

**FAO The Tax Division
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COO Equities

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Duesseldorf, 11th of September 2013

Dear Sirs

AFME Italian Financial Transactions Tax Protocol – Adherence Letter

1. ADHERENCE

The purpose of this letter is to declare our adherence and that of each other party whose name is listed in paragraph 2 below (for whom we act as agent for the purposes of this Adherence Letter), to the AFME Italian Financial Transactions Tax Protocol (the *Protocol*).

By executing this letter, we make the representations set out in paragraph 5.1 of the Protocol and confirm our intention to be bound by the terms of the Protocol as amended from time to time. This letter constitutes an Adherence Letter as referred to in the Protocol.

The definitions and provisions contained in the Protocol are incorporated into this Adherence Letter.

2. PARTIES TO WHOM THIS ADHERENCE LETTER APPLIES

HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG, Königsallee 21/23, 40212 Düsseldorf, commercial register of Düsseldorf HRB 54447, SWIFT/BIC-Code TUBDDEDD

¹ This must include the entity writing this letter. If the Protocol is to apply only to one or more branches of each legal entity, please make this clear and specify which branch or branches. Branches that are located in jurisdictions which do not have an agreement with Italy for the purposes of the exchange of information and the assistance in the collection of tax credits (which are expected to be listed in a forthcoming specific decision of the Director of the *Agenzia delle Entrate*) are excluded from the definition of Investment Services Provider and Adhering Party.

Each party listed above shall be a separate Adhering Party.

Branches of a person that are located in a State or territory which does not have an agreement with Italy for the purposes of the exchange of information and the assistance in the collection of tax credits (as set out in a specific decision of the Director of the *Agenzia delle Entrate* once such decision is available) shall not be covered by the Protocol and references to the Adhering Party will be construed as excluding such branches (***Excluded Branches***). Our Excluded Branches are set out below:

n/a

3. APPOINTMENT AS ADMINISTRATOR AND RELEASE

We hereby appoint AFME as administrator for the limited purposes of the Protocol and accordingly we waive, and hereby release AFME from, any rights, claims, actions or causes of action whatsoever (whether in contract, tort or otherwise) arising out of or in any way relating to this Adherence Letter or our adherence to the Protocol or any actions contemplated as being required by AFME.

4. CONTACT DETAILS³

Our contact details for the purposes of the Protocol are:

Name: HSBC Transaction Services GmbH
FAO: Michael Guyens
Address: Yorckstrasse 21-23, 40476 Duesseldorf, Germany
Telephone: +49 211 910-1956
Fax: +49 211 910-9-3872
E-mail: michael.guyens@hsbc.de

We undertake to notify AFME of any changes to these details at any time throughout our adherence to the Protocol, by delivering to AFME by (i) certified or registered mail (or airmail, if overseas) or equivalent; (ii) courier; or (iii) personal delivery to AFME's address set out in this Adherence Letter, two copies of such notice: one a manually signed original and the other a conformed copy containing, in place of each signature, the printed or typewritten name of each signatory. In addition, we will send scanned pdf copies of the manually signed original and conformed copies of the notice of change of details to AFME at fttprotocol@afme.eu.

We agree to the publication by AFME of the conformed copy of any such notice.

² For each entity, please provide as many of such identifiers as relevant.

³ To the extent that each adhering entity does not share the same contact details, please provide the contact details for each adhering entity.

5. OPTIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR EXECUTION ON A REGULATED MARKET OR MTF

[If you wish to make the Optional Representation and give the associated indemnity please check the box below. This representation will apply to all Covered Transactions unless you explicitly notify the other Adhering Party to a Covered Transaction at the time the transaction is entered into.]

Where the box is checked, we opt to give the Optional Representation as set out in paragraph 5.3 of the Protocol.

6. AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS⁴

We have appointed HSBC Bank plc, 8 Canada Square, London as our agent for service of process and any other documents in proceedings in England. Any service of process shall only be valid and effective if it is delivered to and marked for the attention of the Company Secretary at HSBC Bank plc, 8 Canada Square, London E14 5HQ. We agree that we will at all times while we remain an Adhering Party to the Protocol maintain an agent for service of process and any other documents in proceedings in England. Any claim form, judgment or other notice of legal process will be sufficiently served on us if delivered to such agent at its address for the time being. We undertake not to revoke the authority of the above agent without giving prior notification to the AFME of a replacement agent.

We consent to the publication of the conformed copy of this letter by AFME and to the disclosure by AFME of the contents of this letter.

Yours faithfully

HSBC Trinkaus und Burkhardt AG

Signed by: **Georg Steingass**

Signed by: **Dr. Oliver Wendt**

Name: Georg Steingass

Name: Dr. Oliver Wendt

Title: COO Equities

Title: Associate General Counsel

⁴ Non-UK Adhering Parties only. To the extent that each non-UK Adhering Party is not using the same agent, please modify this paragraph as necessary.