

**Hecho Relevante de RURAL HIPOTECARIO VIII FONDO DE TITULIZACION DE ACTIVOS**

En virtud de lo establecido en el Folleto Informativo de **RURAL HIPOTECARIO VIII FONDO DE TITULIZACION DE ACTIVOS** (el “Fondo”) se comunica a la COMISIÓN NACIONAL DEL MERCADO DE VALORES el presente hecho relevante:

- La Agencia de Calificación **Fitch Ratings** (“Fitch”), con fecha 4 de agosto de 2017, comunica que ha mejorado la perspectiva a la siguientes Series de Bonos emitidos por el Fondo:

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- **Serie A2a:** **AA+sf**, perspectiva positiva (anterior **AA+sf**, perspectiva estable)
- **Serie A2b:** **AA+sf**, perspectiva positiva (anterior **AA+sf**, perspectiva estable)

Se adjunta la comunicación emitida por Fitch.

Madrid, 4 de agosto de 2017.

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Director General



## Fitch Revises Outlook on 58 Spanish Structured Finance Tranches to Positive

**Link to Fitch Ratings' Report:** Fitch Revises Outlook on 58 Spanish Structured Finance Tranches to Positive (<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/902116>)

Fitch Ratings-Madrid-04 August 2017: Fitch Ratings has revised the Outlook on 58 tranches of 36 Spanish structured finance (SF) transactions to Positive from Stable. A full list of affected tranches is available at [www.fitchratings.com](http://www.fitchratings.com) or by clicking this link.

### KEY RATING DRIVERS

#### Sovereign Outlook

The Outlook revisions follow the revision of the Outlook on Spain to Positive from Stable and affirmation of the sovereign Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'BBB+' (see Fitch Revises Spain's Outlook to Positive; Affirms IDRs at 'BBB+' dated 21 July 2017 on [www.fitchratings.com](http://www.fitchratings.com)).

Fitch maintains a six-notch differential between the sovereign IDR and the highest achievable SF ratings. Therefore, the sovereign Outlook revision to Positive implies a maximum achievable rating for SF transactions in Spain of 'AA+sf/Positive'. This rating cap reflects the risk that sovereign weaknesses increase the likelihood of extreme macro-economic events that could undermine the performance of the securitisations.

#### Stable Performance and Adequate Counterparty

The Outlook revisions on 37 'AA+sf' rated tranches of 30 RMBS, ABS and SME transactions reflect Fitch's expectations of stable transaction performance, and robust credit enhancement that mitigate credit stresses compatible with the notes' ratings. These transactions also include counterparty arrangements compatible with Fitch's criteria expectations for 'AAAsf' category ratings, especially the inclusion of 'A'/F1' minimum counterparty eligibility triggers.

#### FADE Linked to Sovereign Rating

All 16 FADE bonds rated by Fitch are credit-linked to Spain's IDR as they benefit from an explicit and irrevocable guarantee from the government. The FADE programme is exposed to refinancing risk because the underlying electricity tariff deficit (TD) receivables are collected over approximately 15 years, while all FADE bonds have bullet maturities resulting in cash flow mismatches between assets and liabilities.

#### Utility Bonds Anchored to Sovereign Rating

The Outlook revisions on five electricity TD securitisations (Alectra Finance, Bliksem Funding, Delta Spark 2008-1 and Rayo Finance Series 3 & Series 4) reflect the one-notch rating uplift Fitch maintains on these transactions from the sovereign IDR, in line with the principles of Fitch's Portuguese and Spanish Utility Credit Rights Securitisation Rating Criteria. The rating uplift mainly reflects the assessment of electricity system key performance indicators, and the profile of the industry regulator, which does not have truly independent powers from the central government to set access tariffs.

### RATING SENSITIVITIES

The ratings of the 37 'AA+sf' rated tranches are principally exposed to the sovereign and SF rating cap in Spain. Changes to the Spanish sovereign rating or Country Ceiling could affect the ratings of these tranches.

FADE bonds ratings' are credit-linked to Spain and a change in the sovereign rating would lead to the same change in the bonds' rating. Changes to the terms of the full and unconditional guarantee from the Spanish government could also impact the FADE bonds' ratings.

Alectra Finance, Bliksem Funding, Delta Spark and Rayo Finance 3 and 4 could be downgraded if regulatory uncertainties arise affecting the electricity system governance framework and its ability to implement corrective measures in times of stress. The transactions could be upgraded if the regulator independence is strengthened, for example in its ability to set access tariffs, all else being equal.

### USE OF THIRD-PARTY DUE DILIGENCE PURSUANT TO RULE 17G-10

Form ABS Due Diligence-15E was not provided to, or reviewed by, Fitch in relation to this rating action.

### DATA ADEQUACY

Fitch has not conducted any checks on the consistency and plausibility of the information it has received about the performance of the asset pools and the transactions. Fitch has not reviewed the results of any third party assessment of the asset portfolio information or conducted a review of origination files as part of its ongoing monitoring.

Overall, Fitch's assessment of the information relied upon for the agency's rating analysis according to its applicable rating methodologies indicates that it is adequately reliable.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Not applicable

#### MODELS

Not applicable

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#### Applicable Criteria

Criteria Addendum: Spain Residential Mortgage Assumptions (pub. 02 Dec 2016) (<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/891432>)

Criteria for Country Risk in Global Structured Finance and Covered Bonds (pub. 26 Sep 2016)

(<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/881269>)

EMEA RMBS Rating Criteria (pub. 29 Nov 2016) (<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/891276>)

Fitch's Interest Rate Stress Assumptions for Structured Finance and Covered Bonds - Excel File (pub. 17 Feb 2017)

(<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/894478>)

Global Consumer ABS Rating Criteria (pub. 25 May 2017) (<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/898490>)

Global Structured Finance Rating Criteria (pub. 03 May 2017) (<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/897411>)

Portuguese and Spanish Utility Credit Rights Securitisation Rating Criteria (pub. 08 Mar 2017)

(<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/895195>)

SME Balance Sheet Securitisation Rating Criteria (pub. 03 Mar 2017) (<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/894773>)

Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Counterparty Rating Criteria (pub. 23 May 2017)

(<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/898537>)

Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Counterparty Rating Criteria: Derivative Addendum (pub. 23 May 2017)

(<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/898538>)

Structured Finance and Covered Bonds Interest Rate Stresses Rating Criteria (pub. 17 Feb 2017)

(<https://www.fitchratings.com/site/re/893890>)

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