



# The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

## Euro Medium-Term Notes, Series F

### TERMS OF SALE

Unless the context requires otherwise, references to the notes refer to Series F euro medium-term notes. The following terms may apply to the notes that The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. may sell from time to time. The specific terms of each note will be included in the final terms relating to that note.

- stated maturity of up to 40 years from the date of issue
- fixed or floating interest rate, zero coupon and / or issued with original issue discount
- amount of interest and/or amount payable at maturity may be determined by reference to one or more underlying rates, measures or instruments
- may be subject to redemption at the option of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or repayment at the option of the holder
- may not be amortized or subject to a sinking fund
- may be denominated in U.S. dollars or in other currencies, currency units or composite currencies and payable in the denominated or other currencies
- denominations of at least €1,000 or U.S.\$2,000 or, if denominated in other currencies, denominations of at least the equivalent of €1,000
- settlement in immediately available funds

The notes will not be secured by any property or assets and will not be subordinated to any of our other debt obligations.

Any of the terms described above may be varied in the applicable final terms to the extent permissible.

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. may offer and sell these notes to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, including Goldman Sachs International, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

Application has been made to the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (the "CSSF"), which is the competent Luxembourg authority under the Prospectus Directive for approving this European base prospectus (the "European base prospectus"). By approving this European base prospectus, the CSSF shall give no undertaking as to the economic and financial soundness of the operation or the quality or solvency of the issuer in accordance with Article 7(7) of the Luxembourg Act dated July 10, 2005, which implements the Prospectus Directive. Application has been made to the Luxembourg Stock Exchange for notes issued under the Series F euro medium-term notes program to be listed on the Official List and admitted to trading on the regulated market of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. Notes issued under the Series F euro medium-term notes program may also be listed on an alternative stock exchange or may not be listed at all. References to the Prospectus Directive include Directive 2003/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (and amendments thereto, including Directive 2010/73/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (the "2010 PD Amending Directive"), to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State) and any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is under no obligation to maintain the listing of any notes that are listed. See "Listing and General Information" below.

This European base prospectus constitutes a base prospectus for the purposes of Article 5.4 of the Prospectus Directive. The European Base Prospectus should be read together with any supplements thereto, all documents incorporated by reference therein and the applicable final terms.

Subject to certain exceptions, the notes may not be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, in the United States of America or to U.S. persons. See "Plan of Distribution". **The notes have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or under the securities or blue sky laws of any state. Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of the notes or passed upon the accuracy or inaccuracy of this European base prospectus. This European base prospectus is not for use in, and may not be delivered to or inside, the United States.**

**The notes we may issue are not bank deposits and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency, nor are they obligations of, or guaranteed by, a bank.**

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. may use this European base prospectus in the initial sale of any note. In addition, Goldman Sachs International or any other affiliate of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. may use this European base prospectus in a market-making transaction in any note after its initial sale. **Unless The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or its agent informs the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this European base prospectus is being used in a market-making transaction.**

If the notes are stated in the applicable final terms to be issued under the new safekeeping structure ("NSS"), then we will deliver these notes to a common safekeeper for Euroclear Bank SA/NV ("Euroclear") and Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme* ("Clearstream, Luxembourg"). Global notes which are not issued under NSS will be deposited with a common depository for Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg.

**See "Risk Factors" beginning on p. 33 for a discussion of certain risks that should be considered in connection with an investment in certain types of notes which may be offered hereby.**

## Goldman Sachs International

European Base Prospectus, dated April 21, 2016

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this European base prospectus to “The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.,” “the Issuer,” “we,” “our” and “us” mean only The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and do not include its consolidated subsidiaries. References to “Goldman Sachs,” “the Group” and the “Goldman Sachs Group” refer to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. together with its consolidated subsidiaries. Also, when we refer to “holders” we mean those who own notes registered in their own names, on the books that we or our agents maintain for this purpose; “holders” does not refer to those who own beneficial interests in notes registered in street name or in notes issued in global — *i.e.*, book-entry — form through Euroclear SA/NV, Clearstream Banking, *société anonyme*, or another depository. Prospective owners of beneficial interests in the notes issued in global form should read the section entitled “General Note Conditions — Form, Exchange, Registration and Transfer” below.

We have not authorized anyone to provide any information or to make any representations other than those contained or incorporated by reference in this European base prospectus. Neither this European base prospectus nor any final terms constitutes an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy any securities in any jurisdiction where, or to any person to whom, it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation in that jurisdiction. Neither the delivery of this European base prospectus, any final terms nor any sale made pursuant to those documents, shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. since the date of the document or that the information contained within the documents is correct as of any time subsequent to its date.

The Luxembourg Stock Exchange’s regulated market is a regulated market for the purposes of the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (Directive 2004/39/EC).

The credit ratings of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. referred to in the European Base Prospectus have been issued by DBRS, Inc., Fitch, Inc., Moody’s Investors Service and Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services, each of which is established in the United States (together, the “US CRAs”).

In general, European regulated investors are restricted from using a rating for regulatory purposes if such rating is not either (1) issued or validly endorsed by a credit rating agency established in the European Union (an “EU CRA”) and registered with the European Securities and Markets Authority (“ESMA”) under Regulation (EU) No. 1060/2009, amended by Regulation (EU) No 513/2011 (as amended, the “CRA Regulation”) or (2) issued by a credit rating agency established outside the European Union which is certified under the CRA Regulation.

The EU affiliates of DBRS, Inc., Fitch, Inc., Moody’s Investors Service, Standard & Poor’s Ratings Services are registered EU CRAs on the official list, available at <http://www.esma.europa.eu/page/List-registered-and-certified-CRAs>. The ESMA has approved the endorsement by such EU affiliates of credit ratings issued by the corresponding US CRAs. Accordingly, credit ratings issued by the US CRAs may be used for regulatory purposes in the EU. In addition to the US CRAs mentioned, Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (“R&I”) has issued a credit rating. This rating is incorporated in the European Base Prospectus for information purposes only. R&I is incorporated in a third country but has not applied for the registration under the CRA Regulation.

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### Responsibility Statement

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. accepts responsibility for the information contained in this European base prospectus. To the best of the knowledge and belief of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (which has taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this European base prospectus is in accordance with the facts and contains no omission likely to affect the import of such information. Where information contained in this European base prospectus has been sourced from a third party, such information has been accurately reproduced and so far as The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is aware and is able to

ascertain from information published by that third party, no facts have been omitted which would render the reproduced information inaccurate or misleading.

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In relation to notes listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, this European base prospectus is valid for a period of twelve months after its date of approval. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. has undertaken, in connection with the listing of the notes, that if there shall occur any material adverse change in the financial condition or operations of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or any modification or amendment to the terms and conditions of the notes such that this European base prospectus would be inaccurate or misleading, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. will prepare and make available a supplement to this European base prospectus or a further European base prospectus for any subsequent issue of notes to be listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

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In this section, the expression “necessary information” means, in relation to any tranche of notes, the information necessary to enable investors in such notes to make an informed assessment of the assets and liabilities, financial position, profits and losses and prospects of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and of the rights attaching to such notes. In relation to the different types of notes that may be issued under the program, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. has included in this European base prospectus all of the necessary information except for information which is not known at the date of this European base prospectus and which can only be determined at the time of an individual issue of a tranche of notes.

Any information relating to the notes which is not included in this European base prospectus and which is required in order to complete the necessary information in relation to a tranche of notes will be contained either in the relevant final terms or in a further European base prospectus.

For a tranche of notes which is the subject of final terms, those final terms will, for the purposes of that tranche only, complete this European base prospectus and must be read in conjunction with this European base prospectus.

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In connection with the issue of any tranche of notes, Goldman Sachs International (or persons acting on its behalf) may over-allot notes (provided that, in the case of any tranche of notes to be listed on the Official list of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, the aggregate principal amount of notes allotted does not exceed 105 per cent of the aggregate principal amount of the relevant tranche) or effect transactions with a view to supporting the market price of the notes at a level higher than that which might otherwise prevail. However, there is no assurance that Goldman Sachs International (or persons acting on its behalf) will undertake stabilization action. Any stabilization action may begin on or after the date on which adequate public disclosure of the final terms of the offer of the relevant tranche of notes is made and, if begun, may be ended at any time, but it must end no later than the earlier of 30 days after the issue date of the relevant tranche of notes and 60 days after the date of the allotment of the relevant tranche of notes. Any stabilization action or over-allotment must be conducted by Goldman Sachs International (or persons acting on its behalf) in accordance with all applicable laws and rules.

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Any insurance company or fiduciary of a pension plan or other employee benefit plan that is subject to the prohibited transactions rules of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, including an IRA or a Keogh plan (or a governmental plan to which similar prohibitions apply), and that is considering purchasing the notes with the assets of the insurance company or the assets of the plan, should consult with its counsel regarding whether the purchase or holding of the notes could become a “prohibited transaction” under ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code or any substantially similar

**prohibition in light of the representations a purchaser or holder in any of the above categories is deemed to make by purchasing and holding the notes. This is discussed in more detail under “Employee Retirement Income Security Act” below.**

**Consent to use this Base Prospectus:** If so specified in the Final Terms in respect of any particular issuance of notes, the Issuer consents to the use of this Base Prospectus in connection with the making of an offer of the notes to the public requiring the prior publication of a prospectus under the Prospectus Directive (a “Non-exempt Offer”) (i) by the financial intermediary/ies (each, an “Authorized Offeror”), (ii) during the offer period and (iii) subject to the relevant conditions, in each case as specified in the relevant Final Terms.

The consent shall be valid in relation to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and such of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom as is specified in the relevant Final Terms and each other Member State the competent authority of which has been provided with a Certificate of Approval by the Competent Authority in relation to this Base Prospectus under Article 18 of the Prospectus Directive, provided that it shall be a condition of such consent that the Base Prospectus may only be used by the relevant Authorized Offeror(s) to make offerings of the relevant notes in the jurisdiction(s) in which the Non-exempt Offer is to take place, as specified in the relevant Final Terms.

The Issuer may (i) give consent to one or more additional Authorized Offerors after the date of the relevant Final Terms, (ii) discontinue or change the offer period, and/or (iii) remove or add conditions and, if it does so, such information in relation to the relevant notes will be published by way of notice which will be available on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange website ([www.bourse.lu](http://www.bourse.lu)). The consent relates only to offer periods occurring within twelve months from the approval date of this Base Prospectus.

**Any Authorized Offeror who wishes to use this European base prospectus in connection with a Non-exempt Offer is required, for the duration of the relevant offer period, to publish on its website that it is relying on this European base prospectus for such Non-exempt Offer with the consent of the Issuer.**

All references in this document to “ISDA” refer to the 2006 ISDA Definitions, as published by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. and as amended and updated as at the date of this base prospectus. Investors should consult the Issuer in case they require a copy of the 2006 ISDA Definitions.

The Issuer accepts responsibility for the content of this Base Prospectus in relation to any person (an “Investor”) purchasing notes pursuant to a Non-exempt Offer where the offer to the Investor is made (i) by an Authorized Offeror (or the Issuer or Goldman Sachs International), (ii) in a Member State for which the Issuer has given its consent, (iii) during the offer period for which the consent is given and (iv) in compliance with the other conditions attached to the giving of the consent, all as set forth in the relevant Final Terms. However, neither the Issuer nor Goldman Sachs International has any responsibility for any of the actions of any Authorized Offeror, including compliance by an Authorized Offeror with applicable conduct of business rules or other local regulatory requirements or other notes law requirements in relation to such offer.

Other than in accordance with the terms set out in the paragraph above, the Issuer has not authorized (and nor has Goldman Sachs International) the making of any Non-exempt Offers of the notes or the use of this Base Prospectus by any person. No financial intermediary or any other person is permitted to use this Base Prospectus in connection with any offer of the notes in any other circumstances. Any such offers are not made on behalf of the Issuer (or Goldman Sachs International) and neither the Issuer nor Goldman Sachs International has any responsibility or liability to any Investor purchasing notes pursuant to such offer or for the actions of any person making such offer.

**If an Investor intends to purchase notes from an Authorized Offeror, it will do so, and such offer and sale will be made, in accordance with any terms and other arrangements in place between such Authorized Offeror and the Investor, including as to price allocations and settlement arrangements. The Issuer will not be a party to any such arrangements and, accordingly, this Base Prospectus does not contain such information. The terms and conditions**

of such offer should be provided to the Investor by that Authorized Offeror at the time such offer is made. Neither the Issuer nor Goldman Sachs International has any responsibility or liability for such information.

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## SUMMARY

1. *Summaries are made up of disclosure requirements known as 'Elements'. These elements are numbered in Sections A-E (A.1-E.7). This summary contains all the Elements required to be included in a summary relating to the notes and the Issuer. Because some Elements are not required to be addressed there may be gaps in the numbering sequence of the Elements.*
2. *Even though an Element may be required to be inserted into the summary because of the type of security and Issuer, it is possible that no relevant information can be given regarding the Element. In this case, a short description of the Element is included in the summary and marked as 'not applicable'.*

<b>Section A—Introduction and warnings</b>		
<b>Element</b>	<b>Disclosure requirement</b>	<b>Disclosure</b>
A.1	Warning	<p>This summary should be read as an introduction to the European base prospectus. Any decision to invest in the notes should be based on a consideration of the European base prospectus as a whole, including any documents incorporated by reference. Where a claim relating to the information contained in the European base prospectus is brought before a court, the plaintiff investor might, under the national legislation of the member states of the European Economic Area, have to bear the costs of translating the European base prospectus before the legal proceedings are initiated. Civil liability attaches only to those persons who have tabled the summary including any translation thereof, but only if the summary is misleading, inaccurate or inconsistent when read together with the other parts of the European base prospectus or it does not provide, when read together with the other parts of the European base prospectus, key information in order to aid investors when considering whether to invest in the notes.</p>
A.2	Consents	<p>[Subject to the conditions set out below, in connection with a Non-exempt Offer (as defined below) of Securities, the Issuer consents to the use of the Base Prospectus by Goldman Sachs International [and by:</p> <p>(1) [[•],[•] and [•] (the “Initial Authorised Offeror[s]”);]</p> <p>(2) [if the Issuer appoints additional financial intermediaries after the date of the Final Terms dated [•] and publishes details in relation to them on its website (www.[•].com), each financial intermediary whose details are so published,] in the case of (1) [or (2)] above, for as long as such financial intermediaries are authorised to make such offers under the Markets in Financial Instruments Directive (Directive 2004/39/EC);]</p> <p>each an “Authorised Offeror” and together the “Authorised Offerors”).</p> <p>The consent of the Issuer is subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>(i) the consent is only valid during the period from [•] until [•] (the “Offer Period”); [and]</p> <p>(ii) the consent only extends to the use of the Base Prospectus to make Nonexempt Offers (as defined below) of the tranche of Securities in [Austria / Belgium / Bulgaria / the Czech Republic / Denmark / Finland / France / Germany / Greece / Hungary / Ireland / Italy / Luxembourg / The Netherlands / Norway / Poland / Portugal / Slovakia / Spain / Sweden [and] the United Kingdom.]</p> <p>[(iii) the consent is subject to the further following conditions: [•].]</p> <p>A “Non-exempt Offer” of Securities is an offer of Securities that is not within an exemption from the requirement to publish a prospectus under Directive 2003/71/EC, as amended.</p> <p><b>Any person (an “Investor”) intending to acquire or acquiring any Securities from an Authorised Offeror will do so, and offers and</b></p>



		<p><b>sales of Securities to an Investor by an Authorised Offeror will be made, in accordance with any terms and other arrangements in place between such Authorised Offeror and such Investor including as to price, allocations and settlement arrangements. The Issuer will not be a party to any such arrangements with Investors (other than Goldman Sachs International) in connection with the offer or sale of the Securities and, accordingly, the Base Prospectus and the Final Terms will not contain such information and an Investor must obtain such information from the Authorised Offeror. Information in relation to an offer to the public will be made available at the time such sub-offer is made, and such information will also be provided by the relevant Authorised Offeror at the time of such offer.]</b></p> <p>[Not applicable; no consent is given for the use of the Base Prospectus for subsequent resales of the notes.]</p>
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<b>Section B—Issuer</b>		
<b>Element</b>	<b>Disclosure requirement</b>	<b>Disclosure</b>
B.1	Legal and commercial name	The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (the “ <b>Issuer</b> ”)
B.2	Domicile and legal form	The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is a Delaware corporation organized and existing under the Delaware General Corporation Law. The registered office of the Issuer is 200 West Street, New York, New York 10282, United States.
B.4b	A description of any known trends affecting the issuer and the industries in which it operates	The Issuer’s prospects for the remainder of this financial year will be affected, potentially adversely, by developments in global, regional and national economies, including in the U.S., movements and activity levels, in financial, commodities, currency and other markets, interest rate movements, political and military developments throughout the world, client activity levels and legal and regulatory developments in the United States and other countries where the Issuer does business.
B.5	Group description	<p>The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is a bank holding company and a financial holding company regulated by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Federal Reserve Board). The Issuer’s U.S. depository institution subsidiary, Goldman Sachs Bank USA (GS Bank USA), is a New York State-chartered bank. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is the parent holding company of the Goldman Sachs Group.</p> <p>As of December 2015, the Goldman Sachs Group had offices in over 30 countries and 48% of its total staff was based outside the Americas (which includes the countries in North and South America). The Goldman Sachs Group’s clients are located worldwide, and it is an active participant in financial markets around the world. In 2015, the Issuer generated 44% of its net revenues outside the Americas.</p> <p>The Issuer reports its activities in four business segments: Investment Banking, Institutional Client Services, Investing &amp; Lending and Investment Management.</p>
B.9	Profit forecast or estimate	Not applicable; the Issuer has not made any profit forecast or estimate in this Base Prospectus.
B.10	Audit report qualifications	Not applicable; there are no qualifications in the audit report of the Issuer contained in the European base prospectus.
B.12	Key financial information	<p>Selected historical consolidated financial information relating to the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. which summarizes the consolidated financial position of the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. as of and for the years ended 31-12-2015 and 31-12-2014 is set out in the following tables:</p> <hr/> <hr/>

Section B—Issuer		
Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
	<b>Income statement information (in millions of USD)</b>	<b>For the year ended 31-12-</b>
		<b>2015</b> <b>2014</b>
	Total non-interest revenues	30,756                      30,481
	Net revenues, including net interest income	33,820                      34,528
	Pre-tax earnings/(loss)	8,778                      12,357
	<b>Balance sheet information (in millions of USD)</b>	<b>As of 31-12</b>
		<b>2015</b> <b>2014</b>
	Total assets	861,395                      855,842
	Total liabilities	774,667                      773,045
	Total shareholders' equity	86,728                      82,797
	No material adverse change statement	There has been no material adverse change in the prospects of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. since 31-12-2015.
	Significant change statement	Not applicable; there has been no significant change in the financial or trading position of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. subsequent to 31-12-2015.
	In the foregoing statements required by the Prospectus Regulation, references to the “prospects” and “financial or trading position” of the Issuer, are specifically to the ability of the Issuer to meet its full payment obligations under the notes in a timely manner.	
B.13	Events impacting the Issuer's Solvency	Not Applicable — there have been no recent events particular to the Issuer which are to a material extent relevant to the evaluation of the Issuer's solvency.
B.14	Dependence upon other Group entities	See Element B.5.  The Issuer is a holding company and, therefore, depends on dividends, distributions and other payments from its subsidiaries to fund dividend payments and to fund all payments on its obligations, including debt obligations.
B.15	Principal activities	The Goldman Sachs Group's activities are conducted in the following segments:  <b>(1) Investment Banking:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Advisory, which includes strategic advisory assignments with respect to mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, corporate defense activities, risk management, restructurings and spin-offs, and derivative transactions directly related to these client advisory assignments; and</li> <li>• Underwriting, which includes public offerings and private placements, including domestic and cross-border transactions, of a wide range of securities, loans and other financial instruments, and derivative transactions directly related to these client underwriting activities.</li> </ul> <b>(2) Institutional Client Services:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fixed Income, Currency and Commodities, which includes client execution activities related to making markets in interest rate products, credit products, mortgages, currencies and commodities; and</li> <li>• Equities, which includes client execution activities related to making markets in equity products and commissions and fees from executing and clearing institutional client transactions on major stock, options and futures exchanges worldwide, as well as over-the-counter transactions. Equities also includes our</li> </ul>

Section B—Issuer					
Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure			
		<p>securities services business, which provides financing, securities lending and other prime brokerage services to institutional clients, including hedge funds, mutual funds, pension funds and foundations, and generates revenues primarily in the form of interest rate spreads or fees</p> <p>(3) <b>Investing &amp; Lending</b>, which includes the Goldman Sachs Group's investing activities and the origination of loans to provide financing to clients. These investments, some of which are consolidated, and loans are typically longer-term in nature. The Goldman Sachs Group makes investments, directly and indirectly through funds that it manages, in debt securities and loans, public and private equity securities, and real estate entities</p> <p>(4) <b>Investment Management</b>, which provides investment management services and offers investment products (primarily through separately managed accounts and commingled vehicles, such as mutual funds and private investment funds) across all major asset classes to a diverse set of institutional and individual clients. Investment Management also offers wealth advisory services, including portfolio management and financial counseling, and brokerage and other transaction services to high-net-worth individuals and families.</p>			
B.16	Ownership and control of the Issuer	Not applicable; the Issuer is a publicly-held company listed on the New York Stock Exchange and not directly or indirectly owned or controlled by any shareholders or affiliated group of shareholders.			
B.17	Credit Rating	The following table sets forth the Issuer's unsecured credit ratings as of 20-04-2016. A rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any of the notes. Any or all of these ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating:			
		Short-Term Debt	Long-Term Debt	Subordinated Debt	Preferred Stock
	Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited .....	R-1 (middle)	A (high)	A	BBB
	Fitch, Inc. ....	F1	A	A-	BB+
	Moody's Investors Service .....	P-2	A3	Baa2	Ba1
	Standard & Poor's .....	A-2	BBB+	BBB-	BB
	Rating and Investment Information, Inc. ....	a-1	A	A-	N/A

Section C—Securities		
Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
C.1	Description of Notes/ISIN	<p>The notes are [[specify currency][●]] [[specify fixed interest rate of notes being issued] [per cent.] [Fixed Rate [(Zero Coupon) [(Discount)]] [/] [Floating Rate] [/] [Indexed (Range Accrual)] [Indexed (Steeper/Flattener)] [Indexed (Asian [Absolute] Performance)] [Indexed (Digital)] [Indexed (Outperformance)] [Indexed (Participation)]] notes due [●].</p> <p>The ISIN of the notes is [specify ISIN].</p> <p>The common code of the notes is [specify common code].</p> <p>The valoren number of notes is [specify valoren number, if applicable].</p> <p>The WKN of the notes is [specify WKN, if applicable].</p>
C.2	Currency of the securities issue	The currency of the notes is [specify currency of notes being issued].
C.5	Restrictions on the free transferability of the securities	Not applicable. There are no restrictions on the free transferability of the notes. Sales and resales of the notes may be subject to restrictions arising under the laws of various jurisdictions.
C.8	Rights attached to the notes, including ranking and limitations on those rights	<p><b>Rights</b></p> <p>The notes will be issued pursuant to a document called a fiscal agency agreement. Each fiscal agency agreement is a contract between The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon, which acts as fiscal agent. The fiscal agent performs certain administrative duties for the Issuer. The fiscal agent does not act as an indenture trustee on your behalf.</p> <p><i>Mergers and similar transactions</i></p> <p>The Issuer will not merge or consolidate with another corporation or corporate entity, unless certain conditions are met.</p> <p><i>Defeasance and covenant defeasance</i></p> <p>Unless otherwise specified in the applicable final terms, if there is a change in applicable U.S. federal tax law, the Issuer will be entitled, in the case of all fixed rate notes payable in U.S. dollars to release itself from all obligations under the notes, subject to certain conditions. Moreover, unless otherwise specified in the applicable final terms, the Issuer will be entitled, in the case of all fixed rate notes payable in U.S. dollars, to release itself from any restrictive covenants relating to the notes, subject to similar conditions as those referred to above.</p> <p><i>Events of Default</i></p> <p>The terms of the notes contain the following events of default:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Issuer does not pay the principal or any premium on any of such notes on the due date;</li> <li>the Issuer does not pay interest on any of such notes within 30 days after the due date; and</li> <li>the Issuer files for bankruptcy or other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization relating to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. occur.</li> </ul> <p><i>Governing Law</i></p> <p>The notes will be governed by New York law.</p> <p><b>Ranking</b></p> <p>The notes will rank pari passu with all other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.</p> <p><b>Limitations to rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notwithstanding that the notes are linked to the performance of the underlying asset(s), holders do not have any rights in respect of the underlying assets(s).</li> </ul>

Section C—Securities		
Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each fiscal agency agreement contains provisions for convening meetings of the holders of notes to consider matters affecting their interests. Although some changes require the approval of each holder of notes affected by an amendment, some do not require any approval by holders of notes and some require only the approval of 66 2/3% in aggregate principal amount of the affected notes, and so holders may be bound even if they did not attend and vote at the relevant meeting or voted in a manner contrary to the plurality.</li> <li>The terms and conditions of the notes permit the Issuer and the Calculation Agent (as the case may be), on the occurrence of certain events and in certain circumstances, without the consent of the holders of the notes, to make adjustments to the terms and conditions of the notes, to redeem the notes prior to maturity, (where applicable) to postpone valuation of the underlyers or scheduled payments under the notes, to change the currency in which the notes are denominated, to substitute the Issuer with another permitted entity subject to certain conditions, and to take certain other actions with regard to the notes and the underlyers (if any).</li> </ul>
C.9	Interest provisions, yield and representative of the holders	<p><i>[Delete if notes are Indexed (Participation) notes and thus Annex XII is applicable]</i></p> <p>See Element C.8.</p> <p><b>Interest</b></p> <p>The notes [may][will] pay interest on the interest payment dates, which are <i>[insert dates]</i> of each year, commencing on <i>[specify the interest commencement date]</i> and ending on <i>[specify the maturity date]</i></p> <p>For [all Interest Periods][the Interest Periods relating to the Interest Payment Date[s] scheduled for <i>[insert dates]</i>,]</p> <p><i>[If Fixed rate:</i> the notes bear interest at the fixed rate of <i>[specify interest rate]</i>, payable in arrears, with a yield to maturity of <i>[specify yield to maturity, if applicable]</i>.]</p> <p><i>[If Floating rate:</i> the notes bear interest at a floating rate calculated by reference to <i>[specify reference rate]</i> <i>[minus/plus/multiplied by the spread/multiplier, if and as applicable]</i> <i>[subject to the maximum/minimum rate/base rate 0% floor, if applicable]</i>, payable in arrears.]</p> <p><i>[If Indexed (Range Accrual):</i> the notes bear interest at <i>[specify interest rate]</i> payable in arrears and accruing daily, provided that the level of <i>[specify underlyer daily fixing]</i> on such day falls within the accrual range applicable to the relevant underlyer. See Element C.10.]</p> <p><i>[If Indexed (Steepener / Flattener):</i> the notes bear interest at rate per annum equal to [the minimum of (A) the <i>[sum of]</i> (i) <i>[specify reference rate]</i> <i>[multiplied by •, if and as applicable]</i> <i>[[plus][minus]</i> (ii) <i>[•]% per annum]</i> and (B)] <i>[(i)]</i> the participation rate of <i>[•]% times the difference between</i> (x) the <i>[specify reference rate]</i> <i>[multiplied by •, if and as applicable]</i> <i>minus</i> (y) <i>[multiplied by •, if and as applicable]</i> <i>[plus</i> (ii) the spread of <i>[•]% per annum]</i>, subject to the minimum rate of <i>[•]% per annum</i> [and] the maximum rate of <i>[•]% per annum.</i>]</p> <p><i>[For Indexed (Asian [Absolute] Performance) notes:</i> The notes will pay a coupon on each applicable interest payment date equal to [(i)] (a) the face amount of your notes <i>multiplied by</i> (b) the participation rate of <i>[•]% divided by</i> (c) the interest period number corresponding to such interest payment date <i>multiplied by</i> (d) the [absolute value of the] <i>difference between</i> (x) the basket performance determined in respect of that interest payment date <i>minus</i> (y) one [plus / minus (ii) the spread of <i>[•]% per annum]</i>, as determined by the calculation agent, subject to the minimum rate of <i>[•]% per annum</i> [and] the maximum rate of <i>[•]% per annum</i>. [The absolute value of a number is (i) if the number is zero or positive, the number and</p>

**Section C—Securities**

Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure																		
		<p>(ii) if the number is negative, the number multiplied by -1.]. See Element C.10.]</p> <p><i>[If Indexed (Digital):</i> if the digital condition is met in respect of any such interest payment date [, or was met for any previous interest payment date], the notes will bear interest at [[•]% per annum]/[a rate calculated by reference to [specify reference rate] [minus/plus/multiplied by the spread/multiplier, if and as applicable] [subject to the maximum/minimum rate, if applicable]] for the interest period corresponding to such interest payment [, and you will receive sum of any interest payment(s) that would have been payable in respect of any preceding interest period(s) but for the fact that the digital condition was not met in respect of such interest periods, and were not so paid (these payments being referred to as “catch-up payments”); <i>provided that</i> once a catch-up payment has been paid in respect of any interest period, no further payments will be made in respect of such interest period]; otherwise the notes will pay no interest for such interest period. The digital condition will be met if [and only] if the index performance condition is met in respect of [each] index for such interest period. The index performance condition with respect to [any][the] index will be met for such interest period if the index performance of the [[worst][best] performing] index is [[equal to or] [greater][less] than, the barrier level corresponding to that index specified in the table below under “barrier level”, as determined by the Calculation Agent.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="561 827 1429 1339"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="561 827 678 951">Index</th> <th data-bbox="678 827 824 951">Index Sponsor Index Currency</th> <th data-bbox="824 827 971 951">Index Valuation Time</th> <th data-bbox="971 827 1117 951">Reference Price (Initial)</th> <th data-bbox="1117 827 1304 951">Performance Measure</th> <th data-bbox="1304 827 1429 951">Barrier Level</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="561 951 678 1310">[•]</td> <td data-bbox="678 951 824 1310">[•] [•]</td> <td data-bbox="824 951 971 1310">[•]</td> <td data-bbox="971 951 1117 1310">[[•] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]</td> <td data-bbox="1117 951 1304 1310">[Equal to or] [Greater][Less] Than</td> <td data-bbox="1304 951 1429 1310">[•]%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="561 1310 678 1339">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="678 1310 824 1339">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="824 1310 971 1339">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="971 1310 1117 1339">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="1117 1310 1304 1339">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="1304 1310 1429 1339">[repeat]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>See Element C.10.]</p> <p><i>[If Indexed (OutPerformance):</i> if the outperformance condition is met is met in respect of any such interest payment date, the notes will bear interest at [[•]% per annum]/[a rate calculated by reference to [specify reference rate] [minus/plus/multiplied by the spread/multiplier, if and as applicable] [subject to the maximum/minimum rate, if applicable]] for the interest period corresponding to such interest payment date; otherwise the notes will pay no interest for such interest period. See Element C.10.]</p> <p><i>[If applicable:</i> For the Interest Periods relating to the Interest Payment Date[s] scheduled for [insert dates]: [repeat as necessary]</p> <p><b>Indication of Yield</b> [The yield is calculated at [insert issue date] (the “Issue Date”) on the basis of the Issue Price of [insert issue price]. It is not an indication of future yield.] [The yield is [•].][Not applicable; the notes do not have a yield to maturity.]</p> <p align="center"><b>Early Redemption and Repayment</b></p>	Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	Performance Measure	Barrier Level	[•]	[•] [•]	[•]	[[•] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	[Equal to or] [Greater][Less] Than	[•]%	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]
Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	Performance Measure	Barrier Level															
[•]	[•] [•]	[•]	[[•] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	[Equal to or] [Greater][Less] Than	[•]%															
[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]															

