

Regulation (EU) No 909/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on improving securities settlement in the European Union and on central securities depositories and amending Directives 98/26/EC and 2014/65/EU and Regulation (EU) No 236/2012 (Text with EEA relevance)

TITLE III

CENTRAL SECURITIES DEPOSITORIES

CHAPTER I

Authorisation and supervision of CSDs

Section 1

Authorities responsible for authorisation and supervision of CSDs

Article 10

Competent authority

Without prejudice to the oversight by the members of the ESCB referred to in Article 12(1), a CSD shall be authorised and supervised by the competent authority of its home Member State.

Article 11

Designation of the competent authority

1 Each Member State shall designate the competent authority responsible for carrying out the duties under this Regulation for the authorisation and supervision of CSDs established in its territory and shall inform ESMA thereof.

Where a Member State designates more than one competent authority, it shall determine their respective roles and shall designate a single authority to be responsible for cooperation with other Member States' competent authorities, the relevant authorities, ESMA, and EBA, where specifically referred to in this Regulation.

2 ESMA shall publish on its website a list of the competent authorities designated in accordance with paragraph 1.

3 The competent authorities shall have the supervisory and investigatory powers necessary for the exercise of their functions.

Article 12

Relevant authorities

1 The following authorities shall be involved in the authorisation and supervision of CSDs where specifically referred to in this Regulation:

- a the authority responsible for the oversight of the securities settlement system operated by the CSD in the Member State whose law applies to that securities settlement system;
- b the central banks in the Union issuing the most relevant currencies in which settlement takes place;
- c where relevant, the central bank in the Union in whose books the cash leg of a securities settlement system operated by the CSD is settled.

2 ESMA shall publish on its website the list of the relevant authorities referred to in paragraph 1.

3 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying the conditions under which the Union currencies referred to in point (b) of paragraph 1 are considered to be the most relevant, and efficient practical arrangements for the consultation of the relevant authorities referred to in points (b) and (c) of that paragraph.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 13

Exchange of information

1 Competent authorities, relevant authorities and ESMA shall, on request and without undue delay, provide one another with the information required for the purposes of carrying out their duties under this Regulation.

2 Competent authorities, relevant authorities, ESMA and other bodies or natural and legal persons receiving confidential information in the exercise of their duties under this Regulation shall use it only in the course of their duties.

Article 14

Cooperation between authorities

1 Competent authorities, relevant authorities and ESMA shall cooperate closely, including by exchanging all relevant information for the application of this Regulation. Where appropriate and relevant, such cooperation shall include other public authorities and bodies, in particular those established or appointed under Directive 2003/87/EC.

In order to ensure consistent, efficient and effective supervisory practices within the Union, including cooperation between competent authorities and relevant authorities

in the different assessments necessary for the application of this Regulation, ESMA may, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, issue guidelines addressed to competent authorities in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

2 The competent authorities shall, in the exercise of their general duties, duly consider the potential impact of their decisions on the stability of the financial system in all other Member States concerned, in particular in the emergency situations referred to in Article 15, based on the available information.

Article 15

Emergency situations

Without prejudice to the notification procedure provided for in Article 6(3) of Directive 98/26/EC, competent authorities and relevant authorities shall immediately inform ESMA, the European Systemic Risk Board established by Regulation (EU) No 1092/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽¹⁾ and each other of any emergency situation relating to a CSD, including of any developments in financial markets, which may have an adverse effect on market liquidity, the stability of a currency in which settlement takes place, the integrity of monetary policy or on the stability of the financial system in any of the Member States where the CSD or one of its participants are established.

Section 2

Conditions and procedures for authorisation of CSDs

Article 16

Authorisation of a CSD

1 Any legal person that falls within the definition of CSD shall obtain an authorisation from the competent authority of the Member State where it is established before commencing its activities.

2 The authorisation shall specify the core services listed in Section A of the Annex and non-banking-type ancillary services permitted under Section B of the Annex, which the CSD is authorised to provide.

3 A CSD shall comply at all times with the conditions necessary for authorisation.

4 A CSD as well as its independent auditors, shall, without undue delay, inform the competent authority of any substantive changes affecting the compliance with the conditions for authorisation.

Article 17

Procedure for granting authorisation

1 The applicant CSD shall submit an application for authorisation to its competent authority.

2 The application for authorisation shall be accompanied by all information necessary to enable the competent authority to satisfy itself that the applicant CSD has established, at the time of the authorisation, all the necessary arrangements to meet its obligations as laid down in this Regulation. The application for authorisation shall include a programme of operations setting out the types of business envisaged and the structural organisation of the CSD.

3 Within 30 working days from the receipt of the application, the competent authority shall assess whether the application is complete. If the application is not complete, the competent authority shall set a time limit by which the applicant CSD has to provide additional information. The competent authority shall inform the applicant CSD when the application is considered to be complete.

4 From the moment when the application is considered to be complete, the competent authority shall transmit all information included in the application to the relevant authorities and consult those authorities concerning the features of the securities settlement system operated by the applicant CSD. Each relevant authority may inform the competent authority of its views within 3 months of the receipt of the information by the relevant authority.

5 Where the applicant CSD intends to provide services referred to in point (2) of Article 4(1) of Directive 2014/65/EU in addition to the provision of non-banking-type ancillary services explicitly listed in Section B of the Annex, the competent authority shall transmit all information included in the application to the authority referred to in Article 67 of Directive 2014/65/EU and consult that authority on the ability of the applicant CSD to comply with the requirements of Directive 2014/65/EU and of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014.

6 The competent authority shall, before granting authorisation to the applicant CSD, consult the competent authorities of the other Member State involved in the following cases:

- a the CSD is a subsidiary of a CSD authorised in another Member State;
- b the CSD is a subsidiary of the parent undertaking of a CSD authorised in another Member State;
- c the CSD is controlled by the same natural or legal persons who control a different CSD authorised in another Member State.

7 The consultation referred to in paragraph 6 shall cover the following:

- a the suitability of the shareholders and persons referred to in Article 27(6) and the reputation and experience of the persons who effectively direct the business of the CSD referred to in Article 27(1) and (4), where those shareholders and persons are common to the CSD and to a CSD authorised in another Member State;
- b whether the relations referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 6 between the CSD authorised in another Member State and the applicant CSD do not affect the ability of the latter to comply with the requirements of this Regulation.

8 Within six months from the submission of a complete application, the competent authority shall inform the applicant CSD in writing with a fully reasoned decision whether the authorisation has been granted or refused.

9 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the information that the applicant CSD is to provide to the competent authority in the application for authorisation.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

10 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft implementing technical standards to establish standard forms, templates and procedures for the application for authorisation.

ESMA shall submit those draft implementing technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 18

Effects of the authorisation

1 The activities of the authorised CSD shall be limited to the provision of services covered by its authorisation or by notification in accordance with Article 19(8).

2 Securities settlement systems may be operated only by authorised CSDs, including central banks acting as CSDs.

3 An authorised CSD may have a participation only in a legal person whose activities are limited to the provision of services listed in Sections A and B of the Annex, unless such a participation is approved by its competent authority on the basis that it does not significantly increase the risk profile of the CSD.

