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## Targeted consultation on the functioning of the EU securitisation framework

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### Introduction

When soundly structured, <u>securitisation</u> can play a positive role for the economy as a tool for attracting new investor money, and a risk management tool transferring credit risk from banks (or non-bank lenders) to a broad set of EU or third country institutional investors, which in turn would benefit from greater exposure diversification. Securitisation can help deepen capital markets and provide greater financing opportunities. It should also free up the balance sheets of banks and non-bank lenders, thereby enabling them to provide additional lending to the real economy. Promoting sustainable growth of the EU securitisation market is a key initiative under the 2020 capital markets union action plan.

With future investment needs for the green and digital transition projected to grow, and in order to enhance the EU's productivity, competitiveness, and resilience, optimal allocation of capital will become increasingly necessary. It is important to ensure that bank and non-bank lenders have at their disposal all the necessary tools, including securitisation, to fund strategic priorities, while safeguarding financial stability.

The overall size of the European securitisation market has decreased significantly since the 2008-2009 global financial crisis (GFC), from approximately EUR 2trn at its peak to EUR 1.2trn at the end of 2023. In the meantime, securitisation has recovered fully and even surpassed pre-GFC records in non-EU jurisdictions like the US where it increased from USD 11.3tn in 2008 to USD 13.7tn in 2021, and this despite the higher default rates of US-originated securitisations in the wake of the GFC.

In light of the above, the 2019 EU securitisation framework [1] was introduced with the core objective of reviving an EU securitisation market that helps finance the economy without creating risks to financial stability. In particular, the Securitisation Regulation introduced common rules on due diligence, risk retention and transparency, and created a category of simple, transparent and standardised (STS) securitisation products. While the 2019 framework and its subsequent amendments [2] improved transparency and standardisation in the securitisation market, stakeholder feedback gathered in preparation of the Commission Report on the functioning of the Securitisation Regulation, and subsequent stakeholder engagement [3], indicates that issuance and investment barriers remain high, impeding the EU economy from fully reaping the benefits that securitisation can offer. Originators and investors argue that issuance and investment barriers are partly driven by the conservativeness of specific aspects of the regulatory framework, such as transparency and due diligence requirements, as well as the capital and liquidity treatment of securitisations.

Against this background, the <u>Eurogroup statement of 11 March 202</u>4 invited the Commission to assess all the supply and demand factors hampering the development of the securitisation market in the EU, including the prudential treatment of securitisation for banks and insurance companies and the transparency and due diligence requirements

(while taking into account international standards). Similarly, the <u>ECB Governing Council statement of 7 March 2024</u> suggested exploring the use of public guarantees and further standardisation. The <u>European Council conclusions of 18 April 2024</u> reinforced this call to relaunch the European securitisation market, including through regulatory and prudential changes, using the available room for manoeuvre. The <u>European Council conclusions of June 2024</u> called again on the Council and the Commission to accelerate work on all identified measures under the capital markets union.

Relaunching securitisation has been recommended in the reports from <u>Christian Noyer</u>, <u>Enrico Letta</u> and <u>Mario Draghi</u> as a means of strengthening the lending capacity of European banks, creating deeper capital markets, building the European savings and investments union and increasing the EU's competitiveness.

The <u>political guidelines of re-elected Commission President Von der Leyen from July 2</u>024 announced that the next Commission will develop the proposal in the Enrico Letta report and propose a European savings and investment union, including banking and capital markets.

This consultation seeks stakeholders' feedback on a broad range of issues, including:

- The effectiveness of the securitisation framework
- Scope of application of the Securitisation Regulation
- Due diligence requirements
- Transparency requirements and definition of public securitisation
- Supervision
- The STS standard
- Securitisation platform
- Prudential and liquidity treatment of securitisation for banks
- Prudential treatment of securitisation for insurers
- Prudential framework for IORPs and other pension funds

This consultation paper has benefited from technical exchanges at staff level with the <u>European Banking Authority</u>, the <u>European Securities and Markets Authority</u>, the <u>European Insurance Occupational Pensions Authority</u> and the <u>European Central Bank</u>.

In view of the technical nature of these issues, the questionnaire is targeted to market participants, including data repositories and rating agencies, industry associations, supervisors and research institutions. While some questions are general, others are directed towards specific participants in the securitisation market, i.e. issuers, investors, or supervisors. As not all questions are relevant for all stakeholders, respondents should not feel obliged to reply to every question.

Respondents are encouraged to provide explanations for each of their responses. Where possible, respondents are encouraged to provide quantitative data in their responses to justify and substantiate their reasoning.

The targeted consultation is available in English only and will be open for 8 weeks.

The responses to this consultation will feed into the review of the securitisation framework to be considered by the Commission in the next mandate.

Please note: In order to ensure a fair and transparent consultation process only responses received through our online questionnaire will be taken into account and included in the report summarising the responses. Should you have a problem completing this questionnaire or if you require particular assistance, please contact <u>fisma-securitisation-consultation@ec.europa.eu</u>.

More information on

- this consultation
- the consultation document
- securitisation
- the protection of personal data regime for this consultation

## **About you**

Hungarian

Irish

*Language of my contribution	
Bulgarian	
Croatian	
Czech	
Danish	
Dutch	
English	
Estonian	
Finnish	
French	
German	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The framework consists of the <u>Securitisation Regulation (SECR)</u>, which sets out a general framework for all securitisations in the EU and a specific framework for simple, transparent, and standardised (STS) securitisations, as well as prudential requirements for securitisation positions in the <u>Ca</u> <u>pital Requirements Regulation (CRR)</u> and in <u>Solvency II Delegated Regulation</u>, and liquidity requirements in the <u>LCR Delegated Regulation</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The framework was complemented on 6 April 2021 in the context of the efforts to help the post-COVID-19 economic recovery by extending the scope of the STS label to on-balance-sheet synthetic securitisations and by addressing regulatory obstacles to securitising non-performing exposures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This includes bilateral and group-based outreach to the population of stakeholders active in the EU securitisation market, including issuers, investors, sponsors, third-party verifiers, and all other established actors active throughout the securitisation market, data repositories, industry associations, competent authorities, and research institutions.

Italian	
Latvian	
Lithuanian	
Maltese	
Polish	
Portuguese	
Romanian	
Slovak	
Slovenian	
Spanish	
Swedish	
*I am giving my contribution as	
Academic/research institution	ution
Business association	
Company/business	
Consumer organisation	
EU citizen	
Environmental organisati	on
Non-EU citizen	
Non-governmental organ	isation (NGO)
Public authority	
Trade union	
Other	
*First name	
Rob	
1100	
*Surname	
KONING	
*Email (this won't be published)	
rob.koning@dutchsecuritisation.nl	
*Organisation name	
255 character(s) maximum	

Dutch Securitisation Association		

## \*Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

## Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

086841820492-53

*Country of origin			
Please add your country of orig	gin, or that of your organisation	on.	
Afghanistan	Djibouti	Libya	Saint Martin
Åland Islands	Dominica	Liechtenstein	Saint Pierre and
			Miquelon
Albania	Dominican	Lithuania	Saint Vincent
	Republic		and the
			Grenadines
Algeria	Ecuador	Luxembourg	Samoa
American Samoa	Egypt	Macau	San Marino
Andorra	El Salvador	Madagascar	São Tomé and
			Príncipe
Angola	Equatorial Guinea	a <sup>©</sup> Malawi	Saudi Arabia
Anguilla	Eritrea	Malaysia	Senegal
Antarctica	Estonia	Maldives	Serbia
Antigua and	Eswatini	Mali	Seychelles
Barbuda			
Argentina	Ethiopia	Malta	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Falkland Islands	Marshall Islands	Singapore
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Australia	Fiji	Mauritania	Slovakia
Austria	Finland	Mauritius	Slovenia

	Azerbaijan	0	France	0	Mayotte		Solomon Islands
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	Bhutan	0	Greenland	0	Myanmar/Burma		Svalbard and
							Jan Mayen
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	Bonaire Saint	0	Guadeloupe	0	Nauru		Switzerland
	Eustatius and						
	Saba						
0	Bosnia and	0	Guam	0	Nepal		Syria
	Herzegovina						
0	Botswana		Guatemala	0	Netherlands		Taiwan
	Bouvet Island	0	Guernsey		New Caledonia		Tajikistan
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	Ocean Territory						
	British Virgin	0	Guyana		Niger		The Gambia
	Islands						
0	Brunei	0	Haiti	0	Nigeria		Timor-Leste
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	Burkina Faso	0	Honduras		Norfolk Island		Tokelau
	Burundi	0	Hong Kong	0	Northern		Tonga
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	Cambodia	0	Hungary		North Korea		

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Cameroon Canada	<ul><li>lceland</li><li>India</li></ul>	North Macedonia Tunisia
		Norway Turkey
Cape Verde	Indonesia	Oman Turkmenistan
Cayman Islands	Iran	Pakistan Turks and
	O 1	Caicos Islands
Central African	Iraq	Palau Tuvalu
Republic  Chad	Ireland	Palestine Uganda
	Isle of Man	
Chile		
China	Israel	Papua New United Arab Guinea Emirates
Christmas Island	Italy	Paraguay United Kingdom
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Comoros Congo Cook Islands Costa Rica Côte d'Ivoire Croatia Cuba Curaçao Cyprus	Jordan  Kazakhstan  Kenya  Kiribati  Kosovo  Kuwait  Kyrgyzstan  Laos  Latvia	Poland US Virgin Islands Dortugal Uzbekistan Vanuatu Qatar Vatican City Réunion Venezuela Romania Vietnam Russia Wallis and Futuna Rwanda Saint Barthélemy Vemen
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Comoros Congo Cook Islands Costa Rica Côte d'Ivoire Croatia Cuba Curaçao Cyprus	Jordan  Kazakhstan  Kenya  Kiribati  Kosovo  Kuwait  Kyrgyzstan  Laos  Latvia	Poland US Virgin Islands Dortugal Uzbekistan Vanuatu Qatar Vatican City Réunion Romania Vietnam Russia Wallis and Futuna Rwanda Saint Barthélemy Yemen Saint Helena Ascension and
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	Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia	
*Fie	eld of activity or	sector (if applicable)		
	Banking			
	Insurance			
	Pension fun	d		
	Legal adviso	ory		
	Investment r	management (e.g. port	tfolio manager or manager of hedge funds	,
		ty funds, venture capita	al funds, money market funds)	
	Other			
*Ple	ease specify yo	our activity field(s) or se	ector(s)	
	Business Associati	on		
	ase select as many an	ent in the securitisation swers as you like f traditional securitisation		
	Originator of	f synthetic securitisatio	ons	
	Sponsor			
	Investor in tr	raditional securitisation	ns	
	Investor in s	synthetic securitisations	5	
	Arranger			
	Legal advise			
	Third-party S			
	Credit rating			
		structure (e.g. data rep	pository, stock exchange)	
	Supervisor			
1		n the securitisation mar	rket	
	No role			
*Ple	ease specify yo	our role in the securitisa	ation market	
	Business Associati	on		

If applicable, considering your role in the securitisation process, please provide the following information about the volume of securitisation activity of your organisation.

Note that this information will not be published.

Average annual volume of ne	ew securitisations that you originate or securitisation
positions that you invest in (flo	ow) in EUR
	EUR
Average annual transaction securitisation positions that yo	number of new securitisations that you originate or ou invest in (flow)
Total stock of securitisation po	esitions in EUR EUR

The Commission will publish all contributions to this targeted consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') is always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

Other relevant quantifiable measure of securitisation activity (please explain briefly)

15 members, issuing annually appr. 15 public transactions and several other securitisations

### \*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

## Anonymous

Only the organisation type is published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, your field of activity and your contribution will be published as received. The name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

## Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its

size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

#### 1. Effectiveness of the securitisation framework

The EU securitisation framework has been in application since January 2019. The framework consists of the Securitisation on Regulation (SECR), which sets out a general framework for all securitisations in the EU, including increased transparency, due diligence, risk retention and other requirements, and a specific framework for simple, transparent, and standardised (STS) securitisations, as well as prudential requirements for securitisation positions in the Capital Requirements Regulation and in Solvency II Delegated Act, and liquidity requirements for credit institutions in the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) Delegated Act.

The framework was complemented on 6 April 2021 in the context of post-COVID-19 economic recovery efforts by extending the scope of the STS label to on-balance-sheet synthetic securitisations and by addressing regulatory obstacles to securitising non-performing exposures.

The general objective of the securitisation framework was the revival of a safe securitisation market that would improve the financing of the EU economy (see the <u>impact assessment accompanying the proposal for a Securitisation Regulation</u>. In the short run, it envisaged a weakening of the link between banks' deleveraging needs and credit tightening. In the long run, the aim was the creation of a more balanced and stable funding structure of the EU economy, for the overall benefit of households, SMEs, and larger corporations. Specific policy objectives included the destigmatisation of European securitisation in the wake of the global financial crisis, an appropriate risk-sensitive regulatory capital treatment, and the reduction/elimination of unduly high operational costs for issuers and investors. To achieve these specific policy objectives, two operational objectives were identified: differentiating STS securitisation products from more opaque and complex ones and supporting the standardisation of processes and practices in securitisation markets and tackling regulatory inconsistencies.

