The ECB’s Monetary Policy Response to the COVID-19 Crisis

(updated 17 July 2020)

The European Central Bank’s (ECB’s) Governing Council took the main decisions on monetary policy measures to address the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic during its regular meetings on 12 March 2020, 30 April 2020 and 4 June 2020, as well as an extraordinary meeting on 18 March 2020. These meetings yielded an extensive set of measures which are described below. In a series of blog posts, the ECB sought to further clarify the rationale of the recent monetary policy decisions.

The severity of the crisis has forced the ECB to shift attention away from its monetary policy strategy review, initially planned to be completed before the end of 2020. The Governing Council decided to postpone the conclusion of the review to mid-2021.

The European Parliament’s Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON Committee) continued its rigorous scrutiny of the ECB’s implementation of monetary policy in this period. Several meetings were held in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis between the ECON Committee and the ECB. On 30 March 2020, the Chair and political group coordinators of the ECON Committee held a meeting with President Lagarde. On 7 May 2020, Vice-President de Guindos appeared before the Committee to present the 2019 ECB annual report and to discuss the economic and financial impact of the COVID-19 crisis and the ECB’s response to it. The regular quarterly Monetary Dialogue with President Lagarde took place on 8 June 2020. The next Monetary Dialogue is scheduled for 28 September 2020.

Interest rate policy

The Governing Council meetings in March, April, June and July 2020 have left the key interest rates unchanged:

- Main refinancing operations (MRO): 0.00% (since March 2016);
- Marginal lending facility: 0.25% (since March 2016); and
- Deposit facility: -0.50% (since September 2019).

Forward guidance on key interest rates also remained unchanged, as articulated in the September 2019 Governing Council decision when the calendar-based element was dropped and forward-guidance became purely state-contingent.
“The Governing Council expects the key ECB interest rates to remain at their present or lower levels until it has seen the inflation outlook robustly converge to a level sufficiently close to, but below, 2% within its projection horizon, and such convergence has been consistently reflected in underlying inflation dynamics.”

Despite not having changed key short-term interest rates like other central banks such as the Federal Reserve and the Bank of England, the ECB has significantly reduced funding costs through adjustments to its longer-term refinancing operations.

**Asset purchase programmes**

The March 2020 Governing Council decisions have brought a substantial monetary stimulus through the ECB’s asset purchase programmes. The agreed additional net purchases under the increased asset purchase programme (APP) envelope and the new pandemic emergency purchase programme (PEPP) amount to 7.3% of euro area GDP. Together with the existing EUR 20 billion monthly net purchases, they were set to increase the current stock of Eurosystem’s asset holdings (accumulated since October 2014) by about 39% by the end of 2020. On top of that, in June 2020, the Governing Council increased the envelope for the PEP from EUR 750 billion to EUR 1.35 trillion. The figure below shows monthly net asset purchases since October 2014.

**Eurosystem net asset purchases by month (EUR billion)**

![Graph showing monthly net asset purchases](source: Own graph based on ECB, History of cumulative purchase breakdowns under the APP).

On 5 May 2020, the German Federal Constitutional Court has rejected the complaint that the Public Sector Purchase Programme (PSPP) effectively circumvents Article 123 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union on prohibition of monetary financing. However, departing from the assessment of the European Court of Justice, the Court has found that the Governing Council decisions related to the PSPP “lack sufficient proportionality considerations” and that “they amount to an exceeding of the ECB’s competences”. Following a transitional period of no more than three months, and without an ECB Governing Council decision “that demonstrates in a comprehensible and substantiated manner that the monetary policy objectives pursued by the PSPP are not disproportionate to the economic and fiscal policy effects resulting from the programme”, the Bundesbank would no longer have been able to participate in the PSPP and would have needed to sell bonds already purchased and held in its portfolio. While this decision of a national constitutional court does not directly concern monetary policy measures taken in response to the COVID-19 crisis, there could be an implication for the PEPP and other recent asset purchase programmes.
measures from the point of view of possible future legal challenges. On the same day, the ECB Governing Council has indicated that it has taken note of the judgement, and in particular that:

“The Governing Council remains fully committed to doing everything necessary within its mandate to ensure that inflation rises to levels consistent with its medium-term aim and that the monetary policy action taken in pursuit of the objective of maintaining price stability is transmitted to all parts of the economy and to all jurisdictions of the euro area.”