4 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the criteria to be taken into account by the competent authorities to approve the participation of CSDs in legal persons other than those providing the services listed in Sections A and B of the Annex. Such criteria may include whether the services provided by that legal person are complementary to the services provided by a CSD, and the extent of the CSD's exposure to liabilities arising from such participation.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 19

Extension and outsourcing of activities and services

1 An authorised CSD shall submit an application for authorisation to the competent authority of its home Member State where it wishes to outsource a core service to a third party under Article 30 or extend its activities to one or more of the following:

- a additional core services listed in Section A of the Annex, not covered by the initial authorisation;

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally adopted).

- b ancillary services permitted under, but not explicitly listed in Section B of the Annex, not covered by the initial authorisation;
- c the operation of another securities settlement system;
- d the settlement of all or part of the cash leg of its securities settlement system in the books of another settlement agent;
- e setting up an interoperable link, including those with third-country CSDs.

2 The granting of authorisation under paragraph 1 shall follow the procedure laid down in Article 17.

The competent authority shall inform the applicant CSD whether the authorisation has been granted or refused within three months of the submission of a complete application.

3 CSDs established in the Union that intend to establish an interoperable link shall submit an application for authorisation as required under point (e) of paragraph 1, to their respective competent authorities. Those authorities shall consult each other regarding the approval of the CSD link. In the event of divergent decisions and if agreed by both competent authorities the matter may be referred to ESMA, which may act in accordance with the powers conferred on it under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

4 The authorities referred to in paragraph 3 shall refuse to authorise a link only where such a CSD link would threaten the smooth and orderly functioning of the financial markets or cause systemic risk.

5 Interoperable links of CSDs that outsource some of their services related to those interoperable links to a public entity in accordance with Article 30(5) and CSD links that are not referred to in point (e) of paragraph 1 shall not be subject to authorisation under that point but shall be notified to the CSDs' competent and relevant authorities prior to their implementation by providing all relevant information that allows such authorities to assess compliance with the requirements provided in Article 48.

6 A CSD established and authorised in the Union may maintain or establish a link with a third-country CSD in accordance with the conditions and procedures provided in this Article. Where links are established with a third-country CSD the information provided by the requesting CSD shall allow the competent authority to evaluate whether such links fulfil the requirements provided in Article 48 or the requirements that are equivalent to those provided in Article 48.

7 The competent authority of the requesting CSD shall require that CSD to discontinue a CSD link that has been notified when such link does not fulfil the requirements provided for in Article 48 and thereby would threaten the smooth and orderly functioning of the financial markets or cause systemic risk. Where a competent authority requires the CSD to discontinue a CSD link, it shall follow the procedure laid down in Article 20(2) and (3).

8 The additional ancillary services explicitly listed in Section B of the Annex shall not be subject to authorisation, but shall be notified to the competent authority prior to their provision.

Article 20

Withdrawal of authorisation

1 Without prejudice to any remedial actions or measures under Title V, the competent authority of the home Member State shall withdraw the authorisation in any of the following circumstances, where the CSD:

- a has not made use of the authorisation during 12 months, expressly renounces the authorisation or has provided no services or performed no activity during the preceding six months;
- b has obtained the authorisation by making false statements or by any other unlawful means;
- c no longer complies with the conditions under which authorisation was granted and has not taken the remedial actions requested by the competent authority within a set time-frame;
- d has seriously or systematically infringed the requirements laid down in this Regulation or, where applicable, in Directive 2014/65/EU or Regulation (EU) No 600/2014.

2 From the moment when it becomes aware of one of the circumstances referred to in paragraph 1, the competent authority shall immediately consult the relevant authorities and, where applicable, the authority referred to in Article 67 of Directive 2014/65/EU on the necessity to withdraw the authorisation.

3 ESMA and any relevant authority and, where applicable, the authority referred to in Article 67 of Directive 2014/65/EU may, at any time, request that the competent authority of the home Member State examines whether the CSD still complies with the conditions under which the authorisation was granted.

4 The competent authority may limit the withdrawal of authorisation to a particular service, activity, or financial instrument.

5 A CSD shall establish, implement and maintain adequate procedures ensuring the timely and orderly settlement and transfer of the assets of clients and participants to another CSD in the event of a withdrawal of authorisation referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 21

CSD register

1 Decisions taken by competent authorities under Articles 16, 19 and 20 shall be immediately communicated to ESMA.

2 Central banks shall without undue delay inform ESMA of any securities settlement system that they operate.

3 The name of each CSD operating in compliance with this Regulation and to which authorisation or recognition has been granted pursuant to Article 16, 19 or 25 shall be entered in a register specifying the services and, where applicable, classes of financial instruments for which the CSD has been authorised. The register shall include branches operated by the CSD in other Member States, CSD links and the information required under Article 31 where Member States have made use of the possibility provided for in that Article. ESMA shall make the register available on its dedicated website and keep it up to date.

Section 3

Supervision of CSDs

Article 22

Review and evaluation

1 The competent authority shall, at least on an annual basis, review the arrangements, strategies, processes and mechanisms implemented by a CSD with respect to compliance with this Regulation and evaluate the risks to which the CSD is, or might be, exposed or which it creates for the smooth functioning of securities markets.

2 The competent authority shall require the CSD to submit to the competent authority an adequate recovery plan to ensure continuity of its critical operations.

3 The competent authority shall ensure that an adequate resolution plan is established and maintained for each CSD so as to ensure continuity of at least its core functions, having regard to the size, systemic importance, nature, scale and complexity of the activities of the CSD concerned and any relevant resolution plan established in accordance with Directive 2014/59/EU.

4 The competent authority shall establish the frequency and depth of the review and evaluation referred to in paragraph 1 having regard to the size, systemic importance, nature, scale and complexity of the activities of the CSD concerned. The review and evaluation shall be updated at least on an annual basis.

5 The competent authority shall subject the CSD to on-site inspections.

6 When performing the review and evaluation referred to in paragraph 1, the competent authority shall, at an early stage, consult the relevant authorities, in particular concerning the functioning of the securities settlement systems operated by the CSD and, where applicable, the authority referred to in Article 67 of Directive 2014/65/EU.

7 The competent authority shall regularly, and at least once a year, inform the relevant authorities and, where applicable, the authority referred to in Article 67 of Directive 2014/65/EU of the results, including any remedial actions or penalties, of the review and evaluation referred to in paragraph 1.

8 When performing the review and evaluation referred to in paragraph 1, the competent authorities responsible for supervising CSDs which maintain the types of relations referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) of Article 17(6) shall supply one another with all relevant information that is likely to facilitate their tasks.

9 The competent authority shall require a CSD that does not meet the requirements of this Regulation to take at an early stage the necessary actions or steps to address the situation.

10 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the following:

- a the information that the CSD is to provide to the competent authority for the purposes of the review and evaluation referred to in paragraph 1;
- b the information that the competent authority is to supply to the relevant authorities, as set out in paragraph 7;
- c the information that the competent authorities referred to in paragraph 8 are to supply one another.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with in Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

11 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft implementing technical standards to determine standard forms, templates and procedures for the provision of information referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 10.

ESMA shall submit those draft implementing technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Section 4

Provision of services in another member state

Article 23

Freedom to provide services in another Member State

1 An authorised CSD may provide services referred to in the Annex within the territory of the Union, including through setting up a branch, provided that those services are covered by the authorisation.