The 2022 review of the functioning of the SECR, which resulted in the publication of the Commission Report on the Functioning of the Securitisation Regulation in December 2022 (later referred to as 'the Commission 2022 report'), looked at the impact of the SECR on the functioning of the EU securitisation market. A majority agreed that the SECR provided a high level of investor protection, and it was generally acknowledged that the SECR had facilitated further integration of the EU securitisation market. At the same time, respondents underlined the need to improve certain parts of the framework, such as due diligence and transparency requirements, to increase proportionality and reduce compliance costs for market participants. Considering that the securitisation framework was amended in April 2021 in response to the unprecedented exogenous factors related to COVID-19, and that the complete application of the framework was yet to be fully realised at the time of writing of the Commission 2022 report, the Commission decided that more time was needed to fully assess the impact and effectiveness of the framework.

Looking to the post-2019 evolution of the EU securitisation market, it is appropriate to consider whether the original policy objectives have been achieved, in full or in part, before proceeding to examine the necessity of any future adjustments to the regulatory framework.

This section of the questionnaire looks into the impact of the securitisation framework on the market and the policy goals of the capital markets union, including improving access to finance and supporting the EU's competitiveness.

Question 1.1. Do you agree that the securitisation framework (including the Securitisation Regulation and relevant applicable provisions of the CRR, Solvency II and LCR) has been successful in, or has contributed to, achieving the following objectives:

	<b>1</b> (fully agree)	2 somewhat agree	3 e) <sup>(neutral)</sup> (so	4 omewhat disagre	5 (fully ee) disagree)	Don't know - No opinion - Not applicable
Revival of a safer securitisation market	0	0	0	•	0	0
2. Improving financing of the EU economy by creating a more balanced and stable funding structure of the EU economy	•	•	0	•	0	0
3. Weakening the link between banks' deleveraging needs and credit tightening	•	•	•	•	0	•
4. Reducing investor stigma towards EU securitisations	0	0	•	0	©	©
5. Removing regulatory disadvantages for simple and transparent securitisation products	0	•	0	0	0	0
6. Reducing/eliminating unduly high operational costs for issuers and investors	0	©	0	0	•	0
7. Differentiating simple, transparent and standardised (STS) securitisation products from more opaque and complex ones	0	•	0	0	0	0
7.1 Increasing the price difference between STS vs non-STS products	0	•	0	0	0	0

7.2 Increasing the growth in issuance of STS vs non-STS products	0	•	0	0	0	0
Supporting the standardisation of processes and practices in securitisation markets	0	•	•	0	•	•
8.1 Increasing the degree of standardisation of marketing and reporting material	0	0	•	•	•	•
8.2 Reducing operational costs linked to standardised securitisation products	0	0	0	•	0	0
9. Tackling regulatory inconsistencies	0	0	0	0	•	0

## 2. Impact on SMEs

Exposures to SMEs, in the form of direct lending, trade receivables, auto loans / leasing, mortgage lending, or other commercial credit, are categories of assets that can readily lend themselves to be securitised. Access to securitisation and its economic efficiency for originators can therefore have an impact on the availability of credit for SMEs and its cost. This section aims to gather insights into the impact of the securitisation framework on SME financing.

## Question 2.1. Have you come across any impediments to securitise SME loans or to invest in SME loan securitisations?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Please explain your answer to question 2.1:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Disclosure and homogeneity requirements are hard to meet for SME exposures. Especially CRPL 16-22 in the ESMA templates can be challenging and hard to keep up to date. For seasoned loans it is not always possible to provide the data and for other loans only at high costs. Since SME loans are typically less standardised in terms of loan formats, private, and especially synthetic, transactions are the preferred structure, although public transactions are also seen in the market. Reaching STS status for SME securitisations is certainly possible, but achieving the associated capital relief may be more complicated due to requirements around granularity and the risk weight of the underlying exposures. And for liquidity treatment, the < 5 year WAL requirement of the LCR is prohibitive for longer projects.

## Question 2.2. How can securitisation support access to finance for SMEs?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

With improvements to the regulatory and prudential treatment of securtisation, there is the potential that SME loans can be used for SRT transactions in a relatively efficient way. SRT transactions give banks the opportunity to off-load certain risks from their balance sheet (like concentrations), which allows them to finance more SME exposures. Also SMEs can benefit from securitisation by selling their (trade) receivables to private bank or ABCP funded structures

## 3. Scope of application of the Securitisation Regulation

#### Jurisdictional scope

In 2021, the Joint Committee ("JC") of the <u>ESAs published an Opinion to the European Commission</u> on the <u>Jurisdictional Scope of Application of the SECR</u>. The opinion was divided in two parts:

- 1. the application to third country-based entities of Article 5 to 7 and 9 of the SECR
- 2. the application of the SECR to investment fund managers

Both issues were subsequently clarified by the Commission in the <u>2022 report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the functioning of the Securitisation Regulation</u>. Despite these clarifications, some market participants point out that the SECR does not clearly set out its jurisdictional scope, creating considerable legal uncertainty in cases where not all parties to the securitisation are located in the EU.

Question	3.1.	In	your	opinion,	should	the	current	jurisdictional	scope	of
application	n of t	he	SECR	be set ou	ut more	clear	ly in the	legislation?		

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Please explain your answer to question 3.1:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

There are not many uncertainties, after the ESAs released their opinions. and the EC issued their assessment. Reopening this discussion should not be a priority at this stage.

Question 3.2. If you answered yes to question 3.1, do you think it would be useful to include a specific article that states that SECR applies to any securitisation where at least one party (sell-side or buy-side) is based or authorised in the EU, and to clarify that the EU-based or EU-authorised entity (ies) shall be in charge of fulfilling the relevant provisions in the SECR?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

## Please explain your answer to question 3.2:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Le	gal definitions
Reg	e SECR defines the key concepts in the securitisation market to appropriately delineate the legal scope of the gulation. The definitions seek to align as far as possible with pre-existing legal concepts in EU legislation (i.e. sting definitions in the CRR), and with international standards.
of a for conthe translimit	tain stakeholders have raised concerns that the legal definitions result in a potentially too broad or too narrow scope application. For instance, a too broad scope might impose an undue regulatory burden in terms of higher standards disclosure, due diligence, etc. Conversely, too narrow a scope may pose risks to financial stability, resulting from the rapplication of the safeguards in the securitisation framework to certain transactions or vehicles that could be sidered securitisations from an economic perspective. For example, the categorisation of a given transaction under definition of a "securitisation transaction" might be contested on the basis of whether a transaction involves aching of credit risk, considering the economic purpose of the transaction. In addition, the definition of a sponsor is ted to credit institutions, whether located in the Union or not, and to EU investment firms, which could limit the ability me market to structure securitisation in an economically efficient way by limiting the pool of eligible sponsors.
De	finition of a securitisation
	uestion 3.3. Do you think the definition of a securitisation transaction in ticle 2 of SECR should be changed?
	ou may select more than one option. ease select as many answers as you like
	<ul> <li>Yes, the definition should be expanded to include transactions or vehicles that could be considered securitisations from an economic perspective</li> <li>Yes, the definition should be narrowed to exclude certain transactions or introduce specific exceptions</li> <li>No, it should not be changed</li> <li>Don't know / no opinion / not applicable</li> </ul>
Ple	ease explain your answer to question 3.3, and specify, if necessary, how
5	e definition should be expanded or narrowed in your view:  000 character(s) maximum  cluding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
1110	The current definition is not perfect, but opening this discussion should not be a priority at this moment.

vehicles that are derisked (e.g. by providing junior equity tranche) by an EU-level or national institution (e.g. a promotional bank) with a view to
crowding-in private investors towards public policy objectives?
© Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not applicable
Question 3.5. If you answered yes to question 3.4., what criteria should be
used to define such transactions?
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Definition of a sponsor  Question 3.6. Should the definition of a sponsor be expanded to include altern
<u>ative investment firm managers</u> established in the EU? Yes
© No
Don't know / no opinion / not applicable
Please explain your answer to question 3.6, including if the definition should
be expanded to any other market participants:  5000 character(s) maximum
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
The role of AIFMs as risk retainer especially in private securitisations can be valuable.

Question 3.4. Should the definition of a securitisation exclude transactions or

Question 3.7. If you answered yes to question 3.6., are any specific adaptions or safeguards necessary in the <u>Alternative Investment Firms Directive</u> (<u>AIFMD</u>), taking into account the originate-to-distribute prohibition in the AIFMD, to enable AIFMs to fulfil the functions of a sponsor in a securitisation transaction, as stipulated in the SECR?

#### You may select more than one option.

Please select as many answers as you like

- An AIFM should not sponsor loans originated by the AIFs it manages
- AIFs should not invest in securitisations sponsored by its AIFM
- Minimum capital requirements under the AIFMD should be adapted to enable AIFMs, in particular to fulfil the risk retention requirement under SECR
- Other safeguards
- No safeguards are needed

### Please explain your answer to question 3.7:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

We can imagine that certain safeguards are needed, especially with regard to capital, if AIFMs would start playing a role as risk retainers. The DSA is however not in a position to specifically opine on the AIFMD. (we are an organisation of Issuers, not directly representing Investors).

## 4. Due diligence requirements

A thorough due diligence process is key to ensure that investors are aware of what they are buying and appropriately assess the risks of their investments (this principle is well recognised by the International Organisation of Securities Commission (IOSCO) in their report on the subprime crisis, as well as their report on good practices in relation to investment managers' due diligence when investing in structured finance instruments). Article 5 of the Securitisation Regulation imposes due diligence requirements on EU investors both prior to investing and while holding the securitisation position.

While due diligence is an integral part of the risk assessment process, feedback gathered by Commission services since the entry into force of the Securitisation Regulation in 2019 suggests that due diligence requirements under Article 5 might be disproportionate. Stakeholders highlight that the legal text is mostly interpreted in a way that

- 1. subjects all institutional investors to the same due diligence requirements regardless of the type of securitisation that they invest in
- 2. and applies stricter and more prescriptive due diligence requirements than those that apply to other financial instruments with similar risk characteristics

As a result, smaller players might not be able to enter the securitisation market, because they lack the resources and/or necessary infrastructure to comply with the due diligence requirements. Due diligence requirements that do not properly take account of the mitigated agency and operational risk characteristics of STS transactions might also be hampering the growth of the STS market.

Question 4.1. Please provide an estimate of the total annual recurring costs and/or the average cost per transaction (in EUR) of complying with the due diligence requirements under Article 5.

Please differentiate between costs that are only due to Article 5 and the costs that you would incur during your regular due diligence process regardless of Article 5.

Please compare the total due diligence costs for securitisations with the total due diligence costs of other instruments with similar risk characteristics.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA does not have this information. Industry sources indicate a level of 2-3 bps as due diligence costs for securitisations. However, this does not differentiate between investments in senior AAA STS and more junior tranches. For that reason we advocate a more proportionate approach in Article 5.

## Question 4.2. If possible, please estimate the total one-off costs you incurred (in EUR) to set up the necessary procedures to comply with Article 5 of SECR.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

#### Cost are related to:

- Qualified staff in first line (investments)
- Qualified staff in second line (risk)
- Establishing specific credit risk policies & assessments
- Establishing controls
- Specific reporting & monitoring
- Storing of evidences of compliance

The DSA does not have the information to quantify these costs.

Question 4.3. Please select your preferred option to ensure that investors are aware of what they are buying and appropriately assess the risks of their investments:

- Option 1: The requirements should be made more principles-based, proportionate, and less complex
- Option 2: The requirements should be made more detailed and prescriptive for legal certainty
- Option 3: There is no need to change the text of the due diligence requirements
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

## Due diligence requirements prior to holding a securitisation position

Question 4.4. Should the text of Article 5(3) be simplified to mandate investors to assess at minimum the risk characteristics and the structural features of the securitisation?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

## Please explain your answer to question 4.4:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

If there is a verification by a regulated entity available, the investor should be allowed to rely on the STS Notification. This is comparable with Covered Bonds, where quit rightfully no assessment is required if the compliance with the premium label is justified. Therefore, article 5(3)(c) should be removed and STS Notification should be relied upon in combination with the rating (especially in case of AAA-rated STS verified Notes) As a more structural solution, we would recommend to revise the due diligence requirements along the lines of the new UK requirements, as effective from 1 November 2024, where investors can determine themselves, based on a more principles-based and proportionate approach, whether they have sufficient information to make an independent risk assessment.

## Question 4.5. If you answered yes to question 4.4., please specify how this could be implemented:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

By deleting Article 5(3)(c).

Articles 5(3)(a) and (b), (4)(a), (d), (e) and (f), should not be required for AAA rated Notes which are STS verified. This is especially the case for repeat securitisations. Monitoring and procedures should be in line with the requirements of other AAA rated products, like Covered Bonds.

Question 4.6. Taking into account your answer to 4.4, what would you estimate to be the impact (in percent or EUR) of such a modification in Article 5(3) on your one-off and annual recurring costs for complying with the due diligence requirements under Article 5?

#### Please explain:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA does not have this information, but we expect cost savings could be up to 50%, especially if for AAA rated products the accumulation of due diligence activities could be eliminated.