This was followed by a statement by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and a press release of the Court of Justice of the European Union. The ECB Governing Council decided to disclose non-public documents related to the PSPP to the Bundesbank, after its request. These documents were then made available to the Bundestag, which concluded that the requirements of the German Federal Constitutional Court were met.

1. Pandemic emergency purchase programme (PEPP)

Announced following the 18 March Governing Council meeting, the pandemic emergency purchase programme (PEPP) is a new, temporary programme for public and private sector asset purchases with an envelope of EUR 750 billion, initially set to run until the end of 2020. Its main stated aim is to counter risks to monetary policy transmission in the euro area caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

On 4 June, the Governing Council decided to increase the PEPP envelope by EUR 600 billion, to EUR 1.35 trillion. The horizon of PEPP net purchases was extended to at least the end of June 2021. Also, it was decided that maturing principal payments under the PEPP will be reinvested until at least the end of 2022.

There is a substantial degree of flexibility embedded in the PEPP, allowing for “fluctuations in the distribution of purchase flows over time, across asset classes and among jurisdictions”. This means that there is neither a pre-committed monthly amount of net purchases nor a target in terms of type of assets. The ECB’s capital key will guide, on a stock basis, net purchases under the PEPP. PEPP holdings will not be consolidated with the existing APP portfolios for the purpose of defining issue and issuer limits. Compared with the existing asset purchase programme, a waiver of the eligibility criteria for Greek government bonds was granted. The expansion of the corporate sector purchase programme to non-financial commercial papers decided on 18 March also applies to the PEPP.

The Governing Council has delegated the responsibility to set the pace and composition of monthly PEPP purchases to the Executive Board of the ECB. The Eurosystem will report the aggregate book value of PEPP securities on a weekly basis as well as net and cumulative purchases on a monthly basis.

Between March and June 2020, the Eurosystem has purchased EUR 355 billion of assets under the PEPP. The figure below shows the weekly cumulative net purchases under the PEPP.
PEPP: cumulative net asset purchases by week (EUR billion)

The public sector component of the PEPP net purchases in the period March-May 2020 amounted to EUR 186.6 billion. The figure below shows the deviations of cumulative net purchases from the capital key per Member State in that period. This data is published bimonthly.

PEPP: public sector securities cumulative net purchases (March-May 2020), deviation from the capital key (percentage points)

The private sector component of the PEPP purchases in the period March-May 2020 amounted to EUR 48.1 billion.
PEPP: public sector securities cumulative net purchases (March-May 2020), breakdown per asset class (% share)

Source: Based on ECB, Breakdown of private sector securities under the PEPP.

2. Asset purchase programme (APP): additional envelope and forward guidance

In November 2019, the Eurosystem restarted net purchases under the APP at a monthly pace of EUR 20 billion. On 12 March 2020, the Governing Council decided to increase the existing APP net purchases with an additional envelope of EUR 120 billion to be used by the end of 2020.

The emphasis, similar to the PEPP, was put on flexibility based on “temporary fluctuations in the distribution of purchase flows both across asset classes and across countries”, with purchases continuing to be guided by the ECB’s capital key in the long run.

Between March and June 2020, the Eurosystem has made net purchases of EUR 166.6 billion under the APP.

Beyond the additional envelope, the Governing Council maintained the September 2019 formulation of forward guidance on the APP:

“*The Governing Council continues to expect monthly net asset purchases under the APP to run for as long as necessary to reinforce the accommodative impact of its policy rates, and to end shortly before it starts raising the key ECB interest rates.*”

The Eurosystem will continue reinvesting principal payments from maturing APP securities:

“*Reinvestments of the principal payments from maturing securities purchased under the APP will continue, in full, for an extended period of time past the date when the Governing Council starts raising the key ECB interest rates, and in any case for as long as necessary to maintain favourable liquidity conditions and an ample degree of monetary accommodation.*”
3. Corporate sector purchase programme (CSPP) eligibility criteria

On 18 March, the Governing Council decided to expand the range of eligible assets under the CSPP to non-financial commercial papers. This will also apply to purchases under the PEPP.