**Section C—Securities**

Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure												
		<p><i>Redemption at the Option of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.</i></p> <p><i>[If applicable: Your note will be redeemable at the Issuer’s option on the Issuer’s Redemption Dates specified in the table below at the corresponding Issuer’s Redemption Price:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="565 415 1425 527"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="565 415 997 447">Issuer’s Redemption Date</th> <th data-bbox="1002 415 1425 447">Issuer’s Redemption Price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="565 453 997 485"><i>[insert date]</i></td> <td data-bbox="1002 453 1425 485"><i>[•] per cent.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="565 491 997 522"><i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i></td> <td data-bbox="1002 491 1425 522"><i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>] [Not applicable; the notes are not redeemable at the option of the Issuer.]</i></p> <p><i>Repayment at the Option of the Holder</i></p> <p><i>[If applicable: Your note will be repayable at the holder’s option on the Holder’s Repayment Date specified in the table below at the corresponding Holder’s Redemption Price, together with interest accrued but unpaid to the repayment date:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="565 716 1425 827"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="565 716 997 747">Holder’s Redemption Date</th> <th data-bbox="1002 716 1425 747">Holder’s Redemption Price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="565 753 997 785"><i>[insert date]</i></td> <td data-bbox="1002 753 1425 785"><i>[•] per cent.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="565 791 997 823"><i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i></td> <td data-bbox="1002 791 1425 823"><i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>] [Not applicable; the notes are not redeemable at the option of the holder.]</i></p> <p><i>[Redemption [Upon Change in Law] [or] [Upon Payment of Additional Amounts]]</i></p> <p><i>[If applicable: The Issuer may redeem, as a whole but not in part, any outstanding notes, if, [(x)] at any time on or after the settlement date, as a result of (i) the adoption of or any change in any applicable law or regulation or (ii) the promulgation of or any change in the interpretation of any court, tribunal or regulatory authority with competent jurisdiction of any applicable law or regulation, the calculation agent determines that the Issuer and/or any of its affiliates will incur a materially increased cost in performing its obligations under the notes or if such performance becomes illegal, in whole or in part [or (y)] [as a result of certain changes in the laws or regulations of any U.S. taxing authority, at any time on or after the settlement date, it is obligated to pay, on the next succeeding interest payment date [or maturity date], additional amounts, and that obligation cannot be avoided by the use of reasonable measures available to the Issuer]. In such case, the non-scheduled early repayment amount payable on such unscheduled early redemption shall be, [the face amount plus accrued but unpaid interest]] / [an amount, in the specified currency of the note based on the quotes of three qualified financial institutions, as the suitable market price of the note, taking into account its remaining present value, immediately before the redemption]</i></p> <p align="center"><b>Final Redemption Amount</b></p> <p><i>Unless previously redeemed, or purchased and cancelled, the notes will be redeemed by payment of the Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount) on the maturity date. The Amount Payable at Maturity is [100][insert percentage greater than 100%]% of the Face Amount (Aggregate Notional Amount).</i></p> <p><b>Representative of holders</b></p> <p><i>Not Applicable. No representative of the noteholders has been appointed by the Issuer.</i></p>	Issuer’s Redemption Date	Issuer’s Redemption Price	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[•] per cent.</i>	<i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i>	<i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i>	Holder’s Redemption Date	Holder’s Redemption Price	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[•] per cent.</i>	<i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i>	<i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i>
Issuer’s Redemption Date	Issuer’s Redemption Price													
<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[•] per cent.</i>													
<i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i>	<i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i>													
Holder’s Redemption Date	Holder’s Redemption Price													
<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[•] per cent.</i>													
<i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i>	<i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i>													
C.10	Derivative components in the interest payments	<p><i>[Delete if notes are Indexed (Participation) notes and thus Annex XII is applicable]</i></p> <p>See Element C.9</p> <p><i>[For Fixed or Floating Rate notes: Not applicable – there is no derivative component in the interest payments.]</i></p>												

**Section C—Securities**

Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure																								
		<p>[For Indexed (Range Accrual) notes: Interest will accrue on your notes [specify interest rate], provided that the level of [the][each] Underlyer Daily Fixing (specified in the table below) on such day falls within the Accrual Range (specified in the table below) applicable to the relevant Underlyer which could be the Base Rate, which is an interest rate specified in the table below, or the ccy1 FX Fixing or the ccy1 and ccy2 FX Fixing, each of which is a currency exchange rate to which the Accrual Range may relate (specified in the table below):</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="561 470 1429 737"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="561 470 857 531">Underlyers</th> <th data-bbox="862 470 1166 531">Accrual Range</th> <th data-bbox="1170 470 1429 531">Underlyer Daily Fixings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="561 537 857 701">[insert Base Rate] [[ccy1][ccy2] FX Fixing] [specify]</td> <td data-bbox="862 537 1166 701">[[Equal to or] greater than •] [or][and] [[[Equal to or] less than •]</td> <td data-bbox="1170 537 1429 701">[specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="561 707 857 737">[repeat as required]</td> <td data-bbox="862 707 1166 737">[repeat as required]</td> <td data-bbox="1170 707 1429 737">[repeat as required]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In the event that for any day on which interest otherwise would accrue on a range accrual note, the underlyer daily fixing for any underlyer falls outside of its respective accrual range, no interest will accrue for such day. Therefore, you could receive no interest payments for any interest periods applicable to your note. Even if you receive some interest payments on some or all of the interest payment dates, the overall return you earn on your notes may be less than you would have earned by investing in a non-range accrual debt security of a comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate.]</p> <p>[For Indexed (Asian [Absolute] Performance) notes: The notes will pay a coupon on each applicable interest payment date equal to [(i)] (a) the face amount of your notes multiplied by (b) the participation rate of [•]% divided by (c) the interest period number corresponding to such interest payment date multiplied by (d) the absolute value of the] difference between (x) the basket performance determined in respect of that interest payment date minus (y) one [plus / minus (ii) the spread of [•]% per annum], as determined by the calculation agent, subject to the minimum rate of [•]% per annum [and] the maximum rate of [•]% per annum. [The absolute value of a number is (i) if the number is zero or positive, the number and (ii) if the number is negative, the number multiplied by -1.]. The indices comprising the basket, and the corresponding weightings are specified in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="561 1316 1403 1724"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="561 1316 686 1388">Index</th> <th data-bbox="691 1316 878 1388">Index Sponsor Index Currency</th> <th data-bbox="883 1316 1070 1388">Index Valuation Time</th> <th data-bbox="1075 1316 1232 1388">Reference Price (Initial)</th> <th data-bbox="1237 1316 1403 1388">Weighting</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="561 1394 686 1696">[•]</td> <td data-bbox="691 1394 878 1696">[•] [•]</td> <td data-bbox="883 1394 1070 1696">[insert time]</td> <td data-bbox="1075 1394 1232 1696">[[•] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]</td> <td data-bbox="1237 1394 1403 1696">[•]%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="561 1703 686 1724">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="691 1703 878 1724">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="883 1703 1070 1724">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="1075 1703 1232 1724">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="1237 1703 1403 1724">[repeat]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>]</p> <p>[For Indexed (Digital) notes: If the digital condition is met in respect of an applicable interest payment date [, or was met for any previous interest payment date], the notes will bear interest at [[•]% per annum]/[a rate calculated by reference to [specify reference rate] [minus/plus/multiplied by the spread/multiplier, if and as applicable] [subject to the maximum/minimum rate, if applicable]] for the interest period corresponding to such interest payment [, and</p>	Underlyers	Accrual Range	Underlyer Daily Fixings	[insert Base Rate] [[ccy1][ccy2] FX Fixing] [specify]	[[Equal to or] greater than •] [or][and] [[[Equal to or] less than •]	[specify]	[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]	Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	Weighting	[•]	[•] [•]	[insert time]	[[•] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	[•]%	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]
Underlyers	Accrual Range	Underlyer Daily Fixings																								
[insert Base Rate] [[ccy1][ccy2] FX Fixing] [specify]	[[Equal to or] greater than •] [or][and] [[[Equal to or] less than •]	[specify]																								
[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]																								
Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	Weighting																						
[•]	[•] [•]	[insert time]	[[•] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	[•]%																						
[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]																						



**Section C—Securities**

Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure					
		<p>you will receive <i>sum</i> of any interest payment(s) that would have been payable in respect of any preceding interest period(s) but for the fact that the digital condition was not met in respect of such interest periods, and were not so paid (these payments being referred to as “catch-up payments”); <i>provided that</i> once a catch-up payment has been paid in respect of any interest period, no further payments will be made in respect of such interest period; otherwise the notes will pay no interest for such interest period. The digital condition will be met if [and only if] the index performance condition is met in respect of [each] index for such interest period. The index performance condition with respect to [any][the] index will be met for such interest period if the index performance of the [[worst][best] performing] index is [[equal to or] [greater][less] than, the barrier level corresponding to that index specified in the table below under “barrier level”, as determined by the Calculation Agent.</p>					
		Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	Performance Measure	Barrier Level
		[●]	[●] [●]	[●]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	In respect of [each] Interest Period [Number [●]], [Equal to or] [Greater] [Less] Than; [repeat as required]	In respect of [each] Interest Period [Number [●]], [●]% [repeat as required]
		[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]
		]					
		<p>[For Indexed (OutPerformance) notes: If the outperformance condition is met is met in respect of any applicable interest payment date, the notes will bear interest at [[●]% per annum]/[a rate calculated by reference to [specify reference rate] [minus/plus/multiplied by the spread/multiplier, if and as applicable] [subject to the maximum/minimum rate, if applicable]] for the interest period corresponding to such interest payment date; otherwise the notes will pay no interest for such interest period. For each relevant interest period, the outperformance condition will be met if the index performance of the [insert primary index] is equal to or greater than, the sum of (x) the index performance of the [insert secondary index] [plus][minus] (y) [●], as determined by the Calculation Agent. Details of the indices are as follow:</p>					
		Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)		
		<b>Primary Index:</b> [●]	[●] [●]	[insert time]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]		
		<b>Secondary Index:</b> [●]	[●] [●]	[insert time]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]		
		]					

Section C—Securities		
Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
		<p><i>[Insert the following definitions as necessary for the above payouts:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>[Averaging Dates:</b> each of <i>[insert dates]</i>, each subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Averaging Dates:</b> <i>[insert dates]</i>, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Valuation Date:</b> <i>[insert dates]</i>, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Observation Dates:</b> <i>[insert dates]</i>, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Final Observation Dates:</b> <i>[insert dates]</i>, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Reference Price (Final):</b> [the average of the Reference Index Levels of the Index on each of the Averaging Dates] [the Reference Index Level of the Index on the [applicable] Valuation Date] [the [lowest][highest] Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the Final Observation Dates corresponding to the relevant payment date], subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Reference Price (Initial):</b> [the amount specified in the table above / Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]</li> <li>• <b>[Reference Index Level</b> means, in respect of [the/an] Index and any relevant day, [the official closing level of the Index] <i>[or, if an Index Valuation Time other than “closing” is specified with respect to a relevant Index]</i>[the level of such Index as at the specified Index Valuation Time] as calculated and published by the Index Sponsor (expressed in the relevant Index Currency (if specified)), as determined by the Calculation Agent]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Reference Price:</b> the Reference Index Level of the Index on the Initial Valuation Date at the Index Valuation Time, subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Average Price:</b> the average of the Reference Index Levels of the Index on the Initial Averaging Dates, subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Lowest Price:</b> the lowest Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the specified Initial Observation Dates, subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Highest Price:</b> the highest Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the specified Initial Observation Dates, subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> <li>• <b>[Index Performance:</b> an amount equal to Reference Price (Final) <i>divided by</i> Reference Price (Initial)</li> <li>• <b>[Valuation Date[s]:</b> <i>[insert]</i>, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> <li>• <b>[Basket Performance:</b> the aggregate of the Weighted Performance of each Index.]</li> <li>• <b>[Weighted Performance:</b> in respect of each Index, an amount calculated in accordance with the formula below: <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <math display="block">\text{Weighting} \times \frac{\text{Reference Price (Final)}}{\text{Reference Price(Initial)}}</math> </div> </li> <li>• <b>[Worst Performing Index:</b> the Index with the lowest Index Performance. In the event that two or more Indices have the same lowest Index Performance, then the Index selected by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion shall be deemed the Worst Performing Index.]</li> </ul>
C.11	Admission to Trading on a Regulated Market	<p><i>[For notes that are not listed:</i> Not applicable]</p> <p><i>[For notes that are listed:</i></p> <p><i>[For notes listed on Luxembourg regulated market:</i> Application has been made to the Luxembourg Stock Exchange for notes issued under the Series F euro</p>

**Section C—Securities**

Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure									
		medium-term notes program to be listed on the Official List and admitted to trading on the regulated market of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.] [ <i>Specify other listings</i> ] The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is under no obligation to maintain the listing of any notes that are listed.									
C.15	Effect of underlying instrument on value of investment	<p>[<i>Insert C.15 if notes are Indexed (Participation) notes and thus Annex XII is applicable</i>]</p> <p><b>Effect of Underlying(s) on the Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount)</b></p> <p>The value of the notes and the amount payable at maturity (final redemption amount) will depend on the <i>product</i> of (i) the Participation and (ii) the <i>difference between</i> the performance of [<i>insert index</i>] [and the strike of [●]] [<i>if relevant</i>], and (iii) the performance of the [<i>insert base currency</i>]/[<i>insert reference currency</i>] exchange rate], subject to a minimum Floor [(which is equal to zero)] [and a maximum Cap]. If the performance of the underlying asset is less than or equal to the strike of [●], an investor will sustain a loss of some, and up to [<i>insert floor</i>]% of the amount invested in the notes.</p> <p>See Element C.18.</p> <p><b>Effect of Underlying(s) on Interest Payments</b></p> <p>[<i>For notes that do not pay interest</i>: Not applicable – the notes do not pay interest]</p> <p>[<i>For Fixed or Floating Rate notes</i>: Not applicable – there is no derivative component in the interest payments.]</p> <p>[<i>For Indexed (Range Accrual) notes</i>: Interest will accrue on your notes [<i>specify interest rate</i>], provided that the level of [the][each] Underlyer Daily Fixing (specified in the table below) on such day falls within the Accrual Range (specified in the table below) applicable to the relevant Underlyer which could be the Base Rate, which is an interest rate specified in the table below, or the ccy1 FX Fixing or the ccy1 and ccy2 FX Fixing, each of which is a currency exchange rate to which the Accrual Range may relate (specified in the table below):</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="561 1236 1429 1501"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="561 1236 857 1293">Underlyers</th> <th data-bbox="862 1236 1166 1293">Accrual Range</th> <th data-bbox="1170 1236 1429 1293">Underlyer Daily Fixings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="561 1299 857 1465">[<i>insert Base Rate</i>] [[ccy1][ccy2] FX Fixing] [<i>specify</i>]</td> <td data-bbox="862 1299 1166 1465">[[Equal to or] greater than ●] [or][and] [[[Equal to or] less than ●]</td> <td data-bbox="1170 1299 1429 1465">[<i>specify</i>]</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="561 1472 857 1501">[<i>repeat as required</i>]</td> <td data-bbox="862 1472 1166 1501">[<i>repeat as required</i>]</td> <td data-bbox="1170 1472 1429 1501">[<i>repeat as required</i>]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In the event that for any day on which interest otherwise would accrue on a range accrual note, the underlyer daily fixing for any underlyer falls outside of its respective accrual range, no interest will accrue for such day. Therefore, you could receive no interest payments for any interest periods applicable to your note. Even if you receive some interest payments on some or all of the interest payment dates, the overall return you earn on your notes may be less than you would have earned by investing in a non-range accrual debt security of a comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate.]</p> <p>[<i>For Indexed (Asian [Absolute] Performance) notes</i>: The notes will pay a coupon on each applicable interest payment date equal to [(i)] (a) the face amount of your notes <i>multiplied by</i> (b) the participation rate of [●]% <i>divided by</i> (c) the interest period number corresponding to such interest payment date <i>multiplied by</i> (d) the [absolute value of the] <i>difference between</i> (x) the basket performance determined in respect of that interest payment date <i>minus</i> (y) one [plus / minus (ii) the spread</p>	Underlyers	Accrual Range	Underlyer Daily Fixings	[ <i>insert Base Rate</i> ] [[ccy1][ccy2] FX Fixing] [ <i>specify</i> ]	[[Equal to or] greater than ●] [or][and] [[[Equal to or] less than ●]	[ <i>specify</i> ]	[ <i>repeat as required</i> ]	[ <i>repeat as required</i> ]	[ <i>repeat as required</i> ]
Underlyers	Accrual Range	Underlyer Daily Fixings									
[ <i>insert Base Rate</i> ] [[ccy1][ccy2] FX Fixing] [ <i>specify</i> ]	[[Equal to or] greater than ●] [or][and] [[[Equal to or] less than ●]	[ <i>specify</i> ]									
[ <i>repeat as required</i> ]	[ <i>repeat as required</i> ]	[ <i>repeat as required</i> ]									

**Section C—Securities**

Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure																																	
		<p>of [●]% per annum], as determined by the calculation agent, subject to the minimum rate of [●]% per annum [and] the maximum rate of [●]% per annum. [The absolute value of a number is (i) if the number is zero or positive, the number and (ii) if the number is negative, the number multiplied by -1.]. The indices comprising the basket, and the corresponding weightings are specified in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="560 443 1403 846"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="560 443 683 510">Index</th> <th data-bbox="688 443 873 510">Index Sponsor Index Currency</th> <th data-bbox="878 443 1063 510">Index Valuation Time</th> <th data-bbox="1068 443 1237 510">Reference Price (Initial)</th> <th data-bbox="1242 443 1403 510">Weighting</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="560 516 683 814">[●]</td> <td data-bbox="688 516 873 814">[●] [●]</td> <td data-bbox="878 516 1063 814">[insert time]</td> <td data-bbox="1068 516 1237 814">[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]</td> <td data-bbox="1242 516 1403 814">[●]%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="560 821 683 846">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="688 821 873 846">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="878 821 1063 846">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="1068 821 1237 846">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="1242 821 1403 846">[repeat]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>]</p> <p>[For Indexed (Digital) notes: If the digital condition is met in respect of any such interest payment date [, or was met for any previous interest payment date], the notes will bear interest at [[●]% per annum]/[a rate calculated by reference to [specify reference rate] [minus/plus/multiplied by the spread/multiplier, if and as applicable] [subject to the maximum/minimum rate, if applicable]] for the interest period corresponding to such interest payment [, and you will receive sum of any interest payment(s) that would have been payable in respect of any preceding interest period(s) but for the fact that the digital condition was not met in respect of such interest periods, and were not so paid (these payments being referred to as “catch-up payments”); provided that once a catch-up payment has been paid in respect of any interest period, no further payments will be made in respect of such interest period]; otherwise the notes will pay no interest for such interest period. The digital condition will be met if [and only if] the index performance condition is met in respect of [each] index for such interest period. The index performance condition with respect to [any][the] index will be met for such interest period if the index performance of the [[worst][best] performing] index is [[equal to or] [greater][less] than, the barrier level corresponding to that index specified in the table below under “barrier level”, as determined by the Calculation Agent.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="560 1396 1430 1913"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="560 1396 678 1520">Index</th> <th data-bbox="683 1396 818 1520">Index Sponsor Index Currency</th> <th data-bbox="823 1396 958 1520">Index Valuation Time</th> <th data-bbox="963 1396 1114 1520">Reference Price (Initial)</th> <th data-bbox="1118 1396 1286 1520">Performance Measure</th> <th data-bbox="1291 1396 1430 1520">Barrier Level</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="560 1526 678 1879">[●]</td> <td data-bbox="683 1526 818 1879">[●] [●]</td> <td data-bbox="823 1526 958 1879">[●]</td> <td data-bbox="963 1526 1114 1879">[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]</td> <td data-bbox="1118 1526 1286 1879">In respect of [each] Interest Period [Number [●]], [Equal to or] [Greater] [Less] Than; [repeat as required]</td> <td data-bbox="1291 1526 1430 1879">In respect of [each] Interest Period [Number [●]], [●]% [repeat as required]</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="560 1885 678 1913">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="683 1885 818 1913">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="823 1885 958 1913">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="963 1885 1114 1913">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="1118 1885 1286 1913">[repeat]</td> <td data-bbox="1291 1885 1430 1913">[repeat]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>]</p>	Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	Weighting	[●]	[●] [●]	[insert time]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	[●]%	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	Performance Measure	Barrier Level	[●]	[●] [●]	[●]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	In respect of [each] Interest Period [Number [●]], [Equal to or] [Greater] [Less] Than; [repeat as required]	In respect of [each] Interest Period [Number [●]], [●]% [repeat as required]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]
Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	Weighting																															
[●]	[●] [●]	[insert time]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	[●]%																															
[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]																															
Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	Performance Measure	Barrier Level																														
[●]	[●] [●]	[●]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	In respect of [each] Interest Period [Number [●]], [Equal to or] [Greater] [Less] Than; [repeat as required]	In respect of [each] Interest Period [Number [●]], [●]% [repeat as required]																														
[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]																														

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Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure												
		<p>[For Indexed (OutPerformance) notes: If the outperformance condition is met is met in respect of any applicable interest payment date, the notes will bear interest at [[●]% per annum]/[a rate calculated by reference to [specify reference rate] [minus/plus/multiplied by the spread/multiplier, if and as applicable] [subject to the maximum/minimum rate, if applicable]] for the interest period corresponding to such interest payment date; otherwise the notes will pay no interest for such interest period. For each relevant interest period, the outperformance condition will be met in an applicable interest period if the index performance of the [insert primary index] is equal to or greater than, the sum of (x) the index performance of the [insert secondary index] [plus][minus] (y) [●], as determined by the Calculation Agent. Details of the indices are as follow:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="565 604 1404 976"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="565 604 722 695">Index</th> <th data-bbox="727 604 911 695">Index Sponsor Index Currency</th> <th data-bbox="915 604 1068 695">Index Valuation Time</th> <th data-bbox="1073 604 1404 695">Reference Price (Initial)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="565 701 722 835"><b>Primary Index:</b> [●]</td> <td data-bbox="727 701 911 835">[●] [●]</td> <td data-bbox="915 701 1068 835">[insert time]</td> <td data-bbox="1073 701 1404 835">[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="565 842 722 976"><b>Secondary Index:</b> [●]</td> <td data-bbox="727 842 911 976">[●] [●]</td> <td data-bbox="915 842 1068 976">[insert time]</td> <td data-bbox="1073 842 1404 976">[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>] ]</p> <p>[Insert the following definitions as necessary for the above payouts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [Averaging Dates: each of [insert dates], each subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• [Initial Averaging Dates: [insert dates], subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• [Initial Valuation Date: [insert dates], subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• [Initial Observation Dates: [insert dates], subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• [Final Observation Dates: [insert dates], subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• [Reference Price (Final): [the average of the Reference Index Levels of the Index on each of the Averaging Dates] [the Reference Index Level of the Index on the [applicable] Valuation Date] [the [lowest][highest] Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the Final Observation Dates corresponding to the relevant payment date], subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• [Reference Index Level means, in respect of [the/an] Index and any relevant day, [the official closing level of the Index] [or, if an Index Valuation Time other than "closing" is specified with respect to a relevant Index][the level of such Index as at the specified Index Valuation Time] as calculated and published by the Index Sponsor (expressed in the relevant Index Currency (if specified)), as determined by the Calculation Agent]</li> <li>• [Reference Price (Initial): [the amount specified in the table above / Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]</li> <li>• [Initial Reference Price: the Reference Index Level of the Index on the Initial Valuation Date at the Index Valuation Time, subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> <li>• [Initial Average Price: the average of the Reference Index Levels of the Index on the Initial Averaging Dates, subject to adjustment and correction in</li> </ul>	Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	<b>Primary Index:</b> [●]	[●] [●]	[insert time]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	<b>Secondary Index:</b> [●]	[●] [●]	[insert time]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]
Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)											
<b>Primary Index:</b> [●]	[●] [●]	[insert time]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]											
<b>Secondary Index:</b> [●]	[●] [●]	[insert time]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]											

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Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
		<p>accordance with the terms and conditions]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>[Initial Lowest Price:</b> the lowest Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the specified Initial Observation Dates, subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Highest Price:</b> the highest Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the specified Initial Observation Dates, subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> <li>• <b>[Index Performance:</b> an amount equal to Reference Price (Final) <i>divided by</i> Reference Price (Initial)</li> <li>• <b>[Valuation Date[s]:</b> <i>[insert]</i>, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> <li>• <b>[Basket Performance:</b> the aggregate of the Weighted Performance of each Index.]</li> <li>• <b>[Weighted Performance:</b> in respect of each Index, an amount calculated in accordance with the formula below: <math display="block">\text{Weighting} \times \frac{\text{Reference Price (Final)}}{\text{Reference Price(Initial)}}</math> </li> <li>• <b>[Worst Performing Index:</b> the Index with the lowest Index Performance. In the event that two or more Indices have the same lowest Index Performance, then the Index selected by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion shall be deemed the Worst Performing Index.]</li> </ul> <p>Please refer to Element C.18 below.</p>
C.16	Expiration or maturity date	<p><i>[Insert C.16 if notes are Indexed (Participation) notes and thus Annex XII is applicable]</i></p> <p>The maturity date is <i>[insert maturity / expiration date]</i>, [subject to adjustment for non-business days in accordance with the terms and conditions / or if such date is not a scheduled trading day or a market disruption event is occurring, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions].</p>
C.17	Settlement procedure	<p><i>[Insert C.17 if notes are Indexed (Participation) notes and thus Annex XII is applicable]</i></p> <p>Settlement of the notes shall take place through [Euroclear Bank SA/NV / Clearstream Banking, <i>société anonyme / specify</i>]</p> <p>The Issuer will have discharged its payment obligations by payment to, or to the order of, the relevant clearing system in respect of the amount so paid</p>
C.18	Return on the Securities	<p><i>[Insert C.18 if notes are Indexed (Participation) notes and thus Annex XII is applicable]</i></p> <p>The return on the notes will derive from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [the payment on the relevant interest payment date(s) of an amount on account of Interest.]</li> <li>• The potential payment of an early repayment amount following redemption of the notes prior to scheduled maturity due to [(i) the exercise by the Issuer of its option to redeem the notes] [or] [(i / ii)] the exercise of the holder of its option to redeem the notes [or] [(ii / iii)] the potential payment of a non-scheduled early repayment amount upon an unscheduled early redemption of the notes (as described below);</li> <li>• If the notes are not previously redeemed, or purchased and cancelled, the payment of the Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount) (as described below)</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interest</b></p> <p><i>[If the notes do not pay interest — The notes will not pay interest.]</i></p>

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Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
		<p><i>[If the notes pay interest —</i> The notes [may][will] pay interest on the interest payment dates, which are <i>[insert dates]</i> of each year, commencing on <i>[specify the interest commencement date]</i> and ending on <i>[specify the maturity date]</i></p> <p>For [all Interest Periods][the Interest Periods relating to the Interest Payment Date[s] scheduled for <i>[insert dates]</i>,]</p> <p><i>[If Fixed rate:</i> the notes bear interest at the fixed rate of <i>[specify interest rate]</i>, payable in arrears, with a yield to maturity of <i>[specify yield to maturity, if applicable]</i>.]</p> <p><i>[If Floating rate:</i> the notes bear interest at a floating rate calculated by reference to <i>[specify reference rate]</i> <i>[minus/plus/multiplied by the spread/multiplier, if and as applicable]</i> <i>[subject to the maximum/minimum rate/base rate 0% floor, if applicable]</i>, payable in arrears.]</p> <p><i>[If Indexed (Range Accrual):</i> the notes bear interest at <i>[specify interest rate]</i> payable in arrears and accruing daily, provided that the level of <i>[specify underlying daily fixing]</i> on such day falls within the accrual range applicable to the relevant underlying. See Element C.10.]</p> <p><i>[If Indexed (Steepener / Flattenor):</i> the notes bear interest at rate per annum equal to [the minimum of (A) the <i>[sum of]</i> (i) <i>[specify reference rate]</i> <i>[multiplied by •, if and as applicable]</i> <i>[plus/minus]</i> (ii) <i>[•]% per annum</i> and (B)] <i>[(i)]</i> the participation rate of <i>[•]% times the difference between (x) the [specify reference rate]</i> <i>[multiplied by •, if and as applicable]</i> <i>minus (y) [multiplied by •, if and as applicable]</i> <i>[plus (ii) the spread of [•]% per annum]</i>, subject to the minimum rate of <i>[•]% per annum</i> [and] the maximum rate of <i>[•]% per annum</i>.]</p> <p><i>[For Indexed (Asian [Absolute] Performance) notes:</i> The notes will pay a coupon on each applicable interest payment date equal to <i>[(i)]</i> (a) the face amount of your notes <i>multiplied by</i> (b) the participation rate of <i>[•]% divided by</i> (c) the interest period number corresponding to such interest payment date <i>multiplied by</i> (d) the [absolute value of the] <i>difference between (x) the basket performance determined in respect of that interest payment date minus (y) one [plus / minus (ii) the spread of [•]% per annum]</i>, as determined by the calculation agent, subject to the minimum rate of <i>[•]% per annum</i> [and] the maximum rate of <i>[•]% per annum</i>. [The absolute value of a number is (i) if the number is zero or positive, the number and (ii) if the number is negative, the number multiplied by -1.] See Element C.10.]</p> <p><i>[If Indexed (Digital):</i> if the digital condition is met in respect of any such interest payment date [, or was met for any previous interest payment date], the notes will bear interest at <i>[[•]% per annum]/[a rate calculated by reference to [specify reference rate] [minus/plus/multiplied by the spread/multiplier, if and as applicable] [subject to the maximum/minimum rate, if applicable]]</i> for the interest period corresponding to such interest payment; otherwise the notes will pay no interest for such interest period. See Element C.10.]</p> <p><i>[If Indexed (OutPerformance):</i> if the outperformance condition is met is met in respect of any such interest payment date, the notes will bear interest at <i>[[•]% per annum]/[a rate calculated by reference to [specify reference rate] [minus/plus/multiplied by the spread/multiplier, if and as applicable] [subject to the maximum/minimum rate, if applicable]]</i> for the interest period corresponding to such interest payment date; otherwise the notes will pay no interest for such interest period. See Element C.10.]</p> <p><i>[If applicable:</i> For the Interest Periods relating to the Interest Payment Date[s] scheduled for <i>[insert dates]</i>: <i>[repeat as necessary]</i></p>

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Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure												
		<p>See Element C.15.</p> <p align="center"><b>Early Redemption and Repayment</b></p> <p><i>Redemption at the Option of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.</i>  <i>[If applicable: Your note will be redeemable at the Issuer's option on the Issuer's Redemption Dates specified in the table below at the corresponding Issuer's Redemption Price:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="565 520 1425 632"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="570 527 997 554">Issuer's Redemption Date</th> <th data-bbox="1002 527 1421 554">Issuer's Redemption Price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="570 560 997 588"><i>[insert date]</i></td> <td data-bbox="1002 560 1421 588"><i>[•] per cent.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="570 594 997 621"><i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i></td> <td data-bbox="1002 594 1421 621"><i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>] [Not applicable.]</i></p> <p><i>Repayment at the Option of the Holder</i>  <i>[If applicable: Your note will be repayable at the holder's option on the Holder's Repayment Date specified in the table below at the corresponding Holder's Redemption Price, together with interest accrued but unpaid to the repayment date:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="565 825 1425 936"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="570 831 997 858">Holder's Redemption Date</th> <th data-bbox="1002 831 1421 858">Holder's Redemption Price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="570 865 997 892"><i>[insert date]</i></td> <td data-bbox="1002 865 1421 892"><i>[•] per cent.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="570 898 997 926"><i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i></td> <td data-bbox="1002 898 1421 926"><i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>] [Not applicable.]</i></p> <p><i>[Redemption [Upon Change in Law] [or] [Upon Payment of Additional Amounts]]</i>  <i>[If applicable: The Issuer may redeem, as a whole but not in part, any outstanding notes, if, [(x)] at any time on or after the settlement date, as a result of (i) the adoption of or any change in any applicable law or regulation or (ii) the promulgation of or any change in the interpretation of any court, tribunal or regulatory authority with competent jurisdiction of any applicable law or regulation, the calculation agent determines that the Issuer and/or any of its affiliates will incur a materially increased cost in performing its obligations under the notes or if such performance becomes illegal, in whole or in part [or (y)] [as a result of certain changes in the laws or regulations of any U.S. taxing authority, at any time on or after the settlement date, it is obligated to pay, on the next succeeding interest payment date [or maturity date], additional amounts, and that obligation cannot be avoided by the use of reasonable measures available to the Issuer]. In such case, the non-scheduled early repayment amount payable on such unscheduled early redemption shall be, [the face amount plus accrued but unpaid interest]] / [an amount, in the specified currency of the note based on the quotes of three qualified financial institutions, as the suitable market price of the note, taking into account its remaining present value, immediately before the redemption]</i></p> <p align="center"><b>Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount)</b></p> <p>Unless previously redeemed, or purchased and cancelled, the notes will be redeemed by payment of the Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount) on the maturity date.</p> <p><i>[If Maturity Lock-In is Not Applicable, insert. The Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount) payable in respect of the notes shall be the Participation Amount.</i></p> <p><i>[If Maturity Lock-In is Applicable, insert. If the Lock-In Condition has been satisfied, then the Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount) payable in respect of the notes shall be the the greater of the Participation Amount and the Lock-In Amount.</i></p>	Issuer's Redemption Date	Issuer's Redemption Price	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[•] per cent.</i>	<i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i>	<i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i>	Holder's Redemption Date	Holder's Redemption Price	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[•] per cent.</i>	<i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i>	<i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i>
Issuer's Redemption Date	Issuer's Redemption Price													
<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[•] per cent.</i>													
<i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i>	<i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i>													
Holder's Redemption Date	Holder's Redemption Price													
<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[•] per cent.</i>													
<i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i>	<i>[•] per cent. [repeat as required]</i>													