Question 4.7. Should due diligence requirements differ based on the different characteristics of a securitisation transaction?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.8. If you answered yes to question 4.7., please select one or more of the following options to differentiate due diligence requirements:

Please select as many answers as you like

- Due diligence requirements should differ based on the risk of the position (e.g. senior vs non-senior)
- Due diligence requirements should differ based on the risk of the underlying assets
- Due diligence requirements should differ based on the STS status of the securitisation (STS vs non-STS)
- Other

#### Please explain your answer to question 4.8:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

All of these elements should play a role in differentiating the due diligence requirements (as well as other
elements like granularity, rating, repeat transaction etc.). It should all be based on proportionality.

Question 4.9. Taking into account your answers to 4.7 and 4.8, what would you estimate to be the impact (in percent or EUR) of differentiating due diligence requirements on your one-off and annual recurring costs for complying with the due diligence requirements under Article 5?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA does not have this kind of cost information. However, apart from cost reductions for existing investors, another important issue to address is getting investors back in the securitisation market. With due diligence costs at levels comparable to Covered Bonds, many investors would start looking (again) at securitisation.

Question 4.10. For EU investors investing in securitisations where the originator, sponsor or original lender is established in the Union and is the responsible entity for complying with those requirements, should certain due diligence verification requirements be removed as the compliance with these requirements is already subject to supervision elsewhere?

This could apply to the requirements for investors to check whether the originator, sponsor or original lender complied with:

	Yes	No	Don't know / No opinion / Not relevant
(i) risk retention requirements	•	0	0
(ii) credit granting criteria requirements	•	0	0

(iii) disclosure requirements	•	0	0
(iv) STS requirements, where the transaction is notified as STS	•	0	0

## Please explain if you see any risks arising from the removal of these requirements, and if so, how they should be mitigated:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

It does not make sense the check requirements that are also covered under supervision by EU regulators, like due diligence, credit granting criteria and disclosure; for STS the requirement should only be removed if a verification by a regulated entity is available (see also our answers on 4.4. and 4.5).

# Question 4.11. Taking into account your answers to Q.4.10, what would you estimate to be the impact (in percent or EUR) of removing those obligations on your one-off and recurring costs for complying with the due diligence requirements?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA does not have this kind of cost information. However, apart from cost reductions for existing investors, another important issue to address is getting investors back in the securitisation market. With due diligence costs at levels comparable to Covered Bonds, many investors would start looking (again) at securitisation.

## Question 4.12. Do the due diligence requirements under Article 5 disincentivise investing into securitisations on the secondary market?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

## Please explain your answer to question 4.12:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The requirements are time consuming and time is of essence in the secondary market. Furthermore, they are disproportionate for AAA-rated, STS ABS investments and may be a reason for investors not to invest in securitisations (in the primary as well as secondary market).

Question 4.13. If you answered yes to question 4.12., should investors be provided with a defined period of time after the investment to document compliance with the verification requirements as part of the due diligence requirements under Article 5?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.14. If you answered yes to question 4.13., how many days should be given to investors to demonstrate compliance with their verification requirements as part of the due diligence requirements under Article 5?

- 0 15 days
- 15 29 days
- 29 45 days
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

## Question 4.15. If you answered yes to question 4.13., what type of transactions should this rule apply to?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

All highly rated senior positions in STS transactions. If a more proportionate due diligence regime would be implemented, this "post-closing due diligence" would not be required for senior STS positions anyway.

Question 4.16. Do the due diligence requirements under Article 5 disincentivise investing into repeat securitisation issuances?

Yes

No

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 4.17. If you answered yes to question 4.16., how should repeat or similar transactions be identified in the legal text and how should the respective due diligence requirements be amended?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

More proportionate due diligence requirements is a better solution to this problem than trying to define repeat or similar transactions.

Question 4.18. Should Article 32(1) be amended to require Member States to lay down rules establishing appropriate administrative sanctions, in the case of negligence or intentional infringement, and remedial measures in case institutional investors fail to meet the requirements provided for in Article 5?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

## Please explain your answer to question 4.18:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Investments in securitisations should not be sanctioned differently from other investments or on top of general sanctions applicable to investors.

Question 4.19. Taking into account the answers to the questions above on due diligence requirements, do you think any safeguards should be introduced in Article 5 to prevent the build-up of financial stability risks?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Financial stability risk should be countered with rules that apply to investors in general, not for their specific investments in securitisations.

Question 4.20. Taking into account your answers to the previous questing section, by how much would these changes impact the vo	
securitisations that you invest in?	
5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	
The DSA is not an investor.	
The Box is not an investor.	
Question 4.21 If you are a supervisor, how would the changes to	the due
Question 4.21. If you are a supervisor, how would the changes to diligence requirements suggested in the previous questions affe	
supervisory costs?	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
5000 character(s) maximum	
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	
Not applicable (the DSA is not a supervisor).	

**Delegation of due diligence** 

Question 4.22. Should the National Competent Authorities (NCAs) continue to have the possibility to apply administrative sanctions under Article 32 and 33 of SECR in case of infringements of the requirements of Article 5 SECR to either the institutional investor or the party to which the institutional investor has delegated the due diligence obligations?

<b>/</b> _	9

### Please explain your answer to question 4.22:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

No specific sanctions for securitisation should apply. Moreover, the current framework creates an uneven playing field between jurisdictions due to the different interpretation (and enforcement) of these articles by NCA's.

## Question 4.23. If you answered no to question 4.22, which party should be subject to administrative sanctions in case of infringement of the due diligence requirements?

- the institutional investor
- the party to which the institutional investor has delegated the due diligence obligations
- don't know / no opinion / not applicable

## 5. Transparency requirements and definition of public securitisation

Public interventions after the GFC significantly improved the level of transparency in the EU securitisation market starting with the introduction of loan level templates by the European Central Bank. The current transparency regime enshrined in Article 7 of the SECR aims to ensure that investors in a securitisation have all the necessary information for their due diligence needs. In addition, National Competent Authorities (NCAs) should have access to sufficient information to properly supervise the participants in the securitisation market.

However, the application of some legal provisions of the transparency regime have nonetheless shown some gaps and inefficiencies. For instance, the disclosure requirements are seen by stakeholders as overly prescriptive and insufficiently adapted to the actual needs of investors into the various types of securitisations. This limits the usefulness of certain disclosures, i.e. investors/NCAs may not use all the information disclosed under Article 7, because it might not be tailored to their specific information needs.

No

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Under the SECR, public securitisations are those that require publishing a prospectus, and yet this captures only a subset of what the market would consider as public securitisations from an economic perspective. Consequently, only a subset of the 'truly' public market is obliged to report to securitisation repositories. However, a separate significant part of the market, in particular many collateralised loan obligations (CLOs), is public in nature but is not classified as such under the SECR and therefore it does not report to the securitisation repositories ("SRs"). This curtails supervisors' ability to adequately analyse and supervise cross-border markets and might limit overall market transparency.

On the other hand, bespoke transactions or intra-group securitisations (i.e. ones without an external investor) might be subject to unduly high transparency requirements because they have to report using the same disclosure templates as public transactions, which might not be fit for purpose.

Feedback gathered during the preparation of the Commission's report on the functioning of the Securitisation Regulation showed wide support for amending the definition of private securitisations to focus on truly bespoke transactions, while at the same time reducing the mandatory transparency requirements for these types of transactions. The <u>Joint Committee report</u> also favoured amending the definition of private securitisations to make it more precise and to exempt from all transparency requirements a sub-set of transactions that are private in nature. At the same time, the Commission report also highlighted that a better definition of private securitisation would be difficult to find. For this reason, it is worth considering whether amending (i.e. widening) the definition of public securitisations would be useful instead. This would have the dual benefit of:

- 1. reducing the reporting burden for truly private transactions should transparency requirements be simultaneously amended
- 2. and ensuring that transactions that are public in nature but currently considered private because they do not have a prospectus (such as CLOs), would be categorised as public, thereby entailing direct reporting to repositories, and enhancing market transparency.

Question 5.1. Please provide an estimate of the total annual recurring costs and/or the average cost per transaction (in EUR) of complying with the transparency regime under Article 7.

Please differentiate between costs that are only due to Article 7 and costs that you would incur during your regular course of business regardless of Article 7.

Please compare the total transparency costs for securitisations with the total transparency costs of other instruments with similar risk characteristics.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA does not have this information, but we understand from members that the costs are appr. 25% of the total transaction costs. The costs can be split in EUR 250k set-up costs and EUR 50-100k ongoing costs.

This excludes the high costs of unlocking (sometimes manually) mandatory data for legacy assets. Main costs are FTE costs for preparing and uploading information, maintenance of applications,

reconciliations, reporting and monitoring obligations.

Ongoing costs are also negatively impacted by the multiplicity, different frequency and content and detail of information the be provided to SSM, ESMA, local supervisor(s) etc.

## Question 5.2. If possible, please estimate the total one-off costs you incurred (in EUR) to set up the necessary procedures to comply with Article 7 of SECR.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA does not have this information, but we understand from members that it can be several million Euros.

Especially in case of multiple jurisdictions, asset classes and transaction types, the costs accumulate.

## Question 5.3. How do the disclosure costs that you provided in Question 5.1. compare with the disclosure costs for other instruments with similar risk characteristics?

- Significantly higher (more than 50% higher)
- Moderately higher (from 10% to 49% higher)
- Similar
- Moderately lower (from 10% to 49% lower)
- Significantly lower (more than 50% lower)
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

## Please explain your answer to question 5.3:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

According to members feedback and compared to Covered Bonds; costs are mainly related to the FTE costs involved in preparing, verifying and subsequently publishing information.

## Question 5.4. Is the information that investors need to carry out their due diligence under Article 5 different from the information that supervisors need?

- Significantly different
- Moderately different
- Similar
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Please explain your answer to question 5.4:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

While investors require information for their risk assessment, supervisors of the securitisation market require more market related information.

## Question 5.5. To ensure that investors and supervisors have sufficient access to information under Article 7, please select your preferred option below:

## <sup>®</sup> Option 1:

- Streamline the current disclosure templates for public securitisations
- Introduce a simplified template for private securitisations and require private securitisations to report to securitisation repositories (this reporting will not be public)

## Option 2:

- Remove the distinction between public and private securitisations.
- Introduce principles-based disclosure for investors without a prescribed template
- Replace the current disclosure templates with a simplified prescribed template that fits the needs of competent authorities, with a reduced scope/reduced number of fields than the current templates

## Option 3:

No change to the existing regime under Article 7.

## Question 5.6. If you are a supervisor, what impact (in percent or EUR) would you anticipate Option 1 would have on your supervisory costs?

5000 character(s) maximum

including space	ces and line	breaks, i.e.	stricter than	the MS	Word characte	ers counting method.

Not applicable (the DSA is not a supervisor).

## Question 5.7. Assuming that transparency requirements are amended as suggested in Option 1, by how much would the volume of securitisations that you issue, or invest in, change?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA is neither an investor nor an issuer. However, it is to be expected that issuance of private transactions would increase if disclosure requirements for private transactions are relaxed. It is however questionable whether investments would increase without other measures regarding the prudential regulation.

## Question 5.8. What impact (in percent or EUR) would you anticipate Option 1 would have on your one-off and annual recurring costs for complying with the transparency requirements in Article 7? Please explain your answer.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA does not have this information, but the impact of the streamlining of the templates will be moderate, while for private transactions the switch to a dedicated template could generate substantial cost savings.

Question 5.9. Do you see any concerns, impediments, or unintended consequences from requiring private securitisations to report to securitisation repositories?

O No

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Please explain your answer to question 5.9:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

It is an unnecessary operational burden and we are strongly opposed against that part of the Option 1 proposal. It adds to the costs, also if disclosure for private transactions would be limited to "a simplified template". If the XML requirement for repository data would be dropped, the negative impact would however be mitigated.

Question 5.10. Under Option 1, should the current definition of a public securitisation be expanded to a securitisation fulfilling any of the following criteria?

- 1. a prospectus has been drawn up in compliance with the EU Prospectus Regulation
- 2. or notes were admitted a trading venue
- 3. or it was marketed (to a broad range/audience of investors) and the relevant terms and conditions are non-negotiable among the parties
- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please explain your answer to question 5.10:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Any further additions to the Prospectus requirement may be confusing and creating unnecessary complications. Criteria 2) and 3) would exclude transactions retained for liquidity purposes from being public.

Question 5.11. If you answered yes to question 5.10., what criteria should be used to assess point (3) in the definition above (i.e. a securitisation marketed (to a broad range/audience of investors) and the relevant terms and conditions are non-negotiable among the parties)?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

ex	nestion 5.12. If the definition of a public securitisation is expanded (fo ample, to encompass securitisations fulfilling the criteria set out estion 5.10), what share of your existing private transactions would no
5	I under this newly-expanded public definition?  On character(s) maximum
inc	The DSA does not have this information, but we expect it for the Dutch market to be a limited number /percentage, although the second criterion (trading venue) could be an issue for some private transactions
Qι	uestion 5.13. Under Option 1, what would you estimate to be the impact (
oe on	Destion 5.13. Under Option 1, what would you estimate to be the impact (reent or EUR) of changing the definition of public securitisation on you e-off and annual recurring costs for complying with Article 7?  2000 character(s) maximum  Eluding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.  The DSA does not have this information. But it is to be expected that the initial costs of another new template may be considerable, while on the other hand savings in ongoing costs could be substantial.

