019 to EUR 143 million in 1H 2020.

## 11.5.2. Public and Corporate (PC)

### 11.5.2.1. PC business description

Belfius offers services to the Belgian public and social sectors (including hospitals, schools, universities and retirement homes). It provides these clients with a wide and integrated range of products and services, including credit lending, treasury management, insurance products, financial markets products and financial IT tools. Belfius' corporate banking activities are focused on large- and medium-sized corporates which have a decision making centre in Belgium as well as corporates with international business activity.

Belfius Insurance also sells insurance products to its public and social sector clients. Specific life insurance solutions are offered, especially pension insurance in the first and second pension pillars for civil servants and investment products in Branch 26 (life insurance with a capital guarantee and guaranteed minimum return, to which a variable profit participation feature may be added).

### 11.5.2.2. PC commercial performance in 1H 2020

On 30 June 2020, total savings and investments of PC customers stood at EUR 38.9 billion, an increase of 4.6% compared with the end of 2019. On-balance sheet deposits increased by EUR 1.6 billion (+7.0%), to EUR 24.8 billion. The off-balance sheet investments of PC customers stayed steady at EUR 13.6 billion, still enjoying a satisfactory organic growth compensating the negative markets effects observed during the COVID-19 crisis. Life insurance reserves for investment products amounted to EUR 0.5 billion.

Total loans to PC customers increased by EUR 2.5 billion (+6.1%) to EUR 43.1 billion. Outstanding loans in Public and Social banking increased by 3.6% in a context where Public Authorities had to face a sanitary crisis and associated increase of (temporary) unemployment. The Corporate outstanding loans recorded a growth of 10.5% compared to December 2019. This increase was particularly strong in May-June following the COVID-19 crisis. The Off-balance sheet commitments stayed stable at EUR 20.8 billion.

Belfius granted EUR 3.9 billion of new long-term loans to Corporate customers and the Public sector in 1H 2020. Long-term loan production for Corporate customers still further increased by 7% to EUR 2.7 billion. This increase was not only the result of our growth ambition in this corporate segment but also the testimony that Belfius intends to be "Meaningful" for the Belgian Society by supporting (also) the Corporate sector in the COVID-19 crisis context.

Moreover, Belfius granted EUR 1.1 billion in new long-term funding to the Public sector. The bank is and remains undisputable market leader and responds to every loan request tender from Public sector entities. Belfius services the management of the treasury of practically all local authorities.

Belfius also confirmed its position as leader in Debt Capital Markets (DCM) for (semi-)Public and Corporate customers by offering diversified financing solutions. During 1H 2020, the bank has placed a total funding amount of EUR 4.7 billion short term and EUR 1.1 billion long term notes (allocated amount). This further increase in comparison to 2019 confirms the position of Belfius as leader in bond issues for Belgian corporate clients.

Belfius also structured and placed capital market transactions within Equity Capital Markets (ECM), such as IPO's, capital increases and private placement of shares for various corporate clients in 1H 2020. These mandates were executed in close cooperation with Kepler Cheuvreux, Europe's leading independent equity broker, with whom Belfius forms a strategic partnership since end 2017 creating a solid and innovative equity franchise with strong local presence in Belgium.

With regard to insurance activities, total gross written premiums in the Public and Corporate segment amounted to EUR 193 million in 1H 2020. Gross written premiums in the life segment amounted to EUR 135 million in 1H 2020, a decrease of 9.9% compared to 1H 2019, due to the management decision (driven by low interest rates) not to offer Branch 26 investment products in 2020. Production of pension products increased by approximately 3%. Gross written premiums in the non-life segment amounted to EUR 58 million in 1H 2020, a decrease of EUR 10 million or -15.1% compared to 1H 2019. As a reminder, this decrease reflects the decision of Belfius Insurance (since 2Q 2018) to focus its non-life insurance business on the segment of social sector through direct distribution and to put in run-off the non-life activities towards other institutional and corporate customers through the brokerage and bank channel. This decision enabled to reallocate freed-up resources to its strong development in non-life insurance business with SME customers through its own (bank and DVV) distribution channels

PC net income after tax amounted to EUR -83 million in 1H 2020 compared to EUR 117 million in 1H 2019.

# 11.5.3. Group Center (GC)

Group Center operates through two sub-segments:

- Run-off portfolios, inherited from the Dexia era, which are mainly comprised of:
  - a portfolio of bonds issued by international issuers, especially active in the public and regulated utilities sector (which includes UK inflation-linked bonds), covered bonds and ABS/RMBS, the socalled ALM Yield bond portfolio;
  - a portfolio of credit guarantees, comprising credit default swaps and financial guarantees written on underlying bonds issued by international issuers, and partially hedged by Belfius with monoline insurers (mostly Assured Guaranty); and
  - $\circ$  a portfolio of derivatives with Dexia entities as counterparty and with other foreign counterparties.
- ALM liquidity and rate management and other Group Center activities, composed of liquidity and rate management of Belfius (including its ALM Liquidity bond portfolio, derivatives used for ALM management and the management of central assets) and other activities not allocated to commercial activities, such as corporate and financial market support services (e.g., Treasury), the management of two former specific loan files inherited from the Dexia era (loans to Gemeentelijke Holding/Holding Communal and Arco entities), and the Group Center of Belfius Insurance.

These portfolios and activities are further described below:

# 11.5.3.1. Bond Portfolio

# ALM Liquidity bond portfolio

The ALM Liquidity bond portfolio is part of Belfius Bank's total LCR liquidity buffer and is well diversified with high credit and liquidity quality.

At the end of June 2020, the ALM Liquidity bond portfolio stood at EUR 8.2 billion<sup>35</sup>, up EUR 0.1 billion or +1.8% compared to December 2019. At the end of June 2020, the portfolio was composed of sovereign and public sector bonds (63%), covered bonds (30%), corporates bonds (4%) and asset-backed securities (2%). The Belgian and the Italian government bonds in the ALM Liquidity bond portfolio amounted both to EUR 1.5 billion<sup>36</sup>.

At the end of June 2020, the ALM Liquidity bond portfolio had an average life of 7.5 years, and an average rating of A- (100% of the portfolio being investment grade (IG)) compared to BBB+ at the year end 2019.

### ALM Yield bond portfolio

The ALM Yield bond portfolio of Belfius Bank was used to manage excess liquidity (after optimal commercial use in the business lines) and consisted mainly of high quality bonds of international issuers.

At the end of June 2020, the ALM Yield bond portfolio stood at EUR 3.5 billion<sup>37</sup>, down EUR 0.1 billion or -2.9% compared to December 2019. At the end of June 2020, the portfolio was composed of corporates (71%), sovereign and public sector (12%), asset-backed securities (11%), and financial institutions (6%). Almost 85% of the corporate bonds, mainly composed of long-term inflation linked bonds, are issued by highly-regulated UK hospitals, infrastructure companies and utilities such as water and electricity distribution companies. These bonds are of satisfactory credit quality, and the majority of these bonds are covered with a credit protection by a credit insurer (monoline insurer) that is independent from the bond issuer.

At the end of June 2020, the ALM Yield bond portfolio had an average life of 19.2 years and the average rating remained at A. 97% of the portfolio was investment grade (IG).

#### 11.5.3.2. Derivatives portfolio

#### Derivatives with Dexia-entities and foreign counterparties

During the period during which it was part of the Dexia Group, former Dexia Bank Belgium (now Belfius Bank) was Dexia Group's "competence center" for derivatives (mainly interest rate swaps): this meant that all Dexia entities were able to cover their market risks with derivatives with Dexia Bank Belgium, mainly under standard contractual terms related to cash collateral. Former Dexia Bank Belgium systematically rehedged these derivative positions externally, as a result of which these derivatives broadly appear twice in Belfius' accounts: once in relation to Dexia entities and once for hedging.

The total outstanding notional amount of derivatives with Dexia entities and interest rate derivatives with international counterparties amounted to EUR 14.3 billion<sup>38</sup>, at the end of June 2020, down EUR 1.6 billion or -10% compared to EUR 15.8 billion<sup>39</sup>, at the end of December 2019.

The derivatives with Dexia entities decreased by 4% (or EUR -0.5 billion) to EUR 11.6 billion at the end of June 2020. This decrease is mainly due to amortizations. The derivatives with international counterparties decreased by EUR 1.1 billion (or -29%) to EUR 2.7 billion at the end of June 2020. This strong decrease of the non-collateralised foreign counterparty derivatives is the result of the novation in June 2020 of derivatives with counterparty CAFFIL (Caisse Française de Financement Local) to its holding SFIL and subsequently cleared by LCH.

The fair value of the Dexia and international counterparties' derivatives amounted to EUR 3.3 billion at the end of June 2020. After collateralisation the Exposure At Default (EAD) amounted to EUR 1.0 billion.

<sup>35</sup> Nominal amount

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Nominal amount

<sup>37</sup> Nominal amount 38 Nominal amount

<sup>39</sup> Pro forma figure- Please note that Kofiba (ex-Dexia Kommunalbank Deutschland / DKD) bought in 2Q 2019 by Helaba and therefore out of Dexia Group is now a collateralized derivative on a foreign counterparty and therefore not more reported here.

At the end of June 2020, the average rating of the total portfolio stood at BBB and the average residual life of the portfolio stood at 12.2 years<sup>40</sup>.

## Credit guarantees

At the end of June 2020, the credit guarantees portfolio amounted to EUR 3.6 billion<sup>41</sup>, down EUR 0.1 billion or -2.4% compared to December 2019. It related essentially to Financial Guarantees, and Credit Default Swaps issued on corporate/public issuer bonds (85%) and ABS (15%). The good credit quality of the underlying reference bond portfolio, additional protection against credit risk incorporated in the bond itself and the protections purchased by Belfius mainly from various monoline insurers (US re-insurance companies, essentially Assured Guaranty) result in a portfolio that is 100% investment grade (IG) in terms of credit risk profile. This portfolio also contains Total Return Swaps for an amount of EUR 0.4 billion<sup>(1)</sup>.

At the end of June 2020, the average rating of the portfolio stood at A- (compared to A at year end 2019) and the average residual life of the portfolio stood at 9.2 years.

## 11.5.3.3. Other Group Center activities

The other activities allocated to Group Center include:

- the interest rate and liquidity transformation activity performed within ALM, after internal transfer pricing with commercial business lines, including the use of derivatives for global ALM management;
- the management of two legacy loan files inherited from the Dexia era, i.e. the investment loans to two groups in liquidation, namely Gemeentelijke Holding/Holding Communal and some Arco entities;
- the flow management, among others. hedge management, of internal and external interest rate derivative flows given that Group Center is Belfius' Competence Center for interest rate derivatives;
- treasury activities (money market activities); and the results including revenues and costs on assets and liabilities not allocated to a specific business line.

The Group Center of Belfius Insurance is also fully allocated to these other Group Center activities. The Belfius Insurance Group Center contains income from assets not allocated to a specific business line, the cost of Belfius Insurance's subordinated debt, the results of certain of its subsidiaries and costs that are not allocated to a specific business line.

# Financial results GC

GC net income after tax stood at EUR -38 million in 1H 2020, compared to EUR -48 million in 1H 2019.

# 11.6. Post-balance sheet events

# 11.6.1. COVID-19 moratoria and state guarantees

An extension of the moratorium on repayments of mortgage loans for vulnerable clients (individuals whose income fell below EUR 1,700 per month due to the COVID-19 outbreak) till year-end 2020 has been agreed upon. The charter of Febelfin to this respect was updated at 8 July 2020. As a result, a reassessment of the modification loss will need to be performed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Calculated on EAD

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup>Nominal amount

In addition, a new version of the state guarantee is coming, the analysis of the accounting treatment and impact for Belfius will be performed.

# 11.6.2. Jaimy

Belfius Insurance further increased its shareholding in Jaimy to 89.19% with a capital injection of EUR 2.5 million on 15 July 2020.

# 11.7. Risk Management

## 11.7.1. Credit risk management within Belfius bank

The credit decision processes within Belfius consist of three different types:

- automated decisions where the Bank compares the customer's credit application with a series of technical risk and commercial parameters;
- delegated decisions, i.e. decisions taken by staff to whom, intuitu personae and based on the certification of their risk competencies, decision-taking powers have been delegated;
- the regular process of the credit committees.

When granting credits to individuals (essentially mortgage loans), to self-employed and to small enterprises, standardized and automated processes are mainly used, in which the results from the scoring and/or rating models play an important role.

When granting credits to medium-sized and large enterprises as well as Public and Social customers, an individualized approach is implemented. Credit analysts examine the file autonomously and define the customer's internal rating. Then a credit committee takes a decision on the basis of various factors such as solvency, the customer relationship, the customer's prospects, the credit application and the collateral. In the analysis process, credit applications are carefully examined and only accepted if the perspective of continuity and the borrower's repayment capacity are demonstrated.

To support the credit decision process, a RAROC (Risk Adjusted Return on Capital) or RoNRE (Return on Normative Regulatory Equity) is used to assess the expected profitability of the credit transaction or even of the full relationship with the customer is adequate (compared to a target level). As such, the RAROC is an instrument for differentiating the risks and for guiding the risk-return combinations in an optimal way.

Belfius Bank has further intensified in 2019 its strategy of being close to its customers. This approach provides a significant added value to our customers, regardless of the segment in which they operate. Credit and risk committees are regionalized and the delegation of decision-making powers to the regional commercial and credit teams is continued, strengthening the principle of decision-by-proximity. This resulted in a greater involvement of the various teams in the decision-making process, as well as stronger monitoring of the use of the delegated powers mentioned above.

The Bank monitors the evolution of the solvency of its borrowers throughout the whole credit lifecycle. The different portfolios of the Retail and Commercial Business for which risk management relies on a portfolio approach are reviewed periodically. Customer ratings, using an individualized approach, are also updated periodically, in line with the Bank's choice to apply AIRB (Advanced Internal Rating Based) models. The economic review process of credit applications guarantees that any signs of risk can be detected in time and subsequently monitored and/or addressed. It is also complemented with early warning tools to detect proactively clients' financial deterioration. This review process is organized, according to the Credit Review Guideline, in an annual cycle, with in-depth analyses for customers with important credit exposures and/or significant (positive or negative) evolutions in their risk profile.

# 11.7.2. Fundamentals of credit risk in 2019

The world economy decelerated sharply in 2019 on the back of trade policy uncertainty and geopolitical tensions. Nevertheless, growth in Belgium remained remarkably robust and contracted only slightly, coming down from 1.5% in 2018 to 1.4%. Inflation lowered by the strong deceleration in energy prices. Employment

growth decelerated slightly compared to the peak in job creation in 2017. In 2019, according to Graydon, 11,817 Belgian companies were forced to cease business, an increase of 10.29% compared with 2018. This strong increase in bankruptcy, however, is not related to a possible waning economic climate, but rather a consequence of the application of recent legislation (e.g. the new law on ghost companies).

## 11.7.2.1. Banking activities in Retail and Commercial

Against this background, lending to the Retail and Commercial business line remained at a high level, and this based on a stable lending policy in general, albeit adjusted for some elements.

The production of mortgage loans reached a record high in 2019, with a volume 43% above the 2018 level (EAD end 2019: EUR 34.0 billion). This substantial increase is explained by the decision of the Flemish government to terminate the tax benefits on mortgage loans and potentially the communication by the NBB of "supervisory expectations regarding the lending standards of mortgage loans" obliging banks to strengthen their underwriting criteria. The anticipation on these measures, which entered into force in 2020, in combination with the low interest rates has boosted the production in the 2nd half of the year. The share of loans with a longer maturity combined with a slightly higher Loan-To-Value ("LTV" i.e. Amount of the loan divided by the Value of the collateralized real estate) in the portfolio continued to increase. Notwithstanding this evolution, the overall credit quality of the mortgage portfolio remained excellent and even slightly improved (as illustrated by the average probability of default).

The historical low risk level of the mortgage portfolio is also reflected by the cost of risk that remains at a very low level. The Risk Department continued its monitoring of the potential higher risk segments of mortgage loans. In addition to this, in the course of 2019 measures were taken to strengthen the underwriting criteria, in particular for Buy-to-Let transactions regarding retail clients with low savings. Also a specific Risk Appetite Framework was installed which consists of a strengthening of the overall underwriting framework and a close follow-up of the production.

The production of consumer loans in 2019 was 7% lower than the previous year (EAD end 2019: EUR 2.4 billion). The share of loans via mobile channels remained unchanged in 2019; around 13% of the consumer loans were contracted by using the Belfius App. The criteria used for granting consumer loans have been reviewed in 2019, a.o. taking into account stronger limits for repayment capacity and net available income in order to remain completely aligned with the "Responsible Lending" charter of the Belgian Financial Sector Federation (Febelfin).

Belfius offers self-employed persons, liberal professions (.i.e. doctors, lawyers, etc.) and SMEs a comprehensive range of retail, commercial, private banking, wealth management and insurance products and services, through its integrated omni-channel distribution network (EAD end 2019: EUR 18.7 billion). Belfius Bank's approach to have lending decisions for business loans taken by local teams working close to the customer was further intensified in 2019. This strategy contributes to a better customer service while numerous tests and realised statistics indicate that the credit risk remains under control. The continuous fine-tuning of the decision-making logic and the enhanced and quickly reactive monitoring on deteriorating risk profiles is bearing fruit. Through the continuation of the "Go4Credits" project, Belfius enhanced also in 2019 the efficiency of its credit approval process for the Commercial Business line.

Belgian SMEs generally remained in good shape after their economic and financial situation already substantially improved in 2018, and this despite the fact that they were more and more confronted with a changing consumer pattern (e.g. e-commerce). Overall, the cost of business loans at Belfius Bank remained at a good risk/return level and within the target levels. Belfius therefore intends to keep supporting the production of business loans, also in relation to start-ups. At the same time, the Risk department continues the improvement of the process of early warning indicators in order to keep permanently the risks in this market segment well under control.

### 11.7.2.2. Banking activities in Public and Corporate

In 2019, Belfius kept offering services to the Belgian public and social sectors (including hospitals, schools, universities and retirement homes). It provides these clients with a wide and integrated range of products and services, including credit lending (EAD end 2019: EUR 39.2 billion).

The Public Sector loans portfolio maintained its very low risk profile. The balance of payments of the majority of Belgian municipalities showed in 2019 an equilibrium, or even a surplus. Local authorities continue in such a way their positive collective contribution to the budgetary exercise of the country as a whole. The decline of indebtedness of municipalities, driven by a still low level of investment, continued in 2019 together with the decrease of interest charges. However, the new municipal legislature that started in 2019 will have to cope with a very difficult financial context, confronting constantly rising expenditures (social welfare, security, ...) with ever more slowly growing revenues. These conflicting budgetary tensions will burden local authorities with a difficult task. They must indeed continue to offer a good service while safeguarding a budgetary balance. During the current legislation e.g. the pension bill will end up in full force at the local authorities. Most of them will struggle with the pension costs related to their statutory staff, because the number of active staff members is getting smaller and smaller compared to their retired colleagues. The growing budgetary impact of the ageing population is monitored by the Study Committee on Ageing<sup>42</sup> For some municipalities, especially the cities, this will imply that taxes must be raised, investments postponed and services reduced, if no action is undertaken by other government levels.

