

**Rating Action: Moody's upgrades 29 tranches and places on review for upgrade 33 tranches in 29 Spanish ABS-SME deals**

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**Actions follow the raising of the Spanish country ceiling**

Madrid, April 24, 2018 -- Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") has today upgraded the ratings of 29 tranches and placed on review for upgrade 33 tranches in 29 Spanish ABS-SME deals.

Please click on this link [http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PBS\\_SF470689](http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PBS_SF470689) for the List of Affected Credit Ratings. This list is an integral part of this Press Release and identifies each affected issuer.

**RATINGS RATIONALE**

Please click on this link [http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PBS\\_SF470689](http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PBS_SF470689) for the List of Affected Credit Ratings. This list is an integral part of this Press Release and provides, for each of the credit ratings covered, Moody's disclosures on the following items:

- Key Rationale for Action / review placement and Constraining Factor(s)
- Principal Methodologies

Today's rating action on various Spanish ABS-SME transactions follows Moody's upgrade of the Government of Spain's ("Spain") local-currency bond ceiling to Aa1 from Aa2 which in turn follows the upgrade of the Government of Spain's issuer and bond ratings to Baa1 with a stable outlook from Baa2.

Following the raising of the Spanish ceiling, Moody's has upgraded 26 tranches to Aa1 from Aa2 as a direct reflection of the new Spanish country ceiling. Furthermore, 33 tranches were put on review for upgrade in order to consider both the impact from the reduced country risk as well as the potential deleveraging of such notes. Finally, there were 3 tranches upgraded to Aa3 from A1 in line with the maximum rating achievable for such tranches due to account bank risk.

For full details, please refer to the sovereign press release: [http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PR\\_381868](http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PR_381868).

Following the upgrade of Spain's sovereign rating, some Spanish Banks' Long Term deposit bank ratings were also upgraded (see "Moody's takes rating actions on Spanish banks", published on 17 April 2018). Full details of the banks' ratings upgrades can be found at [http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PR\\_382149](http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PR_382149).

**Counterparty exposure**

Today's rating action took into consideration the notes' exposure to relevant counterparties, such as servicer, account banks or swap providers.

Moody's considered how the liquidity available in the transactions and other mitigants support continuity of notes payments, in case of servicer default, using the CR Assessment as a reference point for servicers.

Moody's also matches banks' exposure in structured finance transactions to the CR Assessment for commingling risk, with a recovery rate assumption of 45%.

Moody's also assessed the default probability of the account bank providers by referencing the bank's deposit rating.

Moody's assessed the exposure to the swap counterparties. Moody's considered the risks of additional losses on the notes if they were to become unhedged following a swap counterparty default by using CR Assessment as reference point for swap counterparties.

Factors that would lead to an upgrade or downgrade of the ratings:

Factors or circumstances that could lead to an upgrade of the ratings include: (1) performance of the underlying collateral that is better than Moody's expected, (2) deleveraging of the capital structure, (3) improvements in the credit quality of the transaction counterparties, and (4) reduction in sovereign risk.

Factors or circumstances that could lead to a downgrade of the ratings include: (1) performance of the underlying collateral that is worse than Moody's expected, (2) deterioration in the notes' available credit enhancement, (3) deterioration in the credit quality of the transaction counterparties, and (4) an increase in sovereign risk.

## REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

For further specification of Moody's key rating assumptions and sensitivity analysis, see the sections Methodology Assumptions and Sensitivity to Assumptions of the disclosure form.

The analysis relies on an assessment of collateral characteristics to determine the collateral loss distribution, that is, the function that correlates to an assumption about the likelihood of occurrence to each level of possible losses in the collateral. As a second step, Moody's evaluates each possible collateral loss scenario using a model that replicates the relevant structural features to derive payments and therefore the ultimate potential losses for each rated instrument. The loss a rated instrument incurs in each collateral loss scenario, weighted by assumptions about the likelihood of events in that scenario occurring, results in the expected loss of the rated instrument.

Moody's quantitative analysis entails an evaluation of scenarios that stress factors contributing to sensitivity of ratings and take into account the likelihood of severe collateral losses or impaired cash flows. Moody's weights the impact on the rated instruments based on its assumptions of the likelihood of the events in such scenarios occurring.

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