Question 5.15. What impact (in percent or EUR) would you anticipate Option 2 would have on one-off and annual recurring costs for complying with the transparency requirements in Article 7? Please explain your answer.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA does not have this information, but we expect that one-off costs of changing template structures would be high, while the savings of recurring costs would be limited.

Question 5.16. Under Option 2, what should be included in the principle-based disclosure requirements for investors to reduce compliance costs while ensuring access to information?

How should investors access this information?

Please explain your answer, listing all relevant information that you think investors need to do proper due diligence that could be common across all securitisations.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

In order to somewhat reduce compliance cost, it should exclude the use of loan level data. However, we think loan level data are a valuable due diligence tool for many asset classes (subject to our answer on 5.20).

We would still recommend the use of regulated repositories.

The principle-based disclosure requirements should be identical to the requirements for investing in other highly rated (AAA – AA) financial markets products, like Covered Bonds. This could be further refined by making a distinction between regulated banks and other issuers.

Question 5.17. Under Option 2, should intra-group transactions, and securitisations below a certain threshold, be excluded from the reporting requirements in Article 7?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your answer to question 5.17, and, if you answered yes, please specify how should intragroup transactions be defined and how should the threshold be determined:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces	and line breaks,	i.e. stricter than	the MS Word	characters	counting	method.

Under a principles-based approach, there is no need to exclude certain categories.					

Question 5.18. Under Option 2, what would be the impact (in percent or EUR) on your one-off and annual recurring costs for complying with the transparency requirements of excluding intra-group transactions and securitisations below a certain threshold from the reporting requirements in Article 7? Please explain your answer.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Question 5.19. Should the text of Article 7 of the SECR explicitly provide flexibility for reporting on the underlying assets at aggregated level?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 5.20. If you answered yes to question 5.19., which categories of transactions should be allowed to provide reporting only at aggregated level?

You may select more than one option.

Please select as many answers as you like

Granular portfolios of credit card receivables

Granular portfolios of trade receivables	
Other	
Don't know / no opinion / not applicable	
you answered "other" to question 5.20, please explain:	
5000 character(s) maximum ncluding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	
Other categories could include telecom receivables, small consumer loans etc.	
uestion 5.21. If you are a supervisor, what impact (in percent or EUR) w	oulc
ou anticipate Option 2 would have on your supervisory costs?	
5000 character(s) maximum ncluding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	
Not applicable (the DSA is not a supervisor).	

## 6. Supervision

Securitisation entails many actors, in some cases also based in different jurisdictions. This can result in several national competent authorities being involved in the supervision of one transaction. Market participants cite that differences in the supervisory approaches of Member States create uncertainty. This has been raised in the Joint Committee of the ESAs' report on the implementation and functioning of the securitisation framework and in the Commission 2022 securitisation review report. Diverging supervisory practices create resource and cost inefficiencies due to the multiplication of common functions across many Member States. Divergence and ensuing legal uncertainty can create an unlevel playing field and are detrimental to the growth of the securitisation market and its proper functioning. In addition, fragmented responsibility and access to data can create loopholes and potentially lead to the emergence of risks. For these reasons, it is important to consider how to streamline and improve supervision in the EU to ensure consistency, better coordination, and a proportionate approach to avoiding divergent practices. This could be achieved through a more efficient and effective use of the existing powers which are allocated to the ESAs and competent authorities.

Ideas for improvement include the creation of supervisory hubs, building on the model of the SSM securitisation hub. In the case of cross-border transactions, a lead coordinator could be appointed under the joint oversight of the ESAs. NCAs' participation could be mandatory, requiring all or some NCAs to participate based on a set of relevant criteria. Alternatively, participation could also be voluntary so only interested NCAs join the new supervisory structure. This would, however, limit the degree of supervisory convergence that can be achieved. This section seeks to gather feedback in relation to these ideas.

<ul> <li>No</li> <li>Don't know / no opinion / not applicable</li> <li>Please explain your answer to question 6.1 and give specific examples:         <ul> <li>5000 character(s) maximum</li> <li>including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					
				<u> </u>	
			The members of DSA, Dutch institutions, have not identified any of these concerns with their local supervisors. It may be different if this question is to be answered on a pan-European scale: interpretatio (STS) guidelines can differ between jurisdictions as can be the way STS compliance is reviewed; assessment of Eurosystem eligibility (a long process compared to other capital market products anyway be especially slow in some jurisdictions; local supervisors have different (additional) reporting requirements.		
			more coordination and supervisory	rit in streamlining supervision to ensure convergence?	
Yes					
No					
Don't know / no opinion / not app	licable				
Question 6.3. If you answered yes to coordinated supervision?	to question 6.2., what should be the scope				
STS securitisations only					
All securitisations					
Other					
Don't know / no opinion / not app	licable				
If you responded "other" to questio	n 6.3, please specify to what you refer:				
5000 character(s) maximum					
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the	e MS Word characters counting method.				

Question 6.1. Have you identified any divergencies or concerns with the

supervision, based on the current supervisory set up?

Yes

	estion 6.4. If you answered yes to question 6.2., what should be the ervisory tasks of coordinated supervision?
oup (	Compliance with Securitisation Regulation as a whole
0	Compliance only with STS criteria
0	Compliance with Securitisation Regulation and prudential requirements for securitisation
0	Other
0	Don't know / no opinion / not applicable
500	ou responded "other" to question 6.4, please specify to what you refer:  On character(s) maximum  Iding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
	estion 6.5. If you answered yes to question 6.2., which model would you fer?
(	Setting up supervisory hubs
0	Having one national authority as lead coordinator in the case of one issuance involving multiple supervisors
0	Another arrangement
arra	ase explain your answer to question 6.5. If you selected "Another angement", please specify:  30 character(s) maximum  ading spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

If you responded "another arrangement" to question 6.5, please specify to what you refer:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

a	estion 6.6. If you answered yes to question 6.2, would you required ticipation by all NCAs or only some?  All  Some
	Don't know / no opinion / not applicable
10 50	estion 6.7. If you answered "Some" to question 6.6., based on what crite ald you select NCAs? Please specify.  The contracter of the contr
<b>U</b> .	estion 6.8. If you are a supervisor, how would the changes to supervising gested in the previous questions affect your supervisory costs?  The character (s) maximum and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
	Not applicable (the DSA is not a supervisor).
L	

The STS standard identifies criteria for simplicity, standardisation and transparency designed to address those aspects of the securitisation practice that had proven problematic during the global financial crisis. It aims to address and mitigate major drivers of operational and agency risks arising in securitisation, by enabling investors to differentiate

STS-designated products from more opaque and complex ones.

In recognition of their less complex structure, STS positions entail lower capital requirements than non-STS in the banking and insurance prudential regulations. It was expected that the introduction of the STS standard in the EU

would have a significant positive impact on the scaling up of the EU securitisation market, by incentivising standardisation of the securitisation transactions across the EU and attracting new issuers and investors to the market. Stakeholders have flagged some of the STS criteria as burdensome to comply with or otherwise constraining further development of the STS market. Such criteria include the homogeneity of underlying assets, the collateral requirement for on-balance-sheet securitisations, the ban on including exposures to credit impaired obligors, the information to be provided prior to pricing and/or closing, and others.

In order to protect the integrity of the STS standard, it is important to ensure that a transaction that is notified as STS really complies with the criteria. Third-party verifiers (TPVs) are a voluntary, but important link in the chain of verifying that a securitisation complies with the STS criteria, alongside originators, sponsors, national competent authorities and investors. However, in the current text of the SECR, TPVs are authorised at national level but are not supervised after authorisation, and they do not lift the ultimate responsibility from the originator and sponsor for ensuring compliance with the STS criteria.

Some indications suggest that the STS label has been successful – the label is used by the market and recognised by investors. Moreover, some transactions appear to be structured almost exclusively to be STS-compliant, such as prime Residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBSs) and auto-loans asset backed securities (ABSs). On the other hand, the size of the securitisation market in general has not shown significant recovery since the introduction of the STS label, and STS-compliant transactions amount to less than half of the public securitisation market, which in itself represents a declining portion of the overall securitisation market. This section seeks stakeholders' feedback on the use of the STS label, including how to increase its attractiveness for both originators and investors.

### Question 7.1. Do you think that the STS label in its current form has the potential to significantly scale up the EU securitisation market?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please explain your answer to question 7.1:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The answer on this question depends on what is exactly "the STS label in its current form". A label cannot transform the market. So unless the associated prudential treatment is properly calibrated, STS will not have this potential. But we are convinced that STS will be an indispensable building block of a proper functioning and growing securitisation market.

### Question 7.2. Which of the below factors, if any, do you consider as holding back the expansion of the STS standard in the EU?

### You may select more than one option.

Please select as many answers as you like

- Overly restrictive and costly STS criteria
- Low returns
- 1

High capital charges

✓ LCR treatment

Other

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Please explain your answer to question 7.2:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

See our answer on question 7.1. There is no other product so heavily regulated as securitisation. Issuers prefer issuing covered bonds for funding purposes, which do not provide the benefit of freeing up the balance sheet of banks. Only in the case of more RWA relief for (STS) securitisations would they consider securitisation. Examples of overly restrictive STS criteria are 5 year data, granularity and homogeneity.

### Question 7.3. How can the attractiveness of the EU STS standard be increased, for EU and non-EU investors?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

By better calibrating the STS benefits in the prudential regulation and move towards a more proportional regulatory treatment under article 5 and 7 of the SECR. For non-EU investors, equivalence regimes, especially between the EU and the UK, would be very beneficial.

#### STS criteria

Question 7.4. In the case of an unfunded credit protection agreement where the protection provider provides no collateral to cover his potential future liabilities, should such an agreement be eligible for the STS label, to facilitate on-balance-sheet STS securitisations?

- \* According to Article 26e(8)(c) eligible credit protection for STS on-balance-sheet securitisation should be "secured by collateral meeting the requirements laid down in paragraphs 9 and 10 of this Article.
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 7.5. If you answered yes to question 7.4., what safeguards should be put in place to prevent the build-up of financial stability risks arising from the provision of unfunded credit protection?

- The protection provider should meet a minimum credit rating requirement.
- The provision of unfunded credit protection by the protection provider should not exceed a certain threshold out of their entire business activity.
- Other
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please explain your answer to question 7.5:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

There is a role for sufficiently rated, regulated risk counterparties (in addition to Multilateral Development Banks who are already allowed). The risk of the Protection provider is a credit risk that should be covered by metrics of credit risk (i.e. credit ratings); we do not see how it could be a financial stability risk. CQS 1 at the outset for STS compliance, could stimulate a safe approach (keeping in mind that the minimum counterparty rating for cash deposit collateral is CQS 3).

## Question 7.6. What would be the implications for EU financial stability of allowing unfunded credit protection to be eligible for the STS label and the associated preferential capital treatment?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

This is a credit risks that should be covered by metrics of credit risk (i.e. credit ratings); we do not see how it
could be a stability risk. On the contrary, a more diverse investor landscape and the ability to transfer more
risk out of the banking system would reduce stability risk.

Question 7.7. How would allowing unfunded credit protection to be eligible for the STS label and the associated preferential capital treatment impact EU insurers' business model of providing credit protection via synthetic securitisation (for example, would EU insurers account such transactions as assets or as liabilities)?

#### Please explain your answer.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

If insurers could benefit from the STS label (assuming proper calibration of prudential requirements under Solvency II), insurers might use the asset side of their balance for investing in securitisations, but currently the liability side (writing insurance policies) is the preferred route, since this provides a huge regulatory arbitrage. This arbitrage would even be increased by allowing unfunded credit protection.

Question 7.8. If you are an originator, what impact on the volume of on-balance-sheet securitisations that you issue do you expect to see if unfunded credit protection becomes eligible for the STS label and the associated preferential capital treatment?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA is not an originator.

Question 7.9. If you answered no to question 7.4., do you see merit in expanding the list of eligible high-quality collateral instruments in Article 26e (10) to facilitate on-balance-sheet STS securitisations?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Question 7.10. If you answered yes to question 7.9., which high-quality collateral instruments should be added to the list?

	11ateral instruments should be added to the list? 200 character(s) maximum
	luding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Qι	estion 7.11. What would be the implications for EU financial stability of
ex	tending the list of high-quality collateral arrangements under Article 26e
(10	0)?
50	000 character(s) maximum
inc	luding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
	It might reduce stability risk by creating more diversification.
O١	estion 7.12. Do the homogeneity requirements for STS transactions
	present an undue burden for the securitisation of corporate loans,
ıno	cluding SMEs?
	ease explain your answer.
	000 character(s) maximum
IIIC	luding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
	It is not an undue burden, but it limits the availability of STS, especially for smaller transactions as well as
	Corporate/SME exposures. It can definitely be a limiting factor for synthetic transactions. Maybe more weight should be given to internal rating models in determining homogeneity, in order to cope with these limitations.
	Should be given to internal rating medele in determining nemogeneity, in order to dope with these initiations.

Question 7.13. Should the STS criteria (for traditional, asset backed commercial paper (ABCP) or on-balance-sheet securitisation) be further

#### simplified or amended?

Please explain your answer and provide suggestions.

