

Rating Action: Moody's downgrades BCL Municipios 1, ABS of Spanish public sector loans

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EUR60 million of debt securities affected

Frankfurt am Main, January 17, 2012 -- Moody's Investors Service has today downgraded the rating on the class B notes issued by BCL Municipios 1, FTA, following the recent deterioration of the issuer's portfolio quality.

...EUR60M B Certificate, Downgraded to A3 (sf); previously on Jun 22, 2000 Definitive Rating Assigned A2 (sf)

RATINGS RATIONALE

Today's rating action reflects the recent deterioration of BCL Municipios 1's portfolio quality. BCL Municipios 1's performance has been strong since closing, expressed in terms of 90+ day delinquencies and cumulative artificial write-offs (loans more than 24 months in arrears). However, it quickly deteriorated in the second half of 2011. As of November 2011, 90-360 day delinquencies represented about 2.7% of the portfolio (9 of the 593 loans in the portfolio were 90+ days delinquent). By comparison, from closing and up to June 2011, 90+ day delinquencies rarely exceeded 1% of the portfolio. Moody's notes that this deterioration coincides with the financial difficulties faced by some Spanish municipalities.

--PORTFOLIO CREDIT QUALITY AND ANALYSIS

Concentrations have increased significantly since closing, in BCL Municipios's portfolio of loans to 502 Spanish city councils. The top obligor now contributes 4% of the pool; the top 10 obligors, 28%; and the top 20 obligors, 42%. This breakdown translates into an effective number of borrowers of 80. None of these borrowers are publicly rated by Moody's.

Moody's assessed the creditworthiness of the borrowers representing less than 3% of the pool (together making up 83% of the pool) to be equivalent to an average credit quality of Ba2 using Q scores. Q Scores are scorecard generated, unpublished, point-in-time estimated opinions of the approximate credit quality of individual local governments. Q scores were created to allow a granular assessment of each individual loan exposure within a pooled transaction. Overall, 67% of the pool has a Q score between A2 and Baa1. For the 7.4% of the pool where Q scores were not available, Moody's assumed a credit quality of B2. Furthermore, Moody's assumed a Ca quality for the loans already in arrears by more than 90 days, and used a 1 notch down adjustment for loans in arrears by 60 days.

For the credit quality of the top 5 exposures, which individually represent more than 3% of the pool and together account for 17% of the pool, Moody's tested the sensitivity of ratings to two extreme cases: (i) assuming a Caa2 equivalent rating and (ii) assuming a Baa1 equivalent rating.

Moody's assumed a range of recovery rates between 40% and 50%. It calculated a weighted average life (WAL) of 3.4 years for the pool.

Considering the current credit enhancement level of 70.1% and 23.4% below the class A2 and B, respectively, the sensitivity analysis described above resulted in a downgrade of the class B to A3(sf) from A2(sf) and no change to the Aaa(sf) rating of the class A notes.

--STRUCTURE

This transaction is a revolving securitisation of a portfolio of loans to Spanish public entities, which closed in June 2000. The loans were originated by Banco de Credito Local de Espana, S.A. (now Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, S.A.-BBVA). The closing loan portfolio of EUR1,205 million has substantially amortised to its current size of EUR128.2 million (i.e. a 10.6% pool factor) on the last Interest Payment Date.

--SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The ratings of class B are sensitive to a change in portfolio credit quality, as assessed by the Q scores. These in turn, could be affected by a change in the credit quality of the Kingdom of Spain, currently rated A1. The other major source of uncertainty comes from the amount that could be recovered on the loans to Spanish City Councils upon default. As described above, Moody's has run a series of sensitivity run on both the credit quality of the top borrowers and on recovery rates which concluded in a A3 rating on the class B notes. As such, Moody's analysis encompasses the assessment of stressed scenarios.

In addition, the risk of sovereign default or the exit of countries from the euro area is rising (see "Rising Severity of Euro Area Sovereign Crisis Threatens Credit Standing of All EU Sovereigns", published 28 November 2011). As a result, Moody's could lower the maximum achievable rating for structured finance transactions in some countries, which could result in rating downgrades.

--PRINCIPAL METHODOLOGIES

The principal methodology used in this rating was Moody's Approach to Rating Collateralized Loan Obligations, published in June 2011. Please see the Credit Policy page on www.moodys.com for a copy of this methodology.

Moody's used its excel-based cash flow model, Moody's ABSROM™, as part of its quantitative analysis of the transaction. Moody's ABSROM™ model enables users to model various features of a standard European ABS transaction including: (i) the specifics of the default distribution of the assets, their portfolio amortisation profile, yield or recoveries; and (ii) the specific priority of payments, triggers, swaps and reserve funds on the liability side of the ABS structure. Moody's ABSROM™ User Guide is available on Moody's website and covers the model's functionality as well as providing a comprehensive index of the user inputs and outputs. MOODY'S CDOROMv2.8™ was used to estimate the default distribution.

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