

Press release

News from the International Capital Market Association (ICMA)

Talacker 29, P.O. Box, CH-8022, Zurich
www.icmagroup.org

Please see foot of release for contact details

ICMA/2009/04
Wednesday, March 25, 2009
Release: immediate

ICMA announces new group to represent investors in covered bonds.

(London, UK) The International Capital Market Association (ICMA) announced today the formation of a new special interest group which will focus on representing the needs of investors in the covered bond market. The new Covered Bond Investor Council (CBIC) is an investor driven organisation, independent of both issuers and the market, for which ICMA provides secretariat and administrative support services.

Covered bonds remain an important part of the financing of the mortgage and public sector in European markets and are an asset class with a significant public policy role. The covered bond market is also a significant source of bank financing beyond the current government guarantees and as such is part of any future solution to the current crisis.

Many investors have significant holdings of covered bonds at a time when the changing regulatory and ratings landscape threatens the performance and standing of a product designed historically with investor safety in mind. Investors need to have a distinct voice in the rebuilding of confidence in this sector. Promoting the long term development of the European covered bond market and restoring confidence in the asset class are key objectives of the Council.

The Chairman of the CBIC, Claus Tofte Nielsen, commented: "Although recent disruption to the covered bond market has provoked industry-wide debate, investors in this asset class have not had a body to coordinate and express their views, unlike traders and issuers. The CBIC is being launched now with the immediate goal of assisting the resumption of a well functioning market in Europe and promoting investor interests to regulators and other organisations with an interest in the sector".

Robert Parker, Vice Chairman of Credit Suisse Asset Management, President of the CBIC and Chair of ICMA's Asset Management and Investors Council, added: "This is a vital asset class,

where investor confidence is a key to its full recovery. The creation of the CBIC, we hope, will make a meaningful contribution to this recovery”.

Membership of the Council is open to all investors in covered bonds including central banks/ sovereign wealth funds; investment management companies; insurance companies; pension funds; and money manager/ bank liquidity manager accounts both within Europe and in other markets.

For more information see: [www.icmagroup.org/about1/Covered-Bond-Investor-Council-\(CBIC\).aspx](http://www.icmagroup.org/about1/Covered-Bond-Investor-Council-(CBIC).aspx)

-ENDS-

Notes for editors

1. International Capital Market Association (ICMA)

ICMA is the self-regulatory organisation representing the financial institutions active in the international capital market worldwide. ICMA's members are located in 46 countries across the globe, including all the world's main financial centres. ICMA's market conventions and standards have been the pillars of the international debt market for over 40 years, providing the self regulatory framework of rules governing market practice which have facilitated the orderly functioning and growth of the market. ICMA actively promotes the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the capital markets by bringing together market participants including regulatory authorities and governments. www.icmagroup.org

2. Asset Management and Investors Council (AMIC)

ICMA is one of the few trade associations with a European focus having both buy-side and sell-side representation. Its Asset Management and Investors Council (AMIC) represents the views of its buy-side members reaching a consensus and recommending any action that ICMA should take.

3. Contacts

For feedback and further information please contact CBIC secretariat: cbic@icmagroup.org

Claus Tofte Nielsen, Chairman, CBIC

Senior Portfolio Manager - Risk Strategies
Norges Bank Investment Management
Direct: +47 24 07 33 02
Mobile: +47 99 37 96 61

Andreas Denger, Vice Chairman, CBIC

Senior Portfolio Manager, Fixed Income
MEAG MUNICH ERGO Asset Management GmbH

Tim Skeet, CBIC Special Advisor

Chairman ICMA UK and Ireland Region

Direct: +44 207 995 7210
Mobile: +44 7912 083 171

ICMA Communications

Allan Malvar
+44 20 7517 3236
+44 7738 696 451

allan.malvar@icmagroup.org

Margaret Wilkinson
+44 20 7517 3237
+44 7931 100 499

margaret.wilkinson@icmagroup.org