From a risk management point of view, the hospital sector remains a focus of attention. Hospitals have in general an acceptable financial structure, built up over years through a fair equity base accompanied by government subsidies. Nevertheless profitability remains often vulnerable. One third of the hospitals are making a loss. Their repayment capacity is by consequence reduced. But the activity level of hospitals, and consequently their revenues recently grew thanks to the introduction of innovative treatments and/or pharmaceuticals. Day hospitalisation keeps gaining importance. The main challenge however remains that patient care for an aging population has to be realized within a challenging budgetary context, and this in a future proof and technical environment. That's why the hospital sector is currently undergoing a structural transformation. The Minister of Public Health indeed launched a long-range Care reform plan in order to reshape the hospital landscape. A law voted in February 2019, imposes general hospitals to regroup into 25 hospital networks from 1 January 2020 onwards: 13 in Flanders, 8 in Wallonia and 4 in Brussels. Network proposals are currently in the process of recognition by the respective Regions. The new networks will be responsible for the definition of their care supply and internal organization. Every member of a hospital network will still offer general care, but must also specify how it will organize more specialized services (e.g. maternity, emergency,...) throughout the network. In this way the new hospital networks may become an essential step for the improvement of health services and for the financial health of the sector.

Belfius' corporate banking activities (EAD end 2019: EUR 25.8 billion) are focused on large- and mediumsized corporates which have a decision-making centre in Belgium as well as corporates offering services to the public sector. The Belgian economy is heavily dependent on international trade and most of its economic sectors are geared towards exporting products. The context regarding trade flows between the various economies of the world is currently set by numerous uncertainties, at both economic and geopolitical level with an upsurge in inward-looking policies and protectionism. For firms focused on international business, it became hard to navigate in this new context and to form clear expectations on the future profitability of this type of activities. However Belfius has taken the necessary measures to ensure that her growth strategy in this segment goes hand in hand with a good creditworthiness and acceptable risk concentrations. Therefore portfolio production objectives have been associated with a rating target. Portfolio guidelines have been defined on maximum top exposures and the part of the portfolio disposing of lower credit ratings. And so the credit profile of the corporate lending remained fairly stable during 2019. Belfius' cost of risk in the corporate segment however raised, not in general, but due to some specific and limited number of files in Stage 3 or that migrated from Stage 2 to Stage 3 in 2019. It concerns Belgian companies with business

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> https://www.plan.be/publications/publication-2018-en-study\_committee\_on\_ageing\_yearly\_report

operations in an international context: they were directly or indirectly impacted by evolutions in the global economy, having an impact on their trade flows.

Belfius monitors sector risks in a proactive way and defined specific measures with regard to a limited number of more vulnerable sectors.

Real estate financing (EAD end 2019: EUR 46.4 billion), related to both residential and commercial real estate, is an important business activity within Belfius. Also on industry level, the Bank's lending activity in the real estate sector continues to increase considerably. The evolution of real estate financing over the last years is to be evaluated in the context of the following factors: the sustaining low interest rate environment, the fact that Belgian banks have a large deposit base and are confronted with a search for yield, the gross debt ratio of Belgian households that has increased and has recently slightly exceeded the average EUR area ratio. This combination of elements induces a concern at NBB level about an over-valuation of the Belgian (residential) property and about the threat of strong volume growth with potentially lower credit standards, lower margins and low provisioning levels. Belfius is aware of these potential pitfalls and has traditionally applied strict origination and acceptation criteria (LTV, maturity, collateral valuation) on new transactions and a solid monitoring of projects, in both residential and commercial real estate financing. The aforementioned origination and acceptation criteria for that matter will be further reinforced due to new prudential expectations<sup>43</sup> established by the National Bank. Belfius real estate credit exposure is considered as being correctly diversified in terms of underlying asset types, individual name concentration and geographical spread.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that active portfolio management keeps playing an important role within Belfius, in the first place through the gradual sale of higher risk exposures and/or exposures that are no longer considered as being core business (the shipping-related business without a commercial relationship meanwhile has been reduced to a negligible level), but also by developing risk hedging and risk sharing programs.

## 11.7.2.3. Insurance

The management of the credit risk of Belfius Insurance is the responsibility of Belfius Insurance risk management team, albeit in collaboration with the credit risk teams of Belfius Bank and aligned with the risk management guidelines that are applicable for the whole Belfius group. As such, this implies that credit limits are defined on a consolidated basis and that transfers of limits between the Bank and Insurance are permitted, on the condition that both parties agree. The CROs of Belfius Bank and Belfius Insurance coordinate the requests among each other.

### 11.7.3. Exposure to credit risk

Belfius Bank measures its credit risk in terms of Full Exposure at Default ("FEAD")<sup>44</sup>

The definition of FEAD is determined as follows:

• for balance sheet assets (except for derivatives): the gross carrying amounts (before credit risk adjustments);

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> On Oct. 25, 2019 the NBB published supervisory expectations in terms of "lending standards" to apply for new mortgage loans as well for buy to let and owner occupied loans (https://www.nbb.be/en/articles/national-bank-urges-financial-sector-exercise-more-caution-grantingrisky-mortgage-loans).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Belfius uses the term of Full EAD or FEAD. Full Exposure At Default (FEAD) is the total exposure at default (EAD), including the total amount of a free credit line and other off-balance-sheet transactions (with the exception of derivatives), before application of credit conversion factors (CCF). EAD is an estimation of the maximum extent to which a bank may be exposed to a counterparty in the event of, and at the time of, that counterparty's default.

- for derivatives: the fair value of derivatives after netting, increased with the potential future exposure calculated under the current exposure method (add-on);
- for Securities Financing Transactions (repo's and reverse repo's): the carrying amount as well as the excess collateral provided for repurchase agreements;
- for off-balance sheet commitments: either the undrawn part of credit facilities or the maximum commitment of Belfius for guarantees granted to third parties.

Belfius credit risks are based on a consolidation scope that includes its fully consolidated subsidiaries, Belfius Insurance included.

| (FEAD, in EUR million)               | 31/12/2019 | 30/06/2020 | of which |         |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|---------|
|                                      |            | -          | Bank     | Insurer |
| Central governments                  | 18,094     | 30,455     | 24,145   | 6,311   |
| of which government bonds            | 9,967      | 10,347     | 4,245    | 6,102   |
| Public sector entities               | 44,342     | 46,311     | 44,529   | 1,782   |
| Corporate                            | 36,438     | 38,858     | 37,543   | 1,315   |
| Monoline insurers                    | 4,718      | 4,744      | 4,744    | 0       |
| ABS/MBS                              | 749        | 564        | 476      | 88      |
| Project Finance                      | 2,426      | 2,530      | 2,530    | 0       |
| Individuals, self-employed and SME's | 52,220     | 52,803     | 48,689   | 4,114   |
| Financial institutions               | 13,415     | 12,626     | 11,621   | 1,005   |
| Other                                | 0          | 0          | 0        | 0       |
| Total                                | 172,401    | 188,891    | 174,276  | 14,615  |

Breakdown of credit risk by counterpart

At 30 June 2020, the total credit risk exposure within Belfius reached EUR 188.9 billion, an increase of EUR 16.5 billion or 9.6 % compared to the end of 2019.

At bank level the credit risk exposure increased with 10.3 % to EUR 174.3 billion. At the level of Belfius Insurance, the credit risk exposure went up by 1.5% to EUR 14.6 billion at 30 June 2020.

The increase by EUR 12.4 billion observed on the segment central governments is mostly due to the additional liquidity reserve taken up by Belfius and deposited at the NBB in light of the adjusted TLTRO III scheme implemented by the ECB. Nearly half (47%) of the government bonds portfolio is invested in Belgian government bonds at the Group level. While at bank level the Belgian government bonds represents 38% of the total government bond portfolio, the relative proportion at Belfius Insurance stood at 53%.

The credit risk exposure on public sector entities and institutions that receive guarantees of these public sector entities (25% of the total) and on individuals, self-employed and SMEs (28% of the total) constitute the two main categories. The credit risk exposure on public sector entities increased by EUR 2.0 billion, boosted by transactions on short term maturities while the credit risk exposure on individuals, self-employed and SMEs increased by EUR 0.6 billion in line with commercial activities. The third main commercial category is the one of the (Belgian) corporates, for which the increase (+ EUR 2.4 billion) reflects Belfius' strategy to support Belgian economy.

The credit risk exposure on financial institutions declined slightly during the first half of 2020 (at 7% on 30 June 2020). The credit risk on monoline insurers on bonds issued by issuers principally active in infrastructure and public utilities projects is predominantly an indirect risk arising from credit guarantees written by Belfius Bank and reinsured with monoline insurers. During the first half of 2020, their relative proportion was stable at 2.5%.

Belfius' positions are mainly concentrated in the European Union: 90% or EUR 156.9 billion at bank level and 95% or EUR 13.9 billion for Belfius Insurance. The total relative credit risk exposure on counterparties situated in Belgium is 72%, 5% in the United Kingdom, 4% in France, 2.2% in the United States and Canada, 1.4% in Italy and 1.2% in Spain.

The credit risk exposure to counterparties in the United Kingdom amounted to EUR 9.7 billion as of end June 2020. About half of this credit risk exposure concerns bonds, of which close to two-third are inflation-linked, issued by utilities and infrastructure companies in the United Kingdom that operate in regulated sectors such as water, gas and electricity distribution. These bonds are of satisfactory credit quality (100% investment grade), and moreover the majority of the outstanding bonds are covered with a credit protection issued by a credit insurer that is independent from the bond issuer. The remainder concerns the bond portfolio of Belfius Insurance, a short-term credit portfolio for treasury management of Belfius Bank and receivables on clearing houses. The credit risks on those port-folios are also of good credit quality.

At 30 June 2020, 83% of the total credit risk exposure had an internal credit rating of investment grade (IG).

# 11.7.4. Asset quality

## 11.7.4.1. COVID-19 sensitive sectors

The global economy is experiencing an unprecedented simultaneous (demand and supply) shock from the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Gradually it has become clear that the COVID-19 crisis is now a global crisis affecting both health and the economy: given the huge wave of contamination and the lockdown measures, the impact on operations of companies and institutions has increased rapidly since the beginning of the crisis. The impact has now spread economy-wide through all economic sectors, individuals and, ultimately, with an adverse effect on public finances. Nevertheless, economic sectors are hit with different degrees of severity.

Belfius has mapped the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis and established four categories of different estimated impact level.

- the sectors actually suffering the most are those which have been obliged to cease the major part of their activities due to the Government's decision (such as horeca, arts, events and retail trade (excluding food)).
- the second most affected sectors are those which are heavily impacted by social distancing measures. The businesses and market players active in the sector categories 1 and 2 are being severely hit financially as it is extremely difficult for them in the short term to offset the turnover they have lost or to return swiftly to the same level of turnover as before the crisis when the economy rebounds (such as travel, transport, airlines, automotive and wholesale trade).
- global trade has weakened across all regions. Disruption to trade flows and supply chains are further amplifying the negative effects, especially for the sectors delivering goods and services to directly impacted counterparts belonging to the sectors 1 and 2 (such as construction, shipping, warehousing, non-residential real estate and service companies).
- finally, the effects of the COVID-19 virus on the economy, i.e. the uncertainty created by the potential return of (local) lockdowns and renewed restrictions on movement, result in falling consumer demand and production disruptions. This macro-economic impact is placing an extra burden on practically all economic actors.

So far, our analyses have revealed that only a small fraction of our outstanding exposure is in the highly impacted sectors 1 & 2.



In addition to our existing risk monitoring before the crisis and as part of the management of the COVID-19 situation, Belfius has put in place a robust risk mitigation strategy with specific action plans, reporting and monitoring activities. These reporting and monitoring activities have been developed to allow Belfius to monitor the COVID-19 impact and to mitigate risks.

# 11.7.4.2. Expected credit losses (ECL)

# IFRS 9 impairment methodology at Belfius

Basic principles thereof:

- Belfius Bank, and its subsidiaries, recognise loss allowances for ECL on financial instruments at amortised cost or at fair value through OCI;
- ECL are measured through a loss allowance that depends on the financial instrument's status:
  - for performing exposures (i.e. instruments that have not incurred a significant increase in credit risk since origination), referred to as stage 1, a 12-month ECL is calculated,
  - for under-performing exposures (i.e. instruments that have incurred a significant increase in credit risk since origination), referred to as stage 2, Lifetime ECL are calculated,
  - non-performing exposures (i.e. exposures that become credit-impaired), are classified in stage 3 and the ECL reflect the remaining exposure after a best-estimate of future recoveries.
- ECL are probability-weighted estimates of credit losses. This is expressed as the present value of cash shortfalls i.e. the difference between the cash flows that are due to the entity in accordance with the contract and the cash flows that the entity expects to receive.
- ECL calculations use probability of default (PD) and loss given default (LGD) parameters. PD are point-in-time PD that inter alia incorporate forward-looking macroeconomic information through the use of four different macro-economic scenarios. These scenarios are built upon internal information delivered by Belfius' chief economist, who uses external and internal information to generate a forecast "neutral" scenario of relevant economic variables along with a representative range of other possible forecast scenarios. The external information includes economic data and forecasts published by governmental bodies and monetary authorities.

Belfius assigns probabilities to the four forecast scenarios (neutral, optimistic, pessimistic and stress) and makes the link between macro-economic variables and credit risk and credit losses through identified and documented relationships between key drivers of credit risk and credit losses for each portfolio of financial instruments and statistical analysis of historical data.

• given that ECL estimations are complex and to a certain extent judgmental, the aforementioned mechanical approach is completed by management judgment through "management call" layers. The layers are designed to result, overall, in best estimate total coverage of ECL in some specifically identified risk pockets (defined in terms of sectors, groups of companies or individual exposures) when the credit risk is estimated (potentially) insufficiently covered by the mechanical provisions. These layers can be positive or negative and aim to include any elements entering in the ECL calculation which have not been taken into account by the mechanical computation on an individual level or a (sub)portfolio level.

## COVID-19 adjustments to the impairment methodology

The current crisis is unprecedented with very unusual features such as its speed and scale, a widespread lockdown of activities, uncertainties about the timing and shape of recovery, the impact of the measures taken by the Federal State, the Regions, central banks and regulators, etc.

In this context, Belfius' basic principles for ECL computations have remained largely unchanged, however some material adjustments to the aforementioned approach were required in order (i) to maintain adequate coverage ratios on estimated increased risk profiles and (ii) to comply with updated regulations, for instance on forbearance and guidelines to avoid pro-cyclicality.

Therefore, the following adjustments were made:

- to calculate ECL, Belfius still defines four probability weighted forward-looking scenarios each with their own macro-economic parameters to build optimistic, neutral, pessimistic and stress cases. Yet, the scenarios have been adapted to the current circumstances and more probability weight has been put on the pessimistic and stress scenarios.
- crisis dampening measures have been implemented by national and regulatory authorities. These have been included in the ECL calculations. They refer, inter alia
  - to changes to avoid, to some extent, pro-cyclicality in ECL calculations by giving a greater weight to long-term normalized outlook evidenced by past experience when estimating longterm ECL (giving weight to through-the-cycle approach),
  - to account for moratoria and guarantee schemes: regulatory guidance was given with respect to the treatment of exposures covered by public and private moratoria related to COVID-19, both from a prudential (forbearance as unlikely-to-pay classification) and an accounting perspective (as an indication of significantly increased credit risk).
- Belfius still combines the as such COVID-19 adjusted mechanical calculations with expert overlays. Due to the unusual situation and the sectoral impact of COVID-19, these overlays have gained further scale and importance in recent quarters. The layers are designed to result, overall, in best estimate total coverage of ECL in some specifically identified risk pockets (defined in terms of sectors, groups of companies or individual exposures) when the credit risk is estimated (potentially) insufficiently covered by the mechanical provisions. This analysis is performed starting with the sectors, portfolios and companies considered most at risk. As of end 1H 2020, Belfius screened on a line by line basis, and focused on the most vulnerable sectors, 40% of its total exposure on corporates, SME's and self-employed (at bank level). This approach was combined with the mechanical calculations & standard risk policies like rating renotation, watchlist, and/or default assessment.

The governance process did not change fundamentally, with the same teams responsible for providing the macroeconomic parameters and scenarios, the same computation engines (enhanced for increased flexibility and simulation power) and the same validation committees as before the crisis. However, more frequent reporting to the Management Board and Board of Directors was established to ensure proper guidance and decision-making process in view of the increased materiality of the impact and its unprecedented nature.

The current approach is deemed to reflect the expected credit losses in a best estimate way. Yet, the evolution of the pandemic and its economic impacts remain uncertain meaning that figures are subject to upwards or downwards adjustments in coming quarters.

Some sensitivities to downside scenarios are provided below. Note that the sensitivity is not linear and cannot be simply extrapolated.

Finally, stage 1 & 2 provisions constitute protection against future effective credit losses on files that effectively enter into default status. If there would be a significant improvement in macroeconomic environments and/or even more successful government support measures allowing that such currently anticipated transitions to default will not occur, part of the impairments could be reversed over time.

#### Drivers of the cost of risk in the first half of 2020

The cost of risk approach follows a waterfall principle :

- the provisions for stage 1 & 2 are calculated in a mechanical mode, based on a view on the macroeconomic conditions (past and future) (pillar 1),
- if Belfius considers that certain risk pockets, defined in terms of sectors or groups of companies, are not sufficiently covered by the mechanical provisions, certain expert overlays are added (pillar 2),
- if, additionally, the assessment of certain individual counterparts indicates that they present a significantly increased credit risk, but are not yet in default, the provisions constituted could be insufficient. For these cases, an individual management adjustment on the expected credit loss in stage 2 is added (pillar 3),
- for counterparts in default status (stage 3), the normal impairment process is run and specific provisions are calculated and booked (pillar 4). Provision levels are based on an individual assessment of exposure and collateral. A number of corporate loans, that were already showing increased risk profiles pre-crisis, have shifted to default in 1H 2020, requiring additional specific impairments (stage 3). Some other loans resulted in release of impairments. We note however, that one single corporate file explains about 60% of the observed increase in stage 3 Cost of Risk component.

The Cost of Risk 1H 2020 of EUR 393 million is composed of an increase of ECL's in stages 1 and 2 for a net amount of EUR 312 million and a provision for defaulted loans of EUR 81 million.

| Cost of risk 1H 202  | 0       |         |         |       |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| (in millions of EUR) | Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 3 | TOTAL |
| Pillar 1             | (57)    | (88)    |         | (145) |
| Pillar 2 & 3         | 116     | (283)   |         | (167) |
| Pillar 4             |         |         | (81)    | (81)  |
| TOTAL                | 59      | (371)   | (81)    | (393) |

The net increase of EUR 312 million in stages 1 and 2 reflects the importance of the COVID-19 ECL overlays that were accounted for, in particular in the Business and Corporate segments. In order to cover for the increase of credit risk, linked to certain risk pockets in these segments, significant exposures were shifted from stage 1 to stage 2, inducing a net reduction of the ECL in stage 1 and an increase in stage 2 for which life time expected losses are calculated.