Section C—Securities		
Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
		<p>Defined terms used above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>[Lock-In Amount: [●]%</b></li> </ul> <p><i>[If Capped Participation is Applicable and FX Participation is Not Applicable, insert:</i> The Participation Amount shall be an amount in the Settlement Currency calculated in accordance with the formula below:</p> $N \times \{ \text{Max} [ \text{Floor}; \text{Min} [ \text{Cap}; 100\% + (P \times \text{Performance}) ] ] \}$ <p>Defined terms used above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cap:</b> <i>[insert amount]</i> [an amount determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion on or after <i>[insert Trade Date]</i> [and is expected to be <i>[insert amount]</i> [but shall not be] [more than <i>[insert amount]</i>] [and] [less than <i>[insert amount]</i>].</li> <li>• <b>Floor:</b> [[If Reference Price (Final) is <i>[greater]/[less] than [or equal to]</i> [Reference Price (Initial)]/<i>[insert amount]</i>, <i>[insert amount]</i>; otherwise,] <i>[insert amount]</i> [an amount determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion on or after <i>[insert Trade Date]</i> [and is expected to be <i>[insert amount]</i> [but shall not be] [more than <i>[insert amount]</i>] [and] [less than <i>[insert amount]</i>].</li> <li>• <b>Performance:</b> the Index Performance [<i>minus</i> the Strike].</li> <li>• <b>“Max”</b> followed by a series of amounts inside brackets, means whichever is the greater of the amounts separated by a semi-colon inside those brackets. For example, “<i>Max(x;y)</i>” means the greater of component x and component y.</li> <li>• <b>“Min”</b> followed by a series of amounts inside brackets, means whichever is the lesser of the amounts separated by a semi-colon inside those brackets. For example, “<i>Min(x;y)</i>” means the lesser of component x and component y.</li> <li>• <b>N:</b> Nominal Amount of <i>[insert amount]</i>.</li> <li>• <b>P:</b> Participation, which is [[, if Reference Price (Final) is <i>[greater]/[less] than [or equal to]</i> [Reference Price (Initial)]/<i>[insert amount]</i>, <i>[insert amount]</i>; otherwise,]] <i>[insert amount]</i> [an amount determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion on or after <i>[insert Trade Date]</i> [and is expected to be <i>[insert amount]</i> [but shall not be] [more than <i>[insert amount]</i>] [and] [less than <i>[insert amount]</i>].</li> <li>• <b>[Strike:</b> <i>[insert amount]</i>].</li> </ul> <p><i>[If Capped Participation and FX Participation are Not Applicable, insert:</i> The Participation Amount shall be an amount in the Settlement Currency calculated in accordance with the formula below:</p> $N \times \{ \text{Max} [ \text{Floor}; 100\% + (P \times \text{Performance}) ] \}$ <p>Defined terms used above:</p> <p><i>[Insert Floor, Performance, Max, N, P and Strike from above]</i></p> <p><i>[If Capped Participation and FX Participation are Applicable, insert:</i> The Participation Amount shall be an amount in the Settlement Currency calculated in accordance with the formula below:</p> $N \times \{ \text{Max} [ \text{Floor}; \text{Min} [ \text{Cap}; 100\% + (P \times \text{Performance} \times \text{FXR}) ] ] \}$ <p>Defined terms used above:</p> <p><i>[Insert cap, Floor, Performance, Max, Min, N, P and Strike from above]</i></p>

**Section C—Securities**

Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FXR:</b> an amount calculated in accordance with the formula below: <math display="block">\text{Max}\{\text{FXR Floor}; \text{Min}[\text{FXR Cap}; 100\% + (\frac{\text{FX (Final)}}{\text{FX (Initial)}} / \frac{\text{FX (Initial)}}{\text{FX (Final)}})\}\}</math> </li> <li>• <b>FXR Cap:</b> <i>[insert amount]</i> [an amount determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion on or after <i>[insert Trade Date]</i> [and is expected to be <i>[insert amount]</i> [but shall not be] [more than <i>[insert amount]</i>] [and] [less than <i>[insert amount]</i>].</li> <li>• <b>FXR Floor:</b> <i>[insert amount]</i> [an amount determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion on or after <i>[insert Trade Date]</i> [and is expected to be <i>[insert amount]</i> [but shall not be] [more than <i>[insert amount]</i>] [and] [less than <i>[insert amount]</i>].</li> </ul> <p><i>[If Capped Participation is Not Applicable and FX Participation is Applicable, insert: The Participation Amount shall be an amount in the Settlement Currency calculated in accordance with the formula below:</i></p> $N \times \{\text{Max} [\text{Floor}; 100\% + (P \times \text{Performance} \times \text{FXR})]\}$ <p>Defined terms used above:</p> <p><i>[Insert Floor, Max, N, P, Perf, Strike and FXR from above]</i></p> <p><i>[Insert the following definitions as necessary for the above payouts:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>[Averaging Dates:</b> each of <i>[insert dates]</i>, each subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[FX (Final):</b> <i>[insert base currency]/[insert reference currency]</i> exchange rate in respect of the FX Valuation Date (Final), determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole discretion.]</li> <li>• <b>[FX (Initial):</b> <i>[insert base currency]/[insert reference currency]</i> exchange rate in respect of the FX Valuation Date (Initial) , determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole discretion.]</li> <li>• <b>[FX Valuation Date (Final):</b> [the [Last Averaging/Valuation] Date] [scheduled to fall on <i>[insert date]</i>], after all adjustments to such date in accordance with the terms and conditions if such date is not a scheduled trading day or a disrupted day for the Index, provided that such date (after any adjustments for non-scheduled trading days or disrupted days) will be further adjusted pursuant to the terms and conditions if it is not a Publication Fixing Day.]</li> <li>• <b>[FX Valuation Date (Initial):</b> [the [Last Initial Averaging/Initial] Valuation Date] [scheduled to fall on <i>[insert date]</i>], after all adjustments to such date in accordance with the terms and conditions if such date is not a scheduled trading day or a disrupted day for the Index, provided that such date (after any adjustments for non-scheduled trading days or disrupted days) will be further adjusted pursuant to the terms and conditions if it is not a Publication Fixing Day.]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Averaging Dates:</b> <i>[insert dates]</i>, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Valuation Date:</b> <i>[insert dates]</i>, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Observation Dates:</b> <i>[insert dates]</i>, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Final Observation Dates:</b> <i>[insert dates]</i>, subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Last Averaging Date:</b> the Averaging Date scheduled to fall on <i>[insert date]</i>.]</li> <li>• <b>[Last Initial Averaging Date:</b> the Averaging Date scheduled to on <i>[insert</i></li> </ul>

Section C—Securities		
Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
		<p>date].]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>[Publication Fixing Day:</b> [a day on which the [[insert base currency]/[insert reference currency] exchange rate is published].]</li> <li>• <b>[Reference Price (Final):</b> [the average of the Reference Index Levels of the Index on each of the Averaging Dates] [the Reference Index Level of the Index on the Valuation Date] [the [lowest][highest] Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the Final Observation Dates corresponding to the relevant payment date], subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Reference Index Level</b> means, in respect of [the/an] Index and any relevant day, [the official closing level of the Index] [or, if an Index Valuation Time other than “closing” is specified with respect to a relevant Index][the level of such Index as at the specified Index Valuation Time] as calculated and published by the Index Sponsor (expressed in the relevant Index Currency (if specified)), as determined by the Calculation Agent]</li> <li>• <b>[Reference Price (Initial):</b> [[•][the average of the Reference Index Levels of the Index on the Initial Averaging Dates / the [Reference Index Level] of the Index on the Initial Valuation Date][Initial Highest Price] [Initial Lowest Price], subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Lowest Price:</b> the lowest Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the specified Initial Observation Dates, subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> <li>• <b>[Initial Highest Price:</b> the highest Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the specified Initial Observation Dates, subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> <li>• <b>[Index Performance:</b> an amount equal to Reference Price (Final) <i>divided by</i> Reference Price (Initial)</li> <li>• <b>[Valuation Date:</b> [insert], subject to adjustment in accordance with the terms and conditions]</li> </ul>
C.19	Exercise price/final reference price of the underlying	<p>[Insert C.19 if notes are Indexed (Participation) notes and thus Annex XII is applicable]</p> <p>The Reference Price (Final) of [insert index] will be determined on the [Valuation Date/Last Averaging Date] [and the FX (Final) of the [insert base currency]/[insert reference currency] exchange rate will be determined on the FX Valuation Date (Final).]</p>
C.20	The underlying asset	<p>[Insert C.20 if notes are Indexed (Participation) notes and thus Annex XII is applicable]</p> <p><b>Index:</b> [•]  <b>Index Sponsor:</b> Index Sponsor: [•]  <b>Reference Price (Initial):</b> [[•][the average of the Reference Index Levels of the Index on the Initial Averaging Dates / the [Reference Index Level] of the Index on the Initial Valuation Date] [Initial Highest Price] [Initial Lowest Price], subject to adjustment and correction in accordance with the terms and conditions.]</p>
[C.21	Admission to Trading	<p>[Insert if Annex XIII is applicable] The notes will be admitted to trading on the [Luxembourg Stock Exchange / specify other].  [Not applicable; the notes will not be admitted to trading on any stock exchange.]</p>

Section D—Risks		
Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
D.2	Key information on the key risks that are specific to the Issuer and the Group	In purchasing notes, investors assume the risk that the Issuer may become insolvent or otherwise be unable to make all payments due in respect of the notes. Identified below are a number of factors which could materially adversely affect the Issuer's business and ability to make payments due under the notes.

**Section D—Risks**

Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
		<p>These factors include the following key risks of the Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Group's businesses have been and may continue to be adversely affected by conditions in the global financial markets and economic conditions generally.</li> <li>• The Group's businesses and those of its clients are subject to extensive and pervasive regulation around the world.</li> <li>• The Group's businesses have been and may be adversely affected by declining asset values. This is particularly true for those businesses in which it has net "long" positions, receives fees based on the value of assets managed, or receives or posts collateral.</li> <li>• The Group's businesses have been and may be adversely affected by disruptions in the credit markets, including reduced access to credit and higher costs of obtaining credit.</li> <li>• The Group's market-making activities have been and may be affected by changes in the levels of market volatility.</li> <li>• The Group's investment banking, client execution and investment management businesses have been adversely affected and may in the future be adversely affected by market uncertainty or lack of confidence among investors and CEOs due to general declines in economic activity and other unfavorable economic, geopolitical or market conditions.</li> <li>• The Group's investment management business may be affected by the poor investment performance of its investment products.</li> <li>• The Group may incur losses as a result of ineffective risk management processes and strategies.</li> <li>• The Group's liquidity, profitability and businesses may be adversely affected by an inability to access the debt capital markets or to sell assets or by a reduction in its credit ratings or by an increase in its credit spreads.</li> <li>• A failure to appropriately identify and address potential conflicts of interest could adversely affect the Group's businesses.</li> <li>• A failure in the Group's operational systems or infrastructure, or those of third parties, as well as human error, could impair the Group's liquidity, disrupt the Group's businesses, result in the disclosure of confidential information, damage the Group's reputation and cause losses.</li> <li>• A failure to protect the Group's computer systems, networks and information, and the Group's clients' information, against cyber attacks and similar threats could impair the Group's ability to conduct the Group's businesses, result in the disclosure, theft or destruction of confidential information, damage the Group's reputation and cause losses.</li> <li>• The Issuer is a holding company and is dependent for liquidity on payments from its subsidiaries, many of which are subject to restrictions.</li> <li>• The application of regulatory strategies and requirements in the United States and non-U.S. jurisdictions to facilitate the orderly resolution of large financial institutions could create greater risk of loss for the Group's security holders.</li> <li>• The ultimate impact of the recently proposed rules requiring U.S. G-SIBs to maintain minimum amounts of long-term debt meeting specified eligibility requirements is uncertain.</li> <li>• The application of Group Inc.'s proposed resolution strategy could result in greater losses for Group Inc.'s security holders, and failure to address shortcomings in the Group's resolution plan could subject us to increased regulatory requirements.</li> <li>• The Group's businesses, profitability and liquidity may be adversely affected by deterioration in the credit quality of, or defaults by, third parties who owe the Group money, securities or other assets or whose securities or obligations it holds.</li> <li>• Concentration of risk increases the potential for significant losses in the Group's market-making, underwriting, investing and lending activities.</li> <li>• The financial services industry is both highly competitive and interrelated.</li> </ul>

<b>Section D—Risks</b>		
<b>Element</b>	<b>Disclosure requirement</b>	<b>Disclosure</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Group faces enhanced risks as new business initiatives leads it to transact with a broader array of clients and counterparties and exposes it to new asset classes and new markets.</li> <li>• Derivative transactions and delayed settlements may expose the Group to unexpected risk and potential losses.</li> <li>• The Group's businesses may be adversely affected if it is unable to hire and retain qualified employees.</li> <li>• The Group may be adversely affected by increased governmental and regulatory scrutiny or negative publicity.</li> <li>• Substantial legal liability or significant regulatory action against the Group could have material adverse financial effects or cause significant reputational harm, which in turn could seriously harm the Group's business prospects.</li> <li>• The growth of electronic trading and the introduction of new trading technology may adversely affect the Group's business and may increase competition.</li> <li>• The Group's commodities activities, particularly its physical commodities activities, subject the Group to extensive regulation and involve certain potential risks, including environmental, reputational and other risks that may expose it to significant liabilities and costs.</li> <li>• In conducting its businesses around the world, the Group is subject to political, economic, legal, operational and other risks that are inherent in operating in many countries.</li> <li>• The Group may incur losses as a result of unforeseen or catastrophic events, including the emergence of a pandemic, terrorist attacks, extreme weather events or other natural disasters.</li> </ul>
[D.3] [D.6]	Key information on the risks specific to the Notes	<p>There are also risks associated with the notes. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The notes we may issue are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.</li> <li>• Any notes we may issue may not have an active trading market.</li> <li>• Changes in interest rates are likely to affect the market price of any notes we may issue.</li> <li>• The market price of any notes we may issue may be influenced by many unpredictable factors and if you buy a note and sell it prior to the stated maturity date, you may receive less than the face amount of your note.</li> <li>• Changes in our credit ratings may affect the market price of a note.</li> <li>• We cannot advise you of all of the non-U.S. tax consequences of owning or trading any notes we may issue.</li> <li>• Unless otherwise specified in the applicable final terms, we will not compensate holders if we have to deduct taxes from payments on any notes we may issue</li> <li>• Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding May Apply to Payments on your Notes, Including as a Result of the Failure of the Bank or Broker Through Which You Hold the Notes to Provide Information to Tax Authorities</li> <li>• If we redeem your notes or make an adjustment upon a change in law, you may receive less than your initial investment.</li> <li>• If your final terms specify that we have the right to redeem your note at our option, the value of your notes may be adversely affected.</li> <li>• Distributors or other entities involved in the offer or listing of the notes may have potential conflicts of interest</li> <li>• Public offers of the notes may be subject to extension, postponement, revocation and/or termination</li> </ul> <p>There are also particular risks associated with regulatory resolution strategies and long-term debt requirements. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The application of regulatory resolution strategies could create greater risk of loss for holders of our debt securities in the event of the resolution of The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.</li> <li>• The application of The Goldman Sachs Group Inc's proposed resolution strategy could result in greater losses for holders of our debt securities.</li> </ul>

**Section D—Risks**

Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ultimate impact of the Federal Reserve Board’s recently proposed rules requiring U.S. G-SIBs to maintain minimum amounts of long-term debt meeting specified eligibility requirements is uncertain.</li> </ul> <p><i>[insert in the case of Floating Rate Notes:</i>  There are also particular risks associated with Floating Rate Notes generally. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A negative floating rate may reduce any positive spread payable on your notes.]</li> </ul> <p><i>[insert in the case of Indexed Notes:</i>  There are also particular risks associated with Indexed Notes generally. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The return on indexed notes may be below the return on similar securities.</li> <li>• Payments on indexed notes may be linked to the average performance of the underlyers and not the overall change in the underlyer performance.</li> <li>• Use of participation factors over 100 percent may result in disproportionate exposure to the negative performance of the underlyer.</li> <li>• The issuer of a security or currency that serves as part of an underlyer could take actions that may adversely affect an indexed note.</li> <li>• An indexed note may be linked to a volatile underlyer, which may adversely affect an investment.</li> <li>• Underlyers may move in opposite directions, which may affect the amount you receive on an indexed note linked to a basket of underlyers.</li> <li>• Historical levels for the underlyer or underlyers of an indexed note are not indicative of future levels.</li> <li>• If the level of an underlyer changes, the market price of an indexed note may not change in the same manner.</li> <li>• If you purchase an indexed note, you will have no rights with respect to any underlyer, securities or other underlyer components to which your note is linked.</li> </ul> <p>]</p> <p><i>[insert in the case of Indexed Notes linked to stock indices:</i>  There are also particular risks associated with Indexed Notes linked to stock indices. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An index to which an indexed note is linked could be changed or become unavailable.</li> <li>• If you purchase an indexed note linked to a stock index, the return on the note may not reflect the return or any distributions, dividends or other payments made on any index components.</li> <li>• Indices of emerging markets may be volatile and unstable.</li> <li>• The policies of an index sponsor and changes affecting an index or indices or any of its components could affect the amount payable on an indexed note and its market value.</li> <li>• There is no affiliation between the issuers of any of the index securities contained in an equity or debt index included in an indexed note and us, and we are not responsible for any disclosure by such issuers.</li> <li>• U.S. taxation developments may have a negative impact on your indexed notes</li> </ul> <p>]</p> <p><i>[insert in the case of Indexed (Range Accrual) notes:</i>  There are also particular risks associated with Indexed (Range Accrual) notes. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the level of one or more underlyer daily fixings on the underlyer daily fixing date applicable to any calendar day falls outside of the accrual range for that underlyer, no interest will accrue for such day for the range accrual note.</li> </ul> <p>]</p> <p><i>[insert in the case of Indexed (Digital) notes:</i>  There are also particular risks associated with Indexed (Digital) notes. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You may not receive any interest on any interest payment date.</li> </ul>

<b>Section D—Risks</b>		
<b>Element</b>	<b>Disclosure requirement</b>	<b>Disclosure</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interest payments on your notes will be limited and will not reflect the actual performance of the underlyers from observation date to observation date.</li> <li>• If the “worst-of” condition applies to your Indexed (Digital) notes, interest payments on your notes will be determined by reference to the worst performing underlyer only</li> <li>• If the “multiple conditions” condition applies to your indexed (digital) notes, you will receive an interest payment for any interest period only if all the indexes satisfy their respective index performance conditions</li> </ul> <p>]</p> <p><i>[insert in the case of Indexed (OutPerformance) notes:</i> There are also particular risks associated with Indexed (OutPerformance) notes. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The interest payments on your notes will be limited and will not reflect the actual performance of the underlyers from observation date to observation date. you may receive no interest payments even if both indices increase or both indices decline.]</li> </ul> <p><i>[insert in the case of Indexed (Participation) notes:</i> There is a particular risk associated with Indexed (Participation) notes: You may lose part of your investment in the notes.</p> <p>]</p> <p>There are also risks relating to our role and the role of our affiliates. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trading and other transactions by us in instruments linked to an underlyer or the components of an underlyer may impair the market price of an indexed note.</li> <li>• Our business activities may create conflicts of interest between you and us.</li> <li>• As calculation agent, Goldman Sachs International will have the authority to make determinations that could affect the market price of a floating rate note or a range accrual note, when the note matures and the amount payable at maturity.</li> </ul> <p><i>[insert in the case of notes for which the Specified Currency is not the principal currency of the investors:</i> There are also risks associated with notes payable in or linked to currencies other than your own principal currency. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An investment in a foreign currency note involves currency-related risks.</li> <li>• Changes in foreign currency exchange rates can be volatile and unpredictable.</li> <li>• Government policy can adversely affect foreign currency exchange rates and an investment in a foreign currency note.</li> <li>• We may not adjust any notes to compensate for changes in foreign currency exchange rates.</li> <li>• The manipulation of published currency exchange rates and possible reforms affecting the determination or publication of exchange rates or the supervision of currency trading could have an adverse impact on your notes.]</li> </ul> <p><i>[insert in the case of notes for which the Specified Currency is not U.S. dollars:</i> There are also risks associated with notes payable in or linked to currencies other than U.S. dollars. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-U.S. dollar notes will permit us to make payments in U.S. Dollars or delay payment if we are unable to obtain the specified currency.</li> <li>• In a lawsuit for payment on a non-U.S. dollar note, an investor may bear foreign currency exchange risk.</li> <li>• Determinations made by the exchange rate agent are made at its sole discretion.]</li> </ul> <p><i>[insert in the case of notes linked to benchmark underlyers:</i> There are also particular risks associated with notes linked to benchmark underlyers such as a LIBOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation and reform of "benchmarks", including LIBOR, EURIBOR and</li> </ul>

Section D—Risks		
Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure
		other interest rate, equity, foreign exchange rate and other types of benchmarks may cause such “benchmarks” to perform differently than in the past, or to disappear entirely, or have other consequences which cannot be predicted

Section E—Offer																								
Element	Disclosure requirement	Disclosure																						
E.2b	Reasons for the offer and use of proceeds when different from making profit and/or hedging certain risks	We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the notes to provide additional funds for our operations and for other general corporate purposes.																						
E.3	Terms and conditions of the offer	<p>[The notes are being offered to [specify]].</p> <p>The terms and conditions of each offer of notes will be determined by the Issuer and at the time of issue.</p> <p>[An Investor intending to acquire or acquiring any notes from an Offeror other than the Issuer will do so, and offers and sales of notes to an Investor by such Offeror will be made, in accordance with any terms and other arrangements in place between such Offeror and such Investor including as to price, allocations and settlement arrangements.]</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Offer Price:</td> <td>[Issue Price] / [specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conditions to which the offer is subject:</td> <td>[Not applicable] / [specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Offer Period:</td> <td>[Not applicable] / [specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Description of the application process:</td> <td>[Not applicable] / [specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Details of the minimum and/or maximum amount of application:</td> <td>[Not applicable] / [specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Description of possibility to reduce subscriptions and manner for refunding excess amount paid by the applicants:</td> <td>[Not applicable] / [specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Details of the method and manner and date in which results of the offer are to be made public</td> <td>[Not applicable] / [specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Procedure for exercise of any right of pre-emption, negotiability and subscription rights and treatment of the subscription rights not exercised:</td> <td>[Not applicable] / [specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whether tranche(s) have been reserved for certain countries:</td> <td>[Not applicable] / [specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Process for notification to applicants of the amount allotted and the indication whether dealing may begin before notification is made:</td> <td>[Not applicable] / [specify]</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amount of any expenses and taxes specifically charged to the subscriber or purchaser</td> <td>[Not applicable] / [specify]</td> </tr> </table>	Offer Price:	[Issue Price] / [specify]	Conditions to which the offer is subject:	[Not applicable] / [specify]	Offer Period:	[Not applicable] / [specify]	Description of the application process:	[Not applicable] / [specify]	Details of the minimum and/or maximum amount of application:	[Not applicable] / [specify]	Description of possibility to reduce subscriptions and manner for refunding excess amount paid by the applicants:	[Not applicable] / [specify]	Details of the method and manner and date in which results of the offer are to be made public	[Not applicable] / [specify]	Procedure for exercise of any right of pre-emption, negotiability and subscription rights and treatment of the subscription rights not exercised:	[Not applicable] / [specify]	Whether tranche(s) have been reserved for certain countries:	[Not applicable] / [specify]	Process for notification to applicants of the amount allotted and the indication whether dealing may begin before notification is made:	[Not applicable] / [specify]	Amount of any expenses and taxes specifically charged to the subscriber or purchaser	[Not applicable] / [specify]
Offer Price:	[Issue Price] / [specify]																							
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Offer Period:	[Not applicable] / [specify]																							
Description of the application process:	[Not applicable] / [specify]																							
Details of the minimum and/or maximum amount of application:	[Not applicable] / [specify]																							
Description of possibility to reduce subscriptions and manner for refunding excess amount paid by the applicants:	[Not applicable] / [specify]																							
Details of the method and manner and date in which results of the offer are to be made public	[Not applicable] / [specify]																							
Procedure for exercise of any right of pre-emption, negotiability and subscription rights and treatment of the subscription rights not exercised:	[Not applicable] / [specify]																							
Whether tranche(s) have been reserved for certain countries:	[Not applicable] / [specify]																							
Process for notification to applicants of the amount allotted and the indication whether dealing may begin before notification is made:	[Not applicable] / [specify]																							
Amount of any expenses and taxes specifically charged to the subscriber or purchaser	[Not applicable] / [specify]																							
E.4	Interest of natural and legal persons involved in the issue/offer	<p>Commissions of [up to] [●] per cent of the principal amount of the notes to [name] in connection with the sale of the notes.</p> <p>The agent may resell any notes it purchases as principal to other brokers or dealers at a discount, which may include all or part of the discount the agent received from us. If all the notes are not sold at the initial offering price, the agent may change the offering price and the other selling terms.</p> <p>Any agent and its affiliates may also have engaged, and may in the future engage, in investment banking and/or commercial banking transactions with, and may perform other services for us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of business.</p>																						
E.7	Expenses charged to the investor by the Issuer or an offeror	[Not Applicable - No expenses will be charged to investors by the Issuer or an offeror.] / [specify.]																						



## RISK FACTORS

### Risk Factors in Relation to the Issuer

For a discussion of certain factors affecting our business, see “Risk Factors” in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 (pp. 25-43), which is incorporated by reference into this European base prospectus, or the corresponding section of any future Annual Report on Form 10-K or Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed by us, which may be incorporated by reference into a supplement to the European base prospectus.

### Risk Factors in Relation to the Notes

#### ***The Notes We May Issue Are Not Insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation***

None of the notes offered hereby will be a deposit insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) or any other government authority. The notes will rank *pari passu* with all other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

#### ***Any Notes We May Issue May Not Have an Active Trading Market***

Even if your notes are listed on a stock exchange, a secondary market for any notes we may issue is unlikely to develop. Even if a secondary market for a note develops, it may not provide significant liquidity and we and/or our affiliates have no obligation to make a market with respect to the note and make no commitment to make a market in or repurchase the note. We expect that transaction costs in any secondary market would be high. As a result, the difference between bid and asked prices for the note in any secondary market could be substantial. There may be less liquidity in the secondary market for the notes if they are exclusively offered to retail investors without any offer to institutional investors.

If so indicated in the relevant final terms, on the issue date a specified amount of notes will be issued by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. to and made available for sale by Goldman Sachs International or another entity (in its capacity as dealer), and as soon as practicable thereafter, listed and admitted to trading on one or more regulated markets of any European Economic Area Member State for purchase by investors. However, Goldman Sachs International (in its capacity as dealer of the notes issued by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.) will reserve its right to have some or all of the notes that it holds cancelled at any time prior to the final maturity of the notes, such right to be exercised in accordance with applicable laws, the terms and conditions of the relevant notes and the applicable rules of the relevant regulated markets including as to notification. In particular, at any time following listing and admission to trading on one or more regulated markets of any European Economic Area Member State, Goldman Sachs International (in its capacity as dealer of the notes issued by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.) may cancel some or all of any Notes which have not been purchased by investors at such time. Accordingly, the total amount of notes outstanding at any time may be significantly less than amount issued on the relevant issue date and this could have a negative impact on an investor's ability to sell the notes in the secondary market. Notification of any such cancellation of notes will be made according to the rules of the relevant regulated markets.

#### ***Changes in Interest Rates Are Likely to Affect the Market Price of Any Notes We May Issue***

We expect that the market price of any notes we may issue will be affected by changes in interest rates, although these changes may affect such notes and a traditional debt security to different degrees. In general, if interest rates increase, we expect that the market value of a fixed income instrument which paid interest payments and an amount equal to the outstanding face amount of a note you may purchase on the same schedule as that note would decrease, whereas if interest rates decrease, we expect that the market value of such a fixed income instrument would increase.

***The Market Price of Any Notes We May Issue May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors and If You Buy a Note and Sell It Prior to the Stated Maturity Date, You May Receive Less Than the Face Amount of Your Note***

The following factors, most of which are beyond our control, will influence the market price of any notes we may issue:

- economic, military, financial, regulatory, political, terrorist and other events that affect securities generally;
- interest and yield rates in the market;
- the time remaining until a note matures; and
- our creditworthiness, whether actual or perceived, and including actual or anticipated upgrades or downgrades in our credit ratings or changes in other credit measures;
- in the case of an indexed note, the market price of the relevant index or indices (and the index components) and the volatility — *i.e.*, the frequency and magnitude of changes in the market price of the relevant index (and the index components).

As a result of these and other factors, if you buy a note and sell it prior to maturity, you may receive less than the outstanding face amount of your note. Moreover, these factors interrelate in complex ways, and the effect of one factor may offset or enhance the effect of another factor.

The issue price and/or offer price of the notes may include subscription fees, placement fees, direction fees, structuring fees and/or other additional costs. Any such fees and costs may not be taken into account for the purposes of determining the price of such notes on the secondary market and could result in a difference between the original issue price and/or offer price, the theoretical value of the notes, and/or the actual bid/offer price quoted by any intermediary in the secondary market. Any such difference may have an adverse effect on the value of the notes, particularly immediately following the offer and the issue date relating to such notes, where any such fees and/or costs may be deducted from the price at which such notes can be sold by the initial investor in the secondary market.

***Changes in Our Credit Ratings May Affect the Market Price of a Note***

Our credit ratings are an assessment of our ability to pay our obligations, including those on any notes we may issue. Consequently, actual or anticipated changes in our credit ratings may affect the market price of a note. However, because the return on a note is typically dependent upon certain factors in addition to our ability to pay our obligations on the note, an improvement in our credit ratings will not reduce the other investment risks related to any such notes.

The following table sets forth our unsecured credit ratings as of the date of this European base prospectus:

	<b>Short-Term Debt</b>	<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	<b>Subordinated Debt</b>	<b>Preferred Stock</b>
Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited <sup>1)</sup> .....	R-1 (middle) <sup>6)</sup>	A (high) <sup>7)</sup>	A <sup>7)</sup>	BBB <sup>8)</sup>
Fitch, Inc. <sup>2)</sup> .....	F1 <sup>9)</sup>	A <sup>10)</sup>	A- <sup>10)</sup>	BB+ <sup>11)</sup>
Moody's Investors Service <sup>3)</sup> .....	P-2 <sup>12)</sup>	A3 <sup>13)</sup>	Baa2 <sup>13)</sup>	Ba1 <sup>14)</sup>
Standard & Poor's <sup>4)</sup> .....	A-2 <sup>15)</sup>	BBB+ <sup>16)</sup>	BBB- <sup>16)</sup>	BB <sup>17)</sup>
Rating and Investment Information, Inc. <sup>5)</sup> .....	a-1 <sup>18)</sup>	A <sup>19)</sup>	A- <sup>19)</sup>	N/A

<sup>1)</sup> All rating categories other than AAA and D also contain subcategories “(high)” and “(low)”. The absence of either a “(high)” or “(low)” designation indicates the rating is in the middle of the category.  
<sup>2)</sup> The modifiers “+” or “-” may be appended to a rating to denote relative status within major rating categories. Such suffixes are not added to the “AAA” Long-Term Rating category, or categories below “B”.  
<sup>3)</sup> Moody’s appends numerical modifiers 1, 2, and 3 to each generic rating classification from Aa through Caa. The modifier 1 indicates that the obligation ranks in the higher end of its generic rating category; the modifier 2 indicates a mid-range ranking; and the modifier 3 indicates a ranking in the lower end of that generic rating category.

- 4) Ratings from “AA” to “CCC” may be modified by the addition of a plus (+) or minus (-) sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories.
- 5) A plus (+) or minus (-) sign may be appended to the categories from AA to CCC to indicate relative standing within each rating category. The plus and minus signs are part of the rating symbols.
- 6) Superior credit quality. The capacity for the payment of short-term financial obligations as they fall due is very high. Differs from R-1 (high) by a relatively modest degree. Unlikely to be significantly vulnerable to future events.
- 7) Good credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is substantial, but of lesser credit quality than AA. May be vulnerable to future events, but qualifying negative factors are considered manageable.
- 8) Adequate credit quality. The capacity for the payment of financial obligations is considered acceptable. May be vulnerable to future events.
- 9) Highest short-term credit quality. Indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added “+” to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.
- 10) High credit quality. “A” ratings denote expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.
- 11) Speculative. “BB” ratings indicate an elevated vulnerability to credit risk, particularly in the event of adverse changes in business or economic conditions over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.
- 12) Issuers (or supporting institutions) rated Prime-2 have a strong ability to repay short-term debt obligations.
- 13) Obligations rated A are judged to be upper medium-grade and subject to low credit risk.
- 14) Obligations rated Ba are judged to be speculative and are subject to substantial credit risk.
- 15) A short-term obligation rated “A-2” is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations in higher rating categories. However, the obligor’s capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is satisfactory.
- 16) An obligation rated “BBB” exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity of the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.
- 17) Obligations rated ‘BB’, ‘B’, ‘CCC’, ‘CC’, and ‘C’ are regarded as having significant speculative characteristics. ‘BB’ indicates the least degree of speculation and ‘C’ the highest. While such obligations will likely have some quality and protective characteristics, these may be outweighed by large uncertainties or major exposures to adverse conditions. An obligation rated “BB” is less vulnerable to non-payment than other speculative issues. However, it faces major on-going uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial, or economic conditions which could lead to the obligor’s inadequate capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.
- 18) Certainty of the fulfillment of a short-term obligation is high.
- 19) High creditworthiness supported by a few excellent factors.

A rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold any of our securities. Any or all of these ratings are subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating.

The specific meaning of each of the credit ratings is set out by the relevant credit ratings agency in the applicable web site, as follows: for Dominion Bond Rating Service Limited, see <http://www.dbrs.com/ratingPolicies/list/name/rating+scales>; for Fitch, Inc., see [http://www.fitchratings.com/web\\_content/ratings/fitch\\_ratings\\_definitions\\_and\\_scales.pdf](http://www.fitchratings.com/web_content/ratings/fitch_ratings_definitions_and_scales.pdf); for Moody’s Investors Service, see [http://www.moody.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC\\_79004](http://www.moody.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?docid=PBC_79004); for Standard & Poor’s, see [https://www.standardandpoors.com/en\\_US/web/guest/article/-/view/sourceId/504352](https://www.standardandpoors.com/en_US/web/guest/article/-/view/sourceId/504352) and for Rating and Investment Information, Inc., see <http://www.r-i.co.jp/eng/cfp/about/definition.html>.

***We Cannot Advise You of All of the Non-U.S. Tax Consequences of Owning or Trading Any Notes We May Issue***

Because you are a U.S. alien holder, you should consult your own legal and tax advisors with respect to the tax characterization of any notes we may issue in your taxing jurisdiction. For a summary of the principal U.S. federal income and estate tax consequences of notes to a U.S. alien holder, see “Taxation — United States Taxation” below.

***Unless Otherwise Specified in the Applicable Final Terms, We Will Not Compensate Holders If We Have to Deduct Taxes from Payments on Any Notes We May Issue***

With certain exceptions, as of the date of this European base prospectus, payments on any notes we may issue are not subject to U.S. federal withholding or other tax provided that the holder is a U.S. alien holder. Withholding from payments on a note may be required if a holder fails to provide a completed Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or W-8BEN-E. See the section entitled “Taxation — United States Taxation” below for more information.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable final terms, we will not gross up any payments due on the notes and we will not compensate holders for any amount that may be withheld or due because of any withholding tax. Accordingly, during the term of the note, whether or not due to a change in law, if any

withholding or other tax, assessment or other governmental charge is imposed on payments on the note by the United States or any other jurisdiction or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein (including any payment upon redemption, repurchase or stated maturity of a note), and we are required to deduct that tax, charge or assessment from any payment we make on the note (including any payment upon redemption, repurchase or stated maturity of a note), we will make that payment only after making such deduction and will not pay holders any additional amounts to compensate them for the deduction.

Consequently, if you purchase a note in these circumstances and a deduction is required to be made, you will receive less than what you would otherwise have been entitled to receive as payment on your note on the stated maturity date. We cannot predict whether any such changes in law will occur during the term of any notes we may issue and, if they do occur, the amounts that may have to be deducted.

***Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Withholding May Apply to Payments on your Notes, Including as a Result of the Failure of the Bank or Broker Through Which You Hold the Notes to Provide Information to Tax Authorities***

Your notes could be subject to a U.S. withholding tax of 30% under a law (commonly known as “FATCA”) that was enacted in 2010. This tax could apply if you or any non-U.S. person or entity that receives a payment (directly or indirectly) on your behalf (including a bank, custodian, broker or other payee, at any point in the series of payments made on your notes) does not comply with the U.S. information reporting, withholding, identification, certification, and related requirements imposed by FATCA. The payments potentially subject to this withholding tax include interest (including original issue discount) and other periodic payments as well as payments made upon maturity, redemption, or sale of certain securities.

You should consult your own tax advisors regarding the relevant U.S. law and other official guidance on FATCA. You could be affected by this withholding if, for example, your bank or broker through which you hold the notes is subject to withholding because it fails to comply with these requirements. This might be the case even if you would not otherwise have been directly subject to withholding. Accordingly, you should consult your bank or broker about the likelihood that payments to it (for credit to you) will become subject to withholding in the payment chain.

The withholding tax described above could apply to all interest and other periodic payments on the notes. In addition, the withholding tax described above could apply to payments upon the maturity, redemption or sale of notes on or after January 1, 2019.

We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of this withholding tax, so if this withholding applies, you will receive less than the amount that you would have otherwise received with respect to your notes. Depending on your circumstances, you may be entitled to a refund or credit in respect of some or all of this withholding. However, even if you are entitled to have any such withholding refunded, the required procedures could be cumbersome and significantly delay your receipt of any withheld amounts. For more information, see “Taxation — United States Taxation – Foreign Account Tax Compliance Withholding (FATCA)”.

In addition, your notes may also be subject to other U.S. withholding tax as described in “Taxation — United States Taxation”.

***If We Redeem Your Notes or Make an Adjustment upon a Change in Law, You May Receive Less than Your Initial Investment***

If the calculation agent determines that performance under the notes and/or any related hedge positions has become unlawful or impractical in whole or in part for any reason or will result in materially increased costs to us and/or any of our affiliates, we may cancel such notes and, if permitted by applicable law, pay the purchaser of such notes an amount equal to the non-scheduled repayment amount of such notes notwithstanding such illegality, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole and absolute discretion. We may also take such action if the calculation agent determines that the

performance by one of our affiliates under the notes and/or any related hedge positions (assuming such affiliate had been the issuer of the notes or party to any such hedging arrangement) would be unlawful or impractical.

The non-scheduled repayment amount may be less than if you were to reinvest the redemption proceeds at any effective interest rate as high as the interest rate or yield on the notes being redeemed and you may only be able to do so at a significantly lower rate. You should consider reinvestment risk in light of other investments available at that time. For more information, see “Description of the Program – Redemption and Repayment – Redemption Upon Change in Law”.

In addition, the calculation agent may make an adjustment to the terms if a change in law has occurred. The adjustments may result in the amount payable at maturity being reduced to or being valued at an amount less than your initial investment.

***If Your Final Terms Specify That We Have the Right to Redeem Your Note at Our Option, the Value of Your Notes May Be Adversely Affected.***

Your final terms may specify that we have the right to redeem your note at our option. Even if we do not exercise this option, our ability to do so may adversely affect the value of your notes.

***Distributors or Other Entities Involved in the Offer or Listing of the Notes May Have Potential Conflicts of Interest***

Potential conflicts of interest may arise in connection with the distribution of the notes, as any distributors or other entities involved in the offer and/or the listing of the notes as indicated in the applicable final terms, will act pursuant to a mandate granted by the Issuer and can receive commissions and/or fees on the basis of the services performed in relation to such offer and/or listing.

***Public Offers of the Notes May Be Subject to Extension, Postponement, Revocation and/or Termination***

If the notes are distributed by means of a public offer, under certain circumstances indicated in the applicable final terms, the Issuer and/or the other entities indicated in the applicable final terms will have the right to withdraw or revoke the offer, and the offer will be deemed to be null and void according to the terms indicated in the applicable final terms.

The Issuer and/or the other relevant entities specified in the applicable final terms may also terminate the offer early by immediate suspension of the acceptance of further subscription requests and by giving notice to the public in accordance with the applicable final terms. Any such termination may occur even where the maximum amount for subscription in relation to that offer (as specified in the applicable final terms), has not been reached. In such circumstances, the early closing of the offer may have an impact on the aggregate number of notes issued and, therefore, may have an adverse effect on the liquidity of the notes.

Furthermore, under certain circumstances indicated in the applicable final terms, the Issuer and/or the other entities indicated in the applicable final terms will have the right to extend the offer period and/or to postpone the originally designated issue date, and related interest payment dates and the maturity date. For the avoidance of doubt, this right applies also in the event that the Issuer publishes a supplement to this Prospectus in accordance with the provisions of the Prospectus Directive.

In addition, if the relevant final terms indicate that the notes will be distributed on the Borsa Italiana S.p.A.'s MOT (electronic bond market) pursuant to the process described in article 2.4.3, paragraph 7 of the *Rules of the Markets organised and managed by Borsa Italiana S.p.A.*, pursuant to this distribution process, potential investors will be able to monitor (via market operators) the progress of proposed purchases of the notes during the offer period. This fact may have an impact on the progress and results of the offer. Moreover, pursuant to distribution process on the MOT indicated above, an investor's proposed acquisition of the notes during the offer period does not constitute conclusion of the sale of the

notes, which remains subject to confirmation of correct execution of the order and the issuance of the notes.

### **Considerations Relating to Regulatory Resolution Strategies and Long-Term Debt Requirements**

#### ***The Application of Regulatory Resolution Strategies Could Create Greater Risk of Loss for Holders of our Debt Securities in the Event of the Resolution of The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.***

Your ability to recover the full amount that would otherwise be payable on our debt securities in a proceeding under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code may be impaired by the exercise by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) of its powers under the “orderly liquidation authority” under Title II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act) or regulations that may be promulgated based on the Financial Stability Board’s November 2015 standard to enhance the total loss-absorbing capacity of Global Systemically Important Banks (GSIBs), which, like the single point of entry strategy described below, is intended to impose losses at the top-tier holding company level in the resolution of a G-SIB such as The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

Title II of the Dodd-Frank Act created a new resolution regime known as the “orderly liquidation authority” to which financial companies, including bank holding companies such as The Goldman Sachs Group Inc., can be subjected. Under the orderly liquidation authority, the FDIC may be appointed as receiver for a financial company for purposes of liquidating the entity if, upon the recommendation of applicable regulators, the Secretary of the Treasury determines, among other things, that the entity is in severe financial distress, that the entity’s failure would have serious adverse effects on the U.S. financial system and that resolution under the orderly liquidation authority would avoid or mitigate those effects. Absent such determinations, The Goldman Sachs Group Inc., as a bank holding company, would remain subject to the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

If the FDIC is appointed as receiver under the orderly liquidation authority, then the orderly liquidation authority, rather than the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, would determine the powers of the receiver and the rights and obligations of creditors and other parties who have transacted with The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. There are substantial differences between the rights available to creditors in the orderly liquidation authority and in the U.S. Bankruptcy Code, including the right of the FDIC under the orderly liquidation authority to disregard the strict priority of creditor claims in some circumstances (which would otherwise be respected by a bankruptcy court) and the use of an administrative claims procedure to determine creditors’ claims (as opposed to the judicial procedure utilized in bankruptcy proceedings). In certain circumstances under the orderly liquidation authority, the FDIC could elevate the priority of claims that it determines necessary to facilitate a smooth and orderly liquidation without the need to obtain creditors’ consent or prior court review. In addition, the FDIC has the right to transfer claims to a third party or “bridge” entity under the orderly liquidation authority.

The FDIC has announced that a single point of entry strategy may be a desirable strategy to resolve a large financial institution such as The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. in a manner that would, among other things, impose losses on shareholders, debt holders (including, in our case, holders of our debt securities) and other creditors of the top-tier holding company (in our case, The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.), while permitting the holding company’s subsidiaries to continue to operate. In addition, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Federal Reserve Board) has proposed requirements that U.S. G-SIBs, including The Goldman Sachs Group Inc., maintain minimum amounts of long-term debt and total loss-absorbing capacity to facilitate the application of the single point of entry resolution strategy. It is possible that the application of the single point of entry strategy—in which The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. would be the only legal entity to enter resolution proceedings—could result in greater losses to holders of our debt securities (including holders of our fixed rate, floating rate and indexed debt securities), than the losses that could result from the application of a bankruptcy proceeding or a different resolution strategy for The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Assuming The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. entered resolution proceedings and that support from The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. to its subsidiaries was sufficient to enable the subsidiaries to remain solvent, losses at the subsidiary level would be transferred to The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and ultimately borne by The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.’s security holders, thirdparty creditors of The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.’s subsidiaries would receive full recoveries

on their claims, and The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s security holders (including holders of our debt securities and other unsecured creditors) could face significant losses.

The orderly liquidation authority also provides the FDIC with authority to cause creditors and shareholders of a financial company such as The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. in receivership to bear losses before taxpayers are exposed to such losses, and amounts owed to the U.S. government would generally receive a statutory payment priority over the claims of private creditors, including senior creditors. In addition, under the orderly liquidation authority, claims of creditors (including holders of our debt securities) could be satisfied through the issuance of equity or other securities in a bridge entity to which The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s assets are transferred. If such a securities-for-claims exchange were implemented, there can be no assurance that the value of the securities of the bridge entity would be sufficient to repay or satisfy all or any part of the creditor claims for which the securities were exchanged. While the FDIC has issued regulations to implement the orderly liquidation authority, not all aspects of how the FDIC might exercise this authority are known and additional rulemaking is likely.

***The Application of The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s Proposed Resolution Strategy Could Result in Greater Losses for Holders of our Debt Securities.***

As required by the Dodd-Frank Act and regulations issued by the Federal Reserve Board and the FDIC, we are required to provide to the Federal Reserve Board and the FDIC a plan for our rapid and orderly resolution in the event of material financial distress affecting the firm or the failure of The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. In our resolution plan, The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. would be resolved under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. The strategy described in our resolution plan is a variant of the single point of entry strategy: The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. would recapitalize and provide liquidity to certain major subsidiaries, including through the forgiveness of intercompany indebtedness, the extension of the maturities of intercompany indebtedness and the extension of additional intercompany loans. If this strategy were successful, creditors of some or all of The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s major subsidiaries would receive full recoveries on their claims, while holders of The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s debt securities (including holders of our fixed rate, floating rate and indexed debt securities) could face significant losses. If this strategy were not successful, The Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s financial condition would be adversely impacted and holders of our debt securities may as a consequence be in a worse position than if the strategy had not been implemented. In all cases, any payments to holders of our debt securities are dependent on our ability to make such payments and are therefore subject to our credit risk.

***The Ultimate Impact of the Federal Reserve Board's Recently Proposed Rules Requiring U.S. G-SIBs to Maintain Minimum Amounts of Long-Term Debt Meeting Specified Eligibility Requirements is Uncertain.***

On October 30, 2015, the Federal Reserve Board released for comment proposed rules (the TLAC Rules) that would require the eight U.S. G-SIBs, including The Goldman Sachs Group Inc., among other things, to maintain minimum amounts of long-term debt—i.e., debt having a maturity greater than one year from issuance (LTD)—satisfying certain eligibility criteria commencing January 1, 2019. As proposed, the TLAC Rules would disqualify from eligible LTD, among other instruments, senior debt securities that permit acceleration for reasons other than insolvency or payment default, as well as debt securities defined as structured notes in the TLAC Rules (e.g., many of our indexed debt securities) and debt securities not governed by U.S. law. The currently outstanding senior LTD of U.S. G-SIBs, including The Goldman Sachs Group Inc., typically permits acceleration for reasons other than insolvency or payment default and, as a result, neither such outstanding senior LTD nor any subsequently issued senior LTD with similar terms would qualify as eligible LTD under the proposed rules. The Federal Reserve Board has requested comment on whether currently outstanding instruments should be allowed to count as eligible LTD “despite containing features that would be prohibited under the proposal”. The U.S. G-SIBs, including The Goldman Sachs Group Inc., may need to take steps to come into compliance with the final TLAC Rules depending in substantial part on the ultimate eligibility requirements for senior LTD and any grandfathering provisions.

## **Considerations Relating to Floating Rate Notes**

### ***A Negative Floating Base Rate May Reduce Any Positive Spread Payable on Your Notes***

If your note is a floating rate note, it may bear interest at a rate equal to a specified base rate plus a percentage or a specified number of basis points (called the spread). If your final terms indicate “Base Rate 0% Floor” as “Not Applicable”, then the specified base rate may be negative for some or all interest periods. For any interest period, if the specified base is negative, then it will reduce the interest rate payable for such interest period below the specified spread, potentially to zero. Accordingly, you may receive an interest rate on your notes that is lower than the specified spread, and this would adversely affect the value of and return on your notes.

## **Considerations Relating to Indexed Notes**

We use the term “indexed notes” to mean any notes whose value is linked to any underlying asset or index. Indexed notes may present a high level of risk, and investors in certain indexed notes may lose part of their investment in the notes, depending on the structure as indicated in the final terms. In addition, the treatment of indexed notes for U.S. federal income tax purposes is often unclear due to the absence of any authority specifically addressing the issues presented by any particular indexed note. Thus, if you propose to invest in indexed notes, you should independently evaluate the federal income tax consequences of purchasing an indexed note that apply in your particular circumstances. You should also read “United States Taxation” below for a discussion of U.S. tax matters.

### **Considerations Relating to Indexed Notes Generally**

#### ***The Return on Indexed Notes May Be Below the Return on Similar Securities***

Depending on the terms of an indexed note, as specified in the applicable final terms, you may not receive any periodic interest payments or receive only very low payments on the note. As a result, the overall return on a note may be less than the amount you would have earned by investing the face amount of a note in a non-indexed debt security that bears interest at a prevailing market fixed or floating rate.

#### ***Payments on Indexed Notes May Be Linked to the Average Performance of the Underlyers and Not the Overall Change in the Underlyer Performance***

The formula used to determine the amounts payable on an indexed note may be calculated by reference to the average performance of the underlyer or underlyers over a number of observation dates and not by reference to the overall change in the underlyer or underlyers over the life of your note. In this case, relevant underlyer levels on one or more of these dates may be sufficiently low or high to offset any overall gain or decline in the underlyer, in which case you might receive no payment amount on the note or a payment amount that is less than the amount that would have been paid had the payment amount been linked to the change in the underlyer from the issue date (or other date, as specified in the applicable final terms) to the final observation date or the stated maturity date, as the case may be.

#### ***Use of Participation Factors Over 100 Percent May Result in Disproportionate Exposure to the Negative Performance of the Underlyer***

Where the applicable final terms of the notes provide that the redemption amount of such note is based upon the performance of the underlyer multiplied by a participation factor which is over 100 percent, a purchaser may participate disproportionately in any positive performance and/or may have a disproportionate exposure to any negative performance of the underlyer. Due to this leverage effect, the notes represent a very speculative and risky form of investment since any loss in the value of the underlyer carries the risk of a correspondingly higher loss.



***The Issuer of a Security or Currency That Serves as Part of an Underlyer Could Take Actions That May Adversely Affect an Indexed Note***

The issuer of a security or currency that serves as an underlyer or part of an underlyer for an indexed note will have no involvement in the offer and sale of the note and no obligations to the holder of the note. The issuer of such security or currency may take actions, such as a merger or sale of assets, without regard to the interests of the holder. Any of these actions could adversely affect the value of a note based on an underlyer linked to such security.

If the underlyer for an indexed note includes a non-U.S. dollar currency or other asset denominated in a non-U.S. dollar currency, the government that issues that currency will also have no involvement in the offer and sale of the indexed note and no obligations to the holder of that note. That government may take actions that could adversely affect the value of such note. See “— Considerations Relating to Notes Denominated or Payable in or Linked to Currencies Other Than Your Own Principal Currency — Government Policy Can Adversely Affect Foreign Currency Exchange Rates and an Investment in a Foreign Currency Note” below for more information about these kinds of notes.

***An Indexed Note May Be Linked to a Volatile Underlyer, Which May Adversely Affect an Investment***

Some underlyers are highly volatile, which means that their value may change significantly, up or down, over a short period of time. It is impossible to predict the future performance of an underlyer based on its historical performance. The amount of principal or interest that can be expected to become payable on an indexed note may vary substantially from time to time. Because the amount of principal or interest payable on an indexed note is generally calculated based on the value of the relevant underlyer on a specified date or over a limited period of time, volatility in the underlyer increases the risk that the return on an indexed note may be adversely affected by a fluctuation in the level of the relevant underlyer.

The volatility of an underlyer may be affected by financial, political, military or economic events, including governmental actions, or by the activities of participants in the relevant markets. Any of these events or activities could adversely affect the value of an indexed note.

***Underlyers May Move in Opposite Directions, Which May Affect the Amount You Receive on an Indexed Note Linked to a Basket of Underlyers***

If you purchase an indexed note, the amount of interest you may receive on the note, if any, may be based on the performance of a basket of underlyers. The market price for different types of underlyer may move in opposite directions. As a result, the level of the underlyers to which the note is linked may move such that the underlyer performance of one or more basket underlyers may offset or be offset by the underlyer performance of one or more of the other basket underlyers, which ultimately may result in a decrease in the overall return on the note or no interest payments on your note.

***Historical Levels for the Underlyer or Underlyers of an Indexed Note are Not Indicative of Future Levels***

If we issue an indexed note, we may cross-reference to historical information about the relevant underlyer or underlyers in the applicable final terms. Any information about underlyers that we may reference will be furnished as a matter of information only, and you should note that historical underlyer levels, fluctuations and trends are not necessarily indicative of future underlyer levels. Any historical upward or downward trend in underlyer levels is not an indication that the levels of the underlyer or underlyers are more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time during the life of an indexed note, and you should not take historical underlyer levels as an indication of future performance.

***If the Level of an Underlyer Changes, the Market Price of an Indexed Note May Not Change in the Same Manner***

An indexed note may trade quite differently from the performance of the relevant underlyer or underlyers. Changes in the level of the underlyer may not result in a comparable change in the market

price of your note. Some of the other reasons for this disparity are discussed above under “— Considerations Relating to Notes Generally — The Market Price of Any Notes We May Issue May Be Influenced by Many Unpredictable Factors and If You Buy a Note and Sell It Prior to the Stated Maturity Date, You May Receive Less Than the Face Amount of Your Note”.

***If You Purchase an Indexed Note, You Will Have No Rights with Respect to any Underlyer, Securities or Other Underlyer Components to which Your Note is Linked.***

Investing in an indexed note will not make you a holder of the underlyer, any securities that comprise the underlyer, or other underlyer components with respect thereto. As a result, you will not have any voting rights, any right to receive dividends or other distributions or any other rights with respect to any of the underlyer components. Your note will be paid in cash, and you will have no right to receive delivery of any such underlyer components.

**Special Considerations Relating to Indexed Notes Linked to Stock Indices**

***An Index to Which an Indexed Note Is Linked Could Be Changed or Become Unavailable***

Some indices compiled by third parties may consist of or refer to several or many different securities or currencies or other instruments or measures. The compiler of such an index typically reserves the right to alter the composition of the index and the manner in which the value of the index is calculated. An alteration may result in a decrease in the value of or return on an indexed note that is linked to the index. The indices for our indexed notes may include published indices of this kind or customized indices developed by us or our affiliates in connection with particular issues of indexed notes.

A published index may become unavailable, or a customized index may become impossible to calculate in a normal manner, due to events such as war, natural disaster, cessation of publication of the index or a suspension or disruption of trading in one or more securities or currencies or other instruments or measures on which the index is based. If an index becomes unavailable or impossible to calculate in a normal manner, the terms of a particular indexed note may allow us to delay determining the amount payable as principal or interest on an indexed note or may use an alternative method to determine the value of the unavailable index. Alternative methods of valuation are generally intended to produce a value similar to the value resulting from reference to the relevant index. However, it is unlikely that any alternative method of valuation we use will produce a value identical to the value that the actual index would produce. If we use an alternative method of valuation for a note linked to an index of this kind, the value of the note, or the rate of return on it, may be lower than it otherwise would be.

Some indexed notes are linked to indices that are not commonly used or have been developed only recently. The lack of a trading history may make it difficult to anticipate the volatility or other risks associated with an indexed note of this kind. In addition, trading in these indices or their underlying stocks or currencies or other instruments or measures, or options or futures contracts on these stocks or currencies or other instruments or measures, may be limited, which could increase their volatility and decrease the value of the related indexed notes or the rates of return on them.

***If You Purchase an Indexed Note Linked to a Stock Index, the Return on the Note May Not Reflect the Return or Any Distributions, Dividends or Other Payments Made on Any Index Components***

In the case of an indexed note, the sponsor of each index to which the note is linked will calculate the level of the relevant index by reference to the market prices of the index securities or other index components with respect thereto included in that index, without taking account of the value of any distributions, dividends or other payments. As a result, if you invest in an indexed note, the return on your note will not reflect the return you would realize if you actually owned the index components and received the distributions, dividends or other payments made on them.

### ***Indices of Emerging Markets May be Volatile and Unstable***

Where the applicable final terms of the notes reference one or more emerging market stock indices, purchasers of such notes should be aware that the political and economic situation in countries with emerging economies or stock markets may be undergoing significant evolution and rapid development, and such countries may lack the social, political and economic stability characteristic of more developed countries, including a significant risk of currency value fluctuation. Such instability may result from, among other things, authoritarian governments, or military involvement in political and economic decision-making, including changes or attempted changes in governments through extra-constitutional means; popular unrest associated with demands for improved political, economic or social conditions; internal insurgencies; hostile relations with neighbouring countries; and ethnic, religious and racial disaffections or conflict. Certain of such countries may have in the past failed to recognize private property rights and have at times nationalized or expropriated the assets of private companies. As a result, the risks from investing in those countries, including the risks of nationalization or expropriation of assets, may be heightened. In addition, unanticipated political or social developments may affect the values of an underlying asset investment in those countries. The small size and inexperience of the securities markets in certain countries and the limited volume of trading in securities may make the underlying assets illiquid and more volatile than investments in more established markets. There may be little financial or accounting information available with respect to local issuers, and it may be difficult as a result to assess the value or prospects of the indices.

### ***The Policies of an Index Sponsor and Changes Affecting an Index or Indices or Any of Its Components Could Affect the Amount Payable on an Indexed Note and Its Market Value***

The policies of an index sponsor concerning the calculation of the index level, additions, deletions or substitutions of index components and the manner in which changes affecting the index components or their issuers, such as dividends, reorganizations or mergers, are reflected in the index level could affect the index level and, therefore, the amount payable on any indexed notes we may issue on the stated maturity date and the market value of any such notes prior to such date. The amount payable on an indexed note and its market value could also be affected if the underlying sponsor changes these policies, for example, by changing the manner in which it calculates the index level, or if the underlying sponsor discontinues or suspends calculation or publication of the index level, in which case it may become difficult to determine the market value of the note. If events such as these occur or if the index level is not available on any relevant observation date because of a market disruption event or for any other reason, the calculation agent — which initially will be Goldman Sachs International, our affiliate — may determine the index level on any such determination date — and thus the amount payable on the stated maturity date — in a manner it considers appropriate, in its sole discretion.

### ***There Is No Affiliation Between the Issuers of Any of the Index Securities Contained in an Equity or Debt Index Included in an Indexed Note and Us, and We Are Not Responsible for Any Disclosure by Such Issuers***

We are not affiliated with any of the issuers of the securities which are included in any of the equity or debt indices included in an underlying, or the sponsor of any of these indices. We and our affiliates may currently or from time to time in the future engage in business with the issuers of other index securities included in any of the equity or debt indices included in an indexed note. Nevertheless, neither we nor any of our affiliates assumes any responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of any publicly available information about any issuers of index securities. You, as an investor in a note, should make your own investigation into the indices and the issuers of the index securities that make up the relevant index or indices. See the applicable final terms for additional information about the relevant index or indices to which a particular note is linked.

Neither the sponsors of any of the relevant index or indices included in an indexed note nor any of the issuers of the index securities as underlying sponsor of any index published by it are involved in any offering of notes in any way and none of them has any obligation of any sort with respect to an indexed note. Neither the sponsors of the indices nor any of the issuers of the index securities have any obligation to take your interests into consideration for any reason, including in taking any corporate actions that

might affect the market price for your note. Any of the sponsors of any of the indices may decide to discontinue calculating and publishing such index, which would mean that the calculation agent, which unless we indicate in the applicable final terms will be one of our affiliates, would have discretion in making determinations with respect to such index.

### ***U.S. Taxation Developments May Have a Negative Impact on Your Indexed Notes***

The U.S. Treasury Department has issued final regulations under Section 871(m) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code (the “Code”) which impose U.S. federal withholding tax on “dividend equivalent” payments made on certain financial instruments linked to U.S. corporations (which the regulations refer to as “specified ELIs”) that are owned by non-U.S. holders. However, the final regulations do not apply to “specified ELIs” issued prior to January 1, 2017 (the “Grandfather Date”). Accordingly we anticipate that non-U.S. holders of indexed notes will not be subject to tax under Section 871(m) of the Code unless, as discussed below under “Taxation—United States Taxation—Dividend Equivalent Payments”, such indexed notes are deemed to be wholly or partially reissued for U.S. federal income tax purposes on or after the Grandfather Date, in which case it is possible that the indexed notes will be subject to Section 871(m) of the Code.

### **Special Considerations Relating to Indexed (Range Accrual) Notes**

#### ***If the Level of the Underlyer Daily Fixing on the Underlyer Daily Fixing Date Applicable to Any Calendar Day Falls Outside of the Accrual Range for that Underlyer, No Interest Will Accrue for Such Day for the Range Accrual Note***

Because of the formula we use to calculate the interest rate applicable to range accrual notes, in the event that for any day on which interest otherwise would accrue on a range accrual note the underlyer daily fixing for the underlyer, calculated as of the applicable underlyer daily fixing date, falls outside of its accrual range, no interest will accrue for such day. Therefore, if the level of the underlyer daily fixing falls outside of its accrual range for each day in the interest periods, you will receive no interest payment for such period. Even if you receive some interest payments on some or all of the interest payment dates, the overall return you earn on your notes may be less than you would have earned by investing in a non-range accrual debt security of a comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate.

If the interest payments on a range accrual note are linked to a foreign currency exchange rate or rates, if any currency that is a component of such rate appreciates or depreciates, as the case may be, against the other currency that is a component of such foreign currency exchange rate, to a level where the applicable foreign currency exchange rate falls outside of its respective accrual range, your note will not accrue interest on such days. Even if you receive some interest payments on some or all of the interest payment dates, the overall return you earn on your notes may be less than you would have earned by investing in a non-range accrual debt security of a comparable maturity that bears interest at a prevailing market rate.

### **Special Considerations Relating to Indexed (Digital) Notes**

#### ***You May Not Receive any Interest on Any Interest Payment Date***

Whether you receive an interest payment on any interest payment date will depend on the performance of the relevant index or indices relative to their respective barrier levels. Your final terms will specify for each relevant index a performance condition (“less than”; “greater than”; “less than or equal to”; “greater than or equal to”) with respect to each applicable barrier level. If the index performance of any index does not meet the specified performance condition with respect to any interest period, you will not receive an interest payment for that interest period. If this occurs in respect of each interest payment date, you will never receive any interest payments and the overall return you earn on your notes will be zero and such return will be less than you would have earned by investing in a note that bears interest at the prevailing market rate.

#### ***The Interest Payments on Your Notes Will Be Limited and Will Not Reflect the Actual Performance of the Underlyers from Observation Date to Observation Date***

The interest payment for each interest payment date is different from, and may be less than, an interest payment determined based on the percentage difference of the closing levels of the underlyers between the initial valuation date (or initial averaging dates) and any observation date (or averaging dates) or between two observation dates (or sets of averaging dates). Accordingly, the interest payments, if any, on the notes will be limited, and may be less than the return you could earn on another instrument linked to the underlyers that pay interest payments based on the performance of the underlyers from the trade date to any observation date or from observation date to observation date.

***If the “Worst-Of” Condition Applies to your Indexed (Digital) Notes, Interest Payments On Your Notes Will Be Determined by Reference to the Worst Performing Index Only***

If “Worst-Of” is applicable to your Indexed (Digital) note, for each relevant interest period, the index performance of only the worst performing index will be used to determine whether the index performance condition has been met for such interest period, and therefore whether you will receive an interest payment for such interest period. For any interest period, you will receive an interest payment only if the index performance of each of the specified indices meets or exceeds its corresponding barrier level, as specified in your final terms. Even if the index performance of one or more of the indices to which your note is linked meets or exceeds its corresponding barrier level, as applicable, if the index performance of the worst performing index does not meet or exceed its corresponding barrier level, you will not receive any interest payment for such interest period.