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Please provide a justification for your answer to question 7.13:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The STS criteria are basically OK, but for some criteria a simplification would be welcome. Especially the Credit Impaired Borrower criterion. Also the One Payment Made and Homogeneity criteria continue to be challenging.

### **Third-Party Verifiers (TPVs)**

Question 7.14. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being the least valuable), please rate the added value of TPVs in the STS securitisation market.

- 1 Very low added value
- 2 Low added value
- 3 Medium added value
- 4 High added value
- 5 Very high added value
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please provide a justification for your answer to question 7.14:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

TPVs provide originators and investors with the necessary assurance that STS is indeed properly interpreted (although investors are currently not allowed to rely on the notification and information of the originator, but the TPVs provide them at least with guidance on the interpretation of the notification).

### Question 7.15. If you answered yes to question 4.10.(iv), should the TPVs be supervised to ensure that the integrity of the STS standard is upheld?

Yes

O No

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please explain your answer to question 7.15, including where necessary whether TPVs should be supervised at EU level:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

It is important that the integrity of the STS standard is upheld, and supervisors should continue to play a role in this respect, by checking the STS Notifications (on a sample basis). Supervision of the TPVs, on top of the current supervision by local supervisors, does not seem to add to the integrity of the application of STS, so would be unnecessary, would add to the costs and could reduce the efficiency of the verification process.

### Question 7.16. To what extent would supervision of TPVs increase the cost of issuing an STS securitisation?

Yes

O No

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please explain your answer to question 7.16, and if available, estimate the total costs in EUR:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

TPVs are a limited cost factor compared to other costs associated with a securitisation transaction, so an increase in the supervisory costs of TPVs could lead to a max. increase of costs of 0.1 bps of the transaction size.

### 8. Securitisation platform

One issue which is mentioned in the public debate is the possibility of setting up a securitisation platform, with various ideas being put forward on the possible characteristics and functions of such a platform. One of the proposals (see Noy er report, developing European capital markets to finance the future: Proposals for a savings and investments union), inspired by the US model, envisages the use of public guarantees both at national and EU-level to scale up the market and create a new common 'safe asset' across the EU. Other suggested designs are more circumspect (for example

see <u>TSI report</u>, the challenge of financing the transformation for companies and banks in Germany – securitisation as an instrument for linking bank loans and capital markets) and entail the pooling of resources and information to reduce issuance costs and encourage standardisation.

In its <u>statement of 7 March 2024</u>, the <u>ECB Governing Council</u> highlighted the need to explore 'whether public guarantees and further standardisation through pan-EU issuances could support targeted segments of securitisation, such as green securitisations to support the climate transition'.

## Question 8.1. Would the establishment of a pan-European securitisation platform be useful to increase the use and attractiveness of securitisation in the EU?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Question 8.2. If you answered yes to question 8.1., which of the following objectives should be main objective(s) of the platform?

#### You may select more than one option

Please select as many answers as you like

- Create an EU safe asset
- Foster standardisation (in the underlying assets and in securitisation structures, including contractual standardisation)
- Enhance transparency and due diligence processes in the securitisation market
- Promote better integration of cross-border securitisation transactions by offering standardised legal frameworks
- Lower funding costs for the real economy
- Lower issuance costs
- Support the funding of strategic objectives (e.g. twin transition, defense, etc.)
- Other

### Please explain how the platform could be designed to achieve the objectives that you selected in your answer to question 8.2:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

While in principle DSA members consider that a securitisation platform could increase the benefits of selling the eligible assets into securitisations, assuming the much needed standardisation (eligibility, price, structuring, documentation, etc.) will be adequately achieved despite the European assets heterogeneity,

they emphasise that the immediate focus of regulatory reform to grow the scale of the EU securitisation market should solely be on the regulation and its effects.

While implementing and operating a securitisation platform would be costly and likely require substantial state support, when pursued we would argue the design of such a platform to be along the lines of the proposal in the Noyer report, so a European version of the US model. However, we again caution that while structural projects (European platforms and public guarantees) could be pursued at a later stage, these should not delay the short-term priorities in terms of regulation as presented elsewhere in our responses.

## Question 8.3. If you answered yes to question 8.1., how would access to a pan-European securitisation platform increase the use and attractiveness of securitisation in the EU?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

We answered yes on question 8.1. However, in terms of prioritising, first the traditional securitisation market should be helped to revive, with adjustments in the applicable regulation and prudential treatment, before it makes sense to start working on a platform product.

A platform would add a second securitisation product next to the existing market, which could reduce the stigma of securitisation and create critical mass that could contribute to lower funding costs. It also would allow banks to offload assets from their balance sheets and would free up capital to support other initiatives where capital can be better deployed, e.g. for the green transition. Ideally, retail clients can invest in this fund, allowing the mobilisation of private funds to fund these activities, instead of using the bank's balance sheet.

### Question 8.4. Should the platform target specific asset classes?

0	Yes	

N	

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Question 8.5. If you answered yes to question 8.4., which asset classes should the platform target?

- SME loans
- Green loans (i.e. green renovation, green mobility)
- Mortgages
- Corporate loans
- Other
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please provide a justification for your answer to question 8.5:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Other means (since only one box could be ticked) all asset classes mentioned, as long as it makes economic sense. Mortgages are a good starting point, but other asset classes should not be excluded.

#### Question 8.6. Are guarantees necessary?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

## Question 8.7. If you answered yes to question 8.6., please explain who (private or public) would provide it and how you would design such a guarantee

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Guarantees could come from (existing) public development institutions like EIF/EIB, and should be designed to guarantee the platform, and not specific tranches.

### Question 8.8. What do you view as the main challenges associated with the introduction of such a platform in the EU, and how could these be managed?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Structural projects such as the European securitisation platform or public guarantees, could be addressed at a later stage and should not delay the short-term priorities to address all regulatory (SECR) and prudential (CRR3, Solvency II and LCR) barriers.

The main challenge of any platform will be political, which will take time (and as such is not going to be an immediate solution for improving the functioning of the securitisation market). Next to the political challenge, the challenge will be to give EIB/EIF a sufficiently broad mandate to formulate their supporting activity. Another challenge will be to ensure some standards that can be applied across jurisdictions which are practical and provide a level of harmonisation. Ideally, the platform allows retail investments, which could be guaranteed, allowing banks to offload capital intensive assets, while on the other hand mobilising public wealth to finance them. Key condition is that it is regarded as a safe investment.

# Question 8.9. What key considerations need to be taken in designing a pan-European securitisation platform, for such a platform to be usable and attractive for originators and/or investors?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Investments in the products of the platform should be really designed as safe assets, so it can mobilise the huge pool of European savings. Also harmonisation of European laws in several areas is a prerequisite

Question 8.10. Besides the creation of a securitisation platform, do you see other initiatives that could further increase the level of standardisation and convergence for EU securitisations, in a way that increases securitisation volumes but also benefits the deepening and integration of the market?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

A platform, and any other new products, will only flourish if and when the impediments to the existing securitisation market (mainly prudential regulation) are repaired.

### 9. Prudential and liquidity risk treatment of securitisation for banks

Banks are central players in the EU securitisation market. On the issuer side, securitisation is a useful tool in banks' toolkit for diversifying funding sources, and for balance sheet and credit risk management purposes. On the demand side, while banks hold significant exposures towards EU securitisation transactions and in particular to senior tranches, most are in the form of retained securitisations, including asset-backed securities (ABS) that are used as collateral for central bank operations to obtain liquidity. Exposures to other banks' securitisations are overall limited. The high percentage of retained securitisations limits the depth and liquidity of the securitisation market in the EU.

The prudential treatment of securitisation is set out in Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 (Capital Requirements Regulation - CRR). It specifies requirements for the prudential treatment of securitisation exposures by banks, acting as originators, investors and sponsors in securitisation. The main features of the prudential treatment are defined in the Part Three, Title II, Chapter 5 of the CRR, which sets out the regulatory capital calculation approaches, a specific risk-sensitive treatment for STS securitisations and additional criteria for the STS securitisations to be eligible for that treatment, the framework for the significant risk transfer (SRT), specific treatment for securitisation of non-performing exposures and other specific requirements. Besides, the prudential treatment under the CRR, the liquidity risk treatment of the securitisation exposures under the LCR Delegated Regulation (Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/61 on liquidity coverage requirements for credit institutions) is also relevant for banks.

In their advice from December 2022, the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) concluded that the prudential and the liquidity treatment of securitisation is not the key obstacle to the revival of the securitisation market, and that the subdued status of the securitisation market is rather the result of a series of factors, including the interplay between low supply and low demand. At the same time, the ESAs also recognised in their report that it is possible to increase the risk sensitivity of the prudential framework. Many stakeholders consider the prudential and liquidity treatment as having a decisive impact on the attractiveness of the securitisation instrument for banks and in addition point out in particular to a relative disadvantage of the prudential treatment for some types of securitisations in comparison with other financial instruments.

Question 9.1. What concrete prudential provisions in the CRR have the strongest influence on the banks' issuance of and demand for those types of traditional, i.e. true sale, securitisation which involve the senior tranche being sold to external investors and not retained by the originator?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The strongest impact on the recovery of the traditional securitisation market would come from a reduction in the Risk Weights (floor and p-factor), better LCR treatment (both the Levels and the <5 year WAL requirement) and a reduction of the 100% CCF for undrawn securitisation facilities. This would help creating a more level playing field with other, comparable, capital market and bank instruments.

Question 9.2. Please explain how possible changes in the prudential treatment would change the volume of the securitisation that you issue, or invest in (for the latter, split the rationale and volumes for different tranches):

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA is neither an investor nor an issuer, but better treatment for investors implies potentially more demand and therefore better pricing for issuers. Currently, the issuance of covered bonds is much less cumbersome and consequently also cheaper. Improving the regulatory and prudential treatment of securitisation can create a virtual cycle of more investor demand and more issuance. This would also allow for niche/specialised securitisations to be more easily placed in the market.

Question 9.3. Based on your answer to 9.1, please explain how possible changes in the prudential treatment could support the supply for and demand of SME and corporate exposure-based securitisation transactions:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Changes should support securitisation in general; we do not advocate specific measures for Corporate/SME securitisations. However changes with a relatively high impact on Corporate/SME exposures would be those related to SRT (a better Commensurateness test) and the CCF for undrawn securitisation facilities.

Question 9.4. Does the prudential treatment of securitisation in the CRR appropriately reflect the different roles a bank can play in the securitisation chain, concretely the roles of originator (limb 'a' and limb 'b' of the definition of the originator in the Securitisation Regulation<sup>[\*]</sup>), servicer and investor?

- \* According to Article 3(2) of the <u>Securitisation Regulation</u>, an originator can be an entity that has originated the exposures that are securitised (letter (a)), or has purchased a third party's exposures on its own account and then securitises them (letter (b))
  - Yes
  - O No
  - Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 9.5. If you answered no to question 9.4., please explain and provide suggestions for targeted amendments to more appropriately reflect the different roles of banks as originator, investor, and servicer:

5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	

Question 9.6. Have you identified any areas of technical inconsistencies or ambiguities in the prudential treatment of securitisation in the CRR (other than the 'quick fixes' identified by the <u>ESAs in the report JC/2022/66</u>) that could benefit from further clarification?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 9.7. If you answered yes to question 9.6., please explain and provide suggestions for possible clarifications:

5000 character(s) maximum

inc	cluding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.	

Question 9.8. Are there national legislations or supervisory practices which in your view unduly restrict banks in their potential role as investor, originator, servicer or sponsor of securitisation transactions?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Question 9.9. If you answered yes to question 9.8., please explain and provide examples:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

There are several areas where we see restrictive practices. Examples in the Dutch context: the complicated Prospectus approval process, the slow collateral assessment process, the slow process of official assignment approval. And, compared to other jurisdictions, the extensive way STS is being supervised, both per transaction and with so called "deep-dives".

### Question 9.10. How do banks use the capital and funding released through securitisation?

Please explain your answer and if possible, quantify how much of the released capital and funding is used for further lending to the EU economy.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA does not have this information. But the obvious answer would be: to optimally fund and capitalise the bank balance sheet and therefore be able to offer better/cheaper products to clients. The released capital and funding is invested in new credit facilities for clients that otherwise could not have been served appropriately.

### **Risk weight floors**

The risk weight floors, the p-factor and the requirement of risk weighting at 1250% for the securitisation positions up to KIRB/KSA are key measures, ensuring the non-neutrality of the securitisation capital framework.

The main objective of non-neutrality is to protect against certain structural risks, including agency and model risks, that are more prevalent for securitisations than for other financial assets and give rise to some degree of uncertainty in the calculation of capital requirements for securitisations, even after all appropriate risk drivers have been taken into account. To capture those risks adequately, the CRR sets out a 15% risk-weight floor for non-STS securitisation positions and a 10% risk-weight floor for STS securitisation positions (positions in resecuritisations – generally not admitted under the EU securitisation framework – when allowed by supervisors, are subject to a more conservative 100% risk-weight floor), irrespective of the approach for calculation of capital requirements and the role of the bank in the securitisation (originator or investor with respect to the securitisation position).