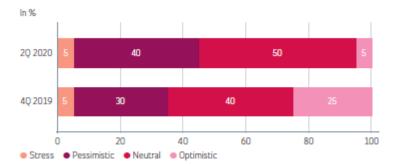
#### Macroeconomic factors (pillar 1)

Belfius' neutral scenario assumes a strong recession in 2020 (Belgian GDP -10.6%) followed by a strong, though still partial, rebound in 2021 and 2022 (Belgian GDP +8.2% in 2021 and +2.1% in 2022), thus a kind of recovery underpinned by the assumption that the major lockdown effect is behind us in the European Union and that additional lockdowns to contain the COVID-19 virus' spread will be more local and of limited duration. In terms of unemployment, our neutral scenario assumes an increase from 5.4% in 2019 to 7.9% in 2020 and 8.4% in 2021

The neutral case is completed with one optimistic and two pessimistic scenarios. The table (below) illustrates the Belgian GDP Growth assumptions, as of 2Q 2020, under the four scenarios. Please note, that for the credit provisioning as of end 2019 other, pre-COVID 19 assumptions were used. As such, Belfius materially deteriorated its scenarios.

|             | GD             | P Belgium (% Yo | Y)     |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|--------|
| Scenarios   | As of end 2019 | As of 2         | Q 2020 |
| For year    | 2020           | 2020            | 2021   |
| Optimstic   | 15             | -60             | 5.0    |
| Neutral     | 1.1            | -10.6           | 8.2    |
| Pessimistic | 0.8            | -12.5           | 6.0    |
| Stress      | -0.5           | -13.9           | 6.4    |

As can be seen from the graph below, a weight of 50% has been assigned to the neutral scenario. The probability of more severe scenarios has also been increased for the COVID-19 crisis, bringing the probability of such scenarios to 45% in 2Q 2020. The more optimistic scenario is only given a 5% probability in 2Q 2020.



These macro-economic factors and scenarios, combined with increasing loan volumes and some (though limited) portfolio rating downgrade migrations, led to a cost of risk of EUR -145 million in 1H 2020.

Risk pockets and overlays (pillar 2 & 3)

The risk mitigation strategy for corporates, SME and self-employed defined in the context of the COVID-19 is based on two complementary approaches: a bottom-up approach analysing individual clients identified as "at risk" and continuous credit risk monitoring.

The bottom-up approach is executed by screening the portfolio with pluri-disciplinary teams. This in-depth analysis of the loan portfolio is conducted in waves in order to prioritize on most COVID-19 impacted sectors and companies with the lowest estimated resilience.

This review feeds the formal quarterly impairment process and is entitled to shift individual files or risk pockets from stage 1 to 2 and to increase the coverage ratio.

| 2Q 2020 Covid-19 overlays |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Mortgages                 | Loans at risk: to borrowers using moratorium and/or loans<br>with indicators pointing out to potentially higher risk pockets<br>(buy to let loans, loans to borrowers with low ratings)    |
| Commercial real estate    | Sensitive market segments (e.g. retail, leisure, hospitality)  |
| Vulnerable companies      | Companies with low ratings belonging to sectors identified as very<br>much impacted by Covid-19 and flagged as having lower resilience   |
| Individual names          | Expert analysis pointing to potential increased credit risk<br>(not dedected by the mechanical approach) or potential increased risk<br>of default companies (but not yet unlikely to pay) |

For these risk pockets, one or more IFRS 9 parameters have been stressed when computing the ECLs. For mortgages a stressed LGD value was applied, for commercial real estate and vulnerable companies an add-on was applied on the mechanically calculated expected credit loss, reflecting the characteristic of the risk pocket.

## 11.7.4.3. Asset quality ratio

At the end of June 2020, the amount of impaired loans was EUR 1,952 million, an increase of 5.1% compared to year-end 2019, mainly driven by a limited number of specific customers in default. During the same period, the gross outstanding loans to customers increased by 4.4% and amounted to EUR 99,068 million as the end of June 2020. As a consequence, the asset quality ratio remained stable at 1.97% at the end of June 2020. The stage 3 impairments on impaired loans increased by 3.3%. As a consequence, the coverage ratio slightly decreased to 61.3% at the end of June 2020 compared to 62.3% at the end of 2019. The evolution of the stage 1 & 2 impairments was impacted by the growth of the portfolio and the COVID-19 crisis. As a consequence, we noticed a more than doubling of the stage 2 impairments on loans and advances to customers to EUR 453 million as the end of June 2020, explained by additional expected credit losses in the COVID-19 context and a partial shift of exposures from stage 1 to stage 2. At the end of June 2020 the stage 1 impairments amount to EUR 144 million, down EUR 54 million compared to December 2019.

| Asset Quality <sup>(1)</sup><br>(in EUR million, except where indicated)       | 31/12/2019 | 30/06/2020 |
|--|------------|------------|
| Gross outstanding loans and advances to customers (measured at amortised cost) | 94,907     | 99,068     |
| Impaired loans and advances to customers (measured at amortised cost)          | 1,859      | 1,952      |
| Stage 1 impairments on loans and advances to customers                         | 198        | 144        |
| Stage 2 impairments on loans and advances to customers                         | 159        | 453        |
| Stage 3 impairments on loans and advances to customers                         | 1,158      | 1,197      |
| Asset quality ratio <sup>(2)</sup>   | 1.96%      | 1.97%      |
| Coverage ratio <sup>(3)</sup>  | 62.3%      | 61.3%      |

<sup>(1)</sup> Belfius Insurance included.

<sup>(2)</sup> The ratio between impaired loans and advances to customers and the gross outstanding loans and advances

<sup>(3)</sup> The ratio between the Stage 3 impairments and impaired loans and advances to customers.

#### 11.7.5. Market risk- non financial markets activities

Managing structural exposure to market risks (including interest rate risk, equity risk, real estate risk and foreign exchange risk) is also known as Asset & Liability Management (ALM). The structural exposure at Belfius results from the imbalance between its assets and liabilities in terms of volumes, durations and interest rate sensitivity.

Belfius' Board of Directors has the ultimate responsibility for setting the strategic risk tolerance, including the risk tolerance for market risks in non financial markets activities. The Management Board of Belfius Bank and Belfius Insurance have the ultimate responsibility for managing the interest rate risks of Belfius within the above set risk tolerance and within the regulatory framework.

The real operational responsibility of the effective asset & liability management (ALM) is delegated to the Asset & Liability Committee (ALCo). The ALCo manages interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk, and liquidity risk of the Bank's respectively insurer's balance sheet within a framework of normative limits and reports to the Management Board. Important files at a strategic level are submitted for final decision to the Management Board, that has the final authority before any practical implementation.

The ALCo of the Bank is responsible for guiding and monitoring balance sheet and off-balance sheet commitments and, doing so, places an emphasis on:

- the creation of a stable income flow;
- the maintenance of economic value;
- the insurance of robust and sustainable funding.

The ALCo meets regularly, chaired by the Chief Financial and Strategic Officer (CFSO), with meetings attended by the Chief Risk Officer (CRO) and members of the Management Board responsible for commercial business lines (or their mandatees).

The ALCo of Belfius Insurance plays the same role for the insurance company pursuing the same objectives but with a focus on the economic value and solvency according to the Solvency II regulation. The risk indicators are calculated based on a harmonised risk method for Belfius, supplemented by factors specific to Belfius Insurance relating to their risk management.

# 11.7.6. Liquidity risk

# 11.7.6.1. Liquidity management framework

Belfius Bank manages its liquidity with a view to comply with internal and regulatory liquidity ratios. In addition, limits are defined for the balance sheet amount that can be funded over the short term and on the interbank market. These limits are integrated in the Risk Appetite Framework (RAF) approved by the Board of Directors and reported on a quarterly basis. Available liquidity reserves also play a key role: at any time, Belfius Bank ensures it has sufficient quality assets to cover a temporary liquidity shortfall, both in normal markets and under stress scenarios. Belfius Bank defined specific guidelines for the management of LCR eligible bonds and non LCR eligible bonds, both approved by the Management Board. All this is laid down in liquidity guidelines, approved by the ALCo.

Asset and Liability Management (ALM), a division situated within the scope of the Chief Financial and Strategic Officer (CFSO), is the front-line manager for the liquidity requirements of Belfius Bank. ALM analyses and reports on current and future liquidity positions and risks. It defines and coordinates funding plans and actions under the operational responsibility of the CFSO and under the general responsibility of the Management Board. The CFSO also bears final operational responsibility for managing the interest rate risk contained in the banking balance sheet via the ALM department and the ALCo, meaning that total bank balance sheet management lies within its operational responsibility.

ALM organises a weekly Assets and Liabilities Forum (ALF), in presence of the Risk department, the Treasury department and representatives of the commercial business lines. This forum coordinates the implementation of the funding plan validated by ALCo.

ALM monitors the funding plan to guarantee Belfius Bank will continue to comply with its internal and regulatory liquidity ratios.

ALM reports on a daily basis to the CFSO and CRO and on a monthly basis to the Board of Directors about the Bank's liquidity situation.

Second-line controls for monitoring the liquidity risk are performed by the Risk department, which ensures that the reports published are accurate and challenges the retained assumptions and models.

In addition to the RAF-limits, a set of liquidity Key Risk Indicators (KRI) is defined in the liquidity guidelines. Compliance with KRI is monitored and reported on a daily basis. The objective of these KRI is to remain sufficiently liquid and to respect regulatory liquidity ratios in stress situations. Several stress simulations have been defined which take into account action plans with recovery measures. These recovery measures are regularly tested in the market.

Next to that a daily liquidity dashboard allows to detect as early as possible any liquidity tendencies that would start to emerge.

ALF also monitors all aspects relating to asset encumbrance:

- analysis of the potential regulatory and economic impacts of asset encumbrance;
- coordination of all projects that impact asset encumbrance;
- optimisation of the asset allocation.

### 11.7.6.2. Exposure to liquidity risk

The liquidity risk at Belfius Bank is mainly stemming from:

• the variability of the amounts of commercial funding collected from retail and private customers,

small, medium-sized and large companies, public entities and similar customers and allocation of these funds to customers through loans;

- the volatility of the collateral that is to be deposited at counterparties as part of the CSA framework for derivatives and repo transactions (so called cash & securities collateral);
- the value of the liquid reserves which allow Belfius Bank to collect funding on the repo market and/or from the ECB;
- the capacity to obtain interbank and institutional funding.

This first half year was focussed on the management of the liquidity risk under COVID-19 crisis. From the start thereof, Belfius Bank has been able to maintain its already strong liquidity position, mainly thanks to a strong increase in commercial deposits which compensated

- the temporary general (not Belfius' specific) difficulties on the short-term institutional funding markets and
- the increase of commercial assets also driven by moratoria and increased drawing on credit lines. In June, Belfius Bank participated in the TLTRO III.4 for an additional amount of EUR 10.2 billion, as such reaching a total amount of EUR 13 billion TLTRO III. (TLTRO II has been fully paid back.) A notional amount of EUR 2 billion retained covered bonds has been issued and pledged at the ECB as part of the collateral requirements for TLTRO III purposes.

## 11.7.6.3. Preserving of the liquidity profile

During the first half of 2020, Belfius preserved its diversified liquidity profile by:

- maintaining a funding surplus within the commercial balance sheet;
- continuing to obtain diversified long-term funding from institutional investors
- collecting short and medium-term (CP/CD/EMTN) deposits from institutional investors.

Belfius Bank participated in the ECB TLTRO III funding programme for an amount of EUR 13 billion. Belfius Bank reached end of June 2020 a 12 month average<sup>45</sup> Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) of 134%, as such continuing to respect internal risk limits.

The Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR), based on our current interpretation of current Basel III rules, stood at 122% end of June 2020, an increase also explained by the participation in the TLTRO III.

### 11.7.6.4. Liquidity reserves

At the end of June 2020, Belfius Bank had readily realisable liquidity reserves of EUR 34.8 billion, a material increase from end 2019 levels (EUR 28.6 billion) mainly due to an increase of (retained) covered bonds eligible for ECB pledging. These reserves consisted of EUR 18.3 billion in cash, EUR 13.8 billion in ECB eligible bonds (of which EUR 10.5 billion are CCP-eligible), EUR 0.8 billion in other assets also eligible at the ECB and EUR 1.8 billion in other liquid bonds.

These liquidity reserves represent 8.9 times the Bank's institutional funding outstanding end of June 2020 and having a remaining maturity of less than one year.

### 11.7.6.5 Minimum requirement for own funds and eligible liabilities ("MREL<sup>46</sup>")

On 17 April 2019, the National Bank of Belgium (NBB) notified Belfius Bank of the MREL requirement imposed by the Single Resolution Board (SRB), setting the consolidated MREL requirement for Belfius Group at 10.56% of Total Liabilities and Own Funds (TLOF), to be met at all times.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Belfius discloses a 12 month average in accordance to EBA guidelines on LCR disclosure.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> The MREL framework sets (for each bank) a minimum level of own funds and liabilities that must have the appropriate features to absorb losses in case of resolution .

Based upon data as of 30 June 2020 and according to the current Banking Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD), Belfius' eligible own funds and liabilities for MREL purpose stood at EUR 17.0 billion, in excess of the MREL requirements of EUR 15.9 billion.

To remind, and according to the current SRB methodology, Belfius Group already exceeded the MREL requirement based on data as of 31 December 2017, and hence no transitional period was defined by the SRB for Belfius at that time.

Following the publication of the Risk Reduction Measures Package in the Official Journal of the EU on 7 June 2019, the BRRD framework is set to evolve (towards what is commonly referred as "BRRD2"), with full effect in March 2021, with a transition period until January 1st, 2022 whereby Belfius will be subject to a binding intermediate target. By 1 January 2024, Belfius will be subject to the final binding target.

It is to note that Belfius is to be impacted by a change in MREL eligibility whereby "liabilities should be directly issued and should not be owned by an undertaking in which the institution has a participation of more than 20%". As a consequence, the liabilities issued by Belfius Financing Company (Belfius' Luxembourg-based issuance vehicle for CP and Retail Bonds) cease to be MREL-eligible and are to be excluded.

SRB will communicate new MREL target requirements to banks under the new banking package before the end of 2020, with full effect from March 2021 onwards. In the meantime, Belfius and SRB are in contact to anticipate the expected impacts, although SRB MREL decisions continue to be based on SRMR1/BRRD1.

### 11.7.6.6. Funding diversification at Belfius Bank

Belfius Bank has a historical stable volume of commercial funding that comes from its RC and PC customers. RC and PC funding equal combined EUR 101.9 billion. The increase of EUR 7 billion commercial funding compared to end of 2019 is mainly used to finance the growth in commercial loans.

The loan-to-deposit ratio, which indicates the proportion between assets and liabilities of the commercial balance sheet, decreased slightly under COVID-19 crisis and stands at 92% at the end of June 2020.

Belfius Bank also receives medium-to-long-term wholesale funding, including EUR 7.7 billion from covered bonds, EUR 3.7 billion from Senior Unsecured, and EUR 13.0 billion in TLTRO funding from ECB as at 30 June 2020.

The Non Preferred Senior Bonds of EUR 1.7 billion enable Belfius to prepare for the regulatory requirement of MREL.

The remainder of the Bank's funding sources comes from institutional short-term deposits (Treasury) mainly by issuing Certificates of Deposit and Commercial Paper.

Next to that, Belfius Bank also has a historical bond portfolio, including an ALM portfolio for liquidity management purposes, with highly liquid assets.

As a result of derivative contracts to cover interest rate risk of its activities, Belfius Bank has an outstanding position in derivatives for which collateral must be posted and is being received (cash & securities collateral). Against the background of historical low interest rates, in net terms, Belfius Bank posts more collateral than it receives.

### 11.7.6.7. Encumbered assets

According to Belfius' current interpretation of the EBA guideline on the matter, the encumbered assets at Belfius Bank level amount to EUR 46 billion (including EUR 12.4 billion encumbered assets for covered bond issues) in June 2020 and represent 25.7% of total bank balance sheet and collateral received under securities format, which amounts to EUR 178.8 billion (EUR 171.1 billion assets and EUR 7.7 billion

collateral received). This represents an increase of the encumbrance ratio of +5.4% compared to end 2019, this increase being entirely explained by the additional withdrawal in June of EUR 10.2 billion under TLTRO III.

Belfius is active on the covered bond market since the set-up of the first covered bond programme in 2012. In June 2020, the total amount issued was EUR 9.8 billion, of which EUR 2 billion retained. End of June 2020 the encumbered assets, for the total amount of issued covered bonds and which are used as cover assets, are composed of commercial loans (public sector and mortgage loans) and amount to EUR 12.4 billion (increase of EUR 2 billion compared to end 2019). No covered bond can be issued if the amount of the cover assets exceeds 8 per cent. (temporarily increased by the BNB to 12.5 per cent. until 31 May 2021) of Belfius Bank's total assets.

The Bank is also collecting funding through repo markets and other collateralized deposits. End of June 2020, the total amount of assets used as collateral for this activity amounts to EUR 17.9 billion, of which EUR 16.2 billion linked to the ECB funding. The increase of this amount is explained by the additional withdrawal in June of EUR 10.2 billion under TLTRO III.

The balance of encumbered assets is also linked to collateral pledged (gross of collateral received) for the derivatives exposures for EUR 14.3 billion (increase of EUR 1.3 billion compared to end 2019), under the form of cash or securities. A significant part of collateral pledged is financed through collateral received from other counterparties with whom the Bank concluded derivatives in the opposite direction.

Regarding the "Other assets" (unencumbered) on balance sheet, they are mainly composed of assets not available for encumbrance such as derivatives value, fair value revaluation of portfolio hedge and tax assets.

## 11.7.7. Operational risk – Non financial risks

### 11.7.7.1. General principles

The operational risk framework has been extended into a "Non-Financial Risk" framework. The term Non-Financial Risk (NFR) has to be understood as a broad umbrella covering all risks except "financial risks" (the latter encompassing market, ALM, liquidity, credit and insurance risks). NFR covers among others operational risks (including fraud, HR, IT-functioning, IT-security, business continuity, outsourcing, data-related risks, privacy ...) as well as reputational, compliance, legal risks, etc.

The NFR framework determines the principles that ensure an effective management of Belfius' nonfinancial risks. The principles are further elaborated in specific Policies/Guidelines adapted to the business activities. These general principles are in compliance with the applicable legal requirements.

The framework is based on four axes:

- a risk mapping and taxonomy in order to ensure consistency within the organization, including a regular review of this mapping and taxonomy to identify emerging risks;
- clear roles and responsibilities, as well as a well-defined way of working together for all the risks based on the 3 "Lines of Defence" model (decentralized responsibility);
- a strong governance/committee structure involving the appropriate level of management; and
- transversal risk processes and related policies, such as: self assessment of risks and internal controls, incident management, risk reporting, risk appetite definition and follow up, business continuity and crisis management.