***If the “Multiple Conditions” Condition Applies to your Indexed (Digital) Notes, You Will Receive an Interest Payment for Any Interest Period Only If All the Indexes Satisfy Their Respective Index Performance Conditions***

If “Multiple Conditions” is applicable to your Indexed (Digital) note, for each relevant interest period, you will receive an interest payment only if all the indices satisfy their respective index performance conditions for such interest period. The index performance condition may require that the relative index either appreciate or depreciate in value in order for interest to be paid. In such a case, if the relevant index appreciates in value with as of any observation date, you will not receive any interest payment on the corresponding interest payment date, even though the value index to which your note is linked has increased. For any interest period, even if the index performance of one or more of the indices to which your note is linked meets the performance measure specified with respect to the applicable barrier level, if the index performance of any index does not meet the specified performance level, you will not receive any interest payment for such interest period.

**Special Considerations Relating to Indexed (OutPerformance) Notes**

***The Interest Payments on Your Notes Will Be Limited and Will Not Reflect the Actual Performance of the Underlyers from Observation Date to Observation Date. You May Receive No Interest Payments Even if Both Indices Increase or Both Indices Decline.***

Your return on the notes depends on the relative performances of the underlyers. If both underlyers have increased as of any observation date, you will not receive any interest on the related interest payment dates if the percentage increase in the level of the primary underlyer has been less than that of the secondary underlyer plus or minus the performance factor specified in your final terms. Likewise, if both underlyers have declined as of any observation date, you will not receive any interest on the related interest payment dates if the percentage decrease of the primary underlyer has been more than that of the secondary underlyer plus or minus a performance factor to be specified in your final terms.

**Special Considerations Relating to Indexed (Participation) Notes**

***You May Lose Part of Your Investment in the Notes***

The amount payable at maturity (final redemption amount) and/or interest payable on an Indexed (Participation) note will be determined by reference to the price, value or level of one or more stock

indices, interest rates of foreign currency exchange rates and/or one or more baskets of any of these items. We refer to each of these as an “underlyer” or “underlyers”. The direction and magnitude of the change in the value of the relevant underlyer will determine the principal amount of an indexed note payable at maturity and/or the amount of interest payable on the interest payment date and the cash value. The terms of a particular Indexed (Participation) note may not provide for the return of the face amount at maturity or a minimum interest rate, and we may issue notes under which investors could lose part of their investment. Thus, if you purchase an Indexed (Participation) note that does not provide for the return of 100% of your principal at maturity, you may lose part of the principal invested and may receive no interest on your investment.

Also, the market price of your notes prior to the stated maturity date may be significantly lower than the purchase price you pay for your notes. Consequently, if you sell your notes before the stated maturity date, you may receive far less than the amount of your investment in the notes.

### **Considerations Relating to the Role of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and Its Affiliates**

#### ***Trading and Other Transactions by Us in Instruments Linked to an Underlyer or the Components of an Underlyer May Impair the Market Price of an Indexed Note***

We, through Goldman Sachs International or one or more of our other affiliates, expect to hedge our obligations under an indexed note by purchasing some or all of the following: index securities (in the case of an indexed note linked to an equity or debt index), and options or futures on any of the underlyers or underlyer components or other instruments linked to any of the underlyers or underlyer components. We also expect to adjust any such hedges by, among other things, purchasing or selling any of the foregoing, at any time and from time to time and to unwind such hedges by purchasing or selling any of the foregoing at any time. We may also enter into, adjust and unwind hedging transactions relating to other index-linked notes whose returns are linked to one or more underlyers. Any of these hedging activities may affect the level of any of the underlyers — directly or indirectly by affecting the price of the underlyer components — and, therefore, may adversely affect the market price of the relevant notes. It is possible that we, through our affiliates, could receive substantial returns with respect to our hedging activities while the market price of the relevant notes may decline. You should read the discussion of use of proceeds in the applicable final terms for more information on the securities transactions in which we or one or more of our affiliates may engage.

Goldman Sachs International and our other affiliates may also engage in trading in one or more of the underlyer components or instruments linked to any of the underlyers or underlyer components included in an indexed note for their proprietary accounts, for other accounts under their management or to facilitate transactions, including, in the case of notes linked to an equity index, block transactions, on behalf of customers. Any of these activities of Goldman Sachs International or our other affiliates could affect the level of any of the underlyers — directly or indirectly by affecting the price of any underlyer components — and, therefore, could adversely affect the market price of the relevant notes. We may also issue, and Goldman Sachs International and our other affiliates may also issue or underwrite, other securities or financial or derivative instruments with returns linked to changes in the level of any of the underlyers or underlyer components. By introducing competing products into the marketplace in this manner, we and our affiliates could adversely affect the market price of the relevant notes.

Each fiscal agency agreement governing notes we may issue under this European base prospectus does not, with respect to indexed notes, impose any restriction on our ability or the ability of any of our affiliates to purchase or sell all or any portion of the underlyer components or instruments linked to those components or the underlyers.

#### ***Our Business Activities May Create Conflicts of Interest Between You and Us***

As noted above, Goldman Sachs International and our other affiliates expect to engage in trading activities related to one or more of the underlyers included in indexed notes (and the relevant index components, in the case of an underlyer that is an index) that are not for your account or on your behalf. These trading activities may present a conflict between your interest in an indexed note and the interests

Goldman Sachs International or our other affiliates have in their proprietary accounts and in facilitating transactions, including, in the case of notes linked to an equity index, block trades, for their customers and in accounts under their management. These trading activities, if they influence the level of the relevant underlying, could be adverse to your interests as a beneficial owner of an indexed note.

Goldman Sachs International and our other affiliates may, at present or in the future, engage in business with the issuers of the index securities contained in an equity or debt index included in an indexed note, including by making loans to or equity investments in those companies or providing advisory services to them. These services could include merger and acquisition advisory services. Any such activities may present a conflict between the obligations of Goldman Sachs International or another of our affiliates and your interests as a beneficial owner of an indexed note. Moreover, one or more of our affiliates may have published or in the future expect to publish research reports with respect to one or more of the issuers of the index securities contained in an equity or debt index included in an indexed note. Any of these activities by any of our affiliates may affect the level of any of the indices and, therefore, the market price of the relevant notes.

***As Calculation Agent, Goldman Sachs International Will Have the Authority to Make Determinations That Could Affect the Market Price of Floating Rate Notes and Indexed Notes, When the Note Matures and the Amount Payable at Maturity***

As calculation agent, Goldman Sachs International will have discretion in making various determinations that affect the market price of floating rate and indexed notes, including all determinations regarding the relevant underlying or underlyers (including, with respect to indices, adjustments, rebasing and substitution, among other factors, any successor indices and index reference prices), market disruption events, exchange business days, observation dates, any other factors or events relevant to the calculation of amounts dependent on the performance of the underlying or underlyers, business days, if applicable, interest amounts and interest payment dates, and the stated maturity, which could adversely affect the market price for the note and may present Goldman Sachs International with a conflict of interest of the kind described above under “— Our Business Activities May Create Conflicts of Interest Between You and Us”.

**Considerations Relating to Notes Denominated or Payable in or Linked to Currencies Other Than Your Own Principal Currency**

If you intend to invest in a note whose principal and/or interest is payable in a currency other than your own principal currency, which we refer to as a “foreign currency”, or a note that may be settled by delivery of or reference to a foreign currency or property denominated in or otherwise linked to a foreign currency, you should consult your own financial, tax and legal advisors as to the currency risks entailed by your investment. Notes of this kind may not be an appropriate investment for investors who are unsophisticated with respect to foreign currency transactions.

***An Investment in a Foreign Currency Note Involves Currency-Related Risks***

An investment in a note denominated in a foreign currency may entail significant risks that may not be associated with a similar investment in a note payable solely in your own principal currency. These risks include the possibility of significant changes in rates of exchange between your currency and the various foreign currencies or composite currencies and the possibility of the imposition or modification of foreign exchange controls or other conditions by foreign governments. These risks generally depend on factors over which we have no control, such as financial, economic, military and political events and the supply of and demand for the relevant currencies in the global markets.

***Changes in Foreign Currency Exchange Rates Can Be Volatile and Unpredictable***

Rates of exchange between currencies have been highly volatile, and this volatility may continue and perhaps spread to other currencies in the future. Fluctuations in currency exchange rates could adversely affect an investment in a note denominated in, or whose value is otherwise linked to, a foreign currency. Depreciation of the specified currency against your own principal currency could result in a decrease in

the market value of your note, including the principal payable at maturity. That in turn could cause the market value of your note to fall. Depreciation of the foreign currency against your own principal currency could result in a decline in the market value of your note.

***Government Policy Can Adversely Affect Foreign Currency Exchange Rates and an Investment in a Foreign Currency Note***

Foreign currency exchange rates can either float or be fixed by sovereign governments. From time to time, governments use a variety of techniques, such as intervention by a country's central bank or imposition of regulatory controls or taxes, to affect the exchange rate of their currencies. Governments may also issue a new currency to replace an existing currency or alter the exchange rate or exchange characteristics by devaluation or revaluation of a currency. Thus, a special risk in purchasing foreign currency notes may be that their yields or payouts could be significantly and unpredictably affected by governmental actions. Even in the absence of governmental action directly affecting foreign currency exchange rates, political, military or economic developments in the country issuing the specified foreign currency for a note or elsewhere could lead to significant and sudden changes in the foreign currency exchange rate between the foreign currency and your principal currency. These changes could affect your principal currency equivalent value of the note as participants in the global currency markets move to buy or sell the foreign currency or your own principal currency in reaction to these developments.

Governments have imposed from time to time and may in the future impose exchange controls or other conditions, including taxes, with respect to the exchange or transfer of a specified currency that could affect exchange rates as well as the availability of a specified currency for a note at its maturity or on any other payment date. In addition, the ability of a holder to move currency freely out of the country in which payment in the currency is received or to convert the currency at a freely determined market rate could be limited by governmental actions.

***We May Not Adjust Any Notes to Compensate for Changes in Foreign Currency Exchange Rates***

Except as described below, we will not make any adjustment or change in the terms of any note in the event of any change in exchange rates for the relevant currency, whether in the event of any devaluation, revaluation or imposition of exchange or other regulatory controls or taxes or in the event of other developments affecting that currency or any other currency. Consequently, investors in notes will bear the risk that their investment may be adversely affected by these types of events.

***The Manipulation of Published Currency Exchange Rates and Possible Reforms Affecting the Determination or Publication of Exchange Rates or the Supervision of Currency Trading Could Have An Adverse Impact On Your Notes***

It has been reported that the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority and regulators from other countries are in the process of investigating the potential manipulation of published currency exchange rates. If such manipulation has occurred or is continuing, certain published exchange rates may have been, or may be in the future, artificially lower (or higher) than they would otherwise have been. Any such manipulation could have an adverse impact on any payments on, and the value of, your notes and the trading market for your notes. In addition, we cannot predict whether any changes or reforms affecting the determination or publication of exchange rates or the supervision of currency trading will be implemented in connection with these investigations. Any such changes or reforms could also adversely impact your notes.

***There are also risks associated with notes payable in or linked to currencies other than U.S. dollars***

***Non-U.S. Dollar Notes Will Permit Us to Make Payments in U.S. Dollars or Delay Payment If We Are Unable to Obtain the Specified Currency***

Notes payable in a currency other than U.S. dollars will provide that, if the other currency is not available to us at or about the time when a payment on the notes comes due because of circumstances beyond our control, we will be entitled to make the payment in U.S. dollars or delay making the payment. These circumstances could include the imposition of exchange controls or our inability to obtain the other



currency because of a disruption in the currency markets. If we made payment in U.S. dollars, the exchange rate we would use would be based on the most recently available noon buying rate in New York City for cable transfers of the other currency, available from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The most recently available rate may be for a date substantially before the payment date. A determination of this kind may be based on limited information and would involve significant discretion on the part of the exchange rate agent, as specified in the applicable final terms. As a result, the value of the payment in U.S. dollars an investor would receive on the payment date may be less than the value of the payment the investor would have received in the other currency if it had been available, or may be zero. These matters are discussed under “General Note Conditions — Features Common to All Notes — Currency of Notes” and “General Note Conditions — Payment Mechanics for Notes” below. In addition, the unavailability of the specified non-U.S. currency will expose you to currency risks with respect to the U.S. dollar which would not have existed had the specified non-U.S. currency been available.

***In a Lawsuit for Payment on a Non-U.S. Dollar Note, an Investor May Bear Foreign Currency Exchange Risk***

The notes will be governed by New York law. Under Section 27 of the New York Judiciary Law, a state court in the State of New York rendering a judgment on a note denominated in a foreign currency other than U.S. dollars would be required to render the judgment in the specified currency; however, the judgment would be converted into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate prevailing on the date of entry of the judgment. Consequently, in a lawsuit for payment on a note denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars, investors would bear currency exchange risk until judgment is entered, which could be a long time. You will therefore be exposed to currency risk with respect to both the U.S. dollar and, if applicable, the foreign currency.

In courts outside of New York, investors may not be able to obtain judgment in a specified currency other than U.S. dollars. For example, a judgment for money in an action based on a non-U.S. dollar note in many other U.S. federal or state courts ordinarily would be enforced in the United States only in U.S. dollars. The date used to determine the rate of conversion of the currency in which any particular note is denominated into U.S. dollars will depend upon various factors, including which court renders the judgment.

***Determinations Made By the Exchange Rate Agent Are Made At Its Sole Discretion***

All determinations made by the exchange rate agent shall be at its sole discretion (except to the extent it is expressly provided in this European base prospectus that any determination is subject to approval by us) and, in the absence of manifest error, shall be conclusive for all purposes and will bind all holders of the notes and us. The exchange rate agent will not have any liability for its determinations.

**Considerations Relating to Notes Linked to Benchmark Underlyers such as LIBOR**

***Regulation and Reform of "Benchmarks", Including LIBOR, EURIBOR and Other Interest Rate, Equity, Foreign Exchange Rate and Other Types of Benchmarks May Cause such "Benchmarks" to Perform Differently Than in the Past, or to Disappear Entirely, or Have Other Consequences Which Cannot be Predicted***

The London Inter-Bank Offered Rate ("LIBOR"), the Euro Interbank Offered Rate ("EURIBOR") and other interest rate, equity, foreign exchange rate and other types of indices which are deemed to be "benchmarks" are the subject of recent national, international and other regulatory guidance and proposals for reform. Some of these reforms are already effective whilst others are still to be implemented. These reforms may cause such "benchmarks" to perform differently than in the past, or to disappear entirely, or have other consequences which cannot be predicted. Any such consequence could have a material adverse effect on any notes linked to such a "benchmark".

Key international proposals for reform of "benchmarks" include IOSCO's Principles for Financial Market Benchmarks (July 2013) (the "IOSCO Benchmark Principles") and the proposed EU Regulation on

indices used as benchmarks in certain financial instruments and financial contracts (the "Proposed Benchmark Regulation").

The IOSCO Benchmark Principles aim to create an overarching framework of principles for benchmarks to be used in financial markets, specifically covering governance and accountability as well as the quality and transparency of benchmark design and methodologies. A review published by IOSCO in February 2015 of the status of the voluntary market adoption of the IOSCO Benchmark Principles noted that, as the benchmarks industry is in a state of change, further steps may need to be taken by IOSCO in the future, but that it is too early to determine what those steps should be. The review noted that there has been a significant market reaction to the publication of the IOSCO Benchmark Principles, with widespread efforts being made to implement the IOSCO Benchmark Principles by the majority of administrators surveyed.

On 9 December 2015, the European Council approved the final compromise text of the Proposed Benchmark Regulation. The text of the Proposed Benchmark Regulation is subject to EU Parliamentary approval and publication in the Official Journal, expected by mid-2016. While still unclear, it appears that the Proposed Benchmark Regulation is unlikely to be implemented before the first quarter of 2018.

Assuming that the current text is passed without change (as appears likely), the Proposed Benchmark Regulation would apply to "contributors", "administrators" and "users" of "benchmarks" in the EU, and would, among other things, (i) require benchmark administrators to be authorised (or, if non-EU-based, to have satisfied certain "equivalence" conditions in its local jurisdiction, to be "recognised" by the authorities of a Member State pending an equivalence decision or to be "endorsed" for such purpose by an EU competent authority) and to comply with requirements in relation to the administration of "benchmarks" and (ii) ban the use of "benchmarks" of unauthorised administrators. The scope of the Proposed Benchmark Regulation is wide and, in addition to so-called "critical benchmark" indices such as LIBOR and EURIBOR, could also potentially apply to many other interest rate indices, as well as equity and foreign exchange rate indices and other indices (including "proprietary" indices or strategies) which are referenced in certain financial instruments (securities or OTC derivatives listed on an EU regulated market, EU multilateral trading facility (MTF), EU organised trading facility (OTF) or "systematic internaliser"), certain financial contracts and investment funds. Different types of "benchmark" are subject to more or less stringent requirements, and in particular a lighter touch regime may apply where a "benchmark" is not based on interest rates or commodities and the value of financial instruments, financial contracts or investment funds referring to a benchmark is less than €50bn, subject to further conditions.

The Proposed Benchmark Regulation could have a material impact on notes linked to a "benchmark" rate or index, including in any of the following circumstances:

- a rate or index which is a "benchmark" could not be used as such if its administrator does not obtain authorisation or is based in a non-EU jurisdiction which (subject to applicable transitional provisions) does not satisfy the "equivalence" conditions, is not "recognised" pending such a decision and is not "endorsed" for such purpose. In such event, depending on the particular "benchmark" and the applicable terms of the notes, the notes could be de-listed, adjusted, redeemed prior to maturity or otherwise impacted; and
- the methodology or other terms of the "benchmark" could be changed in order to comply with the terms of the Proposed Benchmark Regulation, and such changes could have the effect of reducing or increasing the rate or level or affecting the volatility of the published rate or level, and could lead to adjustments to the terms of the notes, including Calculation Agent determination of the rate or level in its discretion.

Any of the international, national or other proposals for reform or the general increased regulatory scrutiny of "benchmarks" could increase the costs and risks of administering or otherwise participating in the setting of a "benchmark" and complying with any such regulations or requirements. Such factors may have the effect of discouraging market participants from continuing to administer or contribute to certain "benchmarks", trigger changes in the rules or methodologies used in certain "benchmarks" or lead to the disappearance of certain "benchmarks". The disappearance of a "benchmark" or changes in the manner

of administration of a "benchmark" could result in adjustment to the terms and conditions, early redemption, discretionary valuation by the calculation agent, delisting or other consequence in relation to notes linked to such "benchmark". Any such consequence could have a material adverse effect on the value of and return on any such notes.

## DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. files documents and information with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the “SEC”. The following documents, which The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. has filed with the SEC, are hereby incorporated by reference into this European base prospectus:

- (1) the Proxy Statement relating to our 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders on May 21, 2015 (the “2015 Proxy Statement”), which we filed with the SEC on April 10, 2015;
- (2) the Proxy Statement relating to our 2016 Annual Meeting of Shareholders on May 20, 2016 (the “2016 Proxy Statement”), which we filed with the SEC on April 8, 2016;
- (3) the Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 21, 2015 (the “May 21 Form 8-K”), which we filed with the SEC on May 21, 2015;
- (4) the Current Report on Form 8-K dated April 19, 2016 (the “April 19 Form 8-K”), which we filed with the SEC on April 19, 2016;
- (5) the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 (which we refer to as the 2015 Form 10-K), including Exhibit 21.1 thereto (which we refer to as the 2015 Exhibit 21.1), which we filed with the SEC on February 22, 2016;
- (6) the terms and conditions of the Notes contained on pages 32-100 of the base prospectus dated June 11, 2010;
- (7) the terms and conditions of the Notes contained on pages 33-102 of the base prospectus dated June 10, 2011;
- (8) the 1<sup>st</sup> bullet on page 2 of the prospectus supplement dated October 19, 2011 to the base prospectus dated June 10, 2011, amending the original terms and conditions of the Notes in the base prospectus dated June 10, 2011;
- (9) the terms and conditions of the Notes contained on pages 31-92 of the base prospectus dated June 8, 2012;
- (10) the terms and conditions of the Notes contained on pages 29-77 of the base prospectus dated June 10, 2013;
- (11) the terms and conditions of the Notes contained on pages 47-105 of the base prospectus dated June 5, 2014;
- (12) the terms and conditions of the Notes contained on pages 52-115 of the base prospectus dated June 5, 2015

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. will provide without charge to each person to whom this European base prospectus is delivered, upon his or her written or oral request, a copy of any or all documents referred to above which have been incorporated by reference into this European base prospectus. Unless otherwise indicated, any exhibits to those documents are not incorporated by reference into, and do not form part of, this European base prospectus. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. has determined that any such exhibits not incorporated by reference into this European base prospectus are either not relevant for the investor or covered elsewhere in this European base prospectus. You can request those documents from Investor Relations, 200 West Street, New York, NY 10282, telephone +1 (212) 902-0300. In addition, such documents will be available free of charge from the Luxembourg listing agent, Banque Internationale à Luxembourg, *société anonyme*, from its principal office in Luxembourg. Our filings with the SEC are also available through the SEC’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, the European

base prospectus and any SEC filings incorporated by reference into this European base prospectus will be filed with the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier, and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange will publish such documents on its website at <http://www.bourse.lu>.

The following table indicates where information required by the Prospectus Directive to be disclosed in, and incorporated by reference into, the European base prospectus can be found in the documents referred to above. The information incorporated by reference that is not included in the cross-reference list, is considered as additional information and is not required by the relevant schedules of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 809/2004 of April 29, 2004 (as amended) (“the Prospectus Regulation”).

<b><u>Information required by the Prospectus Regulation</u></b>	<b><u>Document/Location</u></b>
Selected financial information for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015, December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 ( <i>Annex IV, Section 3 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K ( p. 210)
Risk factors ( <i>Annex IV, Section 4 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (pp. 25-43)
Information about us	
History and development of our company ( <i>Annex IV, Section 5.1 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (p. 1)
Investments ( <i>Annex IV, Section 5.2 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (pp. 81-83, 175-176)
Business overview	
Our principal activities ( <i>Annex IV, Section 6.1 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (pp. 1-6, 121)
Our principal markets ( <i>Annex IV, Section 6.2 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (pp. 1-7, 46, 50-51, 195-196)
Organizational structure ( <i>Annex IV, Section 7 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (pp. 34-35, Exhibit 21.1)
Trend information ( <i>Annex IV, Section 8 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (p. 48-112)
Administrative, management and supervisory bodies, including conflicts of interest ( <i>Annex IV, Section 10 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Proxy Statement (pp. 1, 4, 10-11, 14-35, 86-88) 2016 Proxy Statement (pp. 1, 4, 11-32, 72-74)
Audit committee ( <i>Annex IV, Section 11.1 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	May 21 Form 8-K (p. 2) 2015 Form 10-K (p. 45) 2015 Proxy Statement (pp. 25, 79-80) 2016 Proxy Statement (pp. 21, 64-65))
Beneficial owners of more than five per cent. ( <i>Annex IV, Section 12 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Proxy Statement (p. 91) 2016 Proxy Statement (p. 77)
Financial information	
Audited historical financial information for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2015, December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 ( <i>Annex IV, Section 13.1-13.4 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (p. 116-208)
Audit report ( <i>Annex IV, Section 13.1 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (p. 115)
Balance sheet ( <i>Annex IV, Section 13.1 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (p. 118)
Income statement ( <i>Annex IV, Section 13.1 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (p. 116-117)

<i>Regulation)</i>	
Cash flow statement ( <i>Annex IV, Section 13.1 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (p. 120)
Accounting policies and explanatory notes ( <i>Annex IV, Section 13.1 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (p. 51-54, 121-208)
Unaudited interim and other financial information ( <i>Annex IV, Section 13.5 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (p. 209)
	Exhibit 99.1 to the April 19 Form 8-K (pp. 6-9)
Legal and arbitration proceedings ( <i>Annex IV, Section 13.6 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (p. 44, 198-205)
Share capital ( <i>Annex IV, Section 14.1 of the Prospectus Regulation</i> )	2015 Form 10-K (p. 118, 180-182)

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is a leading global investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of financial services to a substantial and diversified client base that includes corporations, financial institutions, governments and high-net-worth individuals. Founded in 1869, we are one of the oldest and largest investment banking firms. Our headquarters are located at 200 West Street, New York, NY 10282, telephone +1 (212) 902-1000. We also maintain offices in all major financial centers around the world.

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. has entered into an agreement with Goldman Sachs International, an affiliate of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., under which Goldman Sachs International will, and other dealers may, act as agents for the placement, or purchase for resale, of notes issued by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

## **USE OF PROCEEDS**

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the notes to provide additional funds for our operations and for other general corporate purposes.

We will receive the net proceeds only from sales of the notes made in connection with their original issuance. We do not expect to receive any proceeds from resales of the notes by Goldman Sachs International or any of our other affiliates in market-making transactions. We expect our affiliates to retain the proceeds of their market-making resales and not to pay the proceeds to us.

## **GENERAL NOTE CONDITIONS**

### **Information About Our Series F Euro Medium-Term Notes Program**

#### **General Description of the Program**

When we refer to “notes” in this European base prospectus, unless otherwise indicated, we mean the Series F euro medium-term notes. The notes may be issued pursuant to this European base prospectus and the relevant final terms prepared in connection with a particular issuance of notes. The notes will not be secured by any property or assets. The notes will not be subordinated to any of our other debt obligations. We may offer and sell these notes to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

#### **The Notes Will Be Senior**

We may issue Series F euro medium-term notes. None of the Series F euro medium-term notes will be secured by any property or assets of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or its subsidiaries. Thus, by owning a note, you are one of our unsecured creditors.

The Series F euro medium-term notes will constitute part of our senior debt and will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debt.

#### **The Notes Will Be Issued Under a Fiscal Agency Agreement**

The notes will be issued pursuant to a document called a fiscal agency agreement. Each fiscal agency agreement is a contract between The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon, which acts as fiscal agent. The fiscal agent performs certain administrative duties for us. The fiscal agent does not act as an indenture trustee on your behalf.

#### **We May Issue Other Series of Debt Securities**

Each fiscal agency agreement permits us to issue different series of notes from time to time. The Series F euro medium-term notes is a single, distinct series of notes. We may, however, issue notes in such amounts, at such times and on such terms as we wish, provided that any tranche of notes issued under this European base prospectus will accord with the terms and conditions set out in this European base prospectus. The notes will differ from one another, and from other series, in their terms.

When we refer to the “notes” or “these notes”, unless otherwise indicated, we mean the Series F euro medium-term notes. When we refer to a “series” of notes, we mean a series, such as the notes, issued under one of our fiscal agency agreements. When we refer to an “issue” or an “issuance” of notes, we mean an issue of notes having the same terms and conditions, including any reopenings of that issuance.

#### **Amounts That We May Issue**

Each fiscal agency agreement does not limit the aggregate amount of notes that we may issue. Nor do they limit the number of series or the aggregate amount of any particular series we may issue. Also, if we issue notes having the same terms in a particular offering, we may “reopen” that offering at any later time and offer additional notes having the same stated maturity date, interest payment dates, if any, and other terms, except for the date of issuance and issue price. See “— Form, Exchange, Registration and Transfer — Extensions for Further Issuances” below.

Each fiscal agency agreement and the notes do not limit our ability to incur other indebtedness or to issue other securities. Also, we are not subject to financial or similar restrictions by the terms of the notes or the fiscal agency agreement.



## **Use of This European Base Prospectus in Market-Making Transactions**

Our affiliates may use this European base prospectus to resell notes in market-making transactions from time to time, including both notes that we have issued before the date of this European base prospectus and notes that we have not yet issued. See “Plan of Distribution” below. In this European base prospectus, the term “this offering” means the initial offering of the notes made in connection with their original issuance. This term does not refer to any subsequent resales of notes in market-making transactions.

## **We Are a Holding Company**

Because our assets consist primarily of interests in the subsidiaries through which we conduct our businesses, our right to participate as an equity holder in any distribution of assets of any of our subsidiaries upon the subsidiary’s liquidation or otherwise, and thus the ability of our note holders to benefit from the distribution, is junior to creditors of the subsidiary, except to the extent that any claims we may have as a creditor of the subsidiary are recognized. Many of our subsidiaries, including our broker-dealer, bank and insurance subsidiaries, are subject to laws that restrict dividend payments or authorize regulatory bodies to block or reduce the flow of funds from those subsidiaries to us. Restrictions or regulatory action of that kind could impede access to funds that we need to make payments on our obligations, including debt obligations. Because some of our subsidiaries, including Goldman, Sachs & Co., are partnerships in which we are a general partner or the sole limited partner, we may be liable for their obligations. We also guarantee many of the obligations of our subsidiaries. Any liability we may have for our subsidiaries’ obligations could reduce our assets that are available to satisfy our direct creditors, including investors in our notes.

## **Governing Law**

Each fiscal agency agreement and the notes will be governed by New York law.

## **This Section Is Only a Summarized Discussion of each Fiscal Agency Agreement and of Certain Terms of Your Note**

Each fiscal agency agreement, as applicable, and related documents, including your note, contain the full legal text of the matters described in this section and your final terms. A copy of the applicable fiscal agency agreement is available for inspection at the corporate trust office of the fiscal agent in the Borough of Manhattan, New York City and at the office of the paying agent listed at the end of this European base prospectus.

Investors should carefully read the description of the terms and provisions of the notes and the applicable fiscal agency agreement below. This section and your final terms summarize all the material terms of the applicable fiscal agency agreement and your note. They do not, however, describe every aspect of the applicable fiscal agency agreement and your note. For example, in this section entitled “General Note Conditions” and your final terms, we use terms that have been given special meaning in each fiscal agency agreement, but we describe the meaning of only the more important of those terms.

*As you read this section, please remember that each tranche of notes will be the subject of final terms which complete the general terms described in this section and elsewhere in this European base prospectus. The terms and conditions applicable to any particular tranche of notes are the general terms in this European base prospectus that apply to your notes, as completed by the relevant final terms.*

When we refer to your final terms, we mean the final terms describing the specific terms of the note you purchase. The terms we use in any final terms that we also use in this document will have the meaning we give them in this document.

## Features Common to All Notes

### Form of Notes

We will issue each note in registered form. If the applicable final terms state that the notes are to be issued under NSS and that they are intended to be recognized as eligible collateral for Eurosystem monetary policy and intra-day credit operations, then the notes will be registered in the name of a nominee for a common safekeeper for Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg and we will deliver these notes to a common safekeeper for Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg. Delivering the notes to a common safekeeper does not necessarily mean that the notes will be recognized as eligible collateral for Eurosystem monetary policy and intra-day credit operations by the Eurosystem either upon issue or at any time or all times during their life.

Global notes in registered form which are not issued under NSS will be deposited with, and registered in the name of a nominee of, a common depository for Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg or other clearing system as specified in the applicable final terms.

For a further discussion of global notes in registered form, see “— Form, Exchange, Registration and Transfer” below.

The address of Euroclear is 1 Boulevard du Roi Albert II, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium and the address of Clearstream, Luxembourg is 42 Avenue JF Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg. The address of any alternative clearing system will be specified in the applicable final terms.

### Principal Amount, Stated Maturity and Maturity

Unless otherwise stated, the principal amount of a note means the principal amount payable at its stated maturity, unless such amount is not determinable, in which case the principal amount of a note is its face amount. Any notes owned by us or any of our affiliates are not deemed to be outstanding.

The term “stated maturity” with respect to any note means the day on which the principal amount of that note is scheduled to become due. The principal may become due sooner, by reason of redemption or acceleration after a default or otherwise in accordance with the terms of the note or later, due to the automatic extension of the stated maturity or the extension of the stated maturity at our election or the election of the holder, in each case, in accordance with the terms of the note. The day on which the principal actually becomes due, whether at the stated maturity or otherwise, is called the “maturity” of the principal.

In connection with any tranche of notes, the price and amount of notes to be offered under the program will be determined by us and the relevant dealer at the time of offer in accordance with prevailing market conditions.

### Currency of Notes

Each note will be denominated in a currency, composite currency or basket of currencies or currency unit or units that will be specified on the face of the note and in the applicable final terms. We refer to this currency, composite currency, basket of currencies or currency unit or units as a “specified currency”. Some notes may have different specified currencies for principal and interest. You will have to pay for your note by delivering the requisite amount of the specified currency for the principal to Goldman Sachs International or another firm that we name in your final terms, unless other arrangements have been made between you and us or you and that firm. We will make payments on the notes in the applicable specified currency; for a further discussion of payment see “— Payment Mechanics for Notes” below. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable final terms, Goldman Sachs International will be the exchange rate agent for any note denominated in a currency that is not the U.S. dollar.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable final terms, notes denominated or payable in Japanese yen must have an original maturity of at least one year and will have minimum denominations of

¥1,000,000. Notes denominated or payable in U.S. dollars will have minimum denominations of U.S.\$2,000. Notes denominated or payable in euros will have minimum denominations of €1,000. Notes denominated or payable in British pounds sterling will have minimum denominations of £1,000. Notes denominated in any other currency or composite currency will have minimum denominations equal to at least €1,000 at the time of issuance.