Commercial papers are, by definition, unsecured short-term (maturity up to 1 year) debt instruments used to meet short-term liabilities. In the euro area, the commercial paper market is dominated by financial institutions, although there has been an increase in recent years in issuance by non-financial corporations. The ECB detected deteriorating financing conditions for corporates emanating from the commercial paper market in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, when the Governing Council decided to make this targeted change to the list of CSPP-eligible assets.

Long-term refinancing operations

The March and April 2020 Governing Council decisions have brought substantial changes to the ECB’s long-term refinancing operations.

1. Longer-term refinancing operations (LTROs)

On 12 March 2020, the Governing Council has decided to conduct additional LTROs on a temporary basis under a fixed-rate full allotment procedure, providing banks with liquidity and acting as a backstop to any deterioration of money market conditions. The interest rate will equal the average deposit facility rate.

13 additional such LTRO operations were conducted between 18 March and 10 June 2020 (all maturing on 24 June 2020), providing EUR 388.9 billion of liquidity to the euro area financial system. The table below shows the uptake of these additional LTRO operations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement date (indicative)</th>
<th>Maturity date</th>
<th>Allotted amount, EUR billion</th>
<th>Number of bidders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 March 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>79.67</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>43.71</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 April 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>19.51</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 April 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>4.64</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 April 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>18.91</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 April 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>36.66</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 May 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>14.28</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>6.82</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 May 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>8.73</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 May 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>18.54</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 June 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>14.48</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 June 2020</td>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>13.77</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Based on ECB announces measures to support bank liquidity conditions and money market activity and ECB, open market operations.

2. Targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTROs)

TLTROs have been used by the ECB as a non-standard measure since 2014 when the first TLTRO series of 8 operations was launched. The main aim is to provide long-term loans to banks with conditions which incentivise them to lend more to the real economy, thus enhancing monetary policy transmission. Under TLTRO I, banks reaching their lending benchmarks were allowed to borrow more in subsequent operations,
while those which did not were requested to repay their TLTRO I loans early. In 2016, the second TLTRO series was launched consisting of 4 operations. TLTRO II incentives were designed as rewards rather than penalties. Lower interest rates were applied for banks whose net lending exceeded the benchmark.

TLTRO III was first announced following the Governing Council meeting in March 2019. Further operational details were unveiled in June 2019. The main incentive mechanism incorporated in TLTRO III is the possible interest rate reduction if eligible net lending (gross lending net of repayments) is higher than benchmark net lending. Eligible loans are those made to euro area non-financial corporations and households (including non-profit institutions serving households), excluding mortgage loans to households. For the purpose of determining the benchmark level, banks were assessed according to their eligible net lending in the period between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019. Where eligible net lending was positive or zero, the benchmark was set to zero. Where it was negative, it was set at the level of eligible net lending in that period.

As part of a package of monetary policy measures adopted in September 2019, TLTRO III conditions were eased and interest rates reduced. These changes were applied to the first TLTRO III operation which was settled on 25 September 2019, and the second operation settled on 18 December 2019.

On 12 March 2020, **TLTRO III conditions were further eased, along with a temporary reduction of applicable interest rates** (as low as -0.75%) for all operations outstanding during the period between June 2020 and June 2021.

On 30 April 2020, the Governing Council decided to further ease TLTRO III conditions for operations by **bringing forward the start of the lending benchmark assessment period** by one month (to 1 March 2020) and by **reducing applicable interest rates** (as low as -1%) for the period between June 2020 and June 2021.

The table below shows the main changes made to the initial TLTRO III conditions.