The formal definition of a Risk Appetite Framework (RAF) is the key reference for the group Risk Management practice and it covers both financial and non-financial risks.

The RAF for NFR contains quantitative elements (target values or ratios) and qualitative elements (statements) and is articulated around three concepts on which limits are defined:

• "Risks": What are the risks? How to appreciate the risk level (past and forward looking)?

- "Risk management capacity": What is the capacity to manage the risks?
- "Loss tolerance": What are the potential P&L and future RWA impacts Belfius tolerates?

Managing NFR is based on the following principles:

#### Incident Management

The systematic collection and control of data on operational incidents is one of the main requirements of the Basel Committee regarding operational risk management.

The reporting mechanisms ensure that the responsible parties are notified quickly if incidents occur. Major incidents are also reported to the CRO/Management Board, and these reports include an action plan for avoiding, mitigating or limiting risks in the future. The major operational incidents are investigated thoroughly and are subject to a specific action plan and appropriate follow-up under the responsibility of the relevant line management.

Belfius' losses resulting from operational incidents remain stable and limited. The main areas of operational losses were essentially due to incidents associated with external fraud and incidents in relation to execution, delivery and process management. Other categories remain limited in amount even if material in number of events.

### Self Assessment of Risks and Internal Controls

Another important task of risk management is the analysis of the overall main potential risks and related key controls, performed within Belfius Group's main entities. This is achieved through a bottom-up Self Assessment of Risks and Internal Controls in all departments and subsidiaries, using the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("**COSO**") methodology<sup>47</sup>. These exercises may result in the development of additional action plans to further reduce potential risks and they provide an excellent overview of the main risk areas in the various businesses. These self-assessments are conducted annually and use the same methodology both for the Risk Control Self Assessment (RCSA) and for the yearly reports submitted to the respective Boards of Directors regarding the assessment of internal control. Belfius Bank submits its senior management report on the assessment of the internal control also to its regulator.

#### New Product Approval Process

The New Product Approval Process: the process of developing a function (product, service, activity, process or system) which involves a sound (ex-ante) risk assessment. It is purposed at ensuring that all risks related to any new or changed functions are assessed by relevant experts and addressed accordingly and is overseen by a dedicated steering committee.

#### Managing insurance policies

The possible financial impact of Belfius' operational risks are also mitigated by taking out insurance policies, principally covering professional liability, fraud, theft and interruption of business and cyber risk. This is standard practice in the financial services' industry.

#### Business continuity & crisis management

Belfius is committed to its clients, counterparties and regulators to put in place, maintain and test viable alternative arrangements that, following an incident, allow the continuation or the resumption of critical

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> This methodology is based on five components: control environment, risk assessment, information and communication, monitoring activities, and existing control activities

business activities at the agreed operational level and entirely compliant with the Belgian regulation and beyond.

The supporting process, the business continuity and crisis management, is in a uniform way applied at all Belfius entities and relies on a.o. threat analysis, business impact analysis, reallocation strategies (dual office, remote work, etc.), business continuity plans as well as testing and maintenance programs.

## 11.7.7.2. Focus on specific risks

### Information Security

For Belfius, the purpose of information security is to protect Belfius' information that has a value for the organization: i.e. the information generated by the business, the information belonging/pertaining to our clients, and also the information, derived from freely accessible or publicly available data, which has acquired a value as a result of the treatment carried out by or on behalf of Belfius. The threats against data and the information are: their loss of integrity; their loss of confidentiality; and their unplanned unavailability. The mission of information security is to safeguard against these threats.

Belfius also considers that the objective regarding information security extends to managing the risks linked to the consequences of these threats if they have materialized in terms of customers' confidence, finance, reputation, peer confidence (regulators, financial markets) and confidence of our business partners. An information security strategy derived from these principles has been approved and is applicable to all actions pertaining to information security.

In order to guarantee the information security within Belfius, the Information Security Steering Committee, hosted by the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), ensures a well governed and coordinated information security strategy whereby an adequate system of "prevention", "detection", "protection" and "reaction" is put in place, in line with regulatory requirements towards information security.

Also for information security, Belfius follows a risk-based approach. This means that, based upon risk assessments, decisions are made on where improvements are most needed to effectively realize the stated ambitions and to align the actual risk posture with the risk appetite. This approach is used by the individual teams to define priorities and areas that need improvement whilst adhering to a defence in depth principle. Large security projects are grouped together in a security roadmap which typically runs for two years. Of course, the ever-evolving security threat landscape requires organizations to be resilient and anticipate on existing and future threats.

### Data privacy

The respect for privacy and the protection of personal data is a key commitment at Belfius. GDPR conformity is integrated into every process to offer (existing, adapted and new) products, innovative digital tools, services and information sharing to its clients. The regulatory framework relating to personal data continues to evolve and Belfius is closely monitoring these developments:

- in order to guarantee data privacy within Belfius, a dedicated steering related to GDPR regularly meets and a Data Privacy Officer (DPO) has been appointed as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> line of defence.
- Belfius published a privacy charter and informed its customers via messages in its online channels, letters, video and radio spots.
- also towards the staff, an HR-privacy charter has been published and the staff has been informed via the internal media.
- Belfius is very committed to avoid breaches and to manage any incident as quickly as possible. All activities treating personal data are obviously centrally documented by the business lines in a privacy register.

Fraud risk

Together with Internal Audit and Compliance, the NFR Department has formulated a global anti-fraud policy for Belfius. In line with the overall commitment to deliver value-adding products and services, the qualitative statements of the Belfius Risk Appetite Framework stresses (1) that a zero-tolerance policy line is applicable for all forms of fraud (internal, external as well as mixed frauds) and (2) that Belfius implements an extremely severe policy line to achieve its anti-fraud objectives, taking into account practical capacities. The roles and responsibilities have been clearly defined which implies in a concrete manner that Business / Support lines are the first risk managers. The CRO/Risk NFR team with the Anti-Fraud Officer as expert has a clear 2<sup>nd</sup> Line of Defence role.

The Anti-Fraud Steering Committee is defining and monitoring the fraud risk mana-gement on strategic and tactical level. It is the platform to reflect on and organize a dialogue between the internal control functions and the stakeholders mainly operating in the decentralized expert units. In this context, the processes and internal controls are continuously screened to prevent fraud and to protect the interests of Belfius and its employees, customers, suppliers and other stakeholders.

## 11.7.7.3. Managing the COVID-19 crisis

### Context

Since March, Belgium, as the rest of the world, has been severely affected by the COVID-19 virus, which has led to the national lockdown and the massive and long-term use of teleworking.

The COVID-19 crisis had an unprecedented impact on the real economy with major disruptions in supply and sharp reduction in demand.

In this context, Belfius, in the context of Febelfin, worked out measures to support the real economy. In particular, Belfius is committed to providing financial support to structurally creditworthy individuals and companies for getting through the crisis.

The lockdown has led to adapted working methods and processes, but also to a changed environment in which Belfius operates and to which Belfius reacts in line with the following key objectives:

- protecting our own and networks employees' health,
- guaranteeing the continuity of the business activities,
- communicating constantly and in a timely and transparent manner, and
- acting in accordance with the responsibilities Belfius has in the Belgian society.

### Organization of the bank during the COVID-19 crisis

Facing the COVID-19 crisis, Belfius has undertaken several measures to protect the health of staff members and to ensure operational resilience, mainly thanks to:

- A proactive approach at the early stages of the pandemic
- Enabling general teleworking and protecting health of staff
- Reviewing business continuity planning accordingly
- Performing close monitoring with regard to staff members, business continuity, IT capacity, fraud, information security or outsourcing, with oversight from dedicated steering committees
- Maintaining high quality services to customers

### 11.8. Ratings

At 28 September 2020, Belfius Bank had the following ratings:

|                     | Long-term<br>rating | Outlook  | Short-term<br>rating |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Fitch               | A-                  | Negative | F1                   |
| Moody's             | A1                  | Stable   | Prime-1              |
| Standard and Poor's | A-                  | Stable   | A-2                  |

The rating agencies, Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch Ratings or other rating agency if applicable, use ratings to assess whether a potential borrower will be able in the future to meet its credit commitments as agreed. A major element in the rating for this purpose is an appraisal of the company's net assets, financial position and earnings performance. In addition, Belfius Bank is wholly owned by the Belgian federal state through the Federal Holding and Investment Company, and it is possible that, if the ratings assigned to the Belgian federal state were to be downgraded, that could result in the ratings assigned to Belfius Bank being negatively affected. Moreover, as the ownership of a bank is one of the factors taken into in determining a bank's rating, a change of ownership of Belfius Bank could have a potential impact on the ratings assigned to Belfius Bank. A bank's rating is an important comparative element in its competition with other banks. It also has a significant influence on the individual ratings of a bank's important subsidiaries. A downgrading or the mere possibility of a downgrading of the rating of Belfius Bank or one of its subsidiaries might have adverse effects on the relationship with customers and on the sales of the products and services of the company in question. In this way, new business could suffer, Belfius Bank's competitiveness in the market might be reduced, and its funding costs would increase substantially. A downgrading of the rating would also have adverse effects on the costs to Belfius Bank of raising equity and borrowed funds and might lead to new liabilities arising or to existing liabilities being called that are dependent upon a given rating being maintained. It could also happen that, after a downgrading, Belfius Bank would have to provide additional collateral for derivative transactions in connection with rating-based collateral arrangements. If the rating of Belfius Bank were to fall within reach of the non-investment grade category, it would suffer considerably. In turn, this would have an adverse effect on Belfius Bank's ability to be active in certain business areas.

#### **11.9.** Other information

Belfius Bank is not dependent on any of its subsidiaries, save for Belfius Insurance SA/NV. Belfius Insurance SA/NV holds the licenses required for insurance undertakings, and Belfius Bank consequently relies on it for the insurance activities carried out by it.

There are no recent events particular to Belfius Bank which are, to a material extent, relevant to the evaluation of its solvency.

There are no arrangements known to Belfius Bank, the operation of which may at a subsequent date result in a change of control of Belfius Bank.

#### 11.10. Litigation

Belfius (Belfius Bank and its consolidated subsidiaries) is involved as a party in a number of litigations in Belgium, arising in the ordinary course of its business activities, including those where it is acting as an insurer, capital and credit provider, employer, investor and tax payer.

Belfius recognises provisions for such litigations when, in the opinion of its management taking into account all available elements, including an analysis by its company lawyers and external legal advisors as the case may be,

- a present obligation has arisen as a result of past events,
- it is probable that Belfius will have to make a payment, and
- the amount of such payment can be estimated reliably.

With respect to certain other litigations against Belfius, for which an analysis has been made based on the principles outlined here above, no provision has been made, as the management is of the opinion, after due consideration of appropriate advice, that, while it is often not feasible to predict or determine the ultimate outcome of all pending litigations, such litigations are without legal merit, can be successfully defended, or that the outcome of these actions is not expected to result in a significant loss.

In the opinion of Belfius, the most important cases are listed below, regardless of whether a provision has been made or not<sup>48</sup>. Their description does not deal with elements or evolutions that do not have an impact on the position of Belfius. If the cases listed below were to be successful for the opposite parties, they could eventually result in monetary consequences for Belfius. Such impact remains unquantifiable at this stage. Note that, apart from the cases listed below, continued vigilance can be observed in the prevention of money laundering (AML) in the Belgian financial sector. In this context, as is customary, Belfius is collaborating with the Belgian authorities and monitors this closely.

### 1. Housing Fund of the Brussels Capital Region

On 9 October 2012, the Housing Fund of the Brussels Capital Region (Woningfonds van het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest/Fonds du Logement de la Région de Bruxelles-Capitale) summoned Belfius Bank before the Brussels Commercial Court. The Housing Fund subscribed for a total amount of EUR 32,000,000 to 4 treasury notes issued by Municipal Holding (Gemeentelijke Holding/Holding Communal), placed by Belfius acting as dealer under the Municipal Holding commercial paper program, between July and September 2011 (Commercial Paper program). Due to severe financial difficulties encountered by the Municipal Holding, the Housing Fund granted a voluntary waiver to the Municipal Holding on 24 November 2011 and received repayment for EUR 16 million. The Municipal Holding entered into liquidation in December 2011. Due to the intervention of Belfius as dealer of the treasury notes, the Housing Fund demands the payment by Belfius Bank of the non-repaid capital. As the loss incurred on this investment is the result of a voluntary waiver of the claim by the Housing Fund, which matches half of the investment, Belfius Bank rejects the demand from the Housing Fund.

On 27 March 2014, the Brussels Commercial Court accepted the claim application by the Housing Fund, but declared it unfounded.

The Housing Fund lodged an appeal against this judgement on 3 June 2014.

There was no significant evolution in this claim since 2016. The date of the hearings is not yet known. No provision has been made for this claim.

### 2. Arco - Cooperative shareholders

Various parties, including Belfius Bank, have been summoned by Arco - Cooperative shareholders in three separate procedures, i.e. one procedure before the Dutch speaking Commercial Court of Brussels, one procedure before the Court of First Instance of Antwerp, Section Turnhout and another procedure before the Court of First Instance of Brussels:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Note that, where relevant, Art.92 of IAS37 may apply to this section.

- On 30 September 2014, 737 shareholders from 3 companies of the Arco Group (Arcopar, Arcoplus and Arcofin) initiated (with support of Deminor) proceedings against the Arco entities and Belfius Bank before the Dutch speaking Commercial Court of Brussels (the "Deminor Proceedings"). On 19 December 2014, 1,027 additional shareholders of the Arco entities joined in the Deminor Proceedings. On 15 January 2016, 405 additional shareholders of the Arco entities joined the Deminor Proceedings, resulting in a total of 2,169 plaintiffs. The plaintiffs have requested that the Brussels Court rule, among other things, that:
  - the agreements by virtue of which they became shareholders of the relevant Arco entities are null and void;
  - the defendants should, jointly and severally, reimburse the plaintiffs their financial contribution in these entities plus interest; and
  - the defendants are liable for certain additional damages to the plaintiffs.
- The financial contribution of the 2,169 plaintiffs for which reimbursement is sought amounted to approximately EUR 6.5 million (principal amount) as at the date of this Report. The plaintiffs' claims in the Deminor Proceedings are based on allegations of fraud and/or error on the part of the Arco entities and Belfius Bank. In the alternative, the plaintiffs have argued that Belfius Bank breached its general duty of care as a normal and prudent banker. In relation to Belfius Bank, the plaintiffs have referred to certain letters and brochures allegedly containing misleading information issued by the predecessors of Belfius Bank. The Belgian State, DRS Belgium (Deminor) and the Chairman of the Management Board of the Arco entities are also defendants in the proceedings before the Commercial Court of Brussels. Belfius Bank has submitted its first legal briefs in August 2018 and has submitted its second legal briefs in March 2020. The case will normally be pleaded during several pleading sessions in June 2021.
- Separately from the abovementioned proceedings before the Commercial Court of Brussels, on 24 October 2016, three shareholders in Arcopar initiated court proceedings (the "Turnhout Proceedings") against Belfius Bank before the Court of First Instance of Antwerp, section Turnhout. The plaintiffs in the Turnhout Proceedings request that Belfius Bank is to be held liable to pay an "undetermined provisional amount of 2,100 EUR" per plaintiff plus interest and costs, because they claim that Belfius Bank misled them in subscribing Arcopar-shares. As at the date of this Report, the aggregate amount of the claims of the plaintiffs in the Turnhout Proceedings amounted to approximately EUR 6,300 EUR (principal amount). The plaintiffs base their claims upon promotional material that was distributed by the predecessors of Belfius Bank as well as the Arco entities and the former Belgian Christian collective of workers' associations (ACW). On 27 February 2017, Belfius Bank summoned Arcopar to intervene in the Turnhout Proceedings and to indemnify Belfius Bank for any amount for which it would be held liable towards the plaintiffs. In subsidiary order, the plaintiffs have also filed a claim against Arcopar and Belfius Bank requesting that their subscription of Arcopar shares is to be declared null and void. On 3 April 2018, the plaintiffs also summoned the Belgian State to intervene in the Turnhout Proceedings. All parties requested the Court to transfer this case to the Court of First Instance of Brussels. The Court decided on 19 November 2018 to grant the requested transfer and this procedure is now joined with the procedure before the Court of First Instance of Brussels.
- Furthermore, on 7 February 2018, 2 cooperative shareholders summoned the Belgian State before the Court of First Instance of Brussels because they state that the Belgian State has made a fault by promising and introducing a guarantee scheme for shareholders of financial cooperative companies (like the Arco cooperative shareholders) which has been considered illicit state aid by the European Commission. These 2 plaintiffs also summoned Belfius Bank on 7 February 2018 to intervene in this procedure and claim compensation from Belfius Bank because they consider that Belfius Bank erred in the sale of the Arco shares. Groups of Arco-shareholders organized themselves via social media to mobilize other Arco shareholders to become claimant in this procedure, and to the knowledge of Belfius, as of end June 2020, approximately 5,380 Arco shareholders did so. There is not yet a pleading calendar in this case.

No provision has been made for these claims because Belfius Bank is of the opinion that it has sufficient valid arguments to result in these claims being declared inadmissible and/or without merit.

## 3. Funding Loss

Belfius Bank is facing some legal actions regarding the issue of indemnities charged for funding losses incurred by the Bank. The latter are charged to professional clients in the case of early repayment of professional credits. These indemnities are calculated in line with the current legal dispositions and the contractual framework of such credits to reflect the financial losses that are actually incurred by the Bank in the case of early repayment of a professional credit. Belfius booked provisions to cover the potential adverse outcome of litigation proceedings. These provisions are reassessed on an ongoing basis, taking into account the evolution of Belgian case law.

## 4. Investigations into Panama Papers

These paragraphs are mentioned for completeness only, although the matters below do not comprise a litigation. On 5 December 2017, a police search under the lead of an examining magistrate of Brussels (onderzoeksrechter/juge d'instruction) took place at Belfius Bank's head office in the framework of the Belgian "Panama Papers" Parliamentary Commission. The Bank was investigated as a witness and has not been accused of any wrongdoing. The scope of the investigation is to establish whether there are any violations of anti-money laundering obligations and to investigate the link between Belfius Bank (or its predecessors), and, amongst others, Experta and Dexia Banque International Luxembourg (i.e. former entities of the Dexia group).

To date, Belfius Bank did not receive any further information since the above mentioned police search.

# 11.11. Management and Supervision of Belfius Bank

11.11.1. Composition of the Management Board and the Board of Directors

# A. Management Board

The Management Board currently has five members who have all acquired experience in the banking and financial sector. The members of the Management Board form a college.

