



CONSILIUM

**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**Mr Klaus WELLE**  
**Secretary-General**  
**European Parliament**  
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SGS13/14464

Dear Secretary General, *Klaus Welle*

In the meeting of the Council (ECOFIN) of 18 December 2013, the representatives of the euro area Member States decided to establish among themselves an intergovernmental agreement specifying the channelling of the funds to the Single Resolution Fund (SRF) and a gradual mutualisation of these funds.

Negotiations on such an intergovernmental agreement on the Single Resolution Fund will take place in the framework of an intergovernmental conference.

A delegation of the European Parliament is invited to participate as observer.

The particular meeting modalities are set out in the annex to this letter.

Yours sincerely

*Uwe Corsepius*  
Uwe CORSEPIUS

**Practical arrangements for the organisation of an intergovernmental conference  
on the Single Resolution Fund**

**The intergovernmental conference**

1. An intergovernmental conference will be held in order to establish an intergovernmental agreement regarding the Single Resolution Fund.
2. The fundamental elements for this agreement are defined in the Terms of Reference on this topic decided by representatives of the euro area Member States in the context of the Council (ECOFIN) on 18 December 2013 (see Annex 2).
3. The results of the conference will be reported to a special meeting of the participating Member States and the Member States which consider participation, presided by the president of the Eurogroup on 10 March 2014.

**Composition of the conference**

4. The President of the Euro Working Group will chair the meetings.
5. Together with the delegates of the Member States whose currency is the euro, non-euro area Member States that are considering participation in the Single Supervisory Mechanism are invited to take part in negotiations. Other non-euro area Member States may participate in these negotiations as observers.

A delegation of the European Parliament may also participate as observer.

6. Delegations may comprise up to three members (configuration 1 +2).
7. Representatives of the Commission and the European Central Bank will be invited to attend the meetings.
8. All delegations, negotiating parties, observers, as well as the representatives of the Commission and the European Central Bank will have the right to participate in the discussions. However, decisions on the text, object of negotiation shall be made by the negotiating parties.
9. All delegations are invited to send the names of their representatives to the secretariat by 7 January 2014 (igc.srf@consilium.europa.eu)

**Support**

10. The Secretariat will be provided by the General Secretariat of the Council - DG Economic Affairs and Competitiveness. The Council Legal Service will assist the conference to ensure that the final document is compatible with European law as well as with the general principles of international public law.
11. The meetings of the intergovernmental conference will be organised on the Council premises. No interpretation service will be offered, working documents will only be available in English. Each delegation will cover its own costs.

**Calendar**

12. The calendar of meetings will be established as soon as possible by its President. The first meeting is scheduled for 9 January 2014. The Conference should finalise the negotiations by 1 March 2014.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE CONCERNING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AGREEMENT ON THE SINGLE RESOLUTION FUND**

These Terms of Reference contain an account of the fundamental elements that should be included in the Inter-governmental agreement (IGA) on the functioning of the Single Resolution Fund (the Fund). Where appropriate, specific references are made to the interaction between the IGA and the SRM Regulation, thus specifying which of the two instruments constitute the source of rights and obligations for the participating Member States.

**I. PROVISIONS CONCERNING THE FUNCTIONING OF THE FUND**

1. By means of the IGA the participating Member States (the parties) will assume the following obligations:
  - a) to transfer the contributions that they raise at national level in accordance with the BRRD and SRM Regulation to the Fund.
  - b) to allocate, during a transitional period, the said contributions to different compartments corresponding to each participating Member State . The said compartments will be subject to a progressive merger so that they will cease to exist at the end of the transitional period.

### **A) The transfer of contributions**

2. The BRRD and the SRM Regulation will set out the criteria to determine the fixing and calculation of any such - ex ante and ex post - contributions as well as the obligation of Member States to levy them at national level.
3. However the obligation to transfer the contributions raised at national level towards the fund will not derive from the law of the Union. Such obligation will be established by the IGA, that will lay down provisions whereby the parties agree to reciprocally transfer the contributions that they raise at national level to the Fund. The transfer of contributions will take place in accordance with the rules on the progressive merger of the national compartments of the Fund, as described in section B) below.
4. The entry into force of the IGA will be necessary for the Fund to be fed by national compartments based on contributions raised by the parties.
5. The IGA will establish that the SRB shall have the power to dispose of the national compartments progressively transferred to the Fund according to the agreed rules in the IGA..

### **B) The compartments: progressive merger**

6. The IGA will establish that contributions raised at national level will be attributed to national compartments, corresponding to each participating Member State, during a transitional period (i.e., a period elapsing at the moment when the fund reaches the target funding level determined in the SRM Regulation but not later than 10 years).
7. The IGA will establish that national compartments will be used in relation to the possible resolution of a bank which is established in the party to which the compartment corresponds. The size of each compartment should be calculated on the basis of contribution to be raised in accordance to rules set out in articles 65 and 66 of SRM Regulation.

8. The IGA will establish that when a decision is made and the conditions are met to make use of the Fund in a specific resolution case, as a first step the costs are born by the compartments of the relevant home and host parties, in accordance with burden sharing criteria reflecting the relative amount of contributions which the entities under resolution has contributed to respective national compartments of the Member States concerned. During the transitional period the use of the financial means in the compartments of the relevant home and host parties will decrease by 10% points every year.
9. The IGA will establish that in case the financial means in a national compartment of a home and/or host Member State are not sufficient, as a second step recourse shall be made to the available financial means in all national compartments of the Fund, including to the same degree the remaining financial means in the national compartments of the directly involved home and host Member States. During the transitional phase, the use of available financial means of all national compartments of the Fund in this second step will increase by 10% points every year (total usage per year). IGA shall foresee gradual phasing-in on mutualisation within the course of each year
10. The IGA will establish that in case the financial means available in the Fund are not sufficient to cover the costs of a particular resolution action, any further remaining financial means in the compartments of the directly involved home and host parties should be used. Following payment out of the respective compartments, the National Resolution Authorities will be required to raise extraordinary ex post contributions from institutions authorized in the territories of the parties concerned by the resolution case.