See “Risk Factors — Considerations Relating to Notes Denominated or Payable in or Linked to Currencies Other Than Your Own Principal Currency” above for more information about the risks of investing in notes denominated in a currency different from your own principal currency.

## Types of Notes

We may issue the following three types of notes:

- **Fixed Rate Notes.** A note of this type will bear interest at a fixed rate described in the applicable final terms. This type includes note which bear no interest (which we refer to as “zero coupon notes”) and may be instead issued at a price significantly lower than the principal amount (which we refer to as “original issue discount notes” or “discount notes”) and / or pay a multiple of the face amount at maturity. See “— Interest Rates — Fixed Rate Notes” below.
- **Floating Rate Notes.** A note of this type will bear interest at rates that are determined by reference to an interest rate formula. In some cases, the rates may also be adjusted by adding or subtracting a spread or multiplying by a spread multiplier and may be subject to a minimum rate or a maximum rate. The various interest rate formulas and these other features are described below under “— Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes”. If your note is a floating rate note, the formula and any adjustments that apply to the interest rate will be specified in your final terms.
- **Indexed Notes.** A note of this type provides that the principal amount payable at its stated maturity, and/or amounts payable during the life of the note, will be determined at least in part by reference to, directly or indirectly, one or more underlyers, including:
  - interest rate formulas and currency exchange rates, the choices for which are identified below in “— Interest Rates —Indexed Notes”;
  - one or more currencies;
  - one or more indices; and/or
  - one or more baskets of the items described above;as specified in the applicable final terms.

An indexed note will be further categorized as having one or more of the following features: “range accrual”, “steepener/flattener”, “Asian absolute performance”, “digital”, “outperformance” and “participation”.

A note may have elements of each of the three types of notes listed above. In particular, a note may bear interest at a fixed rate in the initial interest period or periods and at a floating rate, or subject to indexed note provisions, in subsequent interest periods, in all cases subject to the terms and conditions contained in this European base prospectus that are applicable to fixed rate notes, floating rate notes or indexed notes, as the case may be, as specified in your final terms. Similarly, a note may provide for a payment of principal at maturity linked to an underlyer and also bear interest at a fixed or floating rate.

If you are a holder of an Indexed (Participation) note, you may receive a principal amount at maturity that is up to 10% less than the outstanding face amount of your note, depending upon the formula used to determine the amount payable and the value of the applicable underlyer or underlyers at maturity. The value of the applicable underlyer or underlyers may fluctuate over time.

If you purchase an indexed note, your final terms will include information about the relevant underlyer or underlyers, about how any amounts that are to become payable will be determined by reference to the price or value of each underlyer, about any additional tax considerations. Unless the final terms otherwise

specify, Goldman Sachs International will be the calculation agent that will calculate the amounts payable with respect to the indexed note and may exercise significant discretion in doing so. You should carefully read “Risk Factors — Considerations Relating to Indexed Notes” above.

If we redeem the notes upon a change in law, we may cancel such notes and, if permitted by applicable law, pay the purchaser of such notes an amount equal to the non-scheduled repayment amount of such notes notwithstanding such illegality, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole and absolute discretion. Additionally, in respect of any Indexed Note for which the “Amount on Default” is specified as “Dealer Poll” in the applicable final terms (or nothing is so specified), if an event of default occurs and the maturity of an Indexed Note is accelerated, we will pay the Default Amount on that note. In either situation described in this paragraph, the non-scheduled repayment amount or the Default Amount, as applicable, may be less than the outstanding face amount of your note. We describe the non-scheduled repayment amount and the Default Amount in greater detail in “Redemption and Repayment—Redemption Upon Change in Law” and “Events of Default and Remedies—Amount Payable on Default—Default Amount”, respectively.

### ***Original Issue Discount Notes***

If “Original Issue Discount” is specified in your final terms as being applicable, the notes are original issue discount notes. A note of this type is issued at a price lower than amount payable at maturity and may provide that, upon redemption or acceleration of its maturity, an amount less than the amount payable at maturity will be payable. An original issue discount note may be a zero coupon note.

### **Sinking Fund**

The notes will not be entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund — that is, we will not deposit money on a regular basis into a separate custodial account to repay your notes.

### **Information in the Final Terms**

Your final terms will describe the specific terms of your note, which will include some or all of the following terms of your note:

- the tranche number;
- the specified currency or currencies for principal and interest;
- the authorized denomination;
- the issue price at which we originally issue your note, expressed as a percentage of the aggregate principal amount;
- the original issue date;
- the stated maturity, which will not be more than 40 years from the original issue date and, if applicable, any provisions for the extension of the stated maturity date;
- whether your note is a fixed rate note, a floating rate note, an indexed note or whether it combines elements of multiple types of notes as described above;
- whether your notes are represented by a global note or a master global note;
- if your note is a fixed rate note, the annual rate at which your note will bear interest for the relevant periods and the interest payment dates, if different from those stated under “— Interest Rates — Fixed Rate Notes” below;
- if your note is a floating rate note, the interest rate basis for the relevant periods, which may be one of the base rates described under “— Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes” below; any applicable underlying currency or maturity, spread or spread multiplier or initial base rate, maximum rate or minimum rate; if the interest rate basis for your notes is the CMT rate as

described under “— Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes — CMT Rate Notes” below, the designated CMT Reuters screen page; if the interest rate basis for your notes is the federal funds rate, whether the federal funds rate will be determined by reference to the federal funds (effective) rate or the federal funds open rate; and the interest reset, determination, calculation and payment dates, all of which we describe under “— Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes” below; the day count convention used to calculate interest payments for any period; the business day convention; and the calculation agent;

- if your note is an indexed note, the principal amount, if any, we will pay you at maturity, the amount of interest, if any, we will pay you on the relevant interest payment date or dates and the formula(e) we will use to calculate these amounts, in addition to certain other information relating to the indexed note;
- whether your note is an original issue discount note and, if so, the yield to maturity ;
- if applicable, the dates and prices at which your note may be redeemed at our option or repaid at the holder’s option before the stated maturity, including any redemption or repayment commencement date, redemption or repayment date(s), redemption or repayment price(s) and redemption or repayment period(s), all of which we describe under “— Redemption and Repayment” below; and
- whether admission will be made to the Luxembourg Stock Exchange for your note to be listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and admitted to trading on the Regulated Market of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, and whether the notes will be listed on any other stock exchange.

#### **Notes Offered During Subscription Period**

The final terms will also specify if an offering of securities is open for subscription for a specified period of time and, if so, will specify the following:

- if applicable, the process for notification to applicants of the amount allotted and an indication whether dealing in the notes being offered may begin before such notification is made;
- any conditions to which the offer is subject;
- the total amount of the offer and how the amount of notes offered may be increased;
- if applicable, the time period during which the offer will be open and a description of the subscription process;
- if applicable, a description of the possibility to reduce subscriptions and the manner for refunding excess amounts paid by subscribers;
- if applicable, details of the minimum and/or maximum subscription amount;
- if applicable, the method and time limits for paying up the notes being offered;
- if applicable, our ability to extend, postpone, revoke and/or terminate an offer period;
- if applicable, a full description of the manner and date in which results of the offer are to be made public; or
- if applicable, the issue price at which we originally issue your note and the offer price, as determined by the Issuer in light of, among other considerations, prevailing market conditions, such as current interest rates.

#### **Market-Making Transactions**

If you purchase your note in a market-making transaction, you will receive information about the issue price, trade and settlement dates in a separate confirmation of sale. A market-making transaction is one in which Goldman Sachs International or another of our affiliates resells a note it has previously acquired

from another holder. A market-making transaction in a particular note occurs after the original issuance and sale of the note.

## **Business Days**

The following definitions of “business day” may apply to any note, as specified in the applicable final terms:

If “Euro” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday on which the Trans-European Automated Real-Time Gross Settlement Express Transfer (TARGET) System, or any successor system, is open for business.

“London” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in London generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close and, in the case of any note for which LIBOR is an interest rate basis, is also a day on which dealings in the applicable underlying currency are transacted in the London interbank market.

If “New York” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in New York City generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

If “Oslo” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in Oslo generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

If “Tokyo” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in Tokyo generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

If “Toronto” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in Toronto generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

If “Taipei” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in Taipei generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

If “Sydney” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in Sydney generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

If “Auckland” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in Auckland generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

If “Wellington” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in Wellington generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

If “Zurich” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in Zurich generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

If “Singapore” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in Singapore generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

If “Mumbai” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each day on which commercial banks are open for business (including dealings in foreign exchange and foreign currency deposits) in Mumbai, India.

If “Munich” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in Munich generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

If “Mexico City” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each day on which commercial banks are open for business (including dealings in foreign exchange and foreign currency deposits) in Mexico City.

If “U.S. Government Securities” is included in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each day that is not a Saturday or Sunday or a day on which The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association’s U.S. holiday schedule recommends that the fixed income departments of its members be closed for the entire day for purposes of trading in U.S. government securities.

If any other city is specified in your final terms under “Business Day”, it means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in such city generally are authorized or obligated by law, regulation or executive order to close.

Where more than one Business Day is listed, a day must meet satisfy all of the relevant conditions in order to be a business day for your notes.

### **Business Day Conventions**

As specified in the applicable final terms, the following business day conventions may apply to any note with regard to any relevant date other than one that falls on the stated maturity date:

If the “Business Day Convention” is specified in your final terms to be “Following” or “Following Adjusted” then, for any interest payment date, other than the stated maturity date, if such date would otherwise fall on a day that is not a business day, such date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day.

If the “Business Day Convention” is specified in your final terms to be “Modified Following” or “Modified Following Adjusted” then, for any interest payment date, other than the stated maturity date, if such date would otherwise fall on a day that is not a business day, such date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day; *provided* that, if such day would fall in the next succeeding calendar month, the date of payment with respect to such interest payment date will be advanced to the business day immediately preceding such interest payment date.

If the “Business Day Convention” is specified in your final terms to be “Following Unadjusted” then, for any interest payment date, other than the stated maturity date, that falls on a day that is not a business day, any payment due on such interest payment date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day; *provided* that interest due with respect to such interest payment date shall not accrue from and including such interest payment date to and including the date of payment of such interest as so postponed.

If the “Business Day Convention” is specified in your final terms to be “Modified Following Unadjusted” then, for any interest payment date, other than the stated maturity date, that falls on a day that is not a business day, any payment due on such interest payment date will be postponed to the next day that is a business day; *provided* that, that interest due with respect to such interest payment date shall not accrue from and including such interest payment date to and including the date of payment of

such interest as so postponed; and *provided further* that if such day would fall in the next succeeding calendar month, the date of payment with respect to such interest payment date will be advanced to the business day immediately preceding such interest payment date.

In all cases, if the stated maturity date or any earlier redemption or repayment date with respect to a note falls on a day that is not a business day, any payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest otherwise due on such day will be made on the next succeeding business day, and no interest on such payment shall accrue for the period from and after the stated maturity date, redemption date or repayment date, as the case may be.

### **Calculation of Interest**

Calculations relating to floating rate notes and indexed notes that bear interest will be made by the calculation agent, an institution that we appoint as our agent for this purpose. That institution could include any affiliate of ours, such as Goldman Sachs International. The final terms for a particular note will name the institution that we have appointed to act as the calculation agent for that note as of its original issue date. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable final terms, we have initially appointed Goldman Sachs International as our calculation agent for all the floating rate and indexed notes. We may appoint a different institution to serve as calculation agent from time to time after the original issue date of the notes without your consent and without notifying you of the change. We may also appoint different calculation agents for different notes. Absent manifest error, all determinations of the calculation agent will be final and binding on you and us, without any liability on the part of the calculation agent.

For each floating rate note, the calculation agent will determine, on the corresponding calculation or interest determination date, as described in “—Interest Rates—Floating Rate Notes” below, the interest rate that takes effect on each interest reset date. For each indexed note that bears interest, the calculation agent will determine, on the corresponding calculation or interest determination date the interest rate applicable to each interest period. In addition, the calculation agent will calculate the amount of interest that has accrued during each interest period — *i.e.*, the period from and including the original issue date, or the last date to which interest has been paid or made available for payment, to, but excluding, the payment date.

### ***Day Count Conventions***

For each interest period, the calculation agent will calculate the amount of accrued interest as the product of the face amount of the note multiplied by the applicable interest rate multiplied by an accrued interest factor for the interest period. This factor will be determined in accordance with the “Day Count Fraction” specified in the applicable final terms, including the following:

- If “1/1 (ISDA)” is specified, the factor will be equal to 1.
- If “Actual/Actual (ISDA)”, or “Act/Act (ISDA)” is specified, the factor will be equal to the actual number of days in the interest period divided by 365 (or, if any portion of that interest period falls in a leap year, the sum of (1) the actual number of days in that portion of the interest period falling in a leap year divided by 366 and (2) the number of days in that portion of the interest period falling in a non-leap year divided by 365).
- If “Actual/Actual (ICMA)” is specified, the factor will be equal to the number of days in the interest period, including February 29 in a leap year, divided by the product of (1) the actual number of days in such interest period and (2) the number of interest periods in the calendar year.
- If “Actual/Actual (Bond)” is specified, the factor will be equal to the number of calendar days in the interest period, divided by the number of calendar days in the interest period multiplied by the number of interest periods in the calendar year.
- If “Actual/Actual (Euro)” is specified, the factor will be equal to the number of calendar days in the interest period divided by 365 or, if the interest period includes February 29, 366.



- If “Actual/365 (Fixed)”, “Act/365 (Fixed)”, “A/365 (Fixed)” or “A365F” is specified, the factor will be equal to the actual number of days in the interest period divided by 365.
- If “Actual/360 (ISDA)”, “Act/360 (ISDA)” or “A/360 (ISDA)” is specified, the factor will be equal to the actual number of days in the interest period divided by 360.
- If “Actual/360 (ICMA)” is specified, the factor will be equal to the number of calendar days in the period, including February 29 in a leap year, divided by 360 days.
- If “30/360 (ISDA)”, “360/360 (ISDA)” or “Bond Basis (ISDA)” is specified, the number of days in the interest period in respect of which payment is being made divided by 360, calculated on a formula basis as follows:

$$\text{Day Count Fraction} = \frac{[360 \times (Y(2) - Y(1))] + [30 \times (M(2) - M(1))] + (D(2) - D(1))}{360}$$

where:

“Y(1)” is the year, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the interest period falls;

“Y(2)” is the year, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the interest period falls;

“M(1)” is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the interest period falls;

“M(2)” is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the interest period falls;

“D(1)” is the first calendar day, expressed as a number, of the interest period, unless such number would be 31, in which case D(1) will be 30; and

“D(2)” is the calendar day, expressed as a number, immediately following the last day included in the interest period, unless such number would be 31 and D(1) is greater than 29, in which case D(2) will be 30.

- If “30E/360”, “30E/360 (ISDA)” or “Eurobond Basis” is specified, the number of days in the interest period in respect of which payment is being made divided by 360, calculated on a formula basis as follows:

$$\text{Day Count Fraction} = \frac{[360 \times (Y(2) - Y(1))] + [30 \times (M(2) - M(1))] + (D(2) - D(1))}{360}$$

where:

“Y(1)” is the year, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the interest period falls;

“Y(2)” is the year, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the interest period falls;

“M(1)” is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the interest period falls;

“M(2)” is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the interest period falls;

“D(1)” is the first calendar day, expressed as a number, of the interest period, unless (i) such number would be 31, or (ii), if “30E/360 (ISDA)” is specified, that day is the last day of February; in which case D(1) will be 30; and

“D(2)” is the calendar day, expressed as a number, immediately following the last day included in the interest period, unless (i) such number would be 31, or (ii), if “30E/360 (ISDA)” is specified, that day is the last day of February; in which case D(2) will be 30.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable final terms, commercial paper rate notes, prime rate notes, LIBOR notes, EURIBOR notes, CD rate notes, federal funds rate notes and 11th district cost of funds rate notes will be subject to the Actual/360 (ISDA) day count convention, and treasury rate notes, CMT rate notes and CMS rate notes will be subject to the Actual/Actual (ISDA) day count convention.

Upon the request of the holder of any floating rate note, the calculation agent will provide the interest rate then in effect, and, if determined, the interest rate that will become effective on the next interest reset date with respect to such floating rate note. The calculation agent’s determination of any interest rate will be conclusive for all purposes and binding in the absence of manifest error.

All percentages resulting from any calculations relating to a note will be rounded upward or downward, as appropriate, to the next higher or lower one hundred-thousandth of a percentage point (e.g., 9.876541% (or .09876541) being rounded down to 9.87654% (or .0987654) and 9.876545% (or .09876545) being rounded up to 9.87655% (or .0987655)). All amounts used in or resulting from any calculations will be rounded upward or downward, as appropriate, to the nearest cent, in the case of U.S. dollars and euros, to the nearest Japanese yen (with fractions equal to less than one-half JPY being rounded downward and fractions equal to or greater than one-half JPY being rounded upward) in the case of Japanese yen, or to the nearest corresponding hundredth of a unit, in the case of any other currency, with one-half of a corresponding hundredth of a unit or more being rounded upward. In determining the interest payments on your note, if your final terms specify the “Calculation Basis” to be “Per Denomination”, then interest payments will be calculated on a per denomination basis and if your final terms specify the “Calculation Basis” to be “Notional”, then interest payments will be calculated on the basis of the outstanding face amount of your notes.

In determining the base rate that applies to a floating rate note during a particular interest period, the calculation agent may obtain rate quotes from various banks or dealers active in the relevant market, as described in the following subsections. Those reference banks and dealers may include the calculation agent itself and its affiliates, as well as any agent participating in the distribution of the relevant floating rate notes and its affiliates, and they may include affiliates of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

With respect to any floating rate note listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, the calculation agent communicates the interest rate for each interest period, together with the amount of interest which will accrue in respect of the note’s minimum denomination during such interest period, the interest payment date on which such interest will be payable, the interest period and the number of days in the interest period, to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., Clearstream, Luxembourg, Euroclear, any paying agent and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange no later than noon, Luxembourg time, on the first day of such interest period. The published amount of interest to accrue and the interest payment date may subsequently be modified without notice in the event that the interest period is shortened or lengthened pursuant to the terms of the note.

### **Role of Calculation Agent and Exchange Rate Agent**

All determinations made by the calculation agent and exchange rate agent will be in their sole discretion unless we state otherwise. In the absence of manifest error, those determinations will be conclusive for all purposes and binding on the holder and on us, without any liability on the part of the calculation agent or exchange rate agent, respectively. Calculations relating to floating rate notes and indexed notes and adjustments with respect to any index, currencies or other relevant underlyers will be made by the calculation agent.

With respect to notes listed on the Borsa Italiana S.p.A.’s MOT (electronic bond market), all determinations to be made by the calculation agent and exchange rate agent under the terms of the notes should be made, acting in good faith and in a commercially reasonable manner, according to generally accepted practices or methodologies.

We shall take such action as shall be necessary to ensure that there is at all relevant times a financial institution serving as the calculation agent and exchange rate agent, if applicable, under the notes. We may, in our sole discretion at any time and from time to time, upon written notice to the fiscal agent, but without notice to any holder, terminate the appointment of the calculation agent or exchange rate agent, if applicable, and appoint another agent (including any of our affiliates). Insofar as the notes provide for the calculation agent or exchange rate agent to obtain information from any institution or other source, the calculation agent or exchange rate agent may do so from any source or sources of the kind contemplated or otherwise permitted, notwithstanding that any one or more of such sources are an agent, affiliate of such agent or affiliate of ours. We assume no responsibility to verify the accuracy of such information.

## **Change in Law**

Following the determination by the calculation agent that a change in law (as defined in the following paragraph) has occurred, the calculation agent will determine the appropriate adjustment, if any, to be made to any one or more of the terms of the notes, including, without limitation, any term relating to amounts payable on such notes, as the calculation agent determines appropriate to account for the change in law, and determine the effective date of that adjustment. We may also redeem, in whole but not in part, any outstanding issuance of notes in the event of a change in law, as described under “ — Redemption and Repayment — Redemption Upon Change in Law” below.

A change in law means that, on or after the settlement date, as a result of (i) the adoption of, or any change in, any applicable law, rule, regulation, judgment, order, sanction, or directive of any governmental, administrative, legislative or judicial authority (“applicable law”) or (ii) the promulgation of, or any change in, the formal or informal interpretation of any applicable law by a court, tribunal or regulatory authority with competent jurisdiction (including any action by a taxing authority), the calculation agent determines that (a) the performance by us and/or any of our affiliates under such notes, (b) the performance by us and/or any of our affiliates under any related hedge positions (whether with respect to the relevant index to which such notes are linked or any constituent thereof) or (c) the performance by any of our affiliates under such notes had such affiliate been an issuer of the notes or under any related hedge positions (whether with respect to the relevant index to which the notes are linked or any constituent thereof) had such affiliate been a party to any such hedging arrangement, (x) in the case of (a) will, or there is a substantial likelihood in the immediate future that it will, result in a materially increased (including, without limitation, due to any increase in tax liability, decrease in tax benefit, or other adverse effect on its tax position) cost to us or our affiliates in performing our obligations under the notes, or (y) in the case of (a), (b) or (c) has, or there is a substantial likelihood in the immediate future that it will, become unlawful or impractical in whole or in part.

“Hedge positions” means any one or more securities positions, derivatives positions or other instruments or arrangements (howsoever described) purchased, sold, entered into or maintained by the us or any of our affiliates, in order to hedge, or otherwise in connection with, the notes, including, for the avoidance of doubt, any such positions in respect of the assets that may be required to be delivered in connection with any physical settlement of the notes, as specified in the relevant pricing supplement.

## **Interest Rates**

This subsection describes the different kinds of interest rates that may apply to your note, if it bears interest. A note which bears interest at one or more fixed rates for all interest periods is described as a “Fixed Rate Note”. A note which bears interest at one or more floating rates for all interest periods is described as a “Floating Rate Note”. A note which bears interest for some or all interest periods at one or more of the rates determined as described under “ — Indexed Notes” below is described as an “Indexed Note” (although it may bear interest for certain interest periods at a fixed rate or a floating rate).

### **Fixed Rate Notes**

A note of this type will bear interest at the fixed rate specified in your final terms for each interest period for which “Fixed Rate” is specified as Applicable. This type includes notes which bear no interest (which we refer to as “zero coupon notes”) and / or may be instead issued at a price lower than the

principal amount (which we refer to as “original issue discount notes” or “discount notes”) and / or pay a multiple of the face amount at maturity. See “— Features Common to All Notes — Original Issue Discount Notes” above for more information about zero coupon and other original issue discount notes.

Each fixed rate note, except any zero coupon note, will bear interest from the “Interest Commencement Date” specified in your final terms or from the most recent interest payment date to which interest on the note has been paid or made available for payment. Interest will accrue on the principal of a fixed rate note at a fixed rate per annum, or at fixed rates per annum, stated in applicable final terms as the “Interest Rate”, until the principal is paid or made available for payment or the note is converted or exchanged. Your final terms will describe the interest rates applicable to each interest period if the interest rate changes over the term of the note (as described below), and relevant interest payment dates on which interest on fixed rate notes will be payable. The interest period for each payment of interest due on an interest payment date or at maturity will include interest accrued from and including the last date to which interest has been paid or made available for payment, or from the interest commencement date if none has been paid, or made available for payment, to, but excluding, the interest payment date or the date of maturity. We will compute interest on fixed rate notes on the basis of the day count convention specified in your final terms; see “— Day Count Conventions” above. We will pay interest on each interest payment date and at maturity as described under “— Payment Mechanics for Notes” below.

If “Original Issue Discount” is specified in your final terms as being applicable, the applicable final terms will specify the “OID”, “Accretion Date” and “Accretion Rate”. The accreted value will be (1) as of any date prior to the stated maturity date, an amount equal to the *sum of* (A) the original issue price of your note *plus* (B) the portion of the excess of the amount payable at maturity of your note over the original issue price which shall have been accreted from the issue price on a daily basis and compounded annually on the “Accretion Date” each year specified in the applicable final terms, up to and including the stated maturity date, at a rate per annum equal to the “Accretion Rate” specified in the applicable final terms from the original issue date, computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day calendar months *plus* (C) any accrued but unpaid interest as of such date; and (2) as of any date on or after the stated maturity date, the amount payable at maturity (final redemption amount) on your notes *plus* accrued but unpaid interest as of such date.

## Floating Rate Notes

*In this subsection, we use several specialized terms relating to the manner in which floating interest rates are calculated. These terms appear in **bold, italicized** type the first time they appear, and we define these terms in “— Special Rate Calculation Terms” at the end of this subsection.*

A note of this type will bear interest at rates that are determined by reference to one of the interest rate formulae described below for the interest periods for which “Floating Rate” is specified as Applicable in your final terms. In some cases, the rates may be adjusted by adding or subtracting a spread or multiplying by a spread multiplier and may be subject to a minimum rate or a maximum rate, as described in greater detail below. If your note is a floating rate note, the formula and any adjustments that apply to the interest rate will be specified in your final terms.

Each floating rate note will bear interest from its original issue date or from the most recent interest payment date to which interest on the note has been paid or made available for payment. Unless your final terms indicate that “Compounding Interest” (described further below) is applicable, interest will accrue on the principal of a floating rate note at the annual rate determined according to the interest rate formula stated in the note and the applicable final terms, until the principal is paid or made available for payment. We will pay interest on each interest payment date and at maturity as described under “— Payment Mechanics for Notes” below.

### ***Base Rates***

We currently expect to issue floating rate notes that bear interest at rates based on one or more of the following base rates:

- the commercial paper rate;
- the prime rate;
- LIBOR;
- EURIBOR;
- the treasury rate;
- the CMT rate;
- the CD rate;
- the USD CMS rate;
- Euro interest rate swap (EURIBOR BASIS – EUR)
- JPY swap rate
- USD swap rate
- AUD BBSW rate
- the federal funds rate;
- the 11th district cost of funds rate; and/or
- SGD SOR rate

We describe each of these base rates in further detail below in this subsection. If you purchase a floating rate note, your final terms will specify the type of “Base Rate” that applies to your note. A note may bear interest at any of the base rates specified above or another base rate, as described under “—Screen Rate Determination” below.

### ***Spread or Spread Multiplier***

In some cases, the base rate for a floating rate note may be adjusted:

- by adding or subtracting a percentage or a specified number of basis points called the spread (with one basis point being 0.01%);
- by multiplying the base rate by a specified percentage, called the spread multiplier, which may be negative; or
- by a combination of the foregoing.

If you purchase a floating rate note, your final terms will specify whether a “Spread” or “Spread Multiplier” will apply to your note and, if so, the amount of the spread or spread multiplier.

### ***Maximum and Minimum Rates***

The actual interest rate, after being adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, may also be subject to either or both of the following limits:

- a maximum rate — *i.e.*, a specified upper limit that the actual interest rate in effect at any time may not exceed; and/or
- a minimum rate — *i.e.*, a specified lower limit that the actual interest rate in effect at any time may not fall below.

If you purchase a floating rate note, your final terms will specify whether a “Maximum Rate” and/or “Minimum Rate” will apply to your note and, if so, what those rates are.

In addition, if your final terms indicate that “Base Rate 0% Floor” is applicable, then, if the base rate is negative in respect of any interest period, the base rate will be deemed to equal 0.00% for such interest period.

Whether or not a maximum rate applies, the interest rate on a floating rate note will in no event be higher than the maximum rate permitted by New York law, as it may be modified by U.S. law of general application. Under current New York law, the maximum rate of interest, with some exceptions, for any loan in an amount less than \$2,500,000 is 25% per year on a simple interest basis. No limits apply to loans of \$2,500,000 or more.

### ***Compounding Interest***

If your Final Terms indicate that “Compounding Interest” is applicable, then for each interest period, the rate of interest applicable to your note will be equal to (x) (i) the *sum of one plus* the base rate, (ii) raised to the *power of the quotient of* (a) one *divided by* (b) the number of interest payment dates scheduled to occur in each year (y) *minus one*.

The rest of this subsection describes how the interest rate and the interest payment dates will be determined, and how interest will be calculated, on a floating rate note.

### ***Interest Reset Dates***

The rate of interest on a floating rate note will be reset, by the calculation agent described below, daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually (each, an “interest reset period”). The date on which the interest rate resets and the reset rate becomes effective is called the interest reset date. The interest reset date will be as follows:

- for floating rate notes that reset daily, each business day;
- for floating rate notes that reset weekly and are not treasury rate notes, the Wednesday of each week;
- for treasury rate notes that reset weekly, the Tuesday of each week, except as otherwise described in the next to last paragraph under “— Interest Determination Dates” below;
- for floating rate notes that reset monthly, the third Wednesday of each month;
- for floating rate notes that reset quarterly, the third Wednesday of March, June, September and December of each year;
- for floating rate notes that reset semi-annually, the third Wednesday of each of two months of each year as specified in the applicable final terms; and
- for floating rate notes that reset annually, the third Wednesday of one month of each year as specified in the applicable final terms.

For a floating rate note, the interest rate in effect on any particular day will be the interest rate determined with respect to the latest interest reset date that occurs on or before that day. There are several exceptions, however, to the reset provisions described above.

The base rate in effect from and including the original issue date to, but excluding, the first interest reset date will be the initial base rate. For floating rate notes that reset daily or weekly, the base rate in effect for each day following the second business day before an interest payment date to, but excluding, the interest payment date, and for each day following the second business day before the maturity date to, but excluding, the maturity date, will be the base rate in effect on that second business day.

If any interest reset date would otherwise be a day that is not a business day, the interest reset date will be adjusted in accordance with the applicable business day convention.

### ***Interest Determination Dates***

The interest rate that takes effect on an interest reset date will be determined by the calculation agent by reference to a particular date called an interest determination date.

- For all floating rate notes other than LIBOR notes, EURIBOR notes, treasury rate notes and 11th district cost of funds rate notes, the interest determination date relating to a particular interest reset date will be the second business day before the interest reset date.
- For LIBOR notes, the interest determination date relating to a particular interest reset date will be the second London business day preceding the interest reset date, unless the underlying currency is pounds sterling, in which case the interest determination date will be the interest reset date. We refer to an interest determination date for a LIBOR note as a LIBOR interest determination date.
- For EURIBOR notes, the interest determination date relating to a particular interest reset date will be the second euro business day preceding the interest reset date. We refer to an interest determination date for a EURIBOR note as a EURIBOR interest determination date.
- For treasury rate notes, the interest determination date relating to a particular interest reset date, which we refer to as a treasury interest determination date, will be the day of the week in which the interest reset date falls on which treasury bills — *i.e.*, direct obligations of the U.S. government — would normally be auctioned. Treasury bills are usually sold at auction on the Monday of each week, unless that day is a legal holiday, in which case the auction is usually held on the following Tuesday, except that the auction may be held on the preceding Friday. If as the result of a legal holiday an auction is held on the preceding Friday, that Friday will be the treasury interest determination date relating to the interest reset date occurring in the next succeeding week. If the auction is held on a day that would otherwise be an interest reset date, then the interest reset date will instead be the first business day following the auction date.
- For 11th district cost of funds rate notes, the interest determination date relating to a particular interest reset date will be the last working day, in the first calendar month before that interest reset date, on which the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco publishes the monthly average cost of funds paid by member institutions of the Eleventh Federal Home Loan Bank District for the second calendar month before that interest reset date. We refer to an interest determination date for an 11th district cost of funds rate note as an 11th district interest determination date.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable final terms, if any interest determination date would otherwise be a day that is not a business day, the interest determination date will be adjusted in accordance with the applicable business day convention.

### ***Interest Calculation Dates***

As described above, the interest rate that takes effect on a particular interest reset date will be determined by reference to the corresponding interest determination date. Except for LIBOR notes and EURIBOR notes, however, the determination of the rate will actually be made on a day no later than the corresponding interest calculation date. The interest calculation date will be the earlier of the following:

- the tenth calendar day after the interest determination date or, if that tenth calendar day is not a business day, the next succeeding business day;
- the business day immediately preceding the interest payment date or the maturity date, whichever is the day on which the next payment of interest will be due; or
- in the case of floating rate notes listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, the first date of the interest period — *i.e.*, the period from and including the original issue date, or the

last date interest was paid or made available for payment, to, but excluding, the payment date — beginning on or after the interest reset date.

The calculation agent need not wait until the relevant interest calculation date to determine the interest rate if the rate information it needs to make the determination is available from the relevant sources sooner.

### ***Interest Payment Dates***

The interest payment dates for a floating rate note will depend on when the interest rate is reset and, unless otherwise specified in the applicable final terms, will be as follows:

- for floating rate notes that reset daily, weekly or monthly, on the third Wednesday of each month or the third Wednesday of March, June, September and December of each year, as specified in the applicable final terms;
- for floating rate notes that reset quarterly, on the third Wednesday of March, June, September and December of each year;
- for floating rate notes that reset semi-annually, on the third Wednesday of the two months of each year specified in the applicable final terms; or
- for floating rate notes that reset annually, on the third Wednesday of the month specified in the applicable final terms.