2 An authorised CSD that intends to provide the core services referred to in points 1 and 2 of Section A of the Annex in relation to financial instruments constituted under the law of another Member State referred to in Article 49(1) or to set up a branch in another Member State shall be subject to the procedure referred to in paragraphs 3 to 7.

3 Any CSD wishing to provide the services referred to in paragraph 2 within the territory of another Member State for the first time, or to change the range of those services provided shall communicate the following information to the competent authority of the home Member State:

- a the Member State in which the CSD intends to operate;
- b a programme of operations stating in particular the services which the CSD intends to provide;
- c the currency or currencies that the CSD intends to process;
- d where there is a branch, the organisational structure of the branch and the names of those responsible for the management of the branch;
- e where relevant, an assessment of the measures the CSD intends to take to allow its users to comply with the national law referred to in Article 49(1).

4 Within three months from the receipt of the information referred to in paragraph 3, the competent authority of the home Member State shall communicate that information to the competent authority of the host Member State unless, by taking into account the provision of services envisaged, it has reasons to doubt the adequacy of the administrative structure or the financial situation of the CSD wishing to provide its services in the host Member State.

The competent authority of the host Member State shall without delay inform the relevant authorities of that Member State of any communication received under the first subparagraph.

5 Where the competent authority of the home Member State decides in accordance with paragraph 4 not to communicate all the information referred to in paragraph 3 to the competent authority of the host Member State it shall give reasons for its refusal to the CSD concerned within three months of receiving all the information and inform the competent authority of the host Member State of its decision in relation to point (a) of paragraph 6. Where information is shared in response to such a request the competent authority of the host Member State shall not issue the communication referred to in point (a) of paragraph 6.

6 The CSD may start providing the services referred to in paragraph 2 in the host Member State under the following conditions:

- a on receipt of a communication from the competent authority in the host Member State acknowledging receipt by the latter of the communication referred to in paragraph 4 and, where relevant, approving the assessment referred to in point (e) of paragraph 3;
- b in the absence of any receipt of a communication, after three months from the date of transmission of the communication referred to in paragraph 4.

7 In the event of a change in any of the information communicated in accordance with paragraph 3, a CSD shall give written notice of that change to the competent authority of the home Member State at least one month before implementing the change. The competent authority of the host Member State shall also be informed of that change without delay by the competent authority of the home Member State.

Article 24

Cooperation between authorities of the home Member State and of the host Member State and peer review

1 Where a CSD authorised in one Member State has set up a branch in another Member State, the competent authority of the home Member State and the competent authority of the host Member State shall cooperate closely in the performance of their duties provided for in this Regulation, in particular when carrying out on-site inspections in that branch. The competent authority of the home Member State and of the host Member State may, in the exercise of their responsibilities, carry out on-site inspections in that branch after informing the competent authority of the host Member State or of the home Member State respectively.

2 The competent authority of the home Member State or of the host Member State may require CSDs which provide services in accordance with Article 23 to report to them periodically on their activities in that host Member State, including for the purpose of collecting statistics. The competent authority of the host Member State shall, on request from the competent authority of the home Member State, provide those periodic reports to the competent authority of the home Member State.

3 The competent authority of the home Member State of the CSD shall, on the request of the competent authority of the host Member State and without delay, communicate the identity of the issuers and participants in the securities settlement systems operated by the CSD which provides services in that host Member State and any other relevant information concerning the activities of that CSD in the host Member State.

4 Where, taking into account the situation of the securities markets in the host Member State, the activities of a CSD have become of substantial importance for the functioning of the

securities markets and the protection of the investors in that host Member State, the competent authority of the home Member State and of the host Member State and the relevant authorities of the home Member State and of the host Member State shall establish cooperation arrangements for the supervision of the activities of that CSD in the host Member State.

Where a CSD has become of substantial importance for the functioning of the securities markets and the protection of the investors in more than one host Member State, the home Member State may decide that such cooperation arrangements are to include colleges of supervisors.

5 Where the competent authority of the host Member State has clear and demonstrable grounds for believing that a CSD providing services within its territory in accordance with Article 23 is in breach of the obligations arising from the provisions of this Regulation, it shall refer those findings to the competent authority of the home Member State and to ESMA.

Where, despite measures taken by the competent authority of the home Member State or because such measures prove inadequate, the CSD persists in acting in infringement of the obligations arising from the provisions of this Regulation, after informing the competent authority of the home Member State, the competent authority of the host Member State shall take all the appropriate measures needed in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Regulation within the territory of the host Member State. ESMA shall be informed of such measures without delay.

The competent authority of the host Member State and of the home Member State may refer the matter to ESMA, which may act in accordance with the powers conferred on it under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

6 Without prejudice to Article 30 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010, ESMA shall, after consulting the members of the ESCB, organise and conduct, at least every three years, a peer review of the supervision of CSDs which make use of the freedom to provide services in another Member State in accordance with Article 23 or to participate in an interoperable link.

In the context of the peer review referred to in the first subparagraph ESMA shall, where appropriate, also request opinions or advice from the Securities and Markets Stakeholder Group referred to in Article 37 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

7 The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 67 concerning measures for establishing the criteria under which the operations of a CSD in a host Member State could be considered to be of substantial importance for the functioning of the securities markets and the protection of the investors in that host Member State.

8 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft implementing technical standards to establish standard forms, templates and procedures for the cooperation referred to in paragraphs 1, 3 and 5.

ESMA shall submit those draft implementing technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Section 5

Relations with third countries

Article 25

Third countries

1 Third-country CSDs may provide services referred to in the Annex within the territory of the Union, including through setting up a branch.

2 Notwithstanding paragraph 1, a third-country CSD that intends to provide the core services referred to in points (1) and (2) of Section A of the Annex in relation to financial instruments constituted under the law of a Member State referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 49(1) or to set up a branch in a Member State shall be subject to the procedure referred to in paragraphs 4 to 11 of this Article.

3 A CSD established and authorised in the Union may maintain or establish a link with a third-country CSD in accordance with Article 48.

4 After consulting the authorities referred to in paragraph 5, ESMA may recognise a third-country CSD that has applied for recognition to provide the services referred to in paragraph 2, where the following conditions are met:

- a the Commission has adopted a decision in accordance with paragraph 9;
- b the third-country CSD is subject to effective authorisation, supervision and oversight or, if the securities settlement system is operated by a central bank, oversight, ensuring full compliance with the prudential requirements applicable in that third country;
- c cooperation arrangements between ESMA and the responsible authorities in that third country ('responsible third-country authorities') have been established pursuant to paragraph 10;
- d where relevant, the third-country CSD takes the necessary measures to allow its users to comply with the relevant national law of the Member State in which the third-country CSD intends to provide CSD services, including the law referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 49(1), and the adequacy of those measures has been confirmed by the competent authorities of the Member State in which the third-country CSD intends to provide CSD services.

5 When assessing whether the conditions referred to in paragraph 4 are met, ESMA shall consult:

- a the competent authorities of the Member States in which the third-country CSD intends to provide CSD services, in particular, on how the third-country CSD intends to comply with the requirement referred to in point (d) of paragraph 4;
- b the relevant authorities;
- c the responsible third-country authorities entrusted with the authorisation, supervision and oversight of CSDs.