ESAs contend that originators, unlike the investors, are subject to reduced model and agency risk in relation to their own originated securitisation. The ESAs found that the current risk-weight floors on retained tranches are unjustifiably high and operate to dissuade banks from originating a larger volume of SRT trades. Accordingly, the ESAs recommend lowering the risk weight floors for originators being the original lenders (in STS deals, under SEC-IRBA, from 10% to 7%, and under non-STS for all approaches, from 15% to 12%), subject to safeguards. These safeguards would seek to ensure an adequate reduction in the credit risk of the underlying exposures retained by the originator and prevent undercapitalisation of the underlying risk of the respective securitisation positions retained by the originator (criteria in relation to the thickness of the sold non-senior tranches, amortisation structure, granularity and, for synthetic securitisations only, counterparty credit risk).

While the safeguards aim to ensure the resilience of the transactions, they have been conceived for future issuances, rather than for existing trades (indeed only a minority of the existing transactions would pass the criteria). The criterion on the thickness of the non-senior tranche has been perceived by various stakeholders as particularly conservative and prescriptive.

## Question 9.11. Do you agree that securitisation entails a higher structural model risk compared to other financial assets (loans, leases, mortgages) due to, for example, the inherent tranching?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please explain your answer to question 9.11:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

It depends on the type of transaction; the model risk of Prime Dutch RMBS is in our view negligible, but there are (non-STS) type of transactions that will be exposed to a certain level of model risk. The positive impact of the (inherent) tranching is that it facilitates a better distribution of risks to the relevant (in terms of risk appetite) investors. It is also noted that the instances where model risk surfaced in the past to a large extent pertain to re-securitisations, which are no longer allowed.

<sup>\*</sup> For instance, only originators involved in the origination of the underlying exposures as referred to in point (3)(a) of Article 2 of the Securitisation Regulation. This would exclude any originator that "purchases a third party's exposures on its own account and then securitises them", according to point (b) of the same Article, to avoid that credit institutions would expand beyond core businesses just for the purpose of securitising the respective exposures in order to benefit from the reduction in the risk weight floor.

Question 9.12. Do you consider that scope and the size of the reduction of the risk weight floors, as proposed by the ESAs, is proportionate and adequate to reflect the limited model and agency risks of originators and improve the risk sensitivity in the securitisation framework, taking into account the capital requirements for other financial instruments?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 9.13. If you answered no to question 9.12., should the scope and size of the reduction of the risk weight floors be amended?

For example, should it be extended to investors in a targeted manner (such as, for example, to investors in STS securitisations and under SEC-IRBA approaches only, to prevent discrepancies with the prudential treatment of covered bonds under the SA approach)?

Or, on the contrary, should the scope be reduced to only include originators who are servicing the underlying exposures?

### Please justify your reasoning:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

We agree with the levels as proposed by the ESAs, with one exception: the risk weight floor under the SEC-SA should be lowered, in line with the SEC-IRBA, to 7%. We also assume that for the SEC-ERBA the same floors would apply. We do not agree with the limited application to originators only. Investors should also be able to benefit from the lower floors, since the risks they are exposed to are not materially different from the risks of the originators, especially for STS transactions where model and agency risk is effectively eliminated We are aware of an alternative proposal, developed by Risk Control Limited, for a so-called risk-sensitive floor.

Our preference would be "fixed" floors, in order to keep the character of a simple backstop. The risk-sensitive approach is in our view second best, but certainly worth considering.

Question 9.14. Do you consider that the ESAs' proposed accompanying safeguard, with respect to the thickness of the sold non-senior tranches, is proportionate and adequate in terms of ensuring the resilience of the

#### transactions?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 9.15. If you answered no to question 9.14., please provide and explain alternative proposals to ensure a sufficient thickness of the sold non-senior tranches to justify a possible reduction of the risk-weight floor in an efficient and prudent manner.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The SRT Framework already sufficiently takes care of the thickness issue, so another requirement related to the risk weight floor would duplicate and unnecessary complicate matters.

Question 9.16. Do you consider that the other three safeguards as proposed by the ESAs (amortisation structure, granularity and, for synthetic securitisations only, counterparty credit risk) are proportionate and adequate in terms of ensuring the resilience of the transactions?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 9.17. **If you answered no to question 9.16.**, please provide and explain alternative proposals for safeguards that would effectively ensure the resilience of the transaction and would justify the reduction of risk-weight floors.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

We do not see a need for additional safeguards, since the proposed (7%/12%) are already proportionate without such safeguards. If it the granularity safeguard would be maintained, we would suggest a level of 2%

rather than 0.5% in order to bring it more in line with STS requirements. This also ensures that less granular underlying exposures can qualify for STS.

Question 9.18. If you answered no to question 9.16., as an alternative, instead of these three safeguards, taking into account the need to ensure simplicity, would it be preferable to limit the reduction of the risk weight floor to STS transactions only? Please explain.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

No, this would not be preferable. Many sound transactions will not be able to meet all the strict STS rules; excluding those transactions from a proportionate risk weight treatment would not help developing the market.

Question 9.19. What would be the expected impact of a possible reduction of the risk weight floor on EU securitisation activity?

Please explain any possible impact on different types of securitisations (traditional securitisation, synthetic securitisation), from both supply and demand sides.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

If indeed the reduction in risk weight floors would also apply to investors, we expect for traditional securitisations a widening of the investor base and more issuance, since a more even playing field with f.i. Covered Bonds is created. For SRT transactions, the economics would improve, so also there the impact would be beneficial.

### The (p) factor

The (p) factor is the main parameter of non-neutrality in the securitisation framework. Besides incorporating the capital non-neutrality, it also serves as a smoothing parameter to mitigate the so-called 'cliff effects' that arise when small changes in input parameters under the current risk weight functions result in comparably large changes in risk weights (the lower the (p) factor, the higher the cliff effect). The (p) factor aims to capture the structural risks of securitisation in particular agency and model risks, and to some extent correlation (risk of correlated defaults, particularly present in non-granular pools). A p-factor of "1" means that for the whole securitisation structure (i.e., all the tranches) there is 100% more capital required (doubling the capital required) compared to the requirement that applies to the underlying portfolio of assets.

In their <u>2022 advice</u>, the <u>ESAs</u> did not support the reduction of the (p) factor. In particular, they considered that lowering the (p) factor, without making other changes to the risk-weight function underpinning the SEC-IRBA and the SEC-SA

formulae, might increase the risk of cliff effects and of undercapitalisation of the mezzanine (non-senior) tranches. Overall, the reduction of the (p) factor seems to have the most significant impact on the capital treatment of the mezzanine tranches, where more bank investments may not be desirable, and a less significant impact on the capital treatment of senior tranches, where the risk weight floor has a more significant impact.

The issue is whether the (p) factor could potentially be reduced, in a targeted manner and on a limited basis only (equivalent to, for example, a [x%] reduction, compared to the existing treatment), to improve the coherence between the actual risks and the capital treatment, while avoiding the unwarranted risk of increased cliff effects and undercapitalisation of the mezzanine tranches in particular. Possible targeted reductions could focus on originators, STS transactions, or senior tranches.

Question 9.20. Do you consider that the current levels of the (p) factor adequately address structural risks embedded in securitisation, such as model risk, agency risk and to some extent correlation, as well as the cliff effects?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 9.21. If you answered no to question 9.20., please provide the justification, and provide quantitative and qualitative data, for whether and how the (p) factor overestimates the risks and inappropriately mitigates the cliff-effects, for specific types of securitisation exposures.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Since the p-factor is not based on a data driven calibration, but rather an artificial number, it is also not possible to determine the level of overestimation. Please see our answer on 9.23 for suggested p-factor levels.

Question 9.22. Do you consider that potential targeted and limited reductions to the (p) factor may increase securitisation issuance and investment in the EU, while at the same time keeping the capitalisation of the securitisation tranches at a sufficiently prudent level?

Yes

<sup>\*</sup> Under SEC-SA, there is a fixed (p) factor of 1 (for non-STS securitisations) and 0.5 (for STS securitisations). Under the SEC-IRBA, banks may calculate their own supervisory parameter based on four risk factors, i.e., the framework (correlation effect), the granularity of the securitised pool for wholesale, the capital charge for the underlying exposures, the average loss given default of the securitised pool, plus one non-risk parameter (tranche maturity MT, capped at 5 years), which is subject to a floor of 0.30. There is no (p) factor in SEC-ERBA where the capital requirements are set out in the look-up tables, to ensure consistency compared with the capital requirements with SEC-SA.

No

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Please explain your answer to question 9.22:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Reduction of the p-factor would bring capital requirements for securitisations more in line with those for comparable products (so would be sufficiently prudent) and would incentivize originators and investors to use securitisation more actively (next to other wholesale funding products).

For STS transactions, where agency risk and model risk are practically eliminated, a zero p-factor would be the most logical outcome. However, if still some kind of p-factor should be maintained, it should not be higher, in our view, than under the SEC-SA 0.25 for STS and 0.5 for non-STS and under the SEC-IRBA 0.1 (max 0.3) for STS and 0.3 (max. 0.75) for non-STS.

We are aware of proposals for a q-factor or scalar p-factor, which intend to reduce cliff effects and the risk of undercapitalised mezzanine tranches. These proposals merit further investigation, but for now we do not feel to be in a position to give a balanced opinion on them.

### Question 9.23. If you answered yes to question 9.22., what criteria should be considered when considering such targeted and limited reductions?

### You may select more than one option.

Please select as many answers as you like

	Exposures held by originators versus investors
	Exposures in STS versus non-STS securitisations (beyond the differentiation
a	lready provided for in Article 260 and in Article 262 CRR)
	Exposures in senior versus non-senior tranches
<b>V</b>	exposures calculated under different capital approaches
	Other criteria
	Oon't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Please explain your answer to question 9.23:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

We do not propose to deviate from the current differentiation of p-factors between capital approaches.

Question 9.24. As regards your answer to 9.22., please provide quantitative and qualitative data on the likely impact of possible targeted and limited reductions to the (p) factor as investigated above, in particular how such targeted reductions would avoid cliff effects and undercapitalisation of mezzanine tranches and, how they would not create incentives for banks to invest in mezzanine tranches.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA does not have this information	

Question 9.25. As regards your answer to 9.22, please provide the data on how they would have a positive impact on the issuance of securitisation, the investments in securitisation, and the placement of securitisation issuances with external investors, for different types of securitisations (traditional securitisation, synthetic securitisation).

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA does not have this information.

Question 9.26. Do you consider that the current approach to non-neutrality of capital requirements as one of core elements of the securitisation prudential framework, leads to undue overcapitalisation (or undercapitalisation) of the securitisation exposures, in particular when compared to the realised losses and distribution of the losses across the capital structure (different tranches of securitisation) over a full economic cycle?

- Yes
- ON No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your answer to question 9.26:

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Based on the loss experience of European securitisations, there is clear empirical evidence that the current framework produces overcapitalisation of securitisation exposures.

Question 9.27. If you answered yes to question 9.26, please justify your reasoning and provide quantitative and qualitative data to show the extent of the undue non-neutrality (overcapitalisation or undercapitalisation), in particular when compared to the realised losses and distribution of the losses across the capital structure, taking into consideration the need to cover a full economic cycle.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Since the p-factor is not based on a data driven calibration, but rather an artificial number, it is also not possible to determine the level of non-neutrality. However, For STS transactions, where agency risk and model risk are practically eliminated, a zero p-factor would be the most logical outcome. So for those transactions the current p-factor of 0.5 implies a 50% overcapitalisation.

Question 9.28. Based on your answer to 9.26., do you consider that alternative designs of the risk weight functions, such as an inverted S-curve, or introducing a scaling parameter to scale the KA downwards, within the current halfpipe design, as investigated in the Section 3.3.2 of the EBA Report, have potential to achieve more proportionate levels of capital non-neutrality and capital distribution across tranches, address the potential cliff effects more appropriately and achieve prudential objectives?

- \* KA factor as specified in paragraph 2 of Article 261 of the CRR, for the purpose of calculation of the capital charge under the standardised approach (SEC-SA).
- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please explain your answer to question 9.28:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

No opinion: The alternatives may be worth further investigating (just like the proposals for the q-factor or the
scalar p-factor), but for now we would prefer a real (mathematical) calibration of the p-factor as the solution
to the non-neutrality discussion.

Question 9.29. If you answered yes to question 9.28, please specify the impact of such alternative design compared to the existing risk weight functions and explain an appropriate calibration of such alternative designs and possible safeguards for the measures to achieve prudential objectives.

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in	including spaces	and line breaks,	i.e. stricter than	the MS Word ch	naracters countii	ng method.	

#### Significant risk transfer (SRT)

The concept of significant risk transfer ('SRT'), i.e. transfer of a sufficient quantum of credit risk from the bank's balance sheet to a third party, is a crucial regulatory and supervisory concept in the EU securitisation framework. It is a precondition for a bank originator to benefit from capital relief from securitisation, and therefore one of the critical considerations for a bank originator when structuring a securitisation transaction. Achieving SRT requires complying with various quantitative and qualitative tests that are defined in high level terms in the CRR. The current framework provides for two 'mechanical' tests (the 'mezzanine' and 'first loss' tests), which the competent authority supplements with a case-by-case assessment, as to whether the originator has transferred an amount of credit risk which is 'commensurate' to the capital relief. The 'permission-based' approach is an alternative to the existing mechanical tests and may ensure that a commensurate transfer of risks is achieved. The originator has an interest in receiving the assessment of compliance with those tests by the Competent Authorities for reasons of legal certainty, and the Competent Authorities' decision on SRT is consequential for the economic viability and ultimate structure of a securitisation executed with a capital relief intent.