Regardless of these rules, if a note is originally issued after the regular record date and before the date that would otherwise be the first interest payment date, the first interest payment date will be the date that would otherwise be the second interest payment date. We define “regular record date” under “— Payment Mechanics for Notes — Who Receives Payment?” below. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable final terms, if any interest payment date would otherwise be a day that is not a business day, the interest payment date will be adjusted in accordance with the applicable business day convention.

### ***Australian Dollar Bills of Exchange Rate Notes***

If you purchase an Australian dollar bills of exchange rate note (“Base Rate”: AUD BBSW), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the average mid rate for Australian Dollar bills of exchange and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The average mid rate for Australian Dollar bills of exchange for a reset date will be the average mid rate for Australian dollar bills of exchange having a tenor of the designated maturity, which appears on the Reuters Screen BBSW page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) at approximately 10:10 a.m., Sydney time, on that reset date.

If such rate does not appear on the Reuters Screen BBSW page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) by 10:30 a.m., Sydney time, on the reset date, then the rate for that reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the mid of the bid and ask rates quoted by five of the financial institutions authorized to quote on the Reuters Screen BBSW Page to the calculation agent. The quotations will be for rates which the five of the financial institutions authorized to quote on the Reuters Screen BBSW Page quoted or would have quoted at approximately 10:00 a.m., Sydney time, on the reset date for Australian dollar bills of exchange having a tenor of the designated maturity and of the type specified for the purpose of quoting on the Reuters Screen BBSW Page. If in respect of a reset date the rate for that reset date cannot be determined in accordance with the foregoing procedures then the rate for that reset date will be the rate determined by the calculation agent having regard to comparable indices then available. The rate calculated or determined by the calculation agent will be expressed as a percentage rate per annum and will be rounded up, if necessary, to the next higher one ten thousandth of a percentage point (0.0001%).



### **Commercial Paper Rate Notes**

If you purchase a commercial paper rate note (“Base Rate”: Commercial Paper), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the commercial paper rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The commercial paper rate will be the **money market yield** of the rate, for the relevant interest determination date, for commercial paper having the **underlyer maturity** specified in your final terms, as published in **H.15(519)** opposite the heading “Commercial Paper — Nonfinancial”. If the commercial paper rate cannot be determined as described above, the following procedures will apply:

- If the rate described above does not appear in H.15(519) at 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from that source at that time, then the commercial paper rate will be the rate, for the relevant interest determination date, for commercial paper having the underlyer maturity specified in your final terms, as published in **H.15 daily update** or any other recognized electronic source used for displaying that rate, opposite the heading “Commercial Paper — Nonfinancial”.
- If the rate described above does not appear in H.15(519), H.15 daily update or another recognized electronic source at 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, the commercial paper rate will be the money market yield of the arithmetic mean of the following offered rates for U.S. dollar commercial paper that has the relevant underlyer maturity and is placed for an industrial issuer whose bond rating is “AA”, or the equivalent, from a nationally recognized rating agency: the rates offered as of 11:00 A.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest determination date, by three leading U.S. dollar commercial paper dealers in New York City selected by the calculation agent.
- If fewer than three dealers selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described above, the commercial paper rate for the new interest period will be the commercial paper rate in effect for the prior interest period. If the initial base rate has been in effect for the prior interest period, however, it will remain in effect for the new interest period.

### **CD Rate Notes**

If you purchase a CD rate note (“Base Rate”: CD rate), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the CD rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The CD rate will be the rate, on the relevant interest determination date, for negotiable U.S. dollar certificates of deposit having the underlyer maturity specified in your final terms, as published in H.15(519) opposite the heading “CDs (secondary market)”. If the CD rate cannot be determined in this manner, the following procedures will apply:

- If the rate described above does not appear in H.15(519) at 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from that source at that time, then the CD rate will be the rate, for the relevant interest determination date, described above as published in H.15 daily update, or another recognized electronic source used for displaying that rate, under the heading “CDs (secondary market)”.
- If the rate described above does not appear in H.15(519), H.15 daily update or another recognized electronic source at 3:00 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, the CD rate will be the arithmetic mean of the following secondary market offered rates for negotiable U.S. dollar certificates of deposit of major U.S. money centre banks with a remaining maturity closest to the specified underlyer maturity and in a representative amount: the rates offered as of 10:00 A.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest determination date, by three leading nonbank dealers in negotiable U.S. dollar certificates of deposit in New York City, as selected by the calculation agent.

- If fewer than three dealers selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described in the prior paragraph, the CD rate in effect for the new interest period will be the CD rate in effect for the prior interest period. If the initial base rate has been in effect for the prior interest period, however, it will remain in effect for the new interest period.

### ***CMT Rate Notes***

If you purchase a CMT rate note (“Base Rate”: CMT rate), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the CMT rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The manner in which the CMT rate is determined for the relevant interest reset date will depend on the designated CMT Reuters screen page (or Underlyer Screen Page) that is specified for your notes in the applicable final terms. If no designated CMT Reuters screen page (or Underlyer Screen Page) is specified, Reuters screen FRBCMT page (or any successor or replacement service or page) will be the designated CMT Reuters screen page for your notes.

- If the designated CMT Reuters screen page for your notes is FRBCMT, the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the yield for Treasury securities at “constant maturity” for a period of the designated CMT index maturity as set forth in H.15(519) under the caption ‘Treasury constant maturities’, as such yield is displayed on the designated CMT Reuters screen page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) on the CMT interest determination date. If the applicable rate described above is not displayed on the designated CMT Reuters screen page, then the CMT rate will be the treasury constant maturity rate for the designated CMT underlyer maturity as published in H.15(519) under the caption “Treasury constant maturities”.
- If the rate described in the preceding paragraph does not appear in H.15(519), then the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the treasury constant maturity rate for the designated CMT underlyer maturity that:
  - is published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the U.S. Department of the Treasury; and
  - is determined by the calculation agent to be comparable to the applicable rate that would otherwise have been published in H.15(519).
- If, on the relevant CMT interest determination date, the rate described in the preceding paragraph is not published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the U.S. Department of Treasury, then the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the yield to maturity of the arithmetic mean of the secondary market bid rates for the most recently issued U.S. Treasury securities having an original maturity of approximately the designated CMT underlyer maturity and a remaining term to maturity of not less than the designated CMT underlyer maturity minus one year, and in a representative amount, as of approximately 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant CMT interest determination date, quoted by three primary U.S. government securities dealers in New York City selected by the calculation agent. In selecting these bid rates, the calculation agent will request quotations from five primary dealers and will disregard the highest quotation — or, if there is equality, one of the highest — and the lowest quotation — or, if there is equality, one of the lowest. If fewer than five but more than two such bid rates are provided, the CMT rate will be based on the arithmetic mean of the bid prices provided, and neither the highest nor lowest of such quotations will be eliminated.
- If the calculation agent is unable to obtain three quotations of the kind described in the preceding paragraph, the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the yield to maturity of the arithmetic mean of the secondary market bid rates for U.S. Treasury securities with an original maturity longer than the designated CMT index maturity, with a remaining term to maturity closest to the designated CMT index maturity and in a representative amount, as of approximately 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant CMT interest determination date, of three primary U.S. government securities dealers in New York City selected by the calculation agent. In selecting these bid rates, the calculation agent will request quotations from five of these primary dealers

and will disregard the highest quotation — or, if there is equality, one of the highest — and the lowest quotation — or, if there is equality, one of the lowest. If fewer than five but more than two of these primary dealers are quoting, then the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be based on the arithmetic mean of the bid rates so obtained, and neither the highest nor the lowest of those quotations will be disregarded. If two U.S. Treasury securities with an original maturity longer than the designated CMT underlying maturity have remaining terms to maturity that are equally close to the designated CMT underlying maturity, the calculation agent will obtain quotations for the U.S. Treasury securities with the shorter original term to maturity.

- If two or fewer primary dealers selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described in the preceding paragraph, the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the rate determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion, after consulting such sources as it deems comparable to any of the foregoing quotations or display page, or any such source as it deems reasonable from which to estimate the rate for U.S. Treasury securities at constant maturity or any of the foregoing bid rates.

If the designated CMT Reuters screen page for your notes is FEDCMT, the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the one-week average yield for Treasury securities at “constant maturity” for a period of the designated CMT index maturity as set forth in H.15(519) under the heading “Week Ending” and opposite the heading “Treasury constant maturities” for the week preceding the relevant interest reset date, as such average is displayed on the designated CMT Reuters screen page for the week preceding the relevant interest reset date.

If the applicable average described above is not displayed on the designated CMT Reuters screen page, then the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the one-week average yield for Treasury securities at “constant maturity” for a period of the designated CMT index maturity and for the week preceding the relevant interest reset date as published in H.15(519) under the heading “Week Ending” and opposite the heading “Treasury constant maturities”.

If the applicable average described in the preceding paragraph does not appear in H.15(519), then the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the one-week average yield for Treasury securities at “constant maturity” for a period equal to the designated CMT index maturity as otherwise announced by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for the week preceding the relevant interest reset date.

If for the week preceding the relevant interest reset date the Federal Reserve Bank of New York does not publish a one-week average yield for Treasury securities at “constant maturity” for a period equal to the designated CMT index maturity for the preceding week, then the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the yield to maturity of the arithmetic mean of the secondary market bid rates for the most recently issued U.S. Treasury securities having an original maturity of approximately the designated CMT underlying maturity and a remaining term to maturity of not less than the designated CMT underlying maturity minus one year, and in a representative amount, as of approximately 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant CMT interest determination date, quoted by three primary U.S. government securities dealers in New York City selected by the calculation agent. In selecting these bid rates, the calculation agent will request quotations from five primary dealers and will disregard the highest quotation — or, if there is equality, one of the highest — and the lowest quotation — or, if there is equality, one of the lowest. If fewer than five but more than two such bid rates are provided, the CMT rate will be based on the arithmetic mean of the bid prices provided, and neither the highest nor lowest of such quotations will be eliminated.

If the calculation agent is unable to obtain three quotations of the kind described in the preceding paragraph, the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the yield to maturity of the arithmetic mean of the secondary market bid rates for U.S. Treasury securities with an original maturity longer than the designated CMT underlying maturity, with a remaining term to maturity closest to the designated CMT index maturity and in a representative amount, as of approximately 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant CMT interest determination date, of three primary U.S. government securities dealers in New York City selected by the calculation agent. In selecting these bid rates, the calculation agent will request quotations from five of these primary dealers and will disregard the highest quotation — or, if there is

equality, one of the highest — and the lowest quotation — or, if there is equality, one of the lowest. If fewer than five but more than two of these primary dealers are quoting, then the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be based on the arithmetic mean of the bid rates so obtained, and neither the highest nor the lowest of those quotations will be disregarded. If two U.S. Treasury securities with an original maturity longer than the designated CMT underlying maturity have remaining terms to maturity that are equally close to the designated CMT underlying maturity, the calculation agent will obtain quotations for the U.S. Treasury securities with the shorter original term to maturity.

If two or fewer primary dealers selected by the calculation agent are quoting as described in the preceding paragraph, the CMT rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the rate determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion, after consulting such sources as it deems comparable to any of the foregoing quotations or display page, or any such source as it deems reasonable from which to estimate the one-week average for U.S. Treasury securities at constant maturity or any of the foregoing bid rates.

### ***EURIBOR Notes***

If you purchase a “EURIBOR” note (“Base Rate”: EURIBOR), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the interest rate for deposits in euros designated as “EURIBOR” and sponsored jointly by the European Banking Federation and ACI — The Financial Market Association, or any company established by the joint sponsors for purposes of compiling and publishing that rate. In addition, the EURIBOR base rate will be adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms. EURIBOR will be determined in the following manner:

- EURIBOR for the relevant interest reset date will be the offered rate for deposits in euros having the underlying maturity specified in your final terms, as that rate appears on the Reuters screen EURIBOR01 page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) as of approximately 11:00 A.M., Brussels time, on the relevant EURIBOR interest determination date.
- If the rate described above does not so appear on the Reuters screen EURIBOR01 page, EURIBOR will be determined on the basis of the rates at which deposits in euros are offered by four major banks in the euro-zone interbank market, at approximately 11:00 A.M., Brussels time, on the relevant EURIBOR interest determination date, to prime banks in the euro-zone interbank market for a period of the specified underlying maturity commencing on the relevant interest reset date and in a representative amount assuming an Actual/360 day count basis. The calculation agent will request the principal euro-zone office of each of these four banks to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least two quotations are provided, EURIBOR for the relevant interest reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations.
- If fewer than two quotations are provided as described in the preceding paragraph, EURIBOR for the relevant interest reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the rates quoted by major banks in the euro-zone, selected by the calculation agent, at approximately 11:00 A.M., Brussels time, on that interest reset date, for loans of euros to leading European banks for the specified underlying maturity, beginning on the relevant interest reset date, and in a representative amount.
- If no quotation is provided as described in the preceding paragraph, then the calculation agent, after consulting such sources as it deems comparable to any of the foregoing quotations or display page, or any such source as it deems reasonable from which to estimate EURIBOR or any of the foregoing lending rates, shall determine EURIBOR for that interest reset date in its sole discretion.

### ***Euro Interest Rate Swap Notes***

If you purchase a Euro interest rate swap note (“Base Rate”: EURIBOR BASIS - EUR), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the annual swap rate for Euro swap transactions, adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The annual swap rate for euro swap transactions for a reset date will be the annual swap rate for euro swap transactions with a maturity of the Designated Maturity, expressed as a percentage, which appears on the Reuters Screen ISDAFIX2 Page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) under the heading “EURIBOR BASIS - EUR” and above the caption “11:00AM FRANKFURT” as of 11:00 a.m., Frankfurt time, on the day that is two TARGET Settlement Days preceding that Reset Date.

If such rate does not appear on the Reuters Screen ISDAFIX2 Page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page), the rate for that reset date will be a percentage determined on the basis of the mid-market annual swap rate quotations provided by the five leading swap dealers in the interbank market, at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time on the day that is two TARGET Settlement Days preceding that reset date. For this purpose, the mid-market annual swap rate means the arithmetic mean of the bid and offered rates for the annual fixed leg, calculated on a 30/360 day count basis, of a fixed-for-floating euro interest rate swap transaction with a term equal to the designated maturity commencing on that reset date and in a representative amount with an acknowledged dealer of good credit in the swap market, where the floating leg, calculated on an Actual/360 day count basis, is equivalent to the annual swap rate for euro swap transactions with a maturity of six months, expressed as a percentage, which appears on the Reuters Screen ISDAFIX2 Page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) under the heading “EURIBOR BASIS - EUR” and above the caption “11:00AM FRANKFURT” as of 11:00 a.m., Frankfurt time, on the day that is two TARGET Settlement Days preceding that Reset Date. The calculation agent will request the principal office of each of the five leading swap dealers in the interbank market to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least three quotations are provided, the rate for that reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations, eliminating the highest quotation (or, in the event of equality, one of the highest) and the lowest quotation (or, in the event of equality, one of the lowest).

If two or fewer quotations are provided as described in the preceding paragraph, then the calculation agent, after consulting such sources as it deems comparable to any of the foregoing quotations or display page, or any such source as it deems reasonable from which to estimate the Euro Interest Rate Swap, shall determine the Euro Interest Rate Swap for that reset date in its sole discretion.

### ***Federal Funds Rate Notes***

If you purchase a federal funds rate note (“Base Rate”: FEDFUNDS), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the federal funds (effective) rate or the federal funds open rate, as specified in the applicable final terms and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The federal funds rate will be the rate for U.S. dollar federal funds on the relevant interest reset date, as set forth in H.15(519) opposite the heading “Federal funds (effective)”, as that rate is displayed on the Reuters screen FEDFUNDS1 page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) for that day.

- If, by approximately 5:00 P.M., New York City time, on the day that is one New York City banking day following the relevant interest reset date, the federal funds (effective) rate for the relevant interest reset date does not appear on Reuters screen FEDFUNDS1 page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page), then the federal funds (effective) rate, for that interest reset date, will be the rate published on H.15(519) under the heading “Federal funds (effective)”.
- If the rate described above is not displayed on the Reuters screen FEDFUNDS1 page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) and does not appear in H.15(519) at approximately 5:00 P.M., New York City time, on the day that is one New York City banking day following the relevant interest reset date, then the federal funds (effective) rate, for the relevant interest reset date, will be the rate described above as published in H.15 daily update, or another recognized electronic source used for displaying that rate, opposite the heading “Federal funds (effective)”.

- If the rate cannot be determined as described in the preceding paragraphs, then the federal funds (effective) rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the rate for the first day preceding the relevant interest reset date for which such rate is set forth in H.15(519) opposite the caption “Federal funds (effective)”, as such rate is displayed on the Reuters Screen FEDFUNDS1 page.

### ***JPY Swap Rate Notes***

If you purchase a JPY swap rate note (“Base Rate”: JPY SWAP), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the JPY swap rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The JPY swap rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the swap rate for Yen swap transactions with a maturity of the Designated Maturity, expressed as a percentage, which appears on the Reuters screen 17143 Page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) as of 10:00 a.m., Tokyo time, on the day that is two Tokyo banking days preceding the reset date.

If such rate does not appear on the Reuters Screen 17143 Page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page), the rate for a reset date will be a percentage determined on the basis of the mid-market semi-annual swap rate quotations provided by the five leading swap dealers in the interbank market at approximately 10:00 a.m., Tokyo time, on the day that is two Tokyo banking days preceding that reset date. For this purpose, the mid-market semi-annual swap rate means the arithmetic mean of the bid and offered rates for the semi-annual fixed leg, calculated on an Actual/Actual day count basis, of a fixed-for-floating Yen interest rate swap transaction with a term equal to the designated maturity commencing on that reset date and in a representative amount with an acknowledged dealer of good credit in the swap market, where the floating leg, calculated on an Actual/360 day count basis, is equivalent to the rate for deposits in Yen for a period with a designated maturity of six months which appears on the Reuters Screen 3750 Page as of 11:00 a.m., London time, on the day that is two London banking days preceding that reset date. If such rate does not appear on the Reuters Screen 3750 Page, the applicable floating rate for that reset date will be determined on the basis of the rates at which deposits in Yen are offered by four major banks in the London interbank market at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time, on the day that is two London banking days preceding that reset date to prime banks in the London interbank market for a period with a designated maturity of six months commencing on that reset date and in a representative amount. The calculation agent will request the principal London office of four major banks in the London interbank market to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least two quotations are provided, the rate for that reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations. If fewer than two quotations are provided as requested, the rate for that reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the rates quoted by major banks in Tokyo, selected by the calculation agent, at approximately 11:00 a.m., Tokyo time, on that reset date for loans in Yen to leading European banks for a period with a designated maturity of six months commencing on that reset date and in a representative amount.

The calculation agent will request the principal office of the five leading swap dealers in the interbank market to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least three quotations are provided, the rate for that reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations, eliminating the highest quotation (or, in the event of equality, one of the highest) and the lowest quotation (or, in the event of equality, one of the lowest).

If two or fewer quotations are provided as described in the preceding paragraph, then the calculation agent, after consulting such sources as it deems comparable to any of the foregoing quotations or display page, or any such source as it deems reasonable from which to estimate the JPY Swap Rate, shall determine the JPY Swap Rate for that reset date in its sole discretion.

### ***LIBOR Notes***

If you purchase a LIBOR note (“Base Rate”: LIBOR), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to LIBOR, which will be the London interbank offered rate for deposits in U.S. dollars or any other underlyer currency, as specified in your final terms. In addition, the applicable LIBOR base rate will be

adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms. LIBOR will be determined in the following manner:

LIBOR will be the offered rate appearing on the Reuters screen LIBOR01 page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) as of 11:00 A.M., London time, on the relevant LIBOR interest determination date, for deposits of the relevant underlyer currency having the relevant underlyer maturity beginning on the relevant interest reset date. Your final terms will indicate the underlyer currency and the underlyer maturity that apply to your LIBOR note.

If the calculation agent under your notes determines in its sole discretion that the LIBOR base rate has been discontinued, then the calculation agent shall determine whether to use a substitute or successor base rate that is comparable to the LIBOR base rate in its sole discretion. Otherwise:

- If the rate described above does not so appear on the Reuters screen LIBOR01 page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page), then LIBOR will be determined on the basis of the rates, at which deposits in U.S. dollars or any other underlyer currency, as specified in your final terms, are offered by four major banks in the London interbank market selected by the calculation agent at approximately 11:00 A.M., London time, on the relevant LIBOR interest determination date, to prime banks in the London interbank market for a period of the specified index maturity, beginning on the relevant interest reset date, and in a representative amount. The calculation agent will request the principal London office of each of these major banks to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least two quotations are provided, LIBOR for the relevant interest reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations.
- If fewer than two of the requested quotations described above are provided, LIBOR for the relevant interest reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the rates quoted by major banks in New York City or, if the specified underlyer currency is not U.S. dollars, in the principal financial centre for the country issuing the index currency, selected by the calculation agent, at approximately 11:00 A.M., New York City time (or the time in the relevant principal financial centre), on the relevant interest reset date, for loans in U.S. dollars (or the underlyer currency) to leading European banks for a period of the specified index maturity, beginning on the relevant interest reset date, and in a representative amount.
- If no quotation is provided as described in the preceding paragraph, then the calculation agent, after consulting such sources as it deems comparable to any of the foregoing quotations or display page, or any such source as it deems reasonable from which to estimate LIBOR or any of the foregoing lending rates, shall determine LIBOR for that interest reset date in its sole discretion.

### ***Prime Rate Notes***

If you purchase a prime rate note ("Base Rate": Prime Rate), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the prime rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The prime rate will be the rate, for the relevant interest reset date, published in H.15(519) opposite the heading "Bank prime loan".

- If, by approximately 5:00 P.M., New York City time, on the day that is one New York City banking day following the relevant interest reset date, the rate described above is not yet published in H.15(519) then the prime rate will be the rate, for the relevant interest reset date, as published in H.15 daily update or another recognized electronic source used for the purpose of displaying that rate, opposite the heading "Bank prime loan".
- If the rate described above does not appear in H.15(519), H.15 daily update or another recognized electronic source by approximately 5:00 P.M., New York City time, on the day that is

one New York City banking day following the relevant interest reset date, then the prime rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the rate for the day first preceding the relevant interest reset date for which such rate is set forth in H.15(519) opposite the caption "Bank prime rate".

### ***Treasury Rate Notes***

If you purchase a treasury rate note ("Base Rate": US Treasury), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the treasury rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The treasury rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the rate for U.S. government treasury bills, as that rate appears on the Reuters screen USAUCTION10 page or USAUCTION11 page on the relevant treasury interest determination date, opposite the underlying maturity specified in your final terms under the heading "INVEST RATE".

- If the rate described above does not appear on either page on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, but U.S. government treasury bills having the specified index maturity have been auctioned during the relevant interest period, then the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield of the rate, for the relevant interest reset date, as published in H.15 daily update, or another recognized electronic source used for displaying that rate, for that day and for the specified underlying maturity, under a heading indicating that such rate is the "auction high" rate for United States treasury bills
- If the rate cannot be determined as described in the preceding paragraph, then the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield of the auction rate for treasury bills with a remaining maturity equal to the specified underlying maturity as announced by the United States Treasury.
- If no such auction is held for the relevant week, then the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield of the rate, for the relevant treasury interest reset date and for treasury bills having the specified underlying maturity, as published in H.15(519) under the heading "U.S. government securities Treasury bills (secondary market)".
- If the rate described in the prior paragraph does not appear in H.15(519) on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from one of those sources at that time, the treasury rate will be the rate, for the relevant interest reset date and for treasury bills having the specified underlying maturity, as published in H.15 daily update, or another recognized electronic source used for displaying that rate, under the heading "U.S. government securities Treasury bills (secondary market)".
- If the rate described in the prior paragraph does not appear in H.15 daily update or another recognized electronic source on the relevant interest calculation date, unless the calculation is made earlier and the rate is available from that source at that time, the treasury rate will be the bond equivalent yield of the arithmetic mean of the following secondary market bid rates for the issue of treasury bills with a remaining maturity closest to the specified underlying maturity: the rates bid as of approximately 3:30 P.M., New York City time, on the relevant interest reset date, by primary U.S. government securities dealers in New York City selected by the calculation agent.
- If no quotation is provided as described in the preceding paragraph, then the calculation agent, after consulting such sources as it deems comparable to any of the foregoing secondary market bids or any display page or other U.S. government publication or source, or any other source as it deems reasonable from which to estimate the treasury bills auction rate or any of the foregoing secondary market bid rates, shall determine the treasury rate for that interest reset date in its sole discretion.

### ***USD CMS Rate Notes***

If you purchase a CMS rate note ("Base Rate": USD CMS), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the CMS rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.



The CMS rate for the relevant interest reset date will be the rate appearing on the Reuters screen ISDAFIX1 page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) for U.S. dollar swaps having a maturity equal to the index maturity specified in the applicable final terms as of approximately 11:00 A.M., New York City time, on the relevant CMS interest determination date. If the CMS rate cannot be determined in this manner, then:

- The CMS rate for the relevant interest reset date will be determined on the basis of the mid-market semi-annual swap rate quotations provided by five leading swap dealers in the New York City interbank market at approximately 11:00 A.M., New York City time, on the relevant CMS interest determination date. For this purpose, the semi-annual swap rate means the mean of the bid and offered rates for the semi-annual fixed leg, calculated on a 30/360 day count basis, of a fixed-for-floating U.S. dollar interest rate swap transaction with a term equal to the specified index maturity, commencing on the relevant interest reset date, with an acknowledged dealer of good credit in the swap market, where the floating leg, calculated on an Actual/360 day count basis, is equivalent to LIBOR with a designated maturity of three months, as such rate may be determined in accordance with the provisions set forth above under “— LIBOR Notes”. The calculation agent will select the five swap dealers in its sole discretion and will request the principal New York City office of each of those dealers to provide a quotation of its rate.
- If at least three quotations are provided, the CMS rate for that interest reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations described above, eliminating the highest and lowest quotations or, in the event of equality, one of the highest and one of the lowest quotations.
- If fewer than three quotations are provided, the calculation agent will determine the CMS rate in its sole discretion.

### ***USD Interest Rate Swap Notes***

If you purchase a USD interest rate swap note (“Base Rate”: USD SWAP), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the rate for U.S. dollar swaps and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The rate for U.S. dollar swaps will be the rate equal to the rate for U.S. dollar swaps with a maturity of the designated maturity, expressed as a percentage, which appears on the Reuters Screen ISDAFIX3 page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) as of 11:00 a.m., New York City time, on the day that is two U.S. government securities business days preceding that reset date.

If the rate described above does not appear on the Reuters screen ISDAFIX3 page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) on the relevant interest reset date, then the rate for U.S. dollar swaps will be a percentage determined on the basis of the mid-market semi-annual swap rate quotations provided by the five leading swap dealers in the New York City interbank market at approximately 11 :00 a.m., New York City time, on the day that is two U.S. government securities business days preceding that reset date, and, for this purpose, the semi-annual swap rate means the mean of the bid and offered rates for the semi-annual fixed leg, calculated on a 30/360 day count basis, of a fixed-for-floating U.S. dollar interest rate swap transaction with a term equal to the designated maturity commencing on that reset date and in a representative amount with an acknowledged dealer of good credit in the swap market, where the floating leg, calculated on an Actual/360 day count basis, is equivalent to the rate for deposits in U.S. Dollars with a designated maturity of three months, which appears on the Reuters Screen LIBOR01 Page as of 11:00 a.m., London time, on the day that is two London banking days preceding that reset date. If such rate does not appear on the Reuters Screen LIBOR01 page, the applicable floating rate for that reset date will be determined on the basis of the rates at which deposits in U.S. Dollars are offered by four major banks in the London interbank market at approximately 11:00 a.m., London time, on the day that is two London banking days preceding that reset date to prime banks in the London interbank market for a period with a designated maturity of three months commencing on that reset date and in a representative amount. The calculation agent will request the principal London office of four major banks in the London interbank market to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least two such quotations are provided, the rate for that reset date will

be the arithmetic mean of the quotations. If fewer than two quotations are provided as requested, the rate for that reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the rates quoted by major banks in New York City, selected by the calculation agent, at approximately 11:00 a.m., New York City time, on that reset date for loans in U.S. dollars to leading European banks for a period with a designated maturity of three months commencing on that reset date and in a representative amount.

The calculation agent will request the principal New York City office of each of the five leading swap dealers in the New York City interbank market to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least three quotations are provided, the rate for that reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations, eliminating the highest quotation (or, in the event of equality, one of the highest) and the lowest quotation (or, in the event of equality, one of the lowest). If fewer than three quotations are provided, the calculation agent will determine the rate for that reset date in its sole discretion.

### ***11th District Cost of Funds Rate Notes***

If you purchase an 11th district cost of funds rate note (“Base Rate”: 11th District), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the 11th district cost of funds rate and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The 11th district cost of funds rate will be the rate equal to the monthly weighted average cost of funds for the calendar month immediately before the relevant reset date set forth opposite the caption “11TH Dist COFI:” as displayed on the Reuters screen COFI/ARMS page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) as of approximately 11:00 A.M., San Francisco time, on the relevant interest reset date.

If the rate described above does not appear on the Reuters screen COFI/ARMS page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) on the relevant interest reset date, then the 11th district cost of funds rate for that date will be the monthly weighted average cost of funds paid by institutions that are members of the Eleventh Federal Home Loan Bank District for the calendar month immediately before the relevant interest reset date, as most recently announced by the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco as that cost of funds.

If the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco fails to announce the cost of funds described in the prior paragraph on or before the relevant interest reset date, the 11th district cost of funds rate in effect for the new interest period will be the 11th district cost of funds rate in effect for the prior interest period. payment date immediately following that interest reset date. If the initial base rate has been in effect for the prior interest period, however, it will remain in effect for the new interest period.

### ***SGD SOR Rate Notes***

If you purchase an SGD SOR rate note (“Base Rate”: SGD SOR), your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to the synthetic rate for deposits in Singapore dollars and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The synthetic rate for deposits in Singapore dollars will be the rate equal to the synthetic rate for deposits in Singapore dollars for a period of the designated maturity which appears on the Reuters Screen ABSIRFIX01 Page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page) under the heading “SOD SWAP OFFER” as of 11:00 a.m., Singapore time, on the day that is two Singapore Business Days preceding that reset date. If such rate does not appear on the Reuters Screen ABSIRFIX01 Page (or if specified in your final terms, the Underlyer Screen Page) (or any successor or replacement service or page), the rate for that reset date will be any substitute rate announced by the Association of Banks in Singapore (“ABS”). If ABS does not announce such rate by 4:00 p.m., Singapore time, on the day that is two Singapore Business Days preceding the relevant reset date, the applicable floating rate for that reset date will be determined on the basis of the rates at which deposits in Singapore dollars are offered by four major banks in the Singapore interbank market at approximately 11:00 a.m., Singapore time, on the day that is two Singapore Business Days preceding that reset date to prime banks in the Singapore interbank market for a period of the

designated maturity commencing on that reset date and in a representative amount. The calculation agent will request the principal Singapore office of each of the four major banks in the Singapore interbank market to provide a quotation of its rate. If at least two quotations are provided, the rate for that reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the quotations. If fewer than two quotations are provided as requested, the rate for that reset date will be the arithmetic mean of the rates quoted by major banks in Singapore, selected by the calculation agent, at approximately 11:00 a.m., Singapore time, on that reset date for loans in Singapore dollars to leading banks in Singapore for a period of the designated maturity commencing on that reset date and in a representative amount.

### ***Screen Rate Determination***

If your final terms specify “Base Rate” to be “Screen Rate Determination” your note will bear interest at a base rate equal to an applicable reference rate specified in your final terms and adjusted by the spread or spread multiplier, if any, specified in your final terms.

The calculation agent will determine the applicable reference rate which appears on the underlying screen page specified in your final terms (or any successor or replacement service or page) as of the relevant time on the relevant interest determination date.

If such rate does not appear on at least one of the underlying screen pages at the relevant time on the relevant interest determination date, the calculation agent will: (a) request the principal financial center office of each of the reference banks to provide a quotation of the applicable reference rate at approximately the relevant time on the interest determination date to prime banks in the principal financial center interbank market in an amount that is representative for a single transaction in that market at that time; and (b) determine the arithmetic mean of such quotations, and the base rate with respect to such interest payment date shall be equal to such arithmetic mean.

If fewer than two such quotations are provided as requested, the calculation agent will determine the arithmetic mean of the rates (being the nearest to the applicable reference rate, as determined by the calculation agent) quoted by major banks in the principal financial center of the specified currency, selected by the calculation agent, at approximately 11.00 a.m. (local time in the principal financial center of the specified currency) (or such other relevant time) on the first day of the relevant interest period for loans in the specified currency to leading European banks for a period equal to the relevant interest period and in an amount that is representative for a single transaction in that market at that time, and the base rate with respect to such interest payment date shall be equal to such arithmetic mean.