6 The third-country CSD referred to in paragraph 2 shall submit its application for recognition to ESMA.

The applicant CSD shall provide ESMA with all information deemed to be necessary for its recognition. Within 30 working days from the receipt of the application, ESMA shall assess whether the application is complete. If the application is not complete, ESMA shall set a time limit by which the applicant CSD has to provide additional information.

The competent authorities of the Member States in which the third-country CSD intends to provide CSD services shall assess the compliance of the third-country CSD with the law referred to in point (d) of paragraph 4 and inform ESMA with a fully reasoned decision whether the compliance is met or not within three months from the receipt of all the necessary information from ESMA.

The recognition decision shall be based on the criteria laid down in paragraph 4.

Within six months from the submission of a complete application, ESMA shall inform the applicant CSD in writing with a fully reasoned decision whether the recognition has been granted or refused.

7 The competent authorities of the Member States in which the third-country CSD, duly recognised under paragraph 4, provides CSD services, in close cooperation with ESMA, may request the responsible third-country authorities to:

- a report periodically on the third-country CSD's activities in those host Member States, including for the purpose of collecting statistics;
- b communicate, within an appropriate time-frame, the identity of the issuers and participants in the securities settlement systems operated by the third-country CSD which provides services in that host Member State and any other relevant information concerning the activities of that third-country CSD in the host Member State.

8 ESMA shall, after consulting the authorities referred to in paragraph 5, review the recognition of the third-country CSD in the event of extensions by that CSD in the Union of its services under the procedure laid down in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6.

ESMA shall withdraw the recognition of that CSD where the conditions laid down in paragraph 4 are no longer met, or in the circumstances referred to in Article 20.

9 The Commission may adopt implementing acts to determine that the legal and supervisory arrangements of a third country ensure that CSDs authorised in that third country comply with legally binding requirements which are in effect equivalent to the requirements laid down in this Regulation, that those CSDs are subject to effective supervision, oversight and enforcement in that third country on an ongoing basis and that the legal framework of that third country provides for an effective equivalent system for the recognition of CSDs authorised under third-country legal regimes. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 68(2).

In making the determination referred to in the first subparagraph, the Commission may also consider whether the legal and supervisory arrangements of a third country reflect the internationally agreed CPSS-IOSCO standards, in so far as the latter do not conflict with the requirements laid down in this Regulation.

10 In accordance with Article 33(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010, ESMA shall establish cooperation arrangements with the responsible third-country authorities whose legal and supervisory frameworks have been recognised as equivalent to this Regulation in accordance with paragraph 9. Such arrangements shall specify at least:

- a the mechanism for the exchange of information between ESMA, the competent authorities of the host Member State and the third-country responsible authorities, including access to all information regarding the CSDs authorised in third countries that is requested by ESMA and in particular access to information in the cases referred to in paragraph 7;
- b the mechanism for prompt notification of ESMA where a third-country responsible authority deems a CSD that it is supervising to infringe the conditions of its authorisation or of other applicable law;

- c the procedures concerning the coordination of supervisory activities including, where appropriate, on-site inspections.

Where a cooperation agreement provides for transfers of personal data by a Member State, such transfers shall comply with the provisions of Directive 95/46/EC and where a cooperation agreement provides for transfers of personal data by ESMA, such transfers shall comply with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 45/2001.

11 Where a third-country CSD has been recognised, in accordance with paragraphs 4 to 8, it may provide services referred to in the Annex within the territory of the Union, including by setting up a branch.

12 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the information that the applicant CSD is to provide to ESMA in its application for recognition under paragraph 6.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

CHAPTER II

Requirements for CSDs

Section 1

Organisational requirements

Article 26

General provisions

1 A CSD shall have robust governance arrangements, which include a clear organisational structure with well-defined, transparent and consistent lines of responsibility, effective processes to identify, manage, monitor and report the risks to which it is or might be exposed, and adequate remuneration policies and internal control mechanisms, including sound administrative and accounting procedures.

2 A CSD shall adopt policies and procedures which are sufficiently effective so as to ensure compliance with this Regulation, including compliance of its managers and employees with all the provisions of this Regulation.

3 A CSD shall maintain and operate effective written organisational and administrative arrangements to identify and manage any potential conflicts of interest between itself, including its managers, employees, members of the management body or any person directly or indirectly linked to them, and its participants or their clients. It shall maintain and implement adequate resolution procedures where possible conflicts of interest occur.

4 A CSD shall make its governance arrangements and the rules governing its activity available to the public.

5 A CSD shall have appropriate procedures for its employees to report internally potential infringements of this Regulation through a specific channel.

6 A CSD shall be subject to regular and independent audits. The results of these audits shall be communicated to the management body and made available to the competent authority and, where appropriate taking into account potential conflicts of interest between the members of the user committee and the CSD, to the user committee.

7 Where a CSD is part of a group of undertakings including other CSDs or credit institutions referred to in Title IV, it shall adopt detailed policies and procedures specifying how the requirements laid down in this Article apply to the group and to the different entities in the group.

8 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying at the CSD level and at the group level as referred to in paragraph 7:

- a the monitoring tools for the risks of the CSDs referred to in paragraph 1;
- b the responsibilities of the key personnel in respect of the risks of the CSDs referred to in paragraph 1;
- c the potential conflicts of interest referred to in paragraph 3;
- d the audit methods referred to in paragraph 6; and
- e the circumstances in which it would be appropriate, taking into account potential conflicts of interest between the members of the user committee and the CSD, to share audit findings with the user committee in accordance with paragraph 6.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 27

Senior management, management body and shareholders

1 The senior management of a CSD shall be of sufficiently good repute and experience so as to ensure the sound and prudent management of the CSD.

2 A CSD shall have a management body of which at least one third, but no less than two, of its members are independent.

3 The remuneration of the independent and other non-executive members of the management body shall not be linked to the business performance of the CSD.

4 The management body shall be composed of suitable members of sufficiently good repute with an appropriate mix of skills, experience and knowledge of the entity and of the market. The non-executive members of the management body shall decide on a target for the representation of the under-represented gender in the management body and prepare a policy on how to increase the number of the under-represented gender in order to meet that target. The target, policy and its implementation shall be made public.

5 A CSD shall clearly determine the role and responsibilities of the management body in accordance with the relevant national law. A CSD shall make the minutes of the meetings of the management body available to the competent authority and the auditor upon request.

6 The CSD's shareholders and persons who are in a position to exercise, directly or indirectly, control over the management of the CSD shall be suitable to ensure the sound and prudent management of the CSD.

7 A CSD shall:

- a provide the competent authority with, and make public, information regarding the ownership of the CSD, and in particular, the identity and scale of interests of any parties in a position to exercise control over the operation of the CSD;
- b inform and seek approval from its competent authority of any decision to transfer ownership rights which give rise to a change in the identity of the persons exercising control over the operation of the CSD. After receiving approval from its competent authority, the CSD shall make public the transfer of ownership rights.

Any natural or legal person shall inform without undue delay the CSD and its competent authority of a decision to acquire or dispose of its ownership rights that give rise to a change in the identity of the persons exercising control over the operation of the CSD.