**TLTRO III: evolution of key parameters**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Initial conditions</th>
<th>September 2019 changes</th>
<th>March 2020 changes</th>
<th>April 2020 changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interest rate</strong></td>
<td>MRO rate + 10bps</td>
<td>MRO rate</td>
<td>MRO rate – 25bps (special interest rate period)</td>
<td>MRO – 50bps (special interest rate period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum rate reduction</strong></td>
<td>Deposit facility rate + 10bps</td>
<td>Deposit facility rate</td>
<td>Deposit facility rate – 25bps (not lower than -0.75%) (special interest rate period)</td>
<td>Deposit facility rate – 50bps (not lower than -1%) (special interest rate period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reference period for rate reduction</strong></td>
<td>1 April 2019 – 31 March 2021</td>
<td>No change</td>
<td>1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 (special reference period)</td>
<td>1 March 2020 – 31 March 2021 (special reference period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum rate reduction eligibility</strong></td>
<td>Eligible net lending at least 2.5% above benchmark net lending</td>
<td>No change</td>
<td>Eligible net lending at least equal to benchmark net lending</td>
<td>Eligible net lending at least 1.15% above benchmark net lending</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes to the borrowing limits have been implemented in the third TLTRO III operation on 25 March 2020. Other changes apply as of the fourth TLTRO III operation conducted on 24 June 2020.

Calculation of the applicable interest rates became more complicated with the “special interest rate period” and the two reference periods used to determine reduced rate eligibility. The table below gives an overview of applicable interest rates for TLTRO III operations.

### TLTRO III: applicable interest rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible net lending (ENL) vs benchmark net lending (BNL)</th>
<th>Applicable interest rate over the life of a TLTRO III operation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Before</strong> (settlement date - 24 June 2020)</td>
<td><strong>Special interest rate period</strong> (24 June 2020 - 23 June 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENL ≥ BNL during special reference period*</td>
<td>Deposit facility rate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ENL < BNL during special reference period* but ENL > BNL by at least 1.15% during standard reference period** | Deposit facility rate | Lower rate between:  
  i. MRO – 50 bps  
  ii. Deposit facility rate | Deposit facility rate |
| ENL < BNL during special reference period* but ENL > BNL by less than 1.15% during standard reference period** | Rate between MRO and deposit facility, determined based on the deviation from the benchmark*** | Lower rate between:  
  i. MRO – 50 bps  
  ii. Rate between MRO and deposit facility, determined based on the deviation from the benchmark*** | Rate between MRO and deposit facility, determined based on the deviation from the benchmark*** |
| ENL < BNL in both periods | MRO | MRO – 50 bps | MRO |

Note: * Special reference period: 1 March 2020 - 31 March 2021. ** Standard reference period: 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2021. *** MRO – (MRO – deposit facility rate) × rate adjustment; rate adjustment = \( \frac{\% \text{ exceeding benchmark}}{1.15} \) \( 0 < \% \text{ exceeding benchmark} < 1.15 \).

The table below shows the indicative schedule of TLTRO III operations. The 24 June 2020 TLTRO III operation was the largest liquidity operation in the history of the ECB with a take-up of EUR 1.3 trillion.

### TLTRO III: indicative schedule of operations (as published in May 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement date (indicative)</th>
<th>Maturity date</th>
<th>Allotted amount, EUR billion</th>
<th>Number of bidders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 September 2019</td>
<td>28 September 2022</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 December 2019</td>
<td>21 December 2022</td>
<td>97.72</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 March 2020</td>
<td>29 March 2023</td>
<td>114.98</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>28 June 2023</td>
<td>1308.43</td>
<td>742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(30 September 2020)</td>
<td>27 September 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(16 December 2020)</td>
<td>20 December 2023</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(24 March 2021)</td>
<td>27 March 2024</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Based on [Indicative calendar for the third series of targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTROs-III)], as published in May 2020 and [ECB, open market operations (website)].

3. Pandemic emergency longer-term refinancing operations (PELTROs)

On 30 April 2020, the Governing Council decided to conduct seven additional non-targeted fixed-rate full allotment refinancing operations between May and December 2020, maturing in a staggered sequence between July and September 2021 (in line with the duration of the collateral easing measures). The applicable interest rate will be 25 bps below the MRO rate. The table below shows the indicative schedule and take-up of PELTRO operations.