In its <u>report published in 2020, the EBA</u> identified a series of structural limitations of the existing SRT regulatory framework in the CRR and it proposed a set of recommendations to enhance the efficiency and robustness of the SRT framework and strengthen the consistency in the SRT outcomes (in particular in three areas: in relation to the SRT tests, the process applied by the competent authorities to assess the SRT, and the structural features of securitisation transactions which may affect the effectiveness of the risk transfer).

As one of the recommendations, the EBA recommends replacing the mechanical tests with a single comprehensive test based on the principle-based approach (PBA) test which aims to make the SRT framework less complex and more flexible. Under the PBA test, the SRT can be achieved in case at least 50% of the unexpected losses (UL) are transferred to third parties. The EBA also provides recommendations with respect to the allocation of the lifetime expected losses (LTEL) and unexpected losses to the tranches for the purposes of the PBA test. Those recommendations have received only limited support from stakeholders, given the alleged conservativeness of the proposals as regards the suggested back-loading of UL in a stressed scenario.

Recently, improvements have been achieved in both the convergence of assessment and the process of the SRT assessments. The recent market data confirm a considerable increase of SRT securitisation transactions.

Generally, the SRT market continues to grow as these transactions allow banks, that operate in an environment with capital pressure, to benefit from a capital relief. Synthetic transactions continue to dominate the SRT segment, with a share of more than 85% in the overall notional.

Question 9.30. Do you agree with the conditions to be met for SRT tests as framed in the CRR (i.e. the mechanical tests - first loss and mezzanine tests, and the supervisory competence to assess the commensurateness of the risk transfer, as set out in Articles 244 and 245 of the CRR)?

Are the SRT conditions effective in ensuring a robustness and consistency o
the 'significant risk transfer' from an economic perspective?

0	Yes	
0	No	

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Please explain your answer to question 9.30:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

We basically agree with the tests, but the exact definitions should be further elaborated, and the commensurateness test as currently proposed, produces really unrealistic outcomes.

Question 9.31. If you answered no to question 9.30, do you consider that the robustness and efficiency of the SRT framework could be enhanced by replacing the current mechanical tests with the PBA test?

The PBA test could be based on the recommendations in the EBA Report, while the recommendations on the allocation of losses to the tranches could be reconsidered.

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ncludin	g spaces ar	nd line breaks	, i.e. stricter	than the MS	Word charac	ters counting i	method.	

assessments to be efficient and adequate?
○ Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not applicable
Please explain your answer to question 9.32:  5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
The timelines of the process are too long and the outcome is too uncertain.
Question 9.33. If you answered no to question 9.32., please provide justifications and suggestions how the SRT assessment process could be improved further.  5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
Shortening the timelines and reducing the uncertainties.
Question 9.34. Should the process of the SRT supervisory assessments be further specified at the EU level (e.g., in Guidelines, based on a clear mandate
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including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Guidelines, if drafted properly, are giving more certainty.

5000 character(s) maximum

### Question 9.35. If you answered yes to question 9.34., please provide suggestions:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The auidelines	should pro	vida a claar	interpretation	of the tests

## Question 9.36. If you are a supervisor, how would a change in the SRT regulatory framework (in particular on the SRT tests and the process of SRT supervisory assessments) impact your supervisory costs?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Not applicable (the DSA is not a supervisor	Not applicable	the DSA is not a	supervisor).
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### Transitional measure in Article 465(13) of the CRR

The transitional measure in Article 465(13) of the CRR as amended by Regulation (EU) 2024/1623 aims to mitigate possible unintended consequences of the introduction of the output floor on the calculation of capital requirements for securitisation exposures. It introduces a targeted relief for exposures risk-weighted under the SEC-IRBA and internal assessment approach (IAA) by halving the (p) factor in the calculation of the output floor for those IRB securitisation positions (i.e. the (p) factor is halved to 0.25 for the STS securitisation positions eligible for the preferential capital treatment under the CRR, and to 0.5 for all other securitisation positions). The introduction of this targeted relief acknowledges the fact that the (p) factor levels embedded in the securitisation standardised approach formula (SEC-SA) when used in the context of the output floor would produce unduly punitive results for securitisations structured based on the SEC-IRBA by banks using internal models. The transitional measure will be in application from 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2032.

Question 9.37. Do you consider that the transitional measure will remain necessary and should be maintained, in case of introduction of other changes to the prudential framework?



Yes
No
Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 9.38. If you answered yes to question 9.37., please explain why and whether there are any alternative measures that could be more appropriate to achieve the original objective of the transitional measure.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

It depends on the "other changes", but we expect the transitional measure to be permanently required, since the calculation of the output floor is not specifically described in any of the questions of this consultation.

Question 9.39. If you answered yes to question 9.37, do you consider that a potential targeted and limited reduction of the p-factor might affect the effectiveness of the transitional measure under the output floor?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please explain your answer to question 9.39:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Since the "targeted and limited" reduction would not automatically be expanded to the calculation of the output floor, you could argue that the transitional measure should become permanent, but with reference to a reduced p-factor.

### Liquidity risk treatment in the LCR Delegated Regulation

The liquidity coverage ratio (LCR), transposed in the LCR Delegated Regulation (Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/61 on liquidity coverage requirements for credit institutions), seeks to ensure that banks maintain a liquidity buffer to meet net outflows under severe idiosyncratic and market wide stress conditions. The LCR Delegated Regulation allows senior tranches of STS traditional securitisations to be included as level 2B high quality liquid assets (HQLA), capped at 15% of the liquidity buffer. Non-senior tranches of STS traditional securitisation, non-STS traditional securitisations, synthetic securitisation and resecuritisations are ineligible for inclusion in the HQLA.

In terms of eligible asset classes, in addition to securitisations with underlying mortgages (RMBS) in line with the Basel Standards, the EU transposition allows inclusion of securitisations with underlying auto-loans, consumer-loans and

SME-loans, subject to different haircuts, credit quality steps (CQSs) and other requirements (in addition, as clarified by Q&A 2019\_4786, securitisations, including NPL securitisations, that are explicitly guaranteed by the central government of a Member State can qualify as level 1 liquid assets in the LCR in accordance with Article 10(1)(c)(i) of the LCR Delegated Regulation). This expansion of eligible securities in the EU was motivated by the expectation that it would increase diversification of banks' liquid assets.

Some consider that the liquidity treatment of securitisations in the LCR Delegated Regulation has a major impact on banks' investments in STS securitisations and issuance thereof and have advocated for the relaxation of eligibility conditions for securitisations in the LCR.

Currently, banks make only negligible use of the capacity of their liquidity buffers to invest in securitisations as level 2B HQLA, with the share of securitisations in banks' liquid assets ranging from 0.2% to 0.7%. This may suggest that most banks do not consider securitisations to be effectively liquid and marketable during stress. It also shows a minimal impact of securitisations on the liquid assets' diversification in the LCR buffers – the diversification being one of the primary motivations for the expansion of eligible securitisations in the EU beyond Basel.

On a more technical aspect, several stakeholders propose to introduce an amendment to the LCR Delegated Regulation, with the aim to reflect the increased granularity of CQSs under the amended CRR and the related amendment to the Implementing Regulation on the mapping of credit assessments for securitisation positions by external credit assessment institutions' (ECAIs) (Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1801 as per Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2365). They recommend modifying the reference from CQS 1, to CQS 1 to 4, in the Article 13(2) of the LCR Delegated Regulation regarding the long-term rating. In the absence of the updated reference, the STS securitisation tranches with ratings between AA+ and Aa- would unintentionally not be eligible as Level 2B securitisations and the eligibility would be limited to tranches with AAA rating.

Question 9.40. Does the liquidity risk treatment of the securitisation exposures under the LCR Delegated Regulation have a significant impact on banks' securitisation issuance and investment activities and on the liquidity of the securitisation market in the EU?

0	Voc
_	YES

No

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 9.41. As regard to your answer to 9.40., please explain the impact on banks' issuance of securitisation, investment in securitisation, and relative importance of the liquidity treatment under the LCR in the activity of the primary and secondary securitisation markets.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Since the trading book treatment of securitisations is very harsh, the liquidity provided by the liquidity book is essential for the securitisation market. Senior STS RMBS should be treated the same as Covered Bonds (level 1 or 2A). Also the <5Y WAL requirement for LCR eligibility should be deleted for Level 1 and 2A.

Question 9.42. Do you consider that the existing liquidity risk treatment of securitisation, in particular in terms of credit quality steps (CQSs) and haircuts applied to securitisations eligible for Level 2B HQLA, are adequately reflecting the liquidity and stress performance of securitisations, across the full economic cycle, including in crisis conditions, and in comparison, with the treatment of other comparable financial instruments?

-	
	Voc
	165

Question 9.43. If you answered no to question 9.42., please justify your reasoning, providing quantitative and qualitative data on the impact, and provide suggestions for what you would consider as appropriate and justified treatment in terms of CQSs, haircuts and other relevant requirements, without endangering financial stability.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Securitisations have been liquid over the cycle, even when regulators provided limited liquidity support to securitisations (as compared to other asset based products), so we would recommend to create a level playing field at Level 1, 2A and 2B between securitisations and other asset based products, like Covered Bonds.

This should be applicable to all senior STS transactions.

For level 1 and 2A, also the < 5 year WAL should be deleted.

Question 9.44. With a change in the CQSs, haircuts and other relevant eligibility conditions to the Level 2B liquidity buffer, by how much would the volume of securitisations that you invest in, change?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA is not an investor.

No

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 9.45. Have the senior tranches of the STS traditional securitisations reached a sufficient level of market liquidity and stress resilience based on historical data covering a full economic cycle, including crisis conditions, and are there any additional solid arguments that could justify their potential upgrade from the Level 2B to Level 2A HQLA?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Please explain your answer to question 9.45:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

We refer to our answer on question 9.43. Senior STS Dutch RMBS (as well as other comparable transactions) should qualify as Level 1, just like Covered Bonds. Liquidity of prime STS transactions has been at level or better compared to other capital market products, also over the cycle. The only exception has been the period that central banks provided liquidity support to Covered Bonds and not to securitisations, which obviously distorted the liquidity profiles of the different products (and should therefore be disregarded in any analysis).

## Question 9.46. If you answered yes to question 9.45., please provide arguments and data, that could justify the potential upgrade from Level 2B to Level 2A HQLA.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Please see our answer on question 9.45. We also refer to the different articles of Risk Control Limited on this topic.

## Question 9.47. Considering your answer to 9.46, with an upgrade of securitisations from Level 2B to Level 2A HQLA, by how much would the volume of securitisations that you invest in, change?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA is not an investor, but an upgrade of Prime RMBS, STS verified and AAA rated, to Level 1 (level playing field with Covered Bonds) would definitely be a boost to investor appetite.

Question 9.48. Are there any impediments in the current liquidity framework that prevent or discourage banks from making a better use of their liquidity buffer capacity and from increasing their investments in securitisation exposures?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 9.49. If you answered yes to question 9.48, please specify what are the impediments and provide suggestions for targeted amendments to make the liquidity treatment more proportionate, without endangering financial stability.

Provide estimates of the potential additional volumes of securitisations that could be included in banks' liquidity buffers.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Giving a fair treatment to non-STS securitisations might also help to increase the use of securitisations in the liquidity buffer, but since the DSA is not a bank, we cannot assess what the impact could be.

### 10. Prudential treatment of securitisation for insurers

Insurance companies allocate 0.33% of their investment assets to securitisation positions (see Joint Committee advice on the review of the securitisation prudential framework (Insurance) - JC-2022/67). The Commission would like to know whether Solvency II standard formula capital requirements as currently applicable, also taking into account the forthcoming amendments to the Solvency II Directive that were approved by co-legislators, or other factors cause limited demand by insurance companies.

Question 10.1. Is there an interest from (re)insurance undertakings to increase their investments in securitisation (whether a senior tranche, mezzanine tranche, or a junior tranche)?

- Yes
- O No

Question 10.2. If you answered yes to question 10.1., please specify the segments of securitisations in which (re)insurers would be willing to invest more (in terms of seniority, true sale or synthetic nature, type of underlying assets, etc.) and describe the potential for increase in the share of securitisation investments in (re)insurers' balance sheet.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

No opinion: We receive mixed signals from the insurance industry. Due to the very restrictive Solvency II capital requirements, insurance companies have almost disappeared as investors in securitisations. They prefer alternatives that are less capital demanding. This negative loop has to be broken.

Question 10.3. Is there anything which in your view prevents an increase in investments in securitisation by (re)insurance undertakings?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your answer to question 10.3. If you mention prudential rules as part of your answer, please provide an estimate of the impact on the level of investments in securitisation, of the reduction of capital requirements for securitisation investments by a given percentage, e.g. 5% or 10%:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

It is indeed a matter of prudential rules. If Solvency II is sufficiently re-calibrated, insurers could be again up to 10% of the market as they used to be before the prudential rules were redrafted.