8 Within 60 working days from the receipt of the information referred to in paragraph 7, the competent authority shall take a decision on the proposed changes in the control of the CSD. The competent authority shall refuse to approve proposed changes in the control of the CSD where there are objective and demonstrable grounds for believing that they would pose a threat to the sound and prudent management of the CSD or to the ability of the CSD to comply with this Regulation.

Article 28

User committee

1 A CSD shall establish user committees for each securities settlement system it operates, which shall be composed of representatives of issuers and of participants in such securities settlement systems. The advice of the user committee shall be independent from any direct influence by the management of the CSD.

2 A CSD shall define in a non-discriminatory way the mandate for each established user committee, the governance arrangements necessary to ensure its independence and its operational procedures, as well as the admission criteria and the election mechanism for user committee members. The governance arrangements shall be publicly available and shall ensure that the user committee reports directly to the management body and holds regular meetings.

3 User committees shall advise the management body on key arrangements that impact on their members, including the criteria for accepting issuers or participants in their respective securities settlement systems and on service level.

4 User committees may submit a non-binding opinion to the management body containing detailed reasons regarding the pricing structures of the CSD.

5 Without prejudice to the right of competent authorities to be duly informed, the members of the user committees shall be bound by confidentiality. Where the chairman of a user committee determines that a member has an actual or a potential conflict of interest in relation to a particular matter, that member shall not be allowed to vote on that matter.

6 A CSD shall promptly inform the competent authority and the user committee of any decision in which the management body decides not to follow the advice of the user committee. The user committee may inform the competent authority of any areas in which it considers that the advice of the user committee has not been followed.

Article 29

Record keeping

1 A CSD shall maintain, for a period of at least 10 years, all its records on the services and activities, including on the ancillary services referred to in Sections B and C of the Annex, so as to enable the competent authority to monitor the compliance with the requirements under this Regulation.

2 A CSD shall make the records referred to in paragraph 1 available upon request to the competent authority and the relevant authorities and any other public authority which under Union law or national law of its home Member State has a power to require access to such records for the purpose of fulfilling their mandate.

3 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the details of the records referred to in paragraph 1 to be retained for the purpose of monitoring the compliance of CSDs with the provisions of this Regulation.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

4 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft implementing technical standards to establish the format of the records referred to in paragraph 1 to be retained for the purpose of monitoring the compliance of CSDs with the provisions of this Regulation.

ESMA shall submit those draft implementing technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 30

Outsourcing

1 Where a CSD outsources services or activities to a third party, it shall remain fully responsible for discharging all of its obligations under this Regulation and shall comply at all times with the following conditions:

- a outsourcing does not result in the delegation of its responsibility;
- b the relationship and obligations of the CSD towards its participants or issuers are not altered;
- c the conditions for the authorisation of the CSD do not effectively change;

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- d outsourcing does not prevent the exercise of supervisory and oversight functions, including on-site access to acquire any relevant information needed to fulfil those functions;
 - e outsourcing does not result in depriving the CSD of the systems and controls necessary to manage the risks it faces;
 - f the CSD retains the expertise and resources necessary for evaluating the quality of the services provided, the organisational and capital adequacy of the service provider, for supervising the outsourced services effectively and for managing the risks associated with the outsourcing on an ongoing basis;
 - g the CSD has direct access to the relevant information of the outsourced services;
 - h the service provider cooperates with the competent authority and the relevant authorities in connection with the outsourced activities;
 - i the CSD ensures that the service provider meets the standards set down by the relevant data protection law which would apply if the service providers were established in the Union. The CSD is responsible for ensuring that those standards are set out in a contract between the parties and that those standards are maintained.
- 2 The CSD shall define in a written agreement its rights and obligations and those of the service provider. The outsourcing agreement shall allow the CSD to terminate the agreement.
- 3 A CSD and a service provider shall make available upon request to the competent authority and the relevant authorities all information necessary to enable them to assess the compliance of the outsourced activities with the requirements of this Regulation.
- 4 The outsourcing of a core service shall be subject to authorisation under Article 19 by the competent authority.
- 5 Paragraphs 1 to 4 shall not apply where a CSD outsources some of its services or activities to a public entity and where that outsourcing is governed by a dedicated legal, regulatory and operational framework which has been jointly agreed and formalised by the public entity and the relevant CSD and agreed by the competent authorities on the basis of the requirements established in this Regulation.

Article 31

Services provided by parties other than CSDs

- 1 Notwithstanding Article 30 and where required by national law, a person other than CSD may be responsible for recording book entries into securities accounts maintained by CSDs.
- 2 Member States that allow parties other than CSDs to provide certain core services referred to in Section A of the Annex in accordance with paragraph 1 shall specify in their national law the requirements that will apply in such a case. Those requirements shall include the provisions of this Regulation which shall apply both to the CSD and, where relevant, to the other party concerned.
- 3 Member States that allow parties other than CSDs to provide certain core services referred to in Section A of the Annex in accordance with paragraph 1 shall communicate to ESMA all the relevant information concerning the provision of such services, including their relevant national law.
- ESMA shall include such information in the CSD register referred to in Article 21.

Section 2

Conduct of business rules

Article 32

General provisions

- 1 A CSD shall have clearly defined goals and objectives that are achievable, such as in the areas of minimum service levels, risk-management expectations and business priorities.
- 2 A CSD shall have transparent rules for the handling of complaints.

Article 33

Requirements for participation

- 1 For each securities settlement system it operates a CSD shall have publicly disclosed criteria for participation which allow fair and open access for all legal persons that intend to become participants. Such criteria shall be transparent, objective, and non-discriminatory so as to ensure fair and open access to the CSD with due regard to risks to financial stability and the orderliness of markets. Criteria that restrict access shall be permitted only to the extent that their objective is to justifiably control a specified risk for the CSD.
- 2 A CSD shall treat requests for access promptly by providing a response to such requests within one month at the latest and shall make the procedures for treating access requests publicly available.
- 3 A CSD shall deny access to a participant meeting the criteria referred to in paragraph 1 only where duly justified in writing and based on a comprehensive risk assessment.

In the event of a refusal, the requesting participant has the right to complain to the competent authority of the CSD that has refused access.

That competent authority shall duly examine the complaint by assessing the reasons for refusal and shall provide the requesting participant with a reasoned reply.

That competent authority shall consult the competent authority of the place of establishment of the requesting participant on its assessment of the complaint. Where the authority of the requesting participant disagrees with the assessment provided, any one of the two competent authorities may refer the matter to ESMA, which may act in accordance with the powers conferred on it under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Where the refusal by the CSD to grant access to the requesting participant is deemed to be unjustified, the competent authority of the CSD that has refused access shall issue an order requiring that CSD to grant access to the requesting participant.

- 4 A CSD shall have objective and transparent procedures for the suspension and orderly exit of participants that no longer meet the criteria for participation referred to in paragraph 1.
- 5 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the risks to be taken into account by CSDs when carrying out a comprehensive risk assessment, and by competent authorities when assessing the

reasons for refusal in accordance with paragraph 3 and the elements of the procedure referred to in paragraph 3.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

6 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft implementing technical standards to establish standard forms and templates for the procedure referred to in paragraph 3.