As of the date of this Base Prospectus, the Management Board consists of the following five members:

|                  |          | Significant other functions<br>performed outside Belfius |
|------------------|----------|--|
| Name             | Position | Bank   |
| Marc Raisière    | Chairman | none   |
| Marianne Collin  | Member   | none   |
| Dirk Gyselinck   | Member   | none   |
| Olivier Onclin   | Member   | none   |
| Johan Vankelecom | Member   | none   |

In addition, the Management Board in concertation with the Board of Directors appointed three associated members. They took up their position on 1 January 2019. These are Mr. Patrick Devis, IT manager, Mrs. Camille Gillon, HR & Building Management manager and Mr. Geert Van Mol, Data & Digital manager. The associated members attend the meetings of the Management Board in an advisory capacity.

A Group Committee is also established and is composed of the members of the Management Board of Belfius Bank, and the CEO and CFO of Belfius Insurance with voting power. The objective of the Group Committee is to work together as a Group in the best possible way by sharing information between the Group entities, by discussing common topics and required actions, by determining how Belfius Group can implement its Group strategy and policies in the most efficient way. The Group Committee treats important "group topics" impacting different entities of the Belfius Group (Belfius Bank, Belfius Insurance, Belfius Investment Partners and their respective main subsidiaries) that are not discussed in the quarterly Group Financial Conglomerate Review or in other committees (such as Alco, Management Committees of the business units, Brand Committee, ...) and for which a group alignment is necessary.

The above members of the Management Board have their business address at 1210 Brussels, Place Charles Rogier 11, Belgium.

The Management Board is responsible for the effective management of Belfius Bank, directing and coordinating the activities of the various business lines and support departments within the framework of the objectives and general policy set by the Board of Directors. These powers do not include determining the Bank's overall policy, nor actions reserved for the Board of Directors by the other provisions in the Companies and Associations Code or by the Banking Law.

The Management Board ensures that Belfius Bank's business activities are in line with the strategy, risk management and general policy set by the Board of Directors. It passes on relevant information to the Board of Directors to enable it to take informed decisions. It formulates proposals and advices to the Board of Directors with a view to define or improve Belfius Bank's general policy and strategy.

The members of the Management Board form a collegial body. They are required to carry out their duties in complete objectivity and independence.

Under the supervision of the Board of Directors, the Management Board takes the necessary measures, including supervisory measures, to ensure that Belfius Bank has a robust structure suited to the bank's organisation in order to guarantee the effective and prudent management of Belfius Bank in accordance with the Banking Law.

There are no potential conflicts of interest between any duties to Belfius Bank of the members of the Management Board and their private interests and other duties.

# **B.** Board of Directors

The Board of Directors defines and supervises the strategy and objectives of the bank as well as the risk management, including the level of risk appetite, on proposal or recommendation of the Management Board.

In the context of this responsibility, the Board of Directors is actively involved in general policy, in particular with regard to supervision of the risk policy, organisation and financial stability of the bank and its governance, including the definition of the bank's objectives and values. The Board of Directors also approves the bank's governance memorandum.

Pursuant to the articles of association of Belfius Bank, the Board of Directors of Belfius Bank is composed of a minimum of ten members appointed for maximum terms of four years. The table below sets forth the names of the Directors, their position within Belfius Bank and the other significant functions they perform outside Belfius Bank.

The business address for the members of the Board of Directors is 1210 Brussels, Place Charles Rogier 11, Belgium.

As at the date of this Base Prospectus, the Board of Directors consists of fifteen members, five of whom sit on the Management Board.

The appointment of a new director, Mrs. Isabel Neumann, as well as the appointment of Mr. Jozef Clijsters as independent director have been submitted to and accepted by the Ordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of 2020.

The Board of Directors, which is made up of professionals from a variety of industries, including the financial sector, has the expertise and experience required associated with the bank's various operating businesses.

|                  |   | Significant other<br>functions performed           |
|------------------|---|--|
| Name             | Position  | outside Belfius Bank                               |
| Jozef Clijsters  | Chairman of the Board of<br>Directors of Belfius Bank   | none   |
| Marc Raisière    | Chairman of the Management<br>Board   |  |
|                  | Responsible for IT, Digital & Data,<br>Human Resources Management,<br>Communication, Audit, Corporate<br>Office & Secretary General   | none   |
| Marianne Collin  | Member of the Management Board<br>Chief Risk Officer  |  |
|                  | Responsible for Risk Management<br>and Compliance   | none   |
| Dirk Gyselinck   | Member of the Management Board<br>Responsible for Public &<br>Corporate Banking, Financial<br>Markets, Wealth Management and<br>Customer Loan Services  | none   |
| Olivier Onclin   | Member of the Management Board<br>Responsible for Retail &<br>Commercial Banking and<br>Customer Transaction Services   | none   |
| Johan Vankelecom | Member of the Management Board<br>Chief Financial & Strategic Officer<br>Responsible for Corporate strategy,<br>M&A, Partnerships, Participations,<br>Capital Management, Financial<br>Conglomerate Steering and<br>Investor Relations, ALM, Legal &<br>Tax, Accounting, Strategic<br>Planning & Performance<br>Management (SPPM), Strategic<br>Research & Belfius' Asset<br>Management | none   |
| Paul Bodart      | Member of the Board of Directors<br>of Belfius Bank (Independent<br>Director)   | Director of companies and non-profit organisations |

Significant other functions performed outside Belfius Bank

| Name                   | Position  | outside Belfius Bank  |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Jean-Pierre Delwart    | Member of the Board of Directors<br>of Belfius Bank (Independent<br>Director) | Chairman of the Board of<br>Directors of Solvac   |
| Martine De Rouck       | Member of the Board of Directors<br>of Belfius Bank (Independent<br>Director) | Independent Director of<br>Orange Belgium SA  |
| Carine Doutrelepont    | Member of the Board of Directors<br>of Belfius Bank (Independent<br>Director) | Lawyer and Full Professor at<br>the Université Libre de<br>Bruxelles (ULB)  |
| Georges Hübner         | Member of the Board of Directors<br>of Belfius Bank (Independent<br>Director) | Full Professor at HEC Liège -<br>University of Liège  |
| Isabel Neumann         | Member of the Board of Directors<br>of Belfius Bank (Independent<br>Director) | Experienced Financial<br>Professional (Former<br>Managing Director,<br>Investment Banking of Bank<br>of America, Merrill Lynch)                                     |
| Diane Zygas-Rosen      | Member of the Board of Directors<br>of Belfius Bank (Independent<br>Director) | Director Humanitarian<br>Services at Belgian Red Cross<br>and Vice President Blood<br>Services at Belgian Red Cross   |
| Chris Sunt             | Member of the Board of Directors<br>of Belfius Bank (Independent<br>Director) | Honorary lawyer   |
| Lutgart Van Den Berghe | Member of the Board of Directors<br>of Belfius Bank (Independent<br>Director) | Emeritus extraordinary<br>Professor at the University of<br>Ghent (UG) and emeritus<br>part-Time Professor at the<br>Vlerick Business School                        |
| Rudi Vander Vennet     | Member of the Board of Directors<br>of Belfius Bank (Independent<br>Director) | Full Professor in Financial<br>Economics and Banking at<br>the University of Ghent (UG)<br>and Lecturer Banking and<br>Insurance at Solvay Business<br>School (ULB) |

There are no potential conflicts of interest between any duties to Belfius Bank of the members of the Board of Directors and their private interests and other duties.

## 11.11.2. Advisory committees set up by the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Belfius Bank established various advisory committees to assist in its task, i.e. a Nomination Committee, a Remuneration Committee, an Audit Committee and a Risk Committee. These committees are exclusively composed of Non-Executive Directors. In line with the EBA guidelines, the majority of the members of the advisory committees are independent directors. These directors are members of a maximum of three of these advisory committees. A Mediation Committee has also been installed within the governance of the Belfius group.

There are no potential conflicts of interest between any duties to Belfius Bank of the members of any of the following advisory committees and their private interests and other duties.

## A. Nomination Committee

As of the date of this Base Prospectus, the Nomination Committee of Belfius Bank has the following membership:

| Name                   | Position  |
|------------------------|---|
| Lutgart Van Den Berghe | Chairman – Director of Belfius Bank                                 |
| Jozef Clijsters        | Member - Chairman of the Board of Directors of Belfius Bank         |
| Diane Zygas-Rosen      | Member - Director of Belfius Bank                                   |
|                        | Director of Belfius Insurance, invited as representative of Belfius |
| Cécile Coune           | Insurance   |

The members of the Nomination Committee have the required skills, on the basis of their education and professional experience, to give a competent and independent judgment on the composition and operation of the bank's management bodies, in particular on the individual and collective skills of their members and their integrity, reputation, independence of spirit and availability.

The Nomination Committee:

- identifies and recommends, for approval of the Shareholders Meeting or of the Board of Directors as the case may be, candidates suited to filling vacancies on the Board of Directors, evaluates the balance of knowledge, skills, diversity and experience within the Board of Directors, prepares a description of the roles and capabilities for a particular appointment and assesses the time commitment expected; the Nomination Committee also decides on a target for the representation of the underrepresented gender within the Board of Directors and prepares a policy on how to increase the number of underrepresented gender in order to meet that target;
- periodically, and at least annually, assesses the structure, size, composition and performance of the Board of Directors and makes recommendations to it with regard to any changes;
- periodically, assesses the knowledge, skills, experience, degree of involvement and in particular the attendance of members of the Board of Directors and advisory committees, both individually and collectively, and reports to the Board of Directors accordingly;
- periodically reviews the policies of the Board of Directors for selection and appointment of members of the Management Board, and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors;

- prepares proposals for the appointment or mandate renewal as the case may be of directors, members of the Management Board, the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Chairman of the Management Board;
- assesses the aptitude of a director or a candidate director to meet the criteria set forth for being considered as an independent director;
- examines questions relating to problems with the succession of directors and members of the Management Board;
- establishes a general and specific profile for directors and members of the Management Board;
- ensures the application of provisions with regard to corporate governance;
- prepares proposals for amendments to the internal rules of the Board of Directors and the Management Board;
- assesses the governance memorandum and if necessary proposes amendments;
- at least annually discusses and analyses the quantitative statement and qualitative analysis of communications regarding stress, burn-out and inappropriate behaviour at work and actions to be taken to remedy situations.

In performing its duties, the Nomination Committee ensures that decision-taking within the Board of Directors is not dominated by one person or a small group of persons, in a way which might be prejudicial to the interests of the bank as whole.

The Nomination Committee may use any type of resources that it considers to be appropriate to the performance of its task, including external advice, and receives appropriate funding to that end.

The Nomination Committee acts for all of Belfius Bank, Belfius Insurance, Corona and Belfius Investment Partners.

### **B.** Remuneration Committee

As of the date of this Base Prospectus, the Remuneration Committee of Belfius Bank has the following membership:

| Name                   | Position   |
|------------------------|--|
| Lutgart Van Den Berghe | Chairman – Director of Belfius Bank  |
| Jozef Clijsters        | Member - Chairman of the Board of Directors of Belfius Bank                      |
| Diane Zygas-Rosen      | Member - Director of Belfius Bank  |
| Cécile Coune           | Director of Belfius Insurance, invited as representative of Belfius<br>Insurance |

The members of the Remuneration Committee have the required skills, on the basis of their education and professional experience, to give a competent and independent judgment on remuneration policies and practices and on the incentives created for managing risks, capital and liquidity of Belfius Bank.

In order to perform its tasks correctly, the Remuneration Committee interacts regularly with the Risk Committee and the Audit Committee.

The Risk Committee ensures that the Belfius group's risk management, capital requirements and liquidity position, as well as the probability and the spread in time of profit are correctly taken into consideration in decisions relating to remuneration policy.

The Audit Committee contributes to the establishment of objectives for the Auditor General and the Compliance Officer.

The Remuneration Committee prepares the decisions of the Board of Directors by inter alia:

- developing the remuneration policy, as well as making practical remuneration proposals for the chairman, the non-executive members of the Board of Directors and the members of the advisory committees under the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors submits these remuneration proposals to the General Meeting for approval.
- developing the remuneration policy as well as making practical proposals for the remuneration of the chairman of the Management Board and, at his proposal, for the remuneration of the members of the Management Board. The Board of Directors then determines the remuneration of the chairman and the members of the Management Board.
- providing advice on the proposals made by the chairman of the Management Board of Belfius Bank in relation to the severance remuneration for members of the Belfius Bank Management Board. On the proposal of the remuneration committee, the Board of Directors of Belfius Bank determines the severance remuneration of the chairman and members of the Belfius Bank Management Board.
- advising the Board of Directors in relation to the remuneration policy for employees whose activity has a material impact on the risk profile of the Belfius group (known as "Identified Staff") and in relation to the compliance of the allocation of remuneration to Identified Staff with regard to the remuneration policy put in place for such people.
- preparing the remuneration report approved by the Board of Directors and published in the annual report.
- periodically checking to ensure that the remuneration programmes are achieving their objective and are in line with applicable conditions.
- annually assessing the performance and objectives of the members of the Management Board.
- providing an opinion of the elaboration of a global "Risk Gateway" in consultation with the Risk Committee, containing various levers applied at various points in the performance management cycle with an impact on determination of the variable remuneration

The Remuneration Committee exercises direct supervision over the determination of objectives and remuneration of the individuals responsible for the independent control functions (Chief Risk Officer, General Auditor & the Compliance Officer).

The Remuneration Committee acts for all of Belfius Bank, Belfius Insurance, Corona and Belfius Investment Partners.

# C. Audit Committee

As at the date of this Base Prospectus, the Audit Committee of Belfius Bank has the following membership:

| Name             | Position                 |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Georges Hübner   | Chairman                 |
|                  | Director of Belfius Bank |
|                  | Member                   |
| Paul Bodart      | Director of Belfius Bank |
|                  | Member                   |
| Chris Sunt       | Director of Belfius Bank |
|                  | Member                   |
| Martine De Rouck | Director of Belfius Bank |

The majority of the members of the Audit Committee are independent directors. Members of the Audit Committee have collective expertise in the field of banking, accountancy and auditing. At least one independent director of the Audit Committee is an expert in the field of accounting and/or audit.

The Audit Committee assists the Board of Directors in its task of carrying out prudential controls and exercising general supervision. The Audit Committee of Belfius Bank operates independently of the Audit Committee implemented at Belfius Insurance. However, the respective Audit Committees of Belfius Bank and Belfius Insurance meet jointly at least once a year. Additional joint meetings may be held at the request of the Chairman of the Audit Committee of Belfius Bank.

### D. Risk Committee

As at the date of this Base Prospectus, the Risk Committee has the following membership:

| Name               | Position  |
|--------------------|---|
| Rudi Vander Vennet | Chairman<br>Director of Belfius Bank            |
| Georges Hübner     | Member<br>Director of Belfius Bank              |
| Diane Zygas-Rosen  | Member<br>Director of Belfius Bank              |
| Chris Sunt         | Member<br>Director of Belfius Bank              |
| Isabel Neumann     | Invited as observer<br>Director of Belfius Bank |

The members of the Risk Committee have the individual expertise and professional experience required to define the strategy regarding risk and the level of risk appetite of Belfius Bank.

The Risk Committee has advisory powers and responsibilities with regard to the Board of Directors in the following areas:

- appetite and strategy regarding Belfius Bank's current and future risks, more particularly the effectiveness of the risk management function and the governance structure to support them;
- monitoring implementation of risk appetite and strategy by the Management Board;

- allocating the risk appetite to various categories of risks and defining the extent and limits of risk in order to manage and restrict major risks;
- considering the risks run by Belfius Bank with its customer tariffs.
- assessing activities which expose Belfius Bank to real risks;
- supervising requirements in terms of capital and liquidity, the capital base and Belfius Bank's liquidity situation;
- the guarantee that risks are proportional to Belfius Bank's capital;
- formulating an opinion with regard to major transactions and new proposals for strategy activities that have a significant impact on Belfius Bank's risk appetite;
- obtaining information and analysing management reports as to the extent and nature of the risks facing Belfius Bank; and
- monitoring the Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP) and the Recovery Plan.

The Risk Committee of Belfius Bank operates independently of the Risk and Underwriting Committee of Belfius Insurance. On the request of the Chairman of the bank's committee, a joint Risk Committee of Belfius Bank and Belfius Insurance may be held. To promote sound remuneration policy and practices, subject to the tasks of the Nomination Committee and the Remuneration Committee, the Risk Committee examines whether incentives in the remuneration system take proper account of the institution's risk management, equity requirements and liquidity position, as well as the probability and distribution of profit over time.

The Risk Committee and the Audit Committee periodically exchange information in particular concerning the quarterly risk report, the senior management report on the assessment of internal control and the risk analyses performed by the Legal, Compliance and Audit Departments. The aim of this exchange of information is to enable the two committees to perform their tasks properly and to take the form of a joint meeting.

# E. Mediation Committee

A Mediation Committee has been established within the Belfius group.

As at the date of this Base Prospectus, the Mediation Committee has the following membership:

| Chairman | Jozef Clijsters                                    |  |  |  |  |
|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
|          | Chairman of the Board of Directors of Belfius Bank |  |  |  |  |
|          |  |  |  |  |  |
| Members  | Jean-Pierre Delwart                                |  |  |  |  |
|          | Independent Director                               |  |  |  |  |
|          | Belfius Bank                                       |  |  |  |  |
|          | Carine Doutrelepont                                |  |  |  |  |
|          | Independent Director                               |  |  |  |  |
|          | Belfius Bank                                       |  |  |  |  |
|          | Jean-Michel Kupper                                 |  |  |  |  |
|          | Independent Director                               |  |  |  |  |
|          | Belfius Insurance                                  |  |  |  |  |

| Cécile Coune         |
|----------------------|
| Independent Director |
| Belfius Insurance    |
|                      |
|                      |
|                      |

The Mediation Committee is responsible for passing opinions relating to material transactions or operations between, on the one hand, Belfius Bank and its subsidiaries and, on the other hand, Belfius Insurance and its subsidiaries, or between their respective subsidiaries. Such opinions are sent to the Board of Directors of the companies concerned, which will then take a definitive decision on the planned transaction or operation.