Question 10.4. Is Solvency II providing disincentives to investments in securitisation for insurers which use an internal model?

- Yes
- O No
- 0

#### Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Please explain your answer to question 10.4, being specific in your reply:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

We understand that regulators do not like to see outcomes from internal models that deviate much from the standard formula. This may differ per jurisdiction, but (informal) pressure from supervisors may deter investors from using internal model outcomes that (not surprisingly) are rather different from the miscalibrated standard model outcomes.

Question 10.5. Is the current calculation for standard formula capital requirements for spread risk on securitisation positions in Solvency II for the senior tranches of STS securitisations proportionate and commensurate with their risk?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your answer to question 10.5, being specific in your reply, and, where relevant, provide a comparison, including, where appropriate, with internal models and their relative impact on the share of securitisation investments.

If you consider calibrations inappropriate, please indicate what you would consider as 'appropriate' calibrations, as well as any data/evidence of historical spread behaviours that would justify your proposal:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Our answer is based on qualitative feedback from the industry. We do however not have the data to substantiate an "appropriate" calibration.

Nevertheless, stresses for securitisations should definitely not be higher than those for Corporate Bonds /Loans.

Question 10.6. Is the current calculation for standard formula capital requirements for spread risk on securitisation positions in Solvency II for the non-senior tranches of STS securitisations proportionate and commensurate

#### with their risk?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your answer to question 10.6, being specific in your reply, and, here relevant, provide a comparison, including, where appropriate, internal models and their relative impact on the share of securitisation investments.

If you consider calibrations inappropriate, please indicate what you would consider as 'appropriate' calibrations, as well as any data/evidence of historical spread behaviours that would justify your proposal:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Our answer is based on qualitative feedback from the industry. We do however not have the data to substantiate an "appropriate" calibration.

Question 10.7. Is it desirable that Solvency II standard formula capital requirements for spread risk differentiate between mezzanine and junior tranches of STS securitisations?

- Yes
- ON No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please explain your answer to question 10.7:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Mezzanine may be an important category for insurance companies to invest in; junior less so. So it is important to differentiate between the two.

Question 10.8. If you answered yes to question 10.7., please provide suggestions for calibrations of capital requirements for such mezzanine and junior tranches, including the data/evidence of historical spread behaviors backing such suggestions.

Please indicate how you would define the mezzanine tranche as well as the assumption (e.g. of thickness of the tranche) underlying your proposed calibration.

Please also indicate whether and why such introduction of a mezzanine calibration would be needed in Solvency II, even if no dedicated treatment for mezzanine tranches is introduced in EU banking regulation (CRR).

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Our answer is based on qualitative feedback from the industry. We do however not have the data to substantiate an "appropriate" calibration.

Question 10.9. Is the current calculation for standard formula capital requirements for spread risk on securitisation positions in Solvency II for non-STS securitisations proportionate and commensurate with their risk, taking into account?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your answer to question 10.9, being specific in your reply, and, where relevant, provide a comparison, including where appropriate with internal models and their relative impact on the share of securitisation investments:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The difference of AAA 5-year stresses between non-STS (62.5) and non-senior STS (14.0) or senior STS (5.0) seems to be hard to justify.

	stion 10.10. Is there a specific sub-segment of non-STS securitisation for the evidence would justify lower capital requirements than what is
	ently applicable?
•	Yes
0	No
	Don't know / no opinion / not applicable
sub- elat supp	stion 10.11. If you answered yes to question 10.10., please specify the segment of non-STS securitisations that you have in mind as well as its ed capital requirement, including any evidence/data of historical spreads corting your proposal:  O character(s) maximum
incluc	ling spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
	Ve understand from the investor community that especially for CLOs the capital requirements are isproportionate.
ranco o o o o	stion 10.12. Is it desirable that Solvency II standard formula capitalirements for spread risk differentiate between senior and non-senior ches of non-STS securitisations?  Yes  No  Don't know / no opinion / not applicable  se explain your answer to question 10.12:
rando O O O Plea	irements for spread risk differentiate between senior and non-senior ches of non-STS securitisations?  Yes  No  Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 10.13. If you answered yes to question 10.12., please provide suggestions for calibrations of capital requirements for such senior and non-senior tranches, including the data/evidence backing such suggestions. Please also indicate whether you target a specific segment of non-STS securitisation.

5000 character(s) maximum	
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including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method

΄.	standing operated and mile streame, not existed than the weather stream of a carrying method.	
	We do not have the data to substantiate a proper calibration.	

## 11. Prudential framework for institutions for occupational retirement provision (IORPs) and other pension funds

This section aims to gather information on both IORPs and 'non-IORPs' (i.e. nationally regulated pension funds that are not regulated by the <u>IORP II Directive</u>). Information on non-IORPs is particularly encouraged for Member States with limited or no IORPs activity. When providing information also on non-IORPs, please clearly indicate whether the information provided refers to IORPs, non-IORPs, or both.

Question 11.1. For the purpose of this section, please indicate whether you are an IORP, a non-IORP or another type of stakeholder.

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	ı	п	

- Nationally regulated pension fund not regulated by IORP II
- Other
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

### Please elaborate on your answer to question 11.1 in case you are not an IORP:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

The DSA is not a pension fund.

Question 11.2. Is there an interest from IORPs and/or non-IORPs to increase their investments in securitisation (whether a senior tranche, mezzanine tranche, or a junior tranche)?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Question 11.3. Please clarify whether your answer to question 11.2. concerns your own situation, or whether it is an assessment of a given national market (in which you operate for instance).

If you answered yes to question 11.2., please specify the segments of securitisations in which IORPs and/or non-IORPs would be willing to invest more (in terms of seniority, type of underlying assets, etc.) and describe the potential for increase in the share of securitisation investments in their balance sheet.

In addition, if your reply concerns or encompasses non-IORPs, please indicate:

- 1. the number of non-IORP in your jurisdiction
- 2. the amount of assets under management
- 3. and the type of pension business concerned, for which investment in securitisation would be interesting

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Dutch pension funds are active investors in securitisations; we do not know whether they are interested in further increasing their investments.

(	Yes
(	<sup>®</sup> No
(	Don't know / no opinion / not applicable
	ease explain your answer to question 11.4.:
	uding spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
	The DSA is not aware of any such provisions, but they may exist.
	estion 11.5. Are there national legislations or supervisory practices which
'n	estion 11.5. Are there national legislations or supervisory practices whice your view unduly restrict IORPs' and non-IORPs' ability to invest in curitisation?
n sec	your view unduly restrict IORPs' and non-IORPs' ability to invest icuritisation?  Yes
n sec	your view unduly restrict IORPs' and non-IORPs' ability to invest icuritisation?
in sec	your view unduly restrict IORPs' and non-IORPs' ability to invest icuritisation?  Yes
Ple	your view unduly restrict IORPs' and non-IORPs' ability to invest investing

Don't know / no opinion / not applicable
Please explain your answer to question 11.6., as well as whether it applies to IORPs, non-IORPs, or both.
Please be specific in particular where you refer to non-IORPs:  5000 character(s) maximum including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
The DSA is not aware of any such barriers, but they may exist.
Question 11.7. If you answered yes to question 11.6., please explain how these barriers should be tackled.  Please explain your answer, as well as whether it applies to IORPs,
non-IORPs, or both.
Please be specific in particular where you refer to non-IORPs.
including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.
12. Additional questions

<sup>◎</sup> No

This section includes some general questions on the functioning of the securitisation market and on wider aspects that may affect the securitisation activity and various segments of the securitisation market in the EU.

Question 12.1. What segments of the securitisation market have the strongest potential to contribute to the CMU objectives, and that should be the focus of any potential regulatory review?

You may select more than one Please select as many answers as you like	option.
Traditional placed	Non-STS securitisation
securitisation  Synthetic securitisation	Securitisation of SME and corporate
	exposures
SRT securitisation	Securitisation of mortgages
ABCP securitisation	Securitisation of other asset classes
STS securitisation	Other
Please explain your answer to c	question 12.1: than the MS Word characters counting method.
·	STS increases the investor base for both placed and synthetic classes such as SME and mortgage loans.
	principal reasons for the slow growth of the n (where the senior tranche is not retained, but
Why do banks choose not to is and capital relief?	ssue traditional securitisation for both funding
You may select more than one Please select as many answers as you like	option.
Interest rate environment	Preference for alternative instruments for funding
Low returns	Prefer to retain to keep the client

relationships

Operational costs	$\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ $
	underlying assets
High capital charges	Prefer to retain to access central bank
	liquidity
Difficulty in placing senior	Other
tranches	
Significant Risk Transfer	
process	

#### Please explain your answer to question 12.2:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Operational costs: setting up securitisation, especially the first time, is challenging given the higher operational and due diligence requirements, in addition to the higher spread that is required to be paid on the instrument, which is a reflection of the higher cost investors need to make for investing in the product. The placement of senior notes is the main bottleneck. The spread pick-up compared to other products is not sufficient to compensate for the higher operational (due diligence) costs and capital charges. Other: due to the long lead time of securitisations, a natural preference for alternative funding instruments developed. Also the unfavourable LCR treatment has made securitisation a less obvious choice.

# Question 12.3. Please specify which regulatory and non-regulatory measures have the strongest potential to stimulate the issuance of placed traditional securitisation.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Reduction of due diligence requirements (f.i. by allowing reliance on STS verification reports) and better calibration of prudential requirements (risk weights and LCR) and reduction of the 100% CCF for undrawn securitisation commitments.

# Question 12.4. What are the main obstacles for cross-border securitisations (i. e. securitisations where the underlying exposures, or the entities involved in the securitisation, come from various EU Member States)?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Different insolvency regimes, different underwriting practices (based on different local rules).

### Question 12.5. What measures could be taken to stimulate cross-border securitisation in the EU?

### Please substantiate your answer for traditional and synthetic securitisation respectively.

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

It will be difficult to fit cross-border transactions into the STS homogeneity requirement. So as long as the markets are not homogeneous in term of insolvency law, underwriting standards etc. it may not be appropriate to stimulate cross-border transactions. We are not recommending to dilute the homogeneity criteria (although we support better definitions and guidelines around the homogeneity requirements).

Question 12.6. Securitisation activity is heavily concentrated in a few Member States – primarily Italy, France, Germany, Netherlands and Spain. What are the main obstacles to increasing securitisation activity in other Member States?

#### What measures could make securitisation more attractive in those Member States?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

It is a matter of critical mass, both in terms of size of asset pools and in terms of infrastructure. So it is no surprise to see large jurisdictions dominating securitisation. Netherlands is the exception, since we have historically had a very large mortgage sector (due to tax advantages) and still have a very good infrastructure for securitisation.

### Question 12.7. Does the EU securitisation framework impact the international competitiveness of EU issuers, sponsors and investors?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

Please explain your answer to question 12.7, and where possible elaborate on the difference in regulatory costs stemming from the prudential, due diligence and transparency requirements in non-EU jurisdictions, in comparison to the EU securitisation framework:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

Indeed the main reason is the difference in prudential, due diligence and disclosure requirements creating a competitive disadvantage in Europe in terms of funding and capital sources for banks, financing opportunities for SMEs and the green transition, reliance on banks and higher financing costs for the EU economy.

### Question 12.8. How could securitisation for green transition financing be further improved?

#### What initiative could be taken in the industry or in the regulatory field?

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

There is a strong drive in the industry to develop green transition financing but the highly complex regulations (especially the taxonomy) and the potential risk of being accused of green-washing have restrained the development of this market. Transactions with green collateral can only be established in a market with a well developed data infrastructure for keeping "Energy Performance Certificates (EPC)". In markets where this information is not publicly available or has high entry hurdles to obtain data, it is close to impossible to establish such a securitisation. Data is required to ensure that selected assets meet all requirements and it is possible to evidence compliance.

Question 12.9. Are there any other relevant issues (outside of those addressed in the specific sections of the consultation paper above) that affect securitisation issuance and investments that you consider should be addressed?

- Yes
- O No
- Don't know / no opinion / not applicable

#### Question 12.10. If you answered yes to question 12.9., please explain your answer:

5000 character(s) maximum

including spaces and line breaks, i.e. stricter than the MS Word characters counting method.

#### **Additional information**

Should you wish to provide additional information (e.g. a position paper, report) or raise specific points not covered by the questionnaire, you can upload your additional document(s) below. Please make sure you do not include any personal data in the file you upload if you want to remain anonymous.

The maximum file size is 1 MB.
You can upload several files.
Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

#### **Useful links**

More on this consultation (https://finance.ec.europa.eu/regulation-and-supervision/consultations-0/targeted-consultation-functioning-eu-securitisation-framework-2024\_en)

Consultation document (https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/fb451cdc-4e5b-4d74-9411-cb8bd0789090 en?filename=2024-eu-securitisation-framework-consultation-document en.pdf)

More on securitisation (https://finance.ec.europa.eu/capital-markets-union-and-financial-markets/financial-market/securities-markets/securitisation\_en)

Specific privacy statement (https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4d7578d8-d689-4803-b438-730acfe1d08c\_en?filename=2024-eu-securitisation-framework-specific-privacy-statement\_en.pdf)

#### **Contact**

fisma-securitisation-consultation@ec.europa.eu