ESMA shall submit those draft implementing technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 34

Transparency

1 For each securities settlement system it operates, as well as for each of the other core services it performs, a CSD shall publicly disclose the prices and fees associated with the core services listed in Section A of the Annex that they provide. It shall disclose the prices and fees of each service and function provided separately, including discounts and rebates and the conditions to benefit from those reductions. It shall allow its clients separate access to the specific services provided.

2 A CSD shall publish its price list so as to facilitate the comparison of offers and to allow clients to anticipate the price they shall have to pay for the use of services.

3 A CSD shall be bound by its published pricing policy for its core services.

4 A CSD shall provide its clients with information that allows reconciling invoices with the published price lists.

5 A CSD shall disclose to all clients information that allows them to assess the risks associated with the services provided.

6 A CSD shall account separately for costs and revenues of the core services provided and shall disclose that information to the competent authority.

7 A CSD shall account for the cost and revenue of the ancillary services provided as a whole and shall disclose that information to the competent authority.

8 In order to ensure effective application of Union competition rules and enable the identification, inter alia, of cross-subsidisation of ancillary services by core services, a CSD shall maintain analytical accounting for its activities. Such analytical accounts shall at least separate the costs and revenues associated with each of its core services from those associated with ancillary services.

Article 35

Communication procedures with participants and other market infrastructures

CSDs shall use in their communication procedures with participants of the securities settlement systems they operate, and with the market infrastructures they interface with international open communication procedures and standards for messaging and reference data in order to facilitate efficient recording, payment and settlement.

Section 3

Requirements for CSD services

Article 36

General provisions

For each securities settlement system it operates a CSD shall have appropriate rules and procedures, including robust accounting practices and controls, to help ensure the integrity of securities issues, and reduce and manage the risks associated with the safekeeping and settlement of transactions in securities.

Article 37

Integrity of the issue

1 A CSD shall take appropriate reconciliation measures to verify that the number of securities making up a securities issue or part of a securities issue submitted to the CSD is equal to the sum of securities recorded on the securities accounts of the participants of the securities settlement system operated by the CSD and, where relevant, on owner accounts maintained by the CSD. Such reconciliation measures shall be conducted at least daily.

2 Where appropriate and if other entities are involved in the reconciliation process for a certain securities issue, such as the issuer, registrars, issuance agents, transfer agents, common depositories, other CSDs or other entities, the CSD and any such entities shall organise adequate cooperation and information exchange measures with each other so that the integrity of the issue is maintained.

3 Securities overdrafts, debit balances or securities creation shall not be allowed in a securities settlement system operated by a CSD.

4 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the reconciliation measures a CSD is to take under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 38

Protection of securities of participants and those of their clients

1 For each securities settlement system it operates, a CSD shall keep records and accounts that shall enable it, at any time and without delay, to segregate in the accounts with the CSD, the securities of a participant from those of any other participant and, if applicable, from the CSD's own assets.

2 A CSD shall keep records and accounts that enable any participant to segregate the securities of the participant from those of the participant's clients.

3 A CSD shall keep records and accounts that enable any participant to hold in one securities account the securities that belong to different clients of that participant ('omnibus client segregation')

4 A CSD shall keep records and accounts that enable a participant to segregate the securities of any of the participant's clients, if and as required by the participant ('individual client segregation').

5 A participant shall offer its clients at least the choice between omnibus client segregation and individual client segregation and inform them of the costs and risks associated with each option.

However, a CSD and its participants shall provide individual clients segregation for citizens and residents of, and legal persons established in, a Member State where required under the national law of the Member State under which the securities are constituted as it stands at 17 September 2014. That obligation shall apply as long as the national law is not amended or repealed and its objectives are still valid.

6 CSDs and their participants shall publicly disclose the levels of protection and the costs associated with the different levels of segregation that they provide and shall offer those services on reasonable commercial terms. Details of the different levels of segregation shall include a description of the main legal implications of the respective levels of segregation offered, including information on the insolvency law applicable in the relevant jurisdictions.

7 A CSD shall not use for any purpose securities that do not belong to it. A CSD may however use securities of a participant where it has obtained that participant's prior express consent. The CSD shall require its participants to obtain any necessary prior consent from their clients.

Article 39

Settlement finality

1 A CSD shall ensure that the securities settlement system it operates offers adequate protection to participants. Member States shall designate and notify the securities settlement systems operated by CSDs according to the procedures referred to in point (a) of Article 2 of Directive 98/26/EC.

2 A CSD shall ensure that each securities settlement system that it operates defines the moments of entry and of irrevocability of transfer orders in that securities settlement system in accordance with Articles 3 and 5 of Directive 98/26/EC.

3 A CSD shall disclose the rules governing the finality of transfers of securities and cash in a securities settlement system.

4 Paragraphs 2 and 3 shall apply without prejudice to the provisions applicable to CSD links, and without prejudice to paragraph 8 of Article 48.

5 A CSD shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that, in accordance with the rules referred to in paragraph 3, finality of transfers of securities and cash referred to in paragraph 3 is achieved either in real time or intra-day and in any case no later than by the end of the business day of the actual settlement date.

6 Where the CSD offers the services referred to in Article 40(2), it shall ensure that the cash proceeds of securities settlements shall be available for recipients to use no later than by the end of the business day of the intended settlement date.

7 All securities transactions against cash between direct participants in a securities settlement system operated by a CSD and settled in that securities settlement system shall be settled on a DVP basis.

Article 40

Cash settlement

1 For transactions denominated in the currency of the country where the settlement takes place, a CSD shall settle the cash payments of its securities settlement system through accounts opened with a central bank of issue of the relevant currency where practical and available.

2 Where it is not practical and available to settle in central bank accounts as provided in paragraph 1, a CSD may offer to settle the cash payments for all or part of its securities settlement systems through accounts opened with a credit institution or through its own accounts. If a CSD offers to settle in accounts opened with a credit institution or through its own accounts, it shall do so in accordance with the provisions of Title IV.

3 A CSD shall ensure that any information provided to market participants about the risks and costs associated with settlement in the accounts of credit institutions or through its own accounts is clear, fair and not misleading. A CSD shall make available sufficient information to clients or potential clients to allow them to identify and evaluate the risks and costs associated with settlement in the accounts of credit institutions or through its own accounts and shall provide such information on request.

Article 41

Participant default rules and procedures

1 For each securities settlement system it operates, a CSD shall have effective and clearly defined rules and procedures to manage the default of one or more of its participants ensuring that the CSD can take timely action to contain losses and liquidity pressures and continue to meet its obligations.

2 A CSD shall make its default rules and relevant procedures available to the public.

3 A CSD shall undertake with its participants and other relevant stakeholders periodic testing and review of its default procedures to ensure that they are practical and effective.

4 In order to ensure consistent application of this Article, ESMA may, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, issue guidelines in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Section 4

Prudential requirements

Article 42

General requirements

A CSD shall adopt a sound risk-management framework for comprehensively managing legal, business, operational and other direct or indirect risks, including measures to mitigate fraud and negligence.

Article 43

Legal risks

1 For the purpose of its authorisation and supervision, as well as for the information of its clients, a CSD shall have rules, procedures, and contracts that are clear and understandable for all the securities settlement systems that it operates and all other services that it provides.