### PELTRO: indicative schedule of operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Settlement date (indicative)</th>
<th>Maturity date</th>
<th>Allotted amount, EUR billion</th>
<th>Number of bidders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 May 2020</td>
<td>30 September 2021</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 June 2020</td>
<td>30 September 2021</td>
<td>15.61</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6 August 2020)</td>
<td>30 September 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3 September 2020)</td>
<td>26 August 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(8 October 2020)</td>
<td>26 August 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5 November 2020)</td>
<td>29 July 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3 December 2020)</td>
<td>29 July 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [“ECB announces new pandemic emergency longer-term refinancing operations”] and [ECB, open market operations (website)].

Collateral framework

The Eurosystem collateral framework plays a crucial role in the implementation of monetary policy in the euro area. Article 18 of the statute of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and the ECB states that credit shall be provided only against adequate collateral. The way in which the Eurosystem deals with collateral is based on a so-called “general” and “temporary” framework. The collateral framework has seen significant changes since 2008. An extensive account of the technical details and the evolution of the collateral framework is given in a 2017 ECB paper.21
One particular element of the collateral framework is the “additional credit claims” (ACC). As part of temporary measures to increase collateral availability, the Governing Council announced in December 2011 that national central banks (NCBs) are allowed, on a temporary basis, to accept additional credit claims as collateral by having specific national credit claim eligibility criteria and risk control measures which differ from the general framework. The national eligibility criteria for such additional credit claims were first approved in February 2012. In June 2019, the ACC frameworks were extended in their current format until the maturity date of the final TLTRO III operation in March 2024.

On 18 March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Governing Council announced the decision to include claims related to the financing of the corporate sector in the ACC framework.

On 7 April 2020, the Governing Council announced further details on the package of temporary collateral easing measures, which are substantial and going beyond only the ACC framework. The main temporary changes may be summarised as follows:

- Temporary reduction of collateral valuation haircuts by 20% across the board, thus increasing the Eurosystem’s level of risk tolerance.
- Temporary extension of the ACC framework:
  - Inclusion of government and public sector guaranteed loans to corporates, SMEs, self-employed individuals and households in the requirements on guarantees;
  - Extension of scope of acceptable credit assessment systems (e.g. acceptance of banks’ own credit assessments from internal rating-based systems approved by supervisors);
  - Reduction of the loan level reporting requirements.
- Other temporary measures:
  - Lowering the level of the minimum size threshold for domestic credit claims to EUR 0 (from EUR 25,000);
  - Increase in the maximum share of unsecured debt instruments that can be used as collateral to 10% (from 2.5%);
  - Waiver of minimum credit quality requirements for Greek government bonds in order to accept them as collateral.

The temporary nature of these measures is tied to the duration of the PEPP, with a possibility of further extensions if needed.

Apart from these temporary measures, the Governing Council also decided to permanently reduce collateral haircuts on non-marketable assets by 20%. For such assets, this applies on top of the temporary haircut reduction.

On 22 April 2020, the Governing Council adopted a further measure aimed at insulating collateral availability against possible rating downgrades. Assets meeting minimum credit quality requirements for collateral eligibility on 7 April 2020 (equivalent to BBB-, except asset-backed securities (ABSs)) will continue to be eligible in case of rating downgrades, as long as their rating remains at or above BB. ABSs eligible under the general framework (rating equivalent to A-) will be grandfathered as long as their rating remains at or above a rating equivalent to BB+. This measure will remain in place until September 2021.