# 11.12. Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of Belfius Bank<sup>49</sup>

# I. Belfius Bank's Audited Consolidated Balance Sheet

|   |       | 31<br>December<br>2018 | 31<br>December<br>2019 |
|---|-------|------------------------|------------------------|
|   | Notes |                        |                        |
| Assets  |       | (in thousand           | ds of EUR)             |
| Cash and balances with central banks                                  | 5.2.  | 8,314,303              | 6,715,928              |
| Loans and advances due from credit institutions                       | 5.3.  | 13,106,846             | 16,207,838             |
| (a) Measured at amortised cost  |       | 13,106,846             | 16,207,838             |
| (b) Measured at fair value through other comprehensive income         |       | 0                      | 0                      |
| (c) Measured at fair value through profit or loss                     |       | 0                      | 0                      |
| Loans and advances  | 5.4.  | 91,122,512             | 94,944,479             |
| (a) Measured at amortised cost  |       | 89,302,446             | 93,391,477             |
| (b) Measured at fair value through other comprehensive income         |       | 0                      | 0                      |
| (c) Measured at fair value through profit or loss                     |       | 1,820,067              | 1,553,002              |
| Debt securities & equity instruments                                  | 5.5.  | 28,568,766             | 29,489,565             |
| (a) Measured at amortised cost  |       | 21,610,561             | 22,476,427             |
| (b) Measured at fair value through other                              |       |                        |                        |
| comprehensive income  |       | 5,216,152              | 5,257,278              |
| (c) Measured at fair value through profit or loss                     |       | 1,742,052              | 1,755,860              |
| Unit linked products insurance activities                             |       | 2,837,971              | 3,671,372              |
| Derivatives   | 5.6.  | 12,767,585             | 13,304,709             |
| Gain/loss on the hedged item in portfolio hedge of interest rate risk | 5.6.  | 4,590,806              | 4,881,797              |
| Investments in equity method companies                                | 5.7.  | 47,949                 | 64,124                 |
| Tangible fixed assets   | 5.8.  | 1,065,607              | 1,215,355              |
| Intangible assets   | 5.9.  | 191,497                | 206,384                |
| Goodwill  | 5.10. | 103,966                | 103,966                |
| Tax assets  | 5.11. | 378,192                | 338,443                |
| (a) Current tax assets  |       | 77,683                 | 53,723                 |
|   |       |                        |                        |

<sup>49</sup> For a complete presentation of the Finanial Statement of Belfius Bank, please see the 2019 annual report on the website: https://www.belfius.be/about-us/dam/corporate/investors/ratios-en-rapporten/belfius-reports/en/bel\_RA2019\_eng.pdf

| (b) Deferred tax assets                                |       | 300,508     | 284,720     |
|--|-------|-------------|-------------|
| Technical insurance provisions – part of the reinsurer |       | 99,902      | 108,074     |
| Other assets   | 5.12. | 950,202     | 1,163,606   |
| Non current assets (disposal group) held for sale and  |       |             |             |
| discontinued operations                                | 5.13. | 19,047      | 23,826      |
| Total assets   |       | 164,165,152 | 172,439,465 |

|   |       | 31<br>December<br>2018 | 31<br>December<br>2019 |
|---|-------|------------------------|------------------------|
|   | Notes |                        |                        |
| Liabilities   |       | (in thousand           | ls of EUR)             |
| Cash and balances from central banks                    | 6.1.  | 3,962,322              | 4,016,777              |
| Credit institutions borrowings and deposits             | 6.2.  | 5,866,810              | 5,819,363              |
| (a) Measured at amortised cost                          |       | 5,866,810              | 5,819,363              |
| (b) Measured at fair value through profit or loss       |       | 0                      | 0                      |
| Borrowings and deposits                                 | 6.3.  | 79,661,310             | 85,449,910             |
| (a) Measured at amortised cost                          |       | 79,609,747             | 85,397,137             |
| (b) Measured at fair value through profit or loss       |       | 51,563                 | 52,773                 |
| Debt securities issued and other financial liabilities  | 6.4.  | 26,686,872             | 27,654,505             |
| (a) Measured at amortised cost                          |       | 19,274,694             | 19,341,686             |
| (b) Measured at fair value through profit or loss       |       | 7,412,178              | 8,312,819              |
| Unit linked products insurance activities               |       | 2,837,971              | 3,671,372              |
| Derivatives   | 5.6   | 17,740,280             | 18,630,116             |
| Gain/loss on the hedged item in portfolio hedge of      |       |                        |                        |
| interest rate risk                                      | 5.6   | 165,078                | 262,708                |
| Provisions for insurance activities                     | 6.5   | 13,907,770             | 13,180,229             |
| Provisions and contingent liabilities                   | 6.6   | 626,752                | 517,345                |
| Subordinated debts                                      | 6.7   | 1,219,469              | 1,157,266              |
| (a) Measured at amortised cost                          |       | 1,219,469              | 1,157,266              |
| (b) Measured at fair value through profit or loss       |       | 0                      | 0                      |
| Tax liabilities   | 5.11  | 30,825                 | 136,648                |
| (a) Current tax liabilities                             |       | 22,301                 | 81,540                 |
| (b) Deferred tax liabilities                            |       | 8,524                  | 55,108                 |
| Other liabilities                                       | 6.8   | 1,500,070              | 1,437,224              |
| Liabilities included in disposal group and discontinued |       | 0                      | 0                      |

# operations

# **Total Liabilities**

|   |       | 31<br>December<br>2018 | 31<br>December<br>2019 |
|---|-------|------------------------|------------------------|
|   | Notes |                        |                        |
| Equity  |       | (in thousand           | ds of EUR)             |
| Subscribed capital  |       | 3,458,066              | 3,458,066              |
| Additional paid-in capital  |       | 209,232                | 209,232                |
| Treasury shares   |       | 0                      | 0                      |
| Reserves and retained earnings  |       | 4,738,565              | 5,013,573              |
| Net income for the period   |       | 649,028                | 667,496                |
| Shareholders' Core Equity   |       | 9,054,891              | 9,348,367              |
| Fair value changes of debt instruments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income  |       | 218,588                | 336,856                |
| Fair value changes of equity instruments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income  |       | 75,031                 | 262,716                |
| Fair value changes due to own credit risk on financial liabilities designated as at fair value through profit or loss to be presented in other comprehensive income |       | 0                      | 0                      |
| Fair value changes of derivatives following cash flow hedging   |       | 13,679                 | (81,709)               |
| Remeasurement pension plans   |       | 42,170                 | 84,319                 |
| Discretionary participation features of insurance contracts   |       | 41,850                 | 33,212                 |
| Other reserves  |       | 212                    | 212                    |
| Gains and losses not recognised in the statement of   |       |                        |                        |
| income  |       | 391,530                | 635,605                |
| Total shareholders' equity  |       | 9,446,422              | 9,983,972              |
| Additional Tier-1 instruments included in equity  |       | 497,083                | 497,083                |
| Non-controlling interests   |       | 16,118                 | 24,945                 |
| Total equity  |       | 9,959,623              | 10,506,000             |
| Total liabilities and equity  |       | 164,165,152            | 172,439,465            |

# II. Belfius Bank's Audited Consolidated Statement of Income

|   |       | 31 December<br>2018 | 31 December<br>2019 |
|---|-------|---------------------|---------------------|
|   | Notes |                     |                     |
|   |       | (in thousan         | nds of EUR)         |
| Interest income   | 7.1.  | 3,399,369           | 3,441,636           |
| Interest expense  | 7.1.  | (1,527,831)         | (1,541,463)         |
| Dividend income   | 7.2.  | 70,981              | 70,279              |
| Net income from equity method companies                 | 7.3.  | 1,745               | 4,918               |
| Net income from financial instruments at fair value     |       |                     |                     |
| through profit or loss                                  | 7.4.  | (10,644)            | 96,148              |
| Net income on investments and liabilities               | 7.5.  | 121,704             | 53,190              |
| Fee and commission income                               | 7.6.  | 734,366             | 756,445             |
| Fee and commission expense                              | 7.6.  | (178,710)           | (176,873)           |
| Technical result from insurance activities              | 7.7   | (53,890)            | (19,975)            |
| (a) Gross earned premiums                               |       | 1,488,048           | 1,463,046           |
| (b) Other technical income and charges                  |       | (1,541,939)         | (1,483,021)         |
| Other income  | 7.8.  | 193,666             | 216,569             |
| Other expense   | 7.9.  | (389,568)           | (412,287)           |
| Income  |       | 2,361,189           | 2,488,587           |
| Staff expense   | 7.10. | (614,740)           | (636,777)           |
| General and administrative expense                      | 7.11. | (496,938)           | (488,519)           |
| Network costs   |       | (219,110)           | (212,174)           |
| Depreciation and amortisation of fixed assets           | 7.12. | (95,004)            | (114,909)           |
| Expenses  |       | (1,425,792)         | (1,452,379)         |
| Gross operating income                                  |       | 935,397             | 1,036,208           |
| Impairments on financial instruments and provisions for |       |                     |                     |
| credit commitments                                      | 7.13. | (66,397)            | (111,438)           |
| Impairments on tangible and intangible assets           | 7.14. | (2,124)             | (6,761)             |
| Impairments on goodwill                                 | 7.15. | 0                   | 0                   |
| Net income before tax                                   |       | 866,876             | 918,010             |
| Current tax (expense) income                            | 7.16. | (145,506)           | (210,116)           |
| Deferred tax (expense) income                           | 7.16. | (71,381)            | (41,791)            |
| Total tax (expense) income                              |       | (216,886)           | (251,907)           |
| Net income after tax                                    |       | 649,989             | 666,103             |
| Discontinued operations (net of tax)                    |       | 0                   | 0                   |

|  |       | 31 December<br>2018   | 31 December<br>2019 |
|--|-------|-----------------------|---------------------|
|  | Notes |                       |                     |
| -  |       | (in thousands of EUR) |                     |
| Net income                                   |       | 649,989               | 666,103             |
| Attributable to non-controlling interests    |       | 962                   | (1,393)             |
| Attributable to equity holders of the parent |       | 649,028               | 667,496             |

# SECTION 12 TAXATION

Investors should consult their professional advisers on the possible tax consequences of subscribing for, purchasing, holding, selling or converting the Mortgage Pandbrieven issued by the Issuer under the laws of their countries of citizenship, residence, ordinary residence or domicile.

The following is a general description of the Belgian withholding tax treatment in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven issued by the Issuer and of certain particular tax consequences for investors in respect of receiving interest, purchasing or disposing of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. It is of a general nature based on the Issuer's understanding of current law and practice and it is not intended to constitute a full description of all tax consequences for investors in respect of subscribing for, purchasing, holding, selling or converting the Mortgage Pandbrieven. This general description is based upon the law as in effect on the date of this Base Prospectus and is subject to any change in law that may take effect after such date or which may have a retroactive effect. Investors should appreciate that, as a result of changing law or practice, the tax consequences may be otherwise than as stated below. Investors should be aware that tax laws of the investor's own tax jurisdiction and of the Issuer's Member State of incorporation might have an impact on the income received from the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

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 is to 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 on a regulated market is being sought, where a prospectus is passported, it is costly to produce and might hamper cross-border offers. Therefore, the tax laws of the investor's jurisdiction and of the Issuer's jurisdiction of incorporation might have an impact on the income received from the securities. For the purpose of the summary below, a Belgian resident is, (a) an individual subject to Belgian personal income tax (i.e. an individual who has his domicile in Belgium or has his seat of wealth in Belgium, or a person assimilated to a Belgian resident), (b) a legal entity subject to Belgian corporate income tax (i.e. a company that has its registered office, its main establishment, its administrative seat or its seat of management in Belgium), or (c) a legal entity subject to Belgian legal entities tax (i.e. an entity other than a legal entity subject to corporate income tax having its registered office, its main establishment, its administrative seat or its seat or its seat or its seat or its seat of management in Belgium). A non-resident is a person who is not a Belgian resident.

# **Belgian Withholding Tax**

#### (a) General

All payments by or on behalf of the Issuer of interest on the Mortgage Pandbrieven are in principle subject to Belgian withholding tax at the current rate of 30 per cent. on the gross amount of the interest, subject to such relief as may be available under Belgian domestic law or applicable double tax treaties.

Under Belgian tax law, the following amounts are qualified and taxable as "interest" (i) the periodic interest income, (ii) any amounts paid by the Issuer in excess of the issue price (upon full or partial redemption whether or not at maturity, or upon purchase by the Issuer), and (iii) if the Mortgage Pandbrieven qualify as "fixed income securities" (in the meaning of Article 2, §1, 8° Belgian Income Tax Code), in case of a realisation of the Mortgage Pandbrieven between two interest payment dates, the *pro rata* of accrued interest corresponding to the detention period. "Fixed income securities" are defined as bonds, specific debt certificates issued by banks (*kasbon/bon de caisse*) and other similar securities, including securities where income is capitalised or securities which do not generate a

periodic payment of income but are issued with a discount corresponding to the capitalised interest up to the maturity date of the security.

# (b) Belgian interest withholding tax exemption for certain holders of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven (X/N withholding tax exemption)

Payments of interest and principal under the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven by or on behalf of the Issuer may be made without deduction of withholding tax in respect of the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven if and as long as at the moment of payment or attribution of interest they are held by certain eligible investors (the "Eligible Investors", see hereinafter) in an exempt securities account (an "X-Account") that has been opened with a financial institution that is a direct or indirect participant (a "Participant") in the clearing system operated by the National Bank of Belgium (the "NBB-SSS" and the "Securities Settlement System"). Euroclear, Clearstream Germany, SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France) and INTERBOLSA (Portugal) are directly or indirectly Participants for this purpose.

Holding the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven through the Securities Settlement System enables Eligible Investors to receive the gross interest income on their Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven and to transfer the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven on a gross basis.

Participants to the Securities Settlement System must enter the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven which they hold on behalf of Eligible Investors in an X-Account.

Eligible Investors are those entities referred to in Article 4 of the Belgian Royal Decree of 26 May 1994 on the deduction of withholding tax (*koninklijk besluit van 26 mei 1994 over de inhouding en de vergoeding van de roerende voorheffing/arrêté royal du 26 mai 1994 relatif à la perception et à la bonification du précompte mobilier*) (as amended from time to time) which include, *inter alia*:

- Belgian resident companies referred to in Article 2, §1, 5°, b) of the Belgian Income Tax Code of 1992 (*wetboek van inkomstenbelastingen 1992/code des impôts sur les revenus 1992*);
- (ii) institutions, associations or companies specified in Article 2, §3 of the Law of 9 July 1975 on the control of insurance companies other than those referred to in 1° and 3° subject to the application of Article 262, 1° and 5° of the Belgian Income Tax Code 1992;
- (iii) state regulated institutions (*parastatalen/institutions parastatales*) for social security, or institutions which are assimilated therewith, provided for in Article 105, 2° of the Royal Decree of 27 August 1993 implementing the Belgian Income Tax Code 1992 (*koninklijk besluit tot uitvoering van het wetboek inkomstenbelastingen 1992/arrêté royal d'exécution du code des impôts sur les revenus 1992*);
- (iv) non-resident investors whose holding of the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven is not connected to a professional activity in Belgium, referred to in Article 105, 5° of the same decree;
- (v) investment funds, recognised in the framework of pension savings, provided for in Article 115 of the same decree;
- (vi) investors provided for in Article 227, 2° of the Belgian Income Tax Code 1992 which have used the income generating capital for the exercise of their professional activities in Belgium and which are subject to non-resident income tax pursuant to Article 233 of the same code;
- (vii) the Belgian State in respect of investments which are exempt from withholding tax in accordance with Article 265 of the Belgian Income Tax Code 1992;

- (viii) investment funds governed by foreign law which are an indivisible estate managed by a management company for the account of the participants, provided the fund units are not offered publicly in Belgium or traded in Belgium; and
- (ix) Belgian resident corporations, not provided for under (i) above, when their activities exclusively or principally consist of the granting of credits and loans.

If the holder of the Mortgage Pandbrieven does not belong to, or ceases to belong to, one of the categories listed in Article 4 of the royal decree of 26 May 1994, as amended from time to time, its account with the clearing system organised by the clearer will be designated as a non-exempted securities account ("**N-Account**"), and, therefore, the holder of the Mortgage Pandbrieven will be submitted to the withholding tax, of which the rate is currently 30 per cent.

Eligible Investors do not include, *inter alia*, Belgian resident investors who are individuals or non-profit making organisations, other than those mentioned under (ii) and (iii) above.

Participants to the Securities Settlement System must keep the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven which they hold on behalf of the non-Eligible Investors in an N-Account. In such instance, all payments of interest are subject to the 30 per cent. withholding tax. This withholding tax is withheld by the NBB-SSS and paid to the Belgian Treasury.

Transfers of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven between an X-Account and an N-Account give rise to certain adjustment payments on account of withholding tax:

- A transfer from an N-Account (to an X-Account or N-Account) gives rise to the payment by the transferor non-Eligible Investor to the NBB-SSS of withholding tax on the accrued fraction of interest calculated from the last interest payment date up to the transfer date.
- A transfer (from an X-Account or N-Account) to an N-Account gives rise to the refund by the NBB-SSS to the transferee non-Eligible Investor of withholding tax on the accrued fraction of interest calculated from the last interest payment date up to the transfer date.
- Transfers of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven between two X-Accounts do not give rise to any adjustment on account of withholding tax.

Upon opening of an X-Account for the holding of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven, the Eligible Investor is required to provide the Participant with a statement of its eligible status on a form approved by the Minister of Finance. There is no ongoing declaration requirement to the Securities Settlement System as to the eligible status.

An X-Account may be opened with a Participant by an intermediary (an "**Intermediary**") in respect of Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven that the Intermediary holds for the account of its clients (the "**Beneficial Owners**"), provided that each Beneficial Owner is an Eligible Investor. In such a case, the Intermediary must deliver to the Participant a statement on a form approved by the Minister of Finance confirming that (i) the Intermediary is itself an Eligible Investor and (ii) the Beneficial Owners holding their Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven through it are also Eligible Investors. A Beneficial Owner is also required to deliver a statement of its eligible status to the intermediary.

These identification requirements do not apply to central securities depositaries, as defined by Article 2, §1, (1) of Regulation (EU) No. 909/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on improving securities settlement in the European Union and on central securities depositories and amending Directive 98/26/EC and 2014/65/EU and Regulation (EU) No. 236/2012, acting as Participants to the Securities Settlement System, provided that (i) they only hold X-Accounts, (ii) they are able to identify the holders for whom they hold Mortgage Pandbrieven on such account and (iii)

the contractual rules agreed upon by these central securities depositories acting as Participants include the contractual undertaking that their client and account owners are all Eligible Investors. Hence, these identification requirements do not apply to Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven held in Euroclear, Clearstream Germany, SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France) or INTERBOLSA (Portugal) as Participants to the Securities Settlement System, provided that (i) they only hold X-Accounts, (ii) they are able to identify the holders for whom they hold Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven in such account and (iii) the contractual rules agreed upon by these central securities depositories include the contractual undertaking that their clients and account owners are all Eligible Investors. The Eligible Investors will need to confirm their status as Eligble Investors in the account agreement to be concluded with Euroclear Bank (in its capacity as clearing system), Clearstream, Germany, SIX SIS (Switzerland), Monte Titoli (Italy), Euroclear France SA (France), INTERBOLSA (Portugal), any sub-participants outside of Belgium, or any other central securities depository as Participants to the Securities Settlement System.

In accordance with the Securities Settlement System, a Noteholder who is withdrawing Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven from an X-Account will, following the payment of interest on those Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven, be entitled to claim an indemnity from the Belgian tax authorities of an amount equal to the withholding on the interest payable on the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven from the last preceding Interest Payment Date until the date of withdrawal of the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven from the Securities Settlement System. As a condition of acceptance of the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven into the Securities Settlement System, the Noteholders waive the right to claim such indemnity.