2 A CSD shall design its rules, procedures and contracts so that they are enforceable in all relevant jurisdictions, including in the case of the default of a participant.

3 A CSD conducting business in different jurisdictions shall take all reasonable steps to identify and mitigate the risks arising from potential conflicts of law across jurisdictions.

Article 44

General business risk

A CSD shall have robust management and control systems as well as IT tools in order to identify, monitor and manage general business risks, including losses from poor execution of business strategy, cash flows and operating expenses.

Article 45

Operational risks

1 A CSD shall identify sources of operational risk, both internal and external, and minimise their impact through the deployment of appropriate IT tools, controls and procedures, including for all the securities settlement systems it operates.

2 A CSD shall maintain appropriate IT tools that ensure a high degree of security and operational reliability, and have adequate capacity. IT tools shall adequately deal with the complexity, variety and type of services and activities performed so as to ensure high standards of security, and the integrity and confidentiality of the information maintained.

3 For services that it provides as well as for each securities settlement system that it operates, a CSD shall establish, implement and maintain an adequate business continuity policy and disaster recovery plan to ensure the preservation of its services, the timely recovery of operations and the fulfilment of the CSD's obligations in the case of events that pose a significant risk of disrupting operations.

4 The plan referred to in paragraph 3 shall provide for the recovery of all transactions and participants' positions at the time of disruption to allow the participants of a CSD to continue to operate with certainty and to complete settlement on the scheduled date, including by ensuring that critical IT systems can promptly resume operations from the time of disruption. It shall include the setting-up of a second processing site with sufficient resources, capabilities and functionalities and appropriate staffing arrangements.

5 The CSD shall plan and carry out a programme of tests of the arrangements referred to in paragraphs 1 to 4.

6 A CSD shall identify, monitor and manage the risks that key participants in the securities settlement systems it operates, as well as service and utility providers, and other CSDs or other market infrastructures might pose to its operations. It shall, upon request, provide competent and relevant authorities with information on any such risk identified.

It shall also inform the competent authority and relevant authorities without delay of any operational incidents resulting from such risks.

7 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the operational risks referred to in paragraphs 1 and 6 and the methods to test, to address or to minimise those risks, including the business continuity policies and disaster recovery plans referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 and the methods of assessment thereof.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 46

Investment policy

1 A CSD shall hold its financial assets at central banks, authorised credit institutions or authorised CSDs.

2 A CSD shall have prompt access to its assets, where required.

3 A CSD shall invest its financial resources only in cash or in highly liquid financial instruments with minimal market and credit risk. Those investments shall be capable of being liquidated rapidly with minimal adverse price effect.

4 The amount of capital, including retained earnings and reserves of a CSD which are not invested in accordance with paragraph 3 shall not be taken into account for the purposes of Article 47(1).

5 A CSD shall ensure that its overall risk exposure to any individual authorised credit institution or authorised CSD with which it holds its financial assets remains within acceptable concentration limits.

6 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with EBA and the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying the financial instruments that can be considered to be highly liquid with minimal market and credit risk as referred to in paragraph 3, the appropriate timeframe for access to assets referred to in paragraph 2 and the concentration limits as referred to in paragraph 5. Such draft regulatory technical standards shall, where appropriate, be aligned to the regulatory technical standards adopted in accordance with Article 47(8) of Regulation (EU) No 648/2012.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Article 47

Capital requirements

1 Capital, together with retained earnings and reserves of a CSD, shall be proportional to the risks stemming from the activities of the CSD. It shall be at all times sufficient to:

- a ensure that the CSD is adequately protected against operational, legal, custody, investment and business risks so that the CSD can continue to provide services as a going concern;
- b ensure an orderly winding-down or restructuring of the CSD's activities over an appropriate time span of at least six months under a range of stress scenarios.

2 A CSD shall maintain a plan for the following:

- a the raising of additional capital should its equity capital approach or fall below the requirements laid down in paragraph 1;
- b ensuring the orderly winding-down or restructuring of its operations and services where the CSD is unable to raise new capital.

The plan shall be approved by the management body or an appropriate committee of the management body and updated regularly. Each update of the plan shall be provided to the competent authority. The competent authority may require the CSD to take additional measures or to make any alternative provision where the competent authority considers that the CSD's plan is insufficient.

3 EBA shall, in close cooperation with ESMA and the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards specifying requirements regarding the capital, retained earnings and reserves of a CSD referred to in paragraph 1.

EBA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010.

Section 5

Requirements for CSD links

Article 48

CSD links

1 Before establishing a CSD link and on an ongoing basis once the CSD link is established, all CSDs concerned shall identify, assess, monitor and manage all potential sources of risk for themselves and for their participants arising from the CSD link and take appropriate measures to mitigate them.

2 CSDs that intend to establish links shall submit an application for authorisation to the competent authority of the requesting CSD as required under point (e) of Article 19(1) or notify the competent and relevant authorities of the requesting CSD as required under Article 19(5).

3 A link shall provide adequate protection to the linked CSDs and their participants, in particular as regards possible credits taken by CSDs and the concentration and liquidity risks as a result of the link arrangement.

A link shall be supported by an appropriate contractual arrangement that sets out the respective rights and obligations of the linked CSDs and, where necessary, of the CSDs' participants. A contractual arrangement with cross-jurisdictional implications shall provide for an unambiguous choice of law that govern each aspect of the link's operations.

4 In the event of a provisional transfer of securities between linked CSDs, retransfer of securities prior to the first transfer becoming final shall be prohibited.

5 A CSD that uses an indirect link or an intermediary to operate a CSD link with another CSD shall measure, monitor, and manage the additional risks arising from the use of that indirect link or intermediary and take appropriate measures to mitigate them.

6 Linked CSDs shall have robust reconciliation procedures to ensure that their respective records are accurate.

7 Links between CSDs shall permit DVP settlement of transactions between participants in linked CSDs, where practical and feasible. Detailed reasons for any CSD link not allowing for DVP settlement shall be notified to the relevant and competent authorities.

8 Interoperable securities settlement systems and CSDs, which use a common settlement infrastructure shall establish identical moments of:

- a entry of transfer orders into the system;
- b irrevocability of transfer orders.

The securities settlement systems and CSDs referred to in the first subparagraph shall use equivalent rules concerning the moment of finality of transfers of securities and cash.

9 By 18 September 2019 all interoperable links between CSDs operating in Member States shall be, where applicable, DVP-settlement supporting links.

10 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the conditions provided for in paragraph 3 under which each type of link arrangement provides for adequate protection of the linked CSDs and of their participants, in particular where a CSD intends to participate in the securities settlement

system operated by another CSD, the monitoring and managing of additional risks referred to in paragraph 5 arising from the use of intermediaries, the reconciliation methods referred to in paragraph 6, the cases where DVP settlement through CSD links is practical and feasible as provided for in paragraph 7 and the methods of assessment thereof.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Powers is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

CHAPTER III

Access to CSDs

Section 1

Access of issuers to CSDs

Article 49

Freedom to issue in a CSD authorised in the Union

1 An issuer shall have the right to arrange for its securities admitted to trading on regulated markets or MTFs or traded on trading venues to be recorded in any CSD established in any Member State, subject to compliance by that CSD with conditions referred to in Article 23.

