

ECB Money Market Contact Group (MMCG): Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The ECB's Money Market Contact Group (MMCG) is a forum for interaction between the ECB and industry-wide market professionals involved in euro area money markets. The objective of the MMCG is to discuss developments in money markets, namely their functioning and practices, structural and regulatory trends, and the impact of the ECB's market operations. The MMCG therefore contributes to the Eurosystem's gathering of market intelligence and analysis of money markets, given the relevance of these markets to monetary policy.

2. Governance and membership

The MMCG membership is composed of three ECB representatives and approximately 20 senior market professionals with a broad knowledge of money markets and a thorough understanding of the decision-making regarding the money market activity in their respective institutions. These market professionals are chosen by the ECB with respect to the institution that they represent, their responsibilities within that institution, and their ongoing role in the market. The selection criteria are aimed at ensuring participation by a wide range of institutions that represent all relevant types of participants in euro area money markets. Occasionally, non-member experts are invited to discuss or present specific issues. Representatives from the euro area national central banks, which have observer status, may follow the discussions of the group.

Members are invited to represent not only the perspective of their individual institutions, but also that of the market as a whole. They should be able to use their knowledge and expertise to actively contribute to discussions. Any change in a member's position within or outside his or her institution will result in a review of his or her membership. The seat can only be passed on to a replacement within the institution until the end of the calendar year, after which a new application is required. Applicants should submit the MMCG's application form and relevant documentation to the MMCG Secretariat at the latest by end October. To further enhance the diversity of the contact group, the ECB particularly encourages applications from female candidates.

The ECB selects group membership on the basis of the submitted applications. To ensure

equal treatment and broad representativeness, membership is subject to an annual review. It is based on merit, for example regular attendance, contributions to the group, meeting presentations, active participation in discussions as well as the continued role of the represented institution and the member in the market segment. Membership of non-ECB members has a duration of five years and is renewable, following a successful reapplication process. This can be done by notifying the MMCG Secretariat via email of their desire to continue their membership and explaining the reasons. The ECB can suspend membership.

The MMCG is chaired by the ECB's Deputy Director General Market Operations or his or her alternate. The ECB provides the Secretariat, proposes the agenda, and participates in the discussions.

Members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled meetings and to do so in person for those that are held at the ECB's premises. They should contact the Secretary if they are unable to attend. Each institution can nominate an alternate who can participate in meetings in the exceptional case of an absence of the member, subject to ECB approval.

3. Procedures

The MMCG generally meets four times per year. Meetings can be held remotely or at the ECB's premises. Meetings typically last for approximately three hours.

The meetings follow an agenda which is circulated to the members prior to the meetings. The agenda is established by the Chair in consultation with the members and the Secretary and draws on the annual work programme. Members are encouraged to propose topics for inclusion in the agenda and in the work programme.

In addition to the pre-arranged meetings, ad hoc teleconferences may be requested at any time by the ECB or members.

Confidential and/or commercially sensitive information, including information relating to member institutions or the ECB, is not discussed in the meetings or teleconferences. The MMCG is committed to conduct its discussions in strict compliance with competition laws and no discussion should have as its purpose to encourage uniform action or reduce competition.

Agendas, a list of the participants, summaries of the MMCG's discussions and the presentations are published on the ECB's website. The summaries are circulated to participants and any comments received are addressed prior to publication. Unless otherwise agreed, meeting summaries will not attribute expressed views to any specific member. Beyond the published summary, no external communication on the meeting proceedings should take place by MMCG members.