# (c) Belgian interest withholding tax exemption for certain holders of Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven

Payments of interest and principal by the Issuer under the Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven (except Zero Coupon Pandbrieven and other Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven which provide for the capitalisation of interest) may be made without deduction of withholding tax provided that the following conditions are cumulatively met (Article 107, §2, 5°, b) and 8°, and Article 118, §1, 1° and 2° of the Royal Decree of 27 August 1993 implementing the Belgian Income Tax Code 1992):

- (i) the Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven are registered in the name of the Noteholder with the Issuer during the entire relevant Interest Period;
- (ii) the Noteholder is the legal owner (*eigenaar/propriétaire*) or usufructuary (*vruchtgebruiker/usufruitier*) of Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven in respect of which it is entitled to payment of interest, uninterruptedly for the entire relevant Interest Period;
- (iii) the Noteholder is either (A) not resident for tax purposes in Belgium and does not use the income producing assets to exercise a business or professional activity in Belgium; or (B) a financial institution or institution which is assimilated therewith, provided for in Article 105, 1° of the Royal Decree of 27 August 1993 implementing the Belgian Income Tax Code; or (C) a state regulated institution (*parastatale/institution parastatale*) for social security, or institution which is assimilated therewith, provided for in Article 105, 2° of the Royal Decree of 27 August 1993 implementing the Belgian Income Tax Code; and
- (iv) upon each interest payment, the Noteholder must provide the Issuer with an affidavit in which it is certified that the conditions mentioned in points (ii) and (iii) are complied with.

If Belgian withholding tax was levied by the Issuer further to non-compliance of condition (ii) above, then the transferor and/or the transferee has the right, subject to certain time limitations and provided conditions (i) and (iii) are fulfilled, to file a claim with the Belgian tax authorities to request a refund

of Belgian withholding tax on the *pro rata* amount of interest attributable to them (Article 119, §1 of the Royal Decree of 27 August 1993 implementing the Belgian Income Tax Code 1992).

#### Belgian income tax and capital gains

#### (a) Belgian resident individuals

For natural persons who are Belgian residents for tax purposes, i.e., who are subject to the Belgian personal income tax (*personenbelasting/impôt des personnes physiques*) and who hold the Mortgage Pandbrieven as a private investment, the withholding tax is a final tax and, consequently, the interest does not need to be declared in their annual income tax return, provided that withholding tax was levied on these interest payments.

Belgian resident individuals can nevertheless opt to declare the interest in their annual income tax return, in which case the interest will be separately taxed at a rate of currently 30 per cent. (or, if it is more favorable, at the applicable progressive rates, taking into account the other income declared). In the event the interest is declared, the withholding tax may be credited against the final income tax liability in accordance with the usual conditions.

Capital gains realised on the sale of the Mortgage Pandbrieven are in principle tax exempt, unless the capital gains are realised outside the scope of the management of one's private estate or unless the capital gains qualify as interest (as defined in the section entitled "Belgian Withholding Tax - (a) General"). Capital losses realised upon the disposal of the Mortgage Pandbrieven held as a non-professional investment are in principle not tax deductible.

Other tax rules apply to Belgian resident individuals who do not hold the Mortgage Pandbrieven as a private investment.

#### (b) Belgian resident companies

Interest attributed or paid to corporations Noteholders who are Belgian residents for tax purposes, i.e. who are subject to the Belgian corporate income tax (*vennootschapsbelasting/impôt des sociétés*), as well as capital gains realised upon the sale of the Mortgage Pandbrieven are taxable at the ordinary corporate income tax rate of in principle 29.58 per cent. as of assessment year 2019 linked to a taxable period starting at the earliest on 1 January 2018. Furthermore, small and medium-sized companies are taxable at the reduced corporate income tax rate of 20.4 per cent. for the first EUR 100,000 of their taxable base. As of assessment year 2021 linked to a taxable period starting at the earliest on 1 January 2021 linked to a taxable period starting at the earliest on 1 January 2020, the ordinary corporate income tax rate will be 25 per cent., and the reduced corporate income tax rate 20 per cent. Capital losses realised upon the sale of the Mortgage Pandbrieven are in principle tax deductible.

Any Belgian interest withholding tax retained will generally, subject to certain conditions, be creditable against any corporate income tax due and the excess amount will be refundable.

Other tax rules apply to investment companies within the meaning of Article 185bis of the Belgian Income Tax Code.

#### (c) Belgian legal entities

For Belgian legal entities subject to the Belgian legal entities tax (*rechtspersonenbelasting/impôt des personnes morales*) which have been subject to the current rate of 30 per cent. Belgian withholding tax on interest payments, such withholding tax constitutes the final taxation.

Belgian legal entities which have received interest income on (Dematerialised or Registered) Mortgage Pandbrieven rightfully without deduction for or on account of Belgian withholding tax, are required to declare and pay the 30 per cent. withholding tax to the Belgian tax authorities.

Capital gains realised on the sale of the Mortgage Pandbrieven are in principle tax exempt, unless the capital gains qualify as interest (as defined in section entitled "Belgian Withholding Tax - (a) General"). Capital losses are in principle not tax deductible.

#### (d) Organisation for Financing Pensions

Interest and capital gains derived by Organisations for Financing Pensions in the meaning of the Law of 27 October 2006 on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision, are in principle not subject to Belgian corporate income tax. Capital losses are in principle not tax deductible. Subject to certain conditions, the Belgian withholding tax that has been levied can be credited against any corporate income tax due and any excess amount is in principle refundable.

### (e) Non-residents of Belgium

### Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven

Noteholders who are not residents of Belgium for Belgian tax purposes and do not invest in Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven in the course of their Belgian Professional activity will not become liable for any Belgian tax on income or capital gains by reason only of the acquisition or disposal of the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven, provided that they qualify as Eligible Investors and that they hold their Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven in an X-account. If the Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven are not entered into an X-account by the Eligible Investor, withholding tax on the interest is in principle applicable at the current rate of 30 per cent., possibly reduced pursuant to a tax treaty, on the gross amount of the interest.

# Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven

Noteholders who are not residents of Belgium for Belgian tax purposes and who are not holding the Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven in the course of their Belgian professional activity will not become liable for any Belgian tax on income or capital gains by reason only of the acquisition or disposal of the Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven, save, as the case may be, in the form of withholding tax.

#### Tax on stock exchange transactions

A tax on stock exchange transactions (*beurstaks/taxe sur les opérations de bourse*) will be levied on the purchase and sale in Belgium of the Mortgage Pandbrieven on the secondary market through a professional intermediary established in Belgium. The rate applicable for secondary sales and purchases in Belgium through a professional intermediary is 0.12 per cent. with a maximum amount of EUR 1,300 per transaction and per party. The tax is due separately from each party to any such transaction, i.e. the seller (transferor) and the purchaser (transferee), both collected by the professional intermediary. The acquisition of the Mortgage Pandbrieven upon their issuance (primary market) is not subject to the tax on stock exchange transactions.

Following the Law of 25 December 2016, the scope of application of the tax on stock exchange transactions has been extended as from 1 January 2017 in the sense that as from that date, transactions that are entered into or carried out by an intermediary that is not established in Belgium are considered to be entered into or carried out in Belgium if the order to execute the transaction is directly or indirectly given by either a natural person that has its habitual residence in Belgium or by a legal entity on behalf of its registered office or establishment in Belgium. In such a scenario, foreign intermediaries have the possibility to appoint a Belgian tax representative that is responsible for collecting the stock exchange tax due and for paying it to the Belgian

treasury on behalf of clients that fall within one of the aforementioned categories (provided that these clients do not qualify as exempt persons for stock exchange tax purposes – see below). If no such permanent representative is appointed, the relevant parties themselves are responsible for the filing of a stock exchange tax return and for the timely payment of the amount of stock exchange tax due.

However, no tax on stock exchange transactions will be payable by exempt persons acting for their own account including investors who are not Belgian residents, provided they deliver an affidavit to the financial intermediary in Belgium confirming their non-resident status and certain Belgian institutional investors as defined in Article 126.1 2° of the code of various duties and taxes (*Wetboek Diverse Rechten en Taksen/Code des Droits et Taxes Divers*).

A request for annulment has been introduced with the Constitutional Court in order to annul the extended scope of application of the tax on stock exchange transactions, as per the Law of 25 December 2016. On 8 November 2018, the Constitutional Court has requested a preliminary ruling from the Court of Justice of the European Union in this respect. On 30 January 2020, the Court of Justice of the European Union has delivered its preliminary ruling, pursuant to which the extended application of the tax on stock exchange transaction would not amount to a violation of Article 56 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or Article 36 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area, in so far as the Law of 25 December 2016 offers the issuer of the order and the non-resident professional intermediaries options, both as regards the declaration obligations connected with the tax on stock exchange transactions and its payment, which ensure that the restriction of the freedom to provide services is limited to that which is necessary to attain the legitimate objectives pursued by that legislation. It is now for the Constitutional Court to decide whether the restriction at principle of equality. If the Constitutional Court were indeed to annul said extension without upholding its effects, all taxpayers will be authorised to claim restitution of the tax already paid on this ground.

On 14 February 2013, the EU Commission published a proposal for a Directive for a common financial transaction tax ("FTT") (please see further below).

# The proposed financial transactions tax ("FTT")

On 14 February 2013, the EU Commission adopted a proposal for a Council Directive (the "**Draft Directive**") on a common financial transaction tax (FTT). Pursuant to the Draft Directive, the FTT shall be implemented and enter into effect in eleven EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Spain; the "**Participating Member States**"). In December 2015, Estonia withdrew from the Participating Member States.

The Commission's Proposal currently stipulates that once the FTT enters into force, the participating Member States shall not maintain or introduce taxes on financial transactions other than the FTT (or VAT as provided in the Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax).

The Commission's Proposal has a very broad scope and could, if introduced, apply to certain dealings in Mortgage Pandbrieven (including secondary market transactions) in certain circumstances. The issuance and subscription of Mortgage Pandbrieven should, however, be exempt.

Under the Commission's Proposal, the FTT could apply in certain circumstances to persons both within and outside of the Participating Member States. According to the Draft Directive, the FTT shall be payable on financial transactions provided that at least one party to the financial transaction is established (or deemed established) in a Participating Member State and that there is a financial institution established (or deemed established) in a Participating Member State which is a party to the financial transaction, or is acting in the name of a party to the transaction. A financial institution may be, or be deemed to be, "established" in a

participating Member State in a broad range of circumstances, including (a) by transacting with a person established in a Participating Member State or (b) where the financial instrument which is subject to the dealings is issued in a Participating Member State. The FTT shall, however, not apply to among others primary market transactions referred to in Article 5 (c) of Regulation (EC) No 1287/2006, including the activity of underwriting and subsequent allocation of financial instruments in the framework of their issue.

The rates of the FTT shall be fixed by each Participating Member State but for transactions involving financial instruments other than derivatives they shall amount to at least 0.1% of the taxable amount. The taxable amount for such transactions shall in general be determined by reference to the consideration paid or owed in return for the transfer or the market price (whichever is higher). The FTT shall be payable by each financial institution established (or deemed established) in a Participating Member State which is a party to the financial transaction, which is acting in the name of a party to the transaction or where the transaction has been carried out on its account. Where the FTT due has not been paid within the applicable time limits, each party to the relevant financial transaction, including persons other than financial institutions, shall become jointly and severally liable for the payment of the FTT due.

However, the FTT proposal remains subject to negotiation between the Participating Member States, and the scope of any such tax is uncertain. Additional EU Member States may decide to participate and/or other Participating Member States may decide to withdraw.

Prospective Holders of the Mortgage Pandbrieven should consult their own tax advisers in relation to the consequences of the FTT associated with the subscription, purchase, holding or disposal of the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

### Tax on securities accounts

The law of 7 February 2018 introducing a tax on securities accounts of 0.15 per cent. to be levied on Belgian resident and non-resident individuals on their share in the average value of the qualifying financial instruments (including but not limited to shares, notes and units of undertakings for collective investment) held on one or more securities accounts during a reference period of twelve consecutive months starting on 1 October and ending on 30 September of the subsequent year (the "Tax on Securities Accounts"). The first reference period started on the day of entry into effect of the law (i.e., on 10 March 2018) and ended on 30 September 2018.

The tax on securities accounts has been annulled by the Belgian Constitutional Court but the effect of annulled provisions has been maintened for the tax due for the reference periods ending before or on 30 September 2019.

# Exchange of Information – Common Reporting Standard ("CRS")

Following recent international developments, the exchange of information is governed by the Common Reporting Standard ("CRS"). On 24 December 2019, the total of jurisdictions that have signed the multilateral competent authority agreement ("MCAA") amounts to 108. The MCAA is a multilateral framework agreement to automatically exchange financial and personal information, with the subsequent bilateral exchanges coming into effect between those signatories that file the subsequent notifications.

Under CRS, financial institutions resident in a CRS country are required to report, according to a due diligence standard, financial information with respect to reportable accounts, which includes interest, dividends, account balance or value, income from certain insurance products, sales proceeds from financial assets and other income generated with respect to assets held in the account or payments made with respect to the account. Reportable accounts include accounts held by individuals and entities (which includes trusts and

foundations) with fiscal residence in another CRS country. The standard includes a requirement to look through passive entities to report on the relevant controlling persons.

The Mortgage Pandbrieven are subject to CRS. Under Directive 2014/107/EU of 9 December 2014 amending Directive 2011/16/EU as regards mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation ("DAC2") and the Law of 16 December 2016 (*Loi portant diverses dispositions concernant le détachement de travailleurs/Wet houdende diverse bepalingen inzake detachering van werknemers*), Belgian financial institutions holding Mortgage Pandbrieven for tax residents in another CRS contracting state, shall report financial information regarding the Mortgage Pandbrieven (income, gross proceeds, etc.) to the Belgian competent authority, who shall communicate the information to the competent authority of the state of the tax residence of the beneficial owner.

# DAC6

The EU Council Directive 2018/822/EU of 26 May 2018, also known as "DAC6 Directive" provides mandatory disclosure rules for intermediaries. In short, DAC6 provides for the obligation to declare certain cross-border tax arrangements to the Belgian tax authorities. This obligation is incumbent on both taxpayers and intermediaries (financial institutions like Belfius may fall under this term). The DAC6 Directive is generally considered as an important step in the tax transparency rules in Europe. On 12 December 2019, the Chamber of Representatives adopted a bill implementing DAC 6 into domestic law. The bill, which mirrors the Directive, was published in the Official Gazette in Belgium on 30 December 2019. Based on the Belgian legislation, cross-border arrangements may be reportable if they meet at least one of the hallmarks set out in the law, which are identical in wording to the list of hallmarks in the appendix to the directive. This appendix provides for both general and specific "hallmarks". Certain hallmarks may only be taken into account if they meet the "main benefit test", i.e. where a tax benefit is the main or one of the main objectives of the arrangement. Under DAC6, taxpayers and intermediaries are required to report cross-border reportable arrangements from 1 July 2020 (within a thirty-day turnaround period to report to the domestic tax authorities). However, reports will retrospectively cover arrangements where the first step is implemented between 25 June 2018 and 1 July 2020. It should be noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and by way of administrative tolerance, the Belgian government has granted a 6-month delay to fulfil the first reporting obligations under the DAC 6 legislation. The decision follows an amendment to the directive on administrative cooperation, as adopted by the Counsil on 24 June 2020 (directive EU 2020/876).

#### U.S. foreign account tax compliance withholding

The foreign account tax compliance provisions of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act of 2010 ("FATCA") impose a withholding tax of 30 per cent. on (i) certain U.S. source payments and (ii) payments of gross proceeds from the disposition of assets that produce U.S. source interest or dividends made to persons that fail to meet certain certification or reporting requirements. In order to avoid becoming subject to this withholding tax, non-U.S. financial institutions must enter into agreements with the IRS ("IRS Agreements") (as described below) or otherwise be exempt from the requirements of FATCA. Non-U.S. financial institutions that enter into IRS Agreements or become subject to provisions of local law ("IGA legislation") intended to implement an intergovernmental agreement entered into pursuant to FATCA ("IGAs"), may be required to identify "financial accounts" held by U.S. persons or entities with substantial U.S. ownership, as well as accounts of other financial institutions that are not themselves participating in (or otherwise exempt from) the FATCA reporting regime. In addition, in order (a) to obtain an exemption from FATCA withholding on payments it receives and/or (b) to comply with any applicable IGA legislation, a financial institution that enters into an IRS Agreement or is subject to IGA legislation may be required to (i) report certain information on its U.S. account holders to the government of the United States or another relevant jurisdiction and (ii) withhold 30 per cent. from all, or a portion of, certain payments made to persons that fail to provide the

financial institution information, consents and forms or other documentation that may be necessary for such financial institution to determine whether such person is compliant with FATCA or otherwise exempt from FATCA withholding.

Under FATCA, withholding is required with respect to payments to persons that are not compliant with FATCA or that do not provide the necessary information, consents or documentation made on or after (i) 1 July 2014 in respect of certain US source payments, (ii) 1 January 2017, in respect of payments of gross proceeds (including principal repayments) on certain assets that produce US source interest or dividends and (iii) 1 January 2017 in respect of certain "foreign passthru payments".

The application of FATCA to interest, principal or other amounts paid with respect to the Public Pandbrieven and the information reporting obligations of the Issuer and other entities in the payment chain is still developing. In particular, a number of jurisdictions have entered into, or have announced their intention to enter into, intergovernmental agreements (or similar mutual understandings) with the United States, which modify the way in which FATCA applies in their jurisdictions. The full impact of such agreements (and the laws implementing such agreements in such jurisdictions) on reporting and withholding responsibilities under FATCA is unclear. The Issuer and other entities in the payment chain may be required to report certain information on their U.S. account holders to government authorities in their respective jurisdictions or the United States in order (i) to obtain an exemption from FATCA withholding on payments they receive and/or (ii) to comply with applicable law in their jurisdiction. It is not yet certain how the United States and the jurisdictions which enter into intergovernmental agreements will address withholding on "foreign passthru payments" (which may include payments on the Public Pandbrieven) or if such withholding will be required at all.

Belgium has entered into an IGA relating to the implementation of FATCA with the United States. Moreover, Belgium has meanwhile implemented FATCA in its domestic legislation by a law of 16 December 2015 ("Wet tot regeling van de mededeling van inlichtingen betreffende financiële rekeningen, door de Belgische financiële instellingen en de FOD Financiën in het kader van automatische uitwisseling van inlichtingen op internationaal niveau en voor belastingdoeleinden"/"Loi réglant la communication des renseignements relatifs aux comptes financiers, par les institutions financières belges et le SPF Finances, dans le cadre d'un échange automatique de renseignements au niveau international et à des fins fiscales") Under this law, Belgian financial institutions holding Public Pandbrieven for "US accountholders" and for "Non US owned passive Non Financial Foreign entities" are held to report financial information regarding the Public Pandbrieven (income, gross proceeds) to the Belgian competent authority, who shall communicate the information to the US tax authorities.