Without prejudice to the issuer's right referred to in the first subparagraph, the corporate or similar law of the Member State under which the securities are constituted shall continue to apply.

Member States shall ensure that a list of key relevant provisions of their law, as referred to in the second subparagraph, is compiled. Competent authorities shall communicate that list to ESMA by 18 December 2014. ESMA shall publish the list by 18 January 2015.

The CSD may charge a reasonable commercial fee for the provision of its services to issuers on a cost-plus basis, unless otherwise agreed by both parties.

2 Where an issuer submits a request for recording its securities in a CSD, the latter shall treat such request promptly and in a non-discriminatory manner and provide a response to the requesting issuer within three months.

3 A CSD may refuse to provide services to an issuer. Such a refusal shall be based only on a comprehensive risk assessment or if that CSD does not provide the services referred to in point (1) of Section A of the Annex in relation to securities constituted under the corporate or similar law of the relevant Member State.

4 Without prejudice to Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽²⁾ and Commission Directive 2006/70/EC⁽³⁾, where a CSD refuses to provide services to an issuer, it shall provide the requesting issuer with full written reasons for its refusal.

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In the case of a refusal, the requesting issuer shall have the right to complain to the competent authority of the CSD that refuses to provide its services.

The competent authority of that CSD shall duly examine the complaint by assessing the reasons for refusal provided by the CSD and shall provide the issuer with a reasoned reply.

The competent authority of the CSD shall consult the competent authority of the place of establishment of the requesting issuer on its assessment of the complaint. Where the competent authority of the place of establishment of the requesting issuer disagrees with that assessment, any one of the two competent authorities may refer the matter to ESMA, which may act in accordance with the powers conferred on it under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Where the refusal by the CSD to provide its services to an issuer is deemed to be unjustified, the responsible competent authority shall issue an order requiring the CSD to provide its services to the requesting issuer.

5 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the risks to be taken into account by CSDs when carrying out a comprehensive risk assessment, and competent authorities assessing the reasons for refusal in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4, and the elements of the procedure referred to in paragraph 4.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

6 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft implementing technical standards to establish standard forms and templates for the procedure referred to in paragraph 4.

ESMA shall submit those draft implementing technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Section 2

Access between CSDs

Article 50

Standard link access

A CSD shall have the right to become a participant of another CSD and set up a standard link with that CSD in accordance with Article 33 and subject to the prior notification of the CSD link provided under Article 19(5).

Article 51

Customised link access

1 Where a CSD requests another CSD to establish a customised link for having access to the latter, the receiving CSD shall reject such a request only on the basis of risk considerations. It shall not deny a request on the grounds of loss of market share.

2 The receiving CSD may charge a reasonable commercial fee on a cost-plus basis to the requesting CSD for making customised link access available, unless otherwise agreed by both parties.

Article 52

Procedure for CSD links

1 When a CSD submits a request for access to another CSD pursuant to Articles 50 and 51, the latter shall treat such request promptly and shall provide a response to the requesting CSD within three months.

2 A CSD shall deny access to a requesting CSD only where such access would threaten the smooth and orderly functioning of the financial markets or cause systemic risk. Such a refusal shall be based only on a comprehensive risk assessment.

Where a CSD refuses access, it shall provide the requesting CSD with full reasons for its refusal.

In the case of a refusal, the requesting CSD has the right to complain to the competent authority of the CSD that has refused access.

The competent authority of the receiving CSD shall duly examine the complaint by assessing the reasons for refusal and shall provide the requesting CSD with a reasoned reply.

The competent authority of the receiving CSD shall consult the competent authority of the requesting CSD and the relevant authority of the requesting CSD referred to in point (a) of Article 12(1) on its assessment of the complaint. Where any of the authorities of the requesting CSD disagrees with the assessment provided, any one of the authorities may refer the matter to ESMA, which may act in accordance with the powers conferred on it under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Where the refusal by the CSD to grant access to the requesting CSD is deemed to be unjustified, the competent authority of the receiving CSD shall issue an order requiring that CSD to grant access to the requesting CSD.

3 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the risks to be taken into account by CSDs when carrying out a comprehensive risk assessment, and by competent authorities when assessing the reasons for refusal in accordance with paragraph 2, and the elements of the procedure referred to in paragraph 2.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

4 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft implementing technical standards to establish standard forms and templates for the procedures referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

ESMA shall submit those draft implementing technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Section 3

Access between a CSD and another market infrastructure

Article 53

Access between a CSD and another market infrastructure

1 A CCP and a trading venue shall provide transaction feeds on a non-discriminatory and transparent basis to a CSD upon request by the CSD and may charge a reasonable commercial fee for such transaction feeds to the requesting CSD on a cost-plus basis, unless otherwise agreed by both parties.

A CSD shall provide access to its securities settlement systems on a non-discriminatory and transparent basis to a CCP or a trading venue and may charge a reasonable commercial fee for such access on a cost-plus basis, unless otherwise agreed by both parties.

2 When a party submits a request for access to another party in accordance with paragraph 1, such request shall be treated promptly and a response to the requesting party shall be provided within three months.

3 The receiving party shall deny access only where such access would affect the smooth and orderly functioning of the financial markets or cause systemic risk. It shall not deny a request on the grounds of loss of market share.

A party that refuses access shall provide the requesting party with full written reasons for such refusal based on a comprehensive risk assessment. In the case of a refusal, the requesting party has the right to complain to the competent authority of the party that has refused access.

The competent authority of the receiving party and the relevant authority referred to in point (a) of Article 12(1) shall duly examine the complaint by assessing the reasons for refusal and shall provide the requesting party with a reasoned reply.

The competent authority of the receiving party shall consult the competent authority of the requesting party and the relevant authority referred to in point (a) of Article 12(1) on its assessment of the complaint. Where any of the authorities of the requesting party disagrees with the assessment provided, any of them may refer the matter to

ESMA, which may act in accordance with the powers conferred on it under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

Where the refusal by a party to grant access is deemed to be unjustified, the responsible competent authority shall issue an order requiring that party to grant access to its services within three months.

4 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft regulatory technical standards to specify the risks to be taken into account by CSDs when carrying out a comprehensive risk assessment, and by competent authorities when assessing the reasons for refusal in accordance with paragraph 3, and the elements of the procedure referred to in paragraph 3.

ESMA shall submit those draft regulatory technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is delegated to the Commission to adopt the regulatory technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Articles 10 to 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

5 ESMA shall, in close cooperation with the members of the ESCB, develop draft implementing technical standards to establish standard forms and templates for the procedure referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3.

ESMA shall submit those draft implementing technical standards to the Commission by 18 June 2015.

Power is conferred on the Commission to adopt the implementing technical standards referred to in the first subparagraph in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010.

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 1092/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on European Union macro-prudential oversight of the financial system and establishing a European Systemic Risk Board (OJ L 331, 15.12.2010, p. 1).
- (2) Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2005 on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing (OJ L 309, 25.11.2005, p. 15).
- (3) Commission Directive 2006/70/EC of 1 August 2006 laying down implementing measures for Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the definition of politically exposed person and the technical criteria for simplified customer due diligence procedures and for exemption on grounds of a financial activity conducted on an occasional or very limited basis (OJ L 214, 4.8.2006, p. 29).