<b>Year</b>	<b><u>Step 1: Use of paid in means in national compartment</u></b>	<b><u>Step 2: Use of the available paid in means in all compartments making up the SRF, including any remaining paid in means in the national compartment in question</u></b>	<b><u>Step 3: In case of any remaining costs</u></b>
1	100%	10%	Use of remaining financial means in the directly involved national compartments  +  Possible extraordinary ex post levy on national banking sector  +  Bridge financing from national sources or ESM in line with agreed procedures  +  Possibilities for lending between national compartments
2	90%	20%	
3	80%	30%	
4	70%	40%	
5	60%	50%	
6	50%	60%	
7	40%	70%	
8	30%	80%	
9	20%	90%	
10	10%	100%	
11	0%	100%	

11. The IGA will establish that national compartments will be merged into a single Fund at the end of the transitional period as described in para. 6.
12. Where appropriate, national banking sectors should replenish the resources in the respective national compartments within a given reasonable time period up to the average of all other compartments so as to be able to participate in and contribute to European risk-sharing.
13. The SRM Regulation will establish provisions conferring upon the SRB the power to use the Fund in accordance with the IGA rules on the progressive merge of the national compartments of the Fund and their use. However, from a legal point of view, it is not the SRM Regulation that creates the parties' obligation to merge progressively its national compartments. Such obligation and the conditions to use them stem from the IGA. Accordingly, the SRM Regulation shall be applicable only from the day when the conditions allowing for the transfer to the Fund of the contributions raised at the national level has been met.
- 13b. Where a Member State decides to take part in the Single Supervisory Mechanism, after the date when the resolution function of the SRM becomes operational, it shall join the IGA, under the condition that it transfers to the SRF an amount of contributions collected from its banking sector equivalent to the fraction of the total target level which should have been reached in that specific year by the resolution financing arrangements of that Member State in accordance with the BRRD.

## **II. GOVERNANCE**

14. The IGA will not establish additional governing bodies for the Fund. Governance of the Fund, including decisions on its use and management (investments, borrowing and alternative borrowing), addressed to National Resolution Authorities as appropriate, will correspond to the SRB, in accordance with the powers and procedures laid down in the SRM Regulation.

### III OTHER PROVISIONS

15. The IGA will establish that the use of the Fund on a mutual basis is contingent upon
- a) respect of the rules on decision-making and the general principles governing resolution set out in Article 13(1) (a) and (b) of the SRM Regulation and
  - b) the specific rules and tools set out in subsequent Articles (including bail-in tool) which require, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the SRM Regulation:
    - i) that the shareholders and the institution under resolution bear first losses and
    - ii) the creditors of the institution under resolution bear losses after the shareholders in accordance with the order of priority of their claims.

In effect this shall mean that IGA would subject the transfer of funds to the bail-in rules as they would be applied in the context of the SRM Regulation and BRRD, without changing these rules.

16. Membership of the IGA shall be open to all Member States of the European Union that wish to be a Contracting Party. However, its provisions will be only binding on those Member States that are part of the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) and the SRM, thus the euro area Member States plus any other non euro area Member State whose competent authority has established close cooperation with the ECB in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation 1024/2013 (the SSM Regulation).
17. The IGA would enter into force when the instruments of ratification, approval or acceptance will be deposited by signatories that are part of the SSM/SRM and that together account for at least 80% of the sum of the compartments of all participating member states under the SRM Regulation.
18. The IGA will include provisions permitting the accession to Member States that are not parties to the agreement at the moment it enters into force.



19. The IGA will include provisions ensuring consistency with the law of the Union, thus recognising the principles of primacy of the law of the Union and of sincere cooperation between the Member States. According to these provisions, the IGA i) will be applied and interpreted in conformity with the law of the Union, ii) will be applied insofar as it is compatible with the law of the Union; and iii) shall not encroach upon the competences of the Union in the field of the internal market.
20. The IGA will include provisions concerning the attribution of jurisdiction to the Court of Justice. Parties may bring before the Court of Justice, on the basis of Article 273 TFEU, any dispute among them concerning the interpretation or application of the IGA. In particular, any party that considers, on the basis of their own assessment or on the basis of information to be provided by the SRB, that another one has breached its obligations under the IGA, may bring the case before the Court of Justice. The judgment of the Court of Justice shall be binding on the parties to the proceedings, which shall take the necessary measures to comply with the judgment within a period to be decided by the Court of Justice.
21. The IGA will include provisions according to which the parties will reimburse jointly, promptly and with interest each Member State that is not a participating Member State within the meaning of Article 2(1) of Council Regulation (EU) 1024/2013 for the amount that State has paid in own resources corresponding to the use of the Union budget in cases of non-contractual liability and costs related thereto that may arise in respect of the exercise of powers by the institutions of the Union under the SRM Regulation. The distribution of costs among the parties shall be made pro rata in accordance criteria founded on the gross national income of each of the parties, as defined by recital (3) to the preamble of Council Decision of 7 June 2007 on the system of the European Communities' own resources. The Commission may be invited by 28 Member States to coordinate any reimbursement action.
22. The IGA will establish that within 10 years, at most, of its date of entry into force, on the basis of an assessment of the experience with its implementation, the necessary steps shall be taken, in accordance with the Treaty on the European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, with the aim of incorporating its substance into the legal framework of the European Union.

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