If an amount in respect of U.S. withholding tax were to be deducted or withheld from interest, principal or other payments on the Public Pandbrieven as a result of FATCA, none of the Issuer, any paying agent or any other person would, pursuant to the Conditions of the Public Pandbrieven be required to pay additional amounts as a result of the deduction or withholding. As a result, investors may receive less interest or principal than expected.

The application of FATCA to Public Pandbrieven issued or materially modified on or after the date that is six months after the date on which the final regulations applicable to "foreign passthru payments" are filed in the Federal Register, (or whenever issued, in the case of Public Pandbrieven treated as equity for U.S. federal tax purposes) may be addressed in the applicable final terms or a supplement to this Base Prospectus, as applicable.

# SECTION 13 SUBSCRIPTION AND SALE

Pursuant to the amended and restated distribution agreement initially dated 8 November 2012 between the Issuer, the Dealers and the Arranger (as amended, supplemented, replaced and/or restated from time to time the "**Distribution Agreement**") and subject to the conditions contained therein, the Dealers have agreed with the Issuer a basis upon which they or any of them may from time to time agree to purchase Mortgage Pandbrieven. The Mortgage Pandbrieven may be resold at prevailing market prices, or at prices related thereto, at the time of such resale, as determined by the relevant Dealer. The Distribution Agreement also provides that Mortgage Pandbrieven to be issued in syndicated Tranches may be jointly and severally underwritten by two or more Dealers.

The Issuer may pay each relevant Dealer a commission in respect of Mortgage Pandbrieven subscribed by them. The Issuer has agreed to reimburse the Dealers for certain of their activities in connection with the Programme. The commissions (if any) in respect of an issuance of Mortgage Pandbrieven on a syndicated basis will be stated in the applicable subscription agreement.

The Issuer has agreed to indemnify the Dealers against certain liabilities relating to any misrepresentation or breach of any of the representations, warranties or agreements of the Issuer in connection with the offer and sale of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. The Distribution Agreement entitles the Dealers to terminate any agreement that they make to subscribe Mortgage Pandbrieven in certain circumstances prior to payment for such Mortgage Pandbrieven being made to the Issuer.

Certain of the Dealers and their affiliates have engaged, and may in the future engage, in investment banking and/or commercial banking transactions with, and may perform services for, the Issuer and their affiliates in the ordinary course of business. In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the Dealers and their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of the Issuer or Issuer's affiliates. If any of the Dealers or their affiliates has a lending relationship with the Issuer, certain of the Dealers or their affiliates routinely hedge, and certain other of those Dealers or their affiliates may hedge their credit exposure to the Issuer consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, such Dealers and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in securities, including potentially the Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme. Any such short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Programme. The Dealers and their affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

#### **United States**

The Mortgage Pandbrieven have not been or will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933 as amended (the "Securities Act") and the Mortgage Pandbrieven may not be offered or sold within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons, except in certain transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. Terms used in this paragraph have the meanings given to them by Regulation S under the Securities Act.

Each Dealer has represented and agreed, and each further Dealer appointed under the Programme will be required to represent and agree, that, except as permitted by the Distribution Agreement, it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell the Mortgage Pandbrieven of any identifiable Tranche, (i) as part of their

distribution at any time or (ii) otherwise until 40 calendar days after completion of the distribution of such Tranche within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons, and it will have sent to each dealer to which it sells Mortgage Pandbrieven during the distribution compliance period a confirmation or other notice setting forth the restrictions on offers and sales of the Mortgage Pandbrieven within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons. Terms used in this paragraph have the meanings given to them by Regulation S under the Securities Act.

The Mortgage Pandbrieven are being offered and sold outside the United States to non-U.S. persons in reliance on Regulation S under the Securities Act.

In addition, until 40 calendar days after the commencement of the offering, an offer or sale of Mortgage Pandbrieven within the United States by any dealer may violate the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

This Base Prospectus has been prepared by the Issuer for use in connection with the offer and sale of the Mortgage Pandbrieven outside the United States. The Issuer and the Dealers reserve the right to reject any offer to purchase the Mortgage Pandbrieven, in whole or in part, for any reason. This Base Prospectus does not constitute an offer to any person in the United States. Distribution of this Base Prospectus by any non-U.S. person outside the United States to any U.S. person or to any other person within the United States is unauthorised and any disclosure without the prior written consent of the Issuer of any of its contents to any such U.S. person or other person within the United States is prohibited.

# Prohibition of sales to consumers in Belgium

Each Dealer has represented and agreed, and each further Dealer appointed under the Programme will be required to represent and agree, that it has not offered, sold or otherwise made available and will not offer, sell or otherwise make available any Mortgage Pandbrieven in Belgium to "consumers" (*consommateurs/consumenten*) within the meaning of the Belgian Code of Economic Law (*Code de droit économique/Wetboek van economisch recht*), as amended.

# Prohibition of sales to EEA or UK Retail Investors

Each Dealer has represented and agreed, and each further Dealer appointed under the Programme will be required to represent and agree, that it has not offered, sold or otherwise made available and will not offer, sell or otherwise make available any Mortgage Pandbrieven which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this Base Prospectus as completed by the Final Terms in relation thereto to any retail investor in the European Economic Area or the UK.

For the purposes of this provision:

- (a) the expression "retail investor" means a person who is one (or more) of the following:
  - (i) a retail client as defined in point (11) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU (as amended, "**MiFID II**"); or
  - (ii) a customer within the meaning of Directive 2016/97/EU ("**IDD**"), where that customer would not qualify as a professional client as defined in point (10) of Article 4(1) of MiFID II; or
  - (iii) not a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Regulation; and

(b) the expression "offer" includes the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Mortgage Pandbrieven to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

# Public Offer Selling Restriction Under the Prospectus Regulation

In relation to each Member State of the EEA and the UK (each a "**Relevant State**"), each of the Dealers has represented and agreed, and each further Dealer appointed under the Programme will be required to represent and agree, that, it has not made and will not make an offer of Mortgage Pandbrieven which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this Base Prospectus as completed by the relevant final terms in relation thereto to the public in that Relevant State, except that it may, make an offer of such Mortgage Pandbrieven to the public in that Relevant State:

- (a) at any time to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Regulation;
- (b) at any time to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Regulation), subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant Dealer or Dealers nominated by the Issuer for any such offer; or
- (c) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Article 1(4) of the Prospectus Regulation,

provided that no such offer shall require the Issuer or any Dealer to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Regulation or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 23 of the Prospectus Regulation.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an "offer of Mortgage Pandbrieven to the public" in relation to any Mortgage Pandbrieven in any Relevant State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Mortgage Pandbrieven to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the Mortgage Pandbrieven.

# United Kingdom

Each Dealer has represented and agreed, and each further Dealer appointed under the Programme will be required to represent and agree, that:

- 1 in relation to any Mortgage Pandbrieven which have a maturity of less than one year from the date of issuance, (a) it is a person whose ordinary activities involve it in acquiring, holding, managing or disposing of investments (as principal or agent) for the purposes of its business and (b) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell any Mortgage Pandbrieven other than to persons whose ordinary activities involve them in acquiring, holding, managing or disposing of investments (as principal or as agent) for the purposes of their businesses or who it is reasonable to expect will acquire, hold, manage or dispose of investments (as principal or agent) for the purposes of their businesses where the issuance of the Mortgage Pandbrieven would otherwise constitute a contravention of Section 19 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the "UK FSMA 2000") by the Issuer;
- 2 it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated any invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the UK FSMA 2000) received by it in connection with the issuance or sale of any Mortgage Pandbrieven in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the UK FSMA 2000 does not apply to the Issuer; and
- 3 it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the UK FSMA 2000 with respect to anything done by it in relation to any Mortgage Pandbrieven in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

# Belgium

Registered Mortgage Pandbrieven may not be acquired by a Belgian or foreign transferee who is not subject to income tax or who is, as far as interest income is concerned, subject to a tax regime that is deemed by the Belgian tax authorities to be significantly more advantageous than the common Belgian tax regime applicable to interest income (within the meaning of Articles 54 and 198, §1, 11° of the Belgian Income Tax Code 1992) or who is resident or established in a tax haven country or a low-tax jurisdiction (within the meaning of Article 307 of the Belgian Income Tax Code 1992).

# The Netherlands

The Mortgage Pandbrieven (or any interest therein) are not and may not, directly or indirectly, be offered, sold, pledged, delivered or transferred in the Netherlands, on their issue date or at any time thereafter, and neither this Base Prospectus nor any other document in relation to any offering of the Mortgage Pandbrieven (or any interest therein) may be distributed or circulated in the Netherlands, other than to qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Regulation (as defined under "Public Offer Selling Restriction Under the Prospectus Regulation" above), provided that these parties acquire the Mortgage Pandbrieven for their own account or that of another qualified investor.

# Switzerland

This Base Prospectus is not intended to constitute an offer or solicitation to purchase or invest in the Mortgage Pandbrieven in Switzerland. The Mortgage Pandbrieven may not be publicly offered, directly or indirectly, in Switzerland within the meaning of the Swiss Financial Services Act ("FinSA") and no application has or will be made to admit the Mortgage Pandbrieven to trading venue (exchange or multilateral trading facility) in Switzerland. Neither this Base Prospectus nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the Mortgage Pandbrieven constitutes a prospectus pursuant to the FinSA, and neither this Base Prospectus nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the Mortgage Pandbrieven may be publicly distributed or otherwise made publicly available in Switzerland.

# Japan

The Mortgage Pandbrieven have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act of Japan (Act No. 25 of 1948, as amended, the "Financial Instruments and Exchange Act"). Accordingly, each of the Dealers and the Issuer has represented and agreed that it has not, directly or indirectly offered, or sold and will not, directly or indirectly, offer or sell any Mortgage Pandbrieven in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organised under the laws of Japan) or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act and other relevant laws and regulations of Japan.

# General

These selling restrictions may be modified by the agreement of the Issuer and the Dealers. Any such modification will be set out in the Final Terms issued in respect of the issuance of Mortgage Pandbrieven to which it relates or in a supplement to this Base Prospectus.

No representation is made that any action has been taken in any jurisdiction that would permit a public offering of any of the Mortgage Pandbrieven, or possession or distribution of this Base Prospectus or any

other offering material or any Final Terms, in any country or jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required.

Each Dealer has agreed that it shall, to the best of its knowledge, comply with all relevant laws, regulations and directives in each jurisdiction in which it purchases, offers, sells or delivers Mortgage Pandbrieven or has in its possession or distributes this Base Prospectus, any other offering material or any Final Terms in all cases at its own expense.

# SECTION 14 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1. Application has been made to Euronext Brussels for Mortgage Pandbrieven issued under the Base Prospectus to be listed and to be admitted to trading on Euronext Brussels' regulated market.
- 2. The Issuer has obtained all necessary consents, approvals and authorisations in Belgium in connection with the issuance of the Mortgage Pandbrieven. The Programme was initially authorised by a resolution of the Management Board of the Issuer passed on 7 November 2012. The last update of the Programme was authorised by a resolution of the Management Board of the Issuer passed on 8 July 2020.
- 3. The Issuer is licensed as a Belgian credit institution.
- 4. Save as disclosed in the section headed "Description of the Issuer" on pages 142-190 of this Base Prospectus, there has been no material adverse change in the prospects of the Issuer on a consolidated basis since 31 December 2019. In addition, other than as disclosed in the section headed "Description of the Issuer" on pages 142-190, there are no known trends, uncertainties, demands, commitments or events that are reasonably likely to have a material effect on the prospects of the Issuer for the current financial year.
- 5. There has been no significant change in the financial position or the financial performance of the Issuer since 30 June 2020.
- 6. Except as disclosed under the section "Description of the Issuer" on pages 142-190 of this Base Prospectus, neither the Issuer nor any of its subsidiaries is or has been involved in any governmental, legal or arbitration proceedings (including any such proceedings which are pending or threatened of which the Issuer is aware) during the 12 months preceding the date of this Base Prospectus which may have or have had in the recent past significant effects, on the financial position or profitability of the Issuer or any of its subsidiaries.
- 7. Dematerialised Mortgage Pandbrieven have been accepted for clearance through the Securities Settlement System operated by the National Bank of Belgium. The Common Code, the International Securities Identification Number (ISIN), the Classification of Financial Instruments (CFI) and the Financial Instrument Short Name (FISN) (and any other relevant identification number for any Alternative Clearing System) for a Series of Mortgage Pandbrieven will be set out in the applicable Final Terms.
- 8. As at the date of this Base Prospectus, the address of the National Bank of Belgium (the operator of the Securities Settlement System) is Boulevard de Berlaimont 14, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. The address of any Alternative Clearing System will be specified in the applicable Final Terms.
- 9. As at the date of this Base Prospectus, there are no material contracts entered into other than in the ordinary course of the Issuer's business, which could result in the Issuer being under an obligation or entitlement that is material to the Issuer's ability to meet its obligations to Noteholders in respect of the Mortgage Pandbrieven being issued.
- 10. The issue price and the amount of the relevant Mortgage Pandbrieven will be determined before filing of the applicable Final Terms of each Tranche, based on then prevailing market conditions. The Issuer does not intend to provide any post-issuance information in relation to any issuances of Mortgage Pandbrieven, except for investor reports (with regard to, amongst other things, the composition of the Special Estate and which will be made available on the website of the Issuer at www.belfius.be on a monthly basis) and if required by any applicable laws and regulations.

- 11. Copies of (i) the annual report and audited annual accounts of the Issuer for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2019, including the reports of the statutory auditors in respect thereof, (ii) the Half-Yearly Report 2020 and unaudited accounts of the Issuer for the period ended 30 June 2020, and (iii) copies of this Base Prospectus and any supplements and each Final Terms of listed tranches may be obtained at the specified offices of the Issuer and each of the Paying Agents during normal business hours for the period of 12 months following the date of this Base Prospectus. The Programme Agreement, the Agency Agreement, the Noteholders' Representative Agreement and the Articles of Association of the Issuer will be available, during normal business hours on any Business Day, for inspection by the Noteholders at the specified offices of the Issuer and each of the Paying Agents for the period of 12 months following the date of the Issuer and each of the Paying Agents be available, during normal business hours on any Business Day, for inspection by the Noteholders at the specified offices of the Issuer and each of the Paying Agents for the period of 12 months following the date of this Base Prospectus. Copies of such Agreements may also be requested at the e-mail address which will be specified on the Issuer's website (www.belfius.be).
- 12. This Base Prospectus and the Final Terms of Tranches listed on Euronext Brussels and all documents that have been incorporated by reference will be available on the Issuer's website (www.belfius.be) and/or Euronext Brussels' website (www.euronext.com).
- 13. The audit of Belfius Bank's financial statements was conducted by Deloitte Reviseurs d'Entreprises SC s.f.d. SCRL, represented by Bart Dewael and Bernard De Meulemeester, Gateway building, Luchthaven Nationaal 1 J, 1930 Zaventem (members of IBR *IRE Instituut der Bedrijfsrevisoren/Institut des Réviseurs d'Entreprises*) in relation to the audit of the consolidated financial statements of Belfius for the financial year ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2019. They have rendered unqualified audit reports on the financial statements of Belfius Bank for the years ended 31 December 2018 and 31 December 2019. They have rendered after the ordinary general meeting of shareholders of Belfius Bank held on 29 April 2020. KPMG Reviseurs d'Entreprises SCRL, represented by Olivier Macq and Kenneth Vermeire, Luchthaven Brussel Nationaal 1 K, 1930 Zaventem (*members of IBR IRE Instituut der Bedrijfsrevisoren/Institut des Réviseurs d'Entreprises*) were appointed as statutory auditors of Belfius Bank by its ordinary general meeting of shareholders for a term of three years.
- 14. Certain of the Dealers and their affiliates have engaged, and may in the future engage, in investment banking and/or commercial banking transactions and may perform services for the Issuer and their respective affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

#### **REGISTERED OFFICE OF BELFIUS BANK SA/NV**

Place Charles Rogier 11 B-1210 Brussels Belgium

#### DEALERS

Barclays Bank Ireland PLC One Molesworth Street Dublin D02 RF29 Ireland

Belfius Bank SA/NV Place Charles Rogier 11 B-1210 Brussels Belgium

**BNP Paribas** Boulevard des Italiens 16 75009 Paris France

Citigroup Global Markets Europe AG Reuterweg 16 60323 Frankfurt/Main Federal Republic of Germany

**Citigroup Global Markets Limited** Canada Square, Canary Wharf London E14 5LB United Kingdom

**Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft** Kaiserstraβe 16 (Kaiserplatz) 60311 Frankfurt/Main Federal Republic of Germany

Credit Suisse Securities (Europe) Limited

One Cabot Square London E14 4QJ England

Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft Mainze Landstr. 11-17

60329 Frankfurt amMain Germany DZ BANK AG Deutsche Zentral-Genossenschaftsbank, Frankfurt

**am Main** Platz der Republik 60325 Frankfurt am Main Germany

J.P. Morgan Securities plc 25 Bank Street, Canary Wharf London E14 5JP England

Landesbank Baden-Württemberg Am Hauptbahnhof 2 70173 Stuttgart Federal Republic of Germany

Natixis 30 Avenue Pierre Mendès France 75013 Paris France

Nomura International plc 1 Angel Lane London EC4R 3AB England

Norddeutsche Landesbank - Girozentrale-

Friedrichswall 10 30159 Hannover Federal Republic of Germany

Société Générale 29 Boulevard Haussmann 75009 Paris France

UniCredit Bank AG Arabellastrasse 12 81925 Munich Germany

#### CALCULATION AGENT & REGISTRAR

Belfius Bank SA/NV Place Charles Rogier 11 B-1210 Brussels Belgium

#### FISCAL AGENT

#### Belfius Bank SA/NV

Place Charles Rogier 11 B-1210 Brussels Belgium

#### PRINCIPAL PAYING AGENT

### Belfius Bank SA/NV

Place Charles Rogier 11 B-1210 Brussels Belgium

#### ARRANGER

**Belfius Bank SA/NV** Place Charles Rogier 11

B-1210 Brussels Belgium

#### COVER POOL MONITOR

Ernst & Young Bedrijfsrevisoren BV o.v.v. CVBA/ Ernst & Young Réviseurs d'Entreprises SC s.f.d. SCRL De Kleetlaan 2 B-1831 Diegem

Belgium

#### NOTEHOLDERS' REPRESENTATIVE

Stichting Belfius Mortgage Pandbrieven Noteholders' Representative

Prins Bernhardplein 200 1097 JB Amsterdam The Netherlands

#### NOTEHOLDERS' REPRESENTATIVE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Amsterdamsch Trustee's Kantoor B.V.

Prins Bernhardplein 200 1097 JB Amsterdam the Netherlands

### AUDITORS

#### To Belfius Bank SA/NV

**KPMG Belgium** 

Luchthaven Brussel Nationaal 1K B-1930 Zaventem Belgium

#### LEGAL ADVISERS

in respect of Belgian law

PwC Legal BV/SRL Woluwedal 20

B-1932 Sint-Stevens-Woluwe Belgium