**Currency swap lines**

Swap lines are arrangements between central banks to exchange currency in order to maintain foreign currency liquidity when markets are distorted. The necessity of such arrangements became particularly pronounced in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, when the ECB entered into swap arrangements with central banks from a number of jurisdictions. In October 2013, the Bank of Canada, the Bank of England,
the Bank of Japan, the ECB, the Federal Reserve, and the Swiss National Bank agreed to replace existing temporary bilateral liquidity swap lines with standing arrangements.\(^29\)

On 15 March 2020, the above-mentioned **6 central banks jointly decided to enhance the provision of global USD liquidity** through their existing standing arrangements by: a) lowering the pricing of USD swap operations (to USD overnight index swap rate + 25bps), and b) adding weekly USD operations with 84-day maturity (in addition to existing weekly 1-week maturity operations). On 20 March, **these arrangements were further enhanced** by changing the frequency of the existing 1-week maturity operations from weekly to daily, while continuing with the new 84-day maturity operations. On 19 June 2020, the frequency of 1-week maturity operations was reduced from daily to three times per week. The figure below shows the outstanding amounts of USD swap operations.

USD liquidity swaps: amounts outstanding (USD billion)

On 20 March, the **ECB and Danmarks Nationalbank have reactivated a currency swap arrangement** and increased the maximum amount to be borrowed by Danmarks Nationalbank from EUR 12 billion to EUR 24 billion, in order to provide euro liquidity to Danish banks.\(^31\) On 15 April, the **ECB and the Croatian National Bank agreed to set up a precautionary swap line**, to remain at least until the end of 2020. The Croatian National Bank will be able borrow a maximum of EUR 2 billion from the ECB in exchange for Croatian kuna.\(^32\) On 22 April, the **ECB and the Bulgarian National Bank set up a similar precautionary swap line**, with the same limit and duration.\(^33\) On 5 June, the **ECB and the National Bank of Romania have agreed to set up a repo line arrangement**, to remain in place at least until end 2020. The National Bank of Romania will be able to borrow up to EUR 4.5 billion from the ECB, with a 3-month maximum maturity of each drawing.\(^34\)

On 25 June 2020, the ECB set up the **Eurosystem repo facility for central banks (EUREP)** to provide euro liquidity to non-euro area central banks against collateral, consisting of euro-denominated marketable debt securities issued by euro area governments and supranational institutions. It will be available until June 2021.
1 The ECB published the accounts of these meetings: 12 March, 18 March, 29-30 April and 3-4 June.

2 “Our response to the coronavirus emergency”, blogpost by Christine Lagarde, President of the ECB, 19 March 2020.

3 The Eurosystem’s stock of APP bonds stood at EUR 2 732 billion at end-February 2020; The PEPP, the additional APP envelope and the previously-agreed net purchases of EUR 20 billion/month jointly amount to EUR 1 070 billion between March and December 2020.


6 “ECB takes note of German Federal Constitutional Court ruling and remains fully committed to its mandate”, ECB, Press Release, 5 May 2020.

7 “Statement by President VON DER LEYEN”, European Commission, STATEMENT/20/846, 10 May 2020.

8 “Press release following the judgment of the German Constitutional Court of 5 May 2020”, Court of Justice of the European Union, PRESS RELEASE No 58/20, 8 May 2020.

9 “In the spirit of European cooperation”, Introductory remarks by Yves Mersch, Member of the Executive Board of the ECB and Vice-Chair of the Supervisory Board of the ECB, at the Salzburg Global webinar, 2 July 2020.


14 “The ECB’s commercial paper purchases: A targeted response to the economic disturbances caused by COVID-19”, blog post by Luis de Guindos, Vice-President of the ECB, and Isabel Schnabel, Member of the Executive Board of the ECB, 3 April 2020.

15 More information on ACCs can be found here: “What are additional credit claim (ACC) frameworks?”, ECB Explainer, 15 May 2020.

16 “ECB’s Governing Council approves eligibility criteria for additional credit claims”, ECB, Press Release, 9 February 2012.

17 “Decisions taken by the Governing Council of the ECB (in addition to decisions setting interest rates)”, June 2019.


20 “ECB recalibrates targeted lending operations to further support real economy”, ECB Press Release, 30 April 2020.

21 The Eurosystem’s stock of APP bonds stood at EUR 2 732 billion at end-February 2020; The PEPP, the additional APP envelope and the previously-agreed net purchases of EUR 20 billion/month jointly amount to EUR 1 070 billion between March and December 2020.


24 “ECB and Bulgarian National Bank set up swap line to provide euro liquidity”, ECB, Press Release, 22 April 2020.


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