If the calculation agent is unable to determine a rate or (as the case may be) an arithmetic mean in accordance with the above provisions in relation to any interest period, the base rate applicable to your notes during such interest period shall be determined by the calculation agent in good faith and in a commercially reasonable manner having regard to comparable benchmarks then available.

### ***Special Rate Calculation Terms***

In this subsection entitled “— Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes”, we use several terms that have special meanings relevant to calculating floating interest rates. We define these terms as follows:

The term “***Bloomberg page***” means, in respect of an applicable reference rate and any designated page, the display page so designated on the Bloomberg® service (or such other page as may replace that page on that service (or replace such services) for the purpose of displaying a rate comparable to such applicable reference rate, as determined by the calculation agent)

The term “***bond equivalent yield***” means a yield expressed as a percentage and calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{bond equivalent yield} = \frac{D \times N}{360 - (D \times M)} \times 100$$

where

- “D” means the annual rate for treasury bills quoted on a bank discount basis and expressed as a decimal;
- “N” means 365 or 366, as the case may be; and
- “M” means the actual number of days in the interest reset period.

The term “**designated CMT underlyer maturity**” means the underlyer maturity for a CMT rate note and will be the original period to maturity of a U.S. treasury security — either 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 20 or 30 years — specified in the applicable final terms. If no original maturity period is specified, the designated CMT Underlyer maturity will be 2 years.

The term “**designated CMT Reuters screen page**” means the Reuters screen page specified in the applicable final terms that displays treasury constant maturities as reported in H.15(519). If no Reuters screen page is so specified, then the applicable page will be the Reuters screen FEDCMT page. If the Reuters screen FEDCMT page applies but the applicable final terms do not specify whether the weekly or monthly average applies, the weekly average will apply.

The term “**euro-zone**” means, at any time, the region comprised of the Member States of the European Economic and Monetary Union, or any successor union that, as of that time, have adopted a single currency in accordance with the Treaty on European Union of February 1992, or any successor treaty.

“**H.15(519)**” means the weekly statistical release designated as such published by the Federal Reserve System Board of Governors, or its successor, available through the website of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h15/update/h15upd.htm>, or any successor site or publication.

“**H.15 daily update**” means the daily update of H.15(519) available through the website of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h15/update/h15upd.htm>, or any successor site or publication.

The term “**relevant time**” means the time in the place specified as such in the relevant final terms.

The term “**underlyer currency**” means, with respect to a LIBOR note, the currency specified as such in the applicable final terms. The underlyer currency may be U.S. dollars or any other currency and will be U.S. dollars unless another currency is specified in the applicable final terms.

The term “**underlyer maturity**” means, with respect to a floating rate note, the period to maturity of the instrument or obligation on which the interest rate formula is based, as specified in the applicable final terms.

The term “**underlyer screen page**” or “**underlyer screen pages**” means the Bloomberg Page or the Reuters Screen (or both) specified as the relevant screen page or the relevant screen pages in the relevant final terms;

The term “**money market yield**” means a yield expressed as a percentage and calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{money market yield} = \frac{D \times 360}{360 - (D \times M)} \times 100$$

where

- “D” means the annual rate for commercial paper quoted on a bank discount basis and expressed as a decimal; and
- “M” means the actual number of days in the relevant interest reset period.

The term “**principal financial center**” means the city specified as such in the relevant final terms.

The term “**reference banks**” means four major banks selected by the calculation agent in the market that is most closely connected with the reference rate.

The term “**representative amount**” means an amount that, in the calculation agent’s judgment, is representative of a single transaction in the relevant market at the relevant time.

“**Reuters screen**” means the display on the Reuters 3000 Xtra service or any successor or replacement service, on the page or pages specified in the applicable final terms, or any replacement page or pages on that service, as determined by the calculation agent.

“**Reuters screen LIBOR page**” means the display on the Reuters screen LIBOR01 page or Reuters screen LIBOR02 page, as specified in the applicable final terms, or any replacement page or pages on which London interbank rates of major banks for the relevant underlying currency are displayed.

“**Reuters screen USPRIME1 page**” means the display on the Reuters screen page titled “USPRIME1”, for the purpose of displaying prime rates or base lending rates of major U.S. banks.

If, when we use the terms designated CMT Reuters screen page, H.15(519), H.15 daily update, Reuters screen LIBOR page, Reuters screen USPRIME1 page, Reuters screen USAUCTION10 page, Reuters screen USAUCTION11 page, Reuters screen ISDAFIX2 page, Reuters screen COFI/ARMS page, Reuters screen page 5 or Reuters screen, we refer to a particular heading or headings on any of those pages, those references include any successor or replacement heading or headings as determined by the calculation agent.

### **Indexed Notes**

This subsection provides information that may be relevant to your note if it is linked to an underlying. The applicable final terms will provide any additional information necessary to complete the information provided below. In addition, the applicable final terms will contain disclosure with respect to any licensing arrangements we may enter into with the relevant underlying sponsor. We do not intend to provide post-issuance information with respect to any underlying, unless otherwise required by applicable laws and regulations.

A note of this type will bear interest, if any, at rates that are determined by reference to one of the interest rate formulae described below or another rate as specified in your final terms. In some cases, the rates may be adjusted by adding or subtracting a spread or multiplying by a spread multiplier and may be subject to a minimum rate or a maximum rate, or to other provisions, as described in greater detail below. If your note is an indexed note, the inputs to the formula set out below, and any adjustments that apply to the interest rate, will be specified in your final terms.

Each indexed note will bear interest, if any, from its original issue date or from the most recent interest payment date. Interest, if any, will accrue on the principal of an indexed note at the annual rate determined according to the interest rate formula stated in the note and the applicable final terms, until the principal is paid or made available for payment. We will pay interest, if any, on each interest payment date and at maturity as described under “— Payment Mechanics for Notes” below.

Whether or not a maximum rate applies, the interest rate on an indexed note will in no event be higher than the maximum rate permitted by New York law, as it may be modified by U.S. law of general application. Under current New York law, the maximum rate of interest, with some exceptions, for any loan in an amount less than \$2,500,000 is 25% per year on a simple interest basis. No limits apply to loans of \$2,500,000 or more.

## Underlyers

We may issue indexed notes linked to one or more of the following underlyers, as specified in your final terms:

- a Base Rate (as defined above in “— Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes”)
- a stock index
- a foreign currency exchange rate (as defined below in “ — Currencies and Foreign Currency Exchange Rates”)

If your indexed note is linked to a Base Rate, references to an “interest reset date” or “interest reset dates” contained in the section “— Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes — Base Rates” shall be deemed to refer to the “Averaging Date”, “Initial Averaging Date”, “Initial Observation Date”, “Final Observation Date”, “Valuation Date” or “Initial Valuation Date”, as applicable.

### ***Currencies and Foreign Currency Exchange Rates***

An underlyer may be a foreign currency exchange rate, in which case the “Underlyer” will be specified in the following format in the applicable final terms “[ccy1][ccy2] FX Fixing”.

When specified in this format, each of “ccy1” and “ccy2” will be one of the following currencies, or another currency which we have not decided on as of the date of this base prospectus:

- “AUD” which is Australian dollar
- “USD” which is U.S. dollar
- “NZD” which is New Zealand dollar
- “INR” which Indian rupee
- “SGD” with is Singapore dollar
- “TWD” which is Taiwanese dollar
- “EUR” which is euro
- “GBP” which is Pounds sterling
- “JPY” which is Japanese yen
- “CHF” which is Swiss franc

The rate of a foreign currency exchange rate on any underlyer daily fixing date will be the rate expressed as the number of “ccy2” for which one “ccy1” could be purchased. The calculation agent will determine the rate as the rate that appears on the “Fixing Page” specified in the final terms (or any successor or replacement service or page) at the “Fixing Time” specified in the final terms on such underlyer daily fixing date. If “bid” or “ask” is specified in the “Bid/Ask/Mid” column in the applicable final terms, the applicable rate will be the one that appears under the “bid” or “ask” column, respectively, on the “Fixing Page” specified in the final terms (or any successor or replacement service or page). If “mid” is specified in the “Bid/Ask/Mid” column in the applicable final terms, the applicable rate will be calculated by the Calculation Agent as the average of the rates that appear under the “bid” or “ask” columns on the “Fixing Page” specified in the final terms (or any successor or replacement service or page). In the event

the Calculation Agent determines that on any underlying daily fixing date the “Fixing Page” specified in the final terms is no longer published and no replacement symbol or page is designated, or is not published as of the designated date and time, or the applicable rate does not appear on the “Fixing Page” specified in the final terms, the Calculation Agent will determine the rate of the applicable exchange rate underlying in its sole discretion.

## **Interest Rate Formulae**

### ***Range Accrual Notes***

If “Range Accrual Provisions” is specified as Applicable in the applicable final terms in respect of one or more interest periods, this section shall apply to your notes.

Interest will accrue on each Underlyer Daily Fixing Date on a Range Accrual Note at the Interest Rate specified in the applicable final terms, provided that the level of the Underlyer Daily Fixing, or each Underlyer Daily Fixing, as the case may be, on such day falls within the accrual range applicable to each relevant underlyer. Interest payments on a Range Accrual Note will be subject to range accrual on one or more Underlyers, such Underlyers to be any of the Underlyers described above. The “Accrual Range” and “Underlyer Daily Fixing” for each “Underlyer” will be specified in your final terms.

The interest periods are the period from and including an interest payment date (or the interest commencement date, in the case of the initial interest periods) to but excluding the next succeeding interest payment date (or the stated maturity date, in the case of the final interest periods). Interest on the notes if any, will accrue on each calendar day, from and including each originally scheduled interest payment date (or the interest commencement date, in the case of the initial interest periods) to but excluding the next succeeding originally scheduled interest payment date (or the originally scheduled stated maturity date, in the case of the final interest periods) and be paid on each interest payment date provided that the level of “Underlyer Daily Fixing” (as specified in the Final Terms) on the relevant underlyer daily fixing date falls within the “Accrual Range” applicable to the relevant underlyer (as specified in the Final Terms and subject to the rate cut-off described below); otherwise no interest will accrue on such day.

The underlyer daily fixing dates are, with respect to each interest periods, each calendar day in such interest periods, (subject to the rate cut-off described below); provided that in the event that an underlyer daily fixing date falls on a day that is not a business day, the underlyer daily fixings on the immediately preceding day that is a business day shall be used.

The rate cut-off will occur on the date five (5) business days prior to the next succeeding originally scheduled interest payment date. The level of each underlyer daily fixing on the rate cut-off date will determine the level of the underlyer daily fixings for the relevant underlyer for the remaining calendar days of such interest periods, i.e., the underlyer daily fixing for each underlyer calculated five (5) business days prior to the next succeeding originally scheduled interest payment date will be the underlyer daily fixing for such underlyer for all calendar days remaining in such interest periods.

In this subsection entitled “Range Accrual Notes”, we use several terms that have special meanings relevant to range accrual notes. We define these terms as follows:

The term “***currency exchange rate***” means any foreign currency exchange rate defined above that is specified as an “underlyer” in the applicable final terms.

The term “***underlyer***” means underlyer as described above under “Indexed Notes—Underlyers” specified as such in the applicable final terms.

When “***daily range accrual***” is specified in your final terms, interest on the notes will accrue on each day at the interest rate (or rates, if different interest rates apply in different interest periods) specified in the final terms, from and including the interest commencement date to but excluding the originally scheduled maturity date unless the notes are redeemed early pursuant to an early redemption feature of

the notes, provided that the level of each underlying daily fixing on the relevant underlying daily fixing date falls within the accrual range applicable to the relevant underlying, subject to, if applicable, the rate cut-off; otherwise no interest will accrue on such day.

The term “**accrual range**” means, with respect to an underlying, all values of the underlying *greater* or *less* than, as applicable, and, if specified, *equal* to a specified value, *or*, if the accrual range of the underlying has both upper and lower boundaries, all values of the underlying that are both (i) *greater* than and, if specified, *equal* to a specified lower boundary underlying value and (ii) *less* than and, if specified, *equal* to a specified upper boundary underlying value.

The term “**rate cut-off date**” means, with respect to each interest periods, the date that falls five Business Days prior to the next succeeding originally scheduled interest payment date.

With respect to each interest periods, during the period from and including the relevant “**rate cut-off date**” to but excluding the next succeeding originally scheduled interest payment date, the level of each underlying daily fixing (as defined below) on the rate cut-off date will determine the level of the underlying daily fixing for the relevant underlying for the remaining calendar days of such interest periods, *i.e.*, the underlying daily fixing for each underlying calculated on the relevant rate cut-off date will be the underlying daily fixing for such underlying for all calendar days remaining in the relevant interest periods.

The term “**underlying daily fixing date**” means, with respect to an interest periods, each calendar day in such interest periods, subject to rate cut-off.

The term “**underlying daily fixings**” means, with respect to an underlying, the reference price of the underlying on the applicable underlying daily fixing date.

### **Steepener and Flattener Notes**

If your final terms specify that “Steepener / Flattener” is Applicable for any interest period, the final terms will also specify a Base Rate 1, a Base Rate 2 and one or more of a Participation Rate, Cap Level, Floor Level, whether “Worst-Of Steepener” is Applicable or Not Applicable, and if “Worst-Of Steepener” is Applicable, a Comparison Base Rate.

If “Worst-Of Steepener” is specified in your final terms as Not Applicable, for each applicable Interest Period indicated in your final terms, your note will bear interest at a rate per annum equal to the Participation Rate *times* the *difference between* (x) the Base Rate 1 *multiplied by* the Base Rate 1 Multiplier (if any) *minus* (y) the Base Rate 2 *multiplied by* the Base Rate 2 Multiplier (if any), subject to the Minimum Rate and/or Maximum rate (if any) specified in your final terms. Each of Base Rate 1 and Base Rate 2 will be one of the floating rates specified under “— Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes”, and the rate of interest for each will be determined as set forth therein. For the avoidance of doubt, the interest rate per annum in respect of each applicable interest period will be calculated according to the following formula, subject to the Minimum Rate and/or Maximum (if any) specified in your final terms:

$$\text{Participation Rate} \times (\text{Base Rate}_1 \times \text{BR}_1 \text{Multiplier} - \text{Base Rate}_2 \times \text{BR}_2 \text{Multiplier}) + \text{Spread}$$

If “Worst-Of Steepener” is specified in your final terms as Applicable, for each applicable Interest Period indicated in your final terms, your note will bear interest at a rate per annum equal to the *lower of* (A) the Comparison Base Rate *times* the Comparison Base Rate Multiplier *plus* the Comparison Base Rate Spread *and* (B) the Participation Rate *times* the *difference between* (x) the Base Rate 1 *multiplied by* the Base Rate 1 Multiplier (if any) *minus* (y) the Base Rate 2 *multiplied by* the Base Rate 2 Multiplier (if any), subject to the Minimum Rate and/or Maximum rate (if any) specified in your final terms. Each of the Comparison Base Rate, Base Rate 1 and Base Rate 2 will be one of the floating rates specified under “— Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes”, and the rate of interest for each will be determined as set forth therein. For the avoidance of doubt, the interest rate per annum in respect of each applicable interest period will be calculated according to the following formula, subject to the Minimum Rate and/or Maximum (if any) specified in your final terms:



$$\text{Min} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Comparison Base Rate} \times \text{Comparison Base Rate Multiplier} + \text{Comparison Base Rate Spread}, \\ \text{Participation Rate} \times (\text{Base Rate}_1 \times \text{BR}_1 \text{ Multiplier} - \text{Base Rate}_2 \times \text{BR}_2 \text{ Multiplier}) + \text{Spread} \end{array} \right\}$$

### **Asian Performance Notes**

If your final terms specify that “Asian Performance” is Applicable for any interest payment date, the final terms will also specify in the “Index Information Table” one or more indices and Weightings (which may be 100%) that apply to each Index and whether “Absolute” is Applicable or Note Applicable.

If Absolute is specified in your final terms to be Not Applicable, on each applicable Interest Payment Date listed in the “Interest Rate Table”, your note will pay a coupon in amount equal to the (a) face amount of your notes *multiplied by* (b) the *sum of* (i) the *quotient of* (x) the Participation Rate specified in your final terms *multiplied by the difference between* (aa) the Basket Performance determined in respect of that Interest Payment Date *minus* (bb) one *divided by* (y) the Interest Period Number corresponding to such Interest Payment Date listed in the “Interest Rate Table” *plus* (ii) the Spread specified in your Final Terms, if any, (which may be positive or negative), as determined by the calculation agent, subject to the Minimum Rate and/or Maximum Rate (if any) specified in your final terms. For the avoidance of doubt, the coupon payable in respect of any interest period will be calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{Face} \times \left\{ \frac{\text{Participation Rate} \times \left( \text{Basket Performance} - 1 \right)}{\text{Interest Period}} + \text{Spread} \right\}$$

If Absolute is specified in your final terms to be Applicable, on each applicable Interest Payment Date listed in the “Interest Rate Table”, your note will pay a coupon in amount equal to (a) face amount of your notes *multiplied by* (b) the *sum of* (i) the *quotient of* (x) the Participation Rate specified in your final terms *multiplied by the absolute value of the difference between* (aa) the Basket Performance determined in respect of that Interest Payment Date *minus* (bb) one *divided by* (y) the Interest Period Number corresponding to such Interest Payment Date listed in the “Interest Rate Table” *plus* (ii) the Spread specified in your Final Terms, if any, (which may be positive or negative), as determined by the calculation agent, subject to the Minimum Rate and/or Maximum Rate (if any) specified in your final terms. The absolute value of a number is (i) if the number is zero or positive, the number and (ii) if the number is negative, the number multiplied by -1. For the avoidance of doubt, the coupon payable in respect of any interest period will be calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{Face} \times \left\{ \frac{\text{Participation Rate} \times \left| \left( \text{Basket Performance} - 1 \right) \right|}{\text{Interest Period}} + \text{Spread} \right\}$$

where vertical lines in the formula mean to take the absolute value of the amount between the vertical lines.

### **Digital Notes**

If your final terms specify that “Digital” is Applicable for any interest period, the final terms will also specify in the “Index Information Table” one or more indices and Barrier Levels that apply to each Index. If your final terms specify that “Floating Coupon” is applicable for such interest period, subject to the Index Performance Condition, the interest rate for that period will be determined by reference to a base rate or an interest rate formula specified in your final terms; see “General Note Conditions — Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes” for definitions of relevant base rates and other terms that may be used in the relevant interest rate formula.

If “Lock-In” is specified as “Not Applicable”, for each applicable interest period, if the Digital Condition is met, your note will bear interest at the fixed or floating rate per annum specified in your final terms in the “Interest Rate Table” under the heading “Applicable Coupon” in the row with the corresponding Interest Payment Date; otherwise, your note will not bear interest for such Interest Period.

If “Lock-In” is specified as “Applicable”, for each applicable interest period, if either (a) the Digital Condition or (b) the Lock-In Condition is met, your note will bear interest at the fixed or floating rate per annum specified in your final terms in the “Interest Rate Table” under the heading “Applicable Coupon” in the row with the corresponding Interest Payment Date; otherwise, your note will not bear interest for such Interest Period.

If “Worst-Of”, “Worst-Of” and “Multiple Conditions” are specified as “Not Applicable”, your final terms will specify only one Index, and for each relevant interest period, the Digital Condition will be met if the Index Performance Condition is met in respect of such Index for such interest period.

If “Worst-Of” is specified as “Applicable”, your final terms will specify more than one Index, and for each relevant Interest Period, the Digital Condition will be met if and only if the Index Performance Condition is met in respect of the Worst Performing Index for such Interest Period.

If “Best-Of” is specified as “Applicable”, your final terms will specify more than one Index, and for each relevant Interest Period, the Digital Condition will be met if and only if the Index Performance Condition is met in respect of the Best Performing Index for such Interest Period.

If “Multiple Conditions” is specified as “Applicable”, your final terms will specify more than one Index, and for each relevant Interest Period, the Digital Condition will be met if and only if the Index Performance Condition is met in respect of each Index for such Interest Period.

If “Performance Measure” is specified as “Equal to or Greater Than” with respect to an Index in the Index Information Table, for each relevant Interest Period, the Index Performance Condition will be met in respect of such Index if the Index Performance of the Index is *equal to* or *greater than* the Barrier Level corresponding to that Index specified in the Index Information Table under “Barrier Level”, as determined by the Calculation Agent

If “Performance Measure” is specified as “Greater Than” with respect to an Index in the Index Information Table, for each relevant Interest Period, the Index Performance Condition will be met in respect of such Index if the Index Performance of the Index is *greater than* the Barrier Level corresponding to that Index specified in the Index Information Table under “Barrier Level”, as determined by the Calculation Agent

If “Performance Measure” is specified as “Equal to or Less Than” with respect to an Index in the Index Information Table, for each relevant Interest Period, the Index Performance Condition will be met in respect of such Index if the Index Performance of the Index is *equal to* or *less than*, the Barrier Level corresponding to that Index specified in the Index Information Table under “Barrier Level”, as determined by the Calculation Agent

If “Performance Measure” is specified as “Less Than” with respect to an Index in the Index Information Table, for each relevant Interest Period, the Index Performance Condition will be met in respect of such Index if the Index Performance of the Index is *less than*, the Barrier Level corresponding to that Index specified in the Index Information Table under “Barrier Level”, as determined by the Calculation Agent

If “Interest Protection” is specified as “Applicable”, for each applicable interest period, if the Digital Condition is met, you will receive the *sum of* (a) the interest payment payable in respect of such interest period, as described above *plus* (b) the Protection Amount.

The Lock-In Condition is met in respect of any Interest Period (or in respect of the Valuation Date with respect to the Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount)) if the Digital Condition was met for any prior Interest Period.

### **OutPerformance Notes**

If your final terms specify that “OutPerformance” is Applicable for any interest period, the final terms will also specify in the “Index Information Table” a Primary Index, a Secondary Index and a Performance Factor (which may be positive or negative). If your final terms specify that “Floating Coupon” is applicable for such interest period, subject to the OutPerformance Condition, the interest rate for that period will be determined by reference to a base rate or an interest rate formula specified in your final terms; see “General Note Conditions — Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes” for definitions of relevant base rates and other terms that may be used in the relevant interest rate formula.

For any Interest Period, if the OutPerformance Condition is met, your note will bear interest at the fixed rate or floating rate per annum specified in your final terms in the “Interest Rate Table” under the heading “Applicable Coupon” in the row with the corresponding Interest Payment Date; otherwise, your note will not bear interest for such Interest Period.

For each relevant Interest Period, the OutPerformance Condition will be met in an applicable Interest Period if the Index Performance of the Primary Index is *equal to* or *greater than*, the *sum of* (x) the Index Performance of the Secondary Index *plus* (y) the Performance Factor (which may be positive or negative), as determined by the Calculation Agent.

### **Indexed Notes Terms**

In this subsection entitled “Indexed Notes” and elsewhere in this European base prospectus, we use several terms that have special meanings relevant to indexed notes. We define these terms as follows:

**Averaging Dates** means, if Averaging is “Applicable”, in respect of each Payment Date, the dates specified as Average Dates, or each of the dates specified under the heading “Observation Dates” in the relevant Interest Rate Table relating to such Payment Date, as applicable, in the relevant Final Terms, subject to adjustment (as an Averaging Observation Date) as described under “Stock Indices — Adjustments — Averaging Observation Dates”.

**Basket Performance** means the aggregate of the Weighted Performance of each Index in the Index Basket.

**Best Performing Index** means the Index with the highest Index Performance, as determined by the Calculation Agent. In the event that two or more Indexes have the same highest Index Performance, then the Calculation Agent shall determine in its sole and absolute discretion which of such Indexes shall be the Best Performing Index, and such Index as so selected shall be deemed the Best Performing Index

**BR Multiplier** means the percentage as specified in the relevant Final Terms.

**Final Observation Dates** means, if Final Observation Period is “Applicable”, each date specified as such in your Final Terms, subject to adjustment (as an Observation Date) as described under “Stock Indices — Adjustments”.

**Index** means each Index specified in the relevant Final Terms and any successor Index, in each case as it may be modified, replaced or adjusted from time to time, as determined by the Calculation Agent.

**Index Currency** means, in respect of an Index, the currency specified as such in the relevant Final Terms, or if not specified, the currency which the relevant level of the Index is reported or published as determined by the Calculation Agent, if applicable.

**Index Performance** means an amount equal to Reference Price (Final) *divided by* Reference Price (Initial)

**Index Sponsor** means, for each Index, the entity specified in the relevant Final Terms, and, if not specified, the corporation or other entity that, as determined by the Calculation Agent, (i) is responsible for setting and reviewing the rules and procedures and the methods of calculation and adjustments, if any, related to such Index, and (ii) announces (directly or through an agent) the level of such Index on a regular basis during each Scheduled Trading Day.

**Index Valuation Time** means the time in the place as specified in the relevant Final Terms.

**Initial Averaging Dates** means, if Averaging is “Applicable”, each date specified as such in your Final Terms, subject to adjustment (as a Averaging Observation Date) as described under “Stock Indices — Adjustments — Averaging Observation Date”.

**Initial Observation Dates** means, if Initial Observation Period is “Applicable”, each date specified as such in your Final Terms, subject to adjustment (as an Observation Date) as described under “Stock Indices — Adjustments”.

**Initial Valuation Date** means, if Averaging is “Not Applicable”, the date specified as such in your Final Terms, subject to adjustment (as an Observation Date) as described under “Stock Indices — Adjustments”.

**Observation Date** means each Averaging Date, each Initial Averaging Date, each Initial Observation Date, each Final Observation Date, each Valuation Date and the Initial Valuation Date, as applicable, as specified in the applicable final terms, subject to any relevant adjustments described herein.

**Participation Rate** means the percentage as specified in the relevant Final Terms.

**Payment Date** means each Interest Payment Date and the Maturity Date, as applicable

**Protection Amount** means, in respect of any interest period for an Indexed (Digital) note, the *sum* of any interest payment(s) that would have been payable in respect of any preceding interest period(s) but for the fact that the Digital Condition was not met in respect of such interest periods and were not so paid (each such payment, a “Catch-Up Payment”); *provided that* once a Catch-Up Payment has been paid in respect of any interest period, no further payments will be made in respect of such interest period.

**Reference Index Level** means, in respect of an Index and any relevant day, the official closing level of the Index or, if an Index Valuation Time other than “closing” is specified with respect to a relevant Index in your Final Terms, the level of such Index as at the specified Index Valuation Time on such relevant day as calculated and published by the Index Sponsor (in each case, expressed in the relevant Index Currency (if specified in the relevant Final Terms) applicable to the Index), as determined by the Calculation Agent

**Reference Price** means the official closing level of the relevant underlying as of the relevant observation date as published by the underlying sponsor.

**Reference Price (Final)** means, in respect of each applicable Payment Date:

- if your final terms specify “Averaging” and “Final Observation Period” to be Not Applicable in respect of such Payment Date, the Reference Index Level of the Index on the Valuation Date corresponding to such Payment Date
- if your final terms specify “Averaging” to be Applicable in respect of such Payment Date, the arithmetic mean of the Reference Index Levels of the Index on each of the Averaging Dates corresponding to such Payment Date, as determined by the Calculation Agent

- if your final terms specify “Final Observation Period” to be Applicable and “Observation Level” to be “Lowest” in respect of such Payment Date, the lowest Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the Final Observation Dates corresponding to such Payment Date, as determined by the Calculation Agent
- if your final terms specify “Final Observation Period” to be Applicable and “Observation Level” to be “Highest” in respect of such Payment Date, the highest Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the Final Observation Dates corresponding to such Payment Date, as determined by the Calculation Agent

**Reference Price (Initial)** means:

- if your final terms provides a number, the amount so specified
- if your final terms specify “Initial Reference Price”, the Reference Index Level of the Index on the Initial Valuation Date
- if your final terms specify “Initial Average Price”, the arithmetic mean of the Reference Index Levels of the Index on each of the Initial Averaging Dates, as determined by the Calculation Agent
- if your final terms specify “Initial Lowest Price”, the lowest Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the specified Initial Observation Dates, as determined by the Calculation Agent
- if your final terms specify “Initial Highest Price”, the highest Reference Index Level of the Index observed on the specified Initial Observation Dates, as determined by the Calculation Agent

**Underlyer** means any underlyer specified as such in the applicable final terms and any successor underlyer, in each case as it may be modified, replaced or adjusted from time to time, as indicated above.

**Underlyer Sponsor** means, at any time, the person or other entity, including any successor sponsor, that is (i) responsible for setting and reviewing the rules and procedures for the methods of calculation and adjustments, if any, related to the relevant underlyer and (ii) announces (directly or through an agent) the level of the relevant underlyer on a regular basis on each exchange business day, all as determined by the calculation agent.

**Valuation Date** means, if Averaging and Final Observation Period are “Not Applicable”, in respect of each Payment Date, the date specified as the Valuation Date, or the date specified under the heading “Observation Dates” in the relevant Interest Rate Table relating to such Payment Date, as applicable, subject to adjustment (as an Observation Date) as described under “Stock Indices — Adjustments”.

**Weighted Performance** means, in respect of each Index in the Index Basket, an amount calculated by the Calculation Agent in accordance with the following formula:

$$\text{Weighting} \times \frac{\text{Reference Price (Final)}}{\text{Reference Price(Initial)}}$$

**Weighting** means in the relevant “Index Information Table” set out in the Final Terms, in respect of each Index set forth in the Index Table in the column entitled “Index”, the amount set forth in the column entitled “Weighting” in the row corresponding to such Index.

**Worst Performing Index** means the Index with the lowest Index Performance, as determined by the Calculation Agent. In the event that two or more Indexes have the same lowest Index Performance, then the Calculation Agent shall determine in its sole and absolute discretion which of such Indexes shall be the Worst Performing Index, and such Index as so selected shall be deemed the Worst Performing Index

## **Stock Indices**

### ***Exchange Business Days***

An Exchange Business Day with respect to a stock Index will be any day with respect to which a Reference Price with respect to such Index is or, but for the occurrence of a Market Disruption Event, would have been published by the Underlyer Sponsor.

### ***Market Disruption Events***

Any of the following will be a Market Disruption Event with respect to a stock Index:

- a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in index components constituting 20% or more of the Index on their respective primary markets, in each case for more than two hours of trading or during the one hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole discretion; or
- a suspension, absence or material limitation of trading in options or futures contracts relating to the Index or to index components constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the Index, if available, in the respective primary markets for those contracts, in each case for more than two hours of trading or during the one-half hour before the close of trading in that market, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion; or
- index components constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the Index, or options or futures contracts relating to the Index or to index components constituting 20% or more, by weight, of the Index, if available, do not trade on what were the respective primary markets for those index components or contracts, as determined by the calculation agent in its sole discretion; or
- an unannounced closure of the primary markets relating to index components constituting 20% or more of the Index; or
- a material event (other than the immediately preceding bullet point) that disrupts the ability of market participants effecting transactions in, or obtaining market values during the one hour period before the valuation time (typically the closing time), for (i) the index components constituting 20% or more of the Index or (ii) options or futures contracts relating to the Index;

and, in any of these events, the Calculation Agent determines in its sole discretion that the event could materially interfere with our ability or the ability of any of our affiliates to unwind all or a material portion of a hedge that could be effected with respect to the notes.

Neither of the following events will be a market disruption event with respect to a stock Index:

- a limitation on the hours or number of days of trading, but only if the limitation results from a previously announced change in the business hours of the relevant market, or
- a decision to permanently discontinue trading in options or futures contracts relating to the Index or to any index component.

For purposes of determining whether a Market Disruption Event has occurred, an “absence of trading” in the primary securities market on which a component of a stock Index is traded or on which options or futures contracts relating to The index or an index component are traded will not include any time when that market is itself closed for trading under ordinary circumstances. In contrast, a suspension or limitation of trading in any index component or in options or futures contracts relating to the Index or any index component in the primary market for that index component or those contracts, by reason of:

- a price change exceeding limits set by that market,
- an imbalance of orders relating to the index component or those contracts, or
- a disparity in bid and ask quotes relating to that index component or those contracts,

will constitute a suspension or material limitation of trading in that index component or those contracts in that primary market.

### ***Adjustments***

#### *Non-Exchange Business Days — Single Index*

If any Observation Date with respect to a stock Index falls on a day that is not an Exchange Business Day with respect to such Index, such date with respect to such Index will be postponed to the next following Exchange Business Day. However, in no event will any Observation Date with respect to a stock Index be postponed by more than the Maximum Days of Postponement (as specified in the Final Terms) after the scheduled date for that Observation Date. If an Observation Date which immediately precedes the Stated Maturity Date or any Payment Date for the relevant note is postponed, the Stated Maturity Date or Payment Date will be postponed by the same number of Business Day(s) from and excluding the originally scheduled Observation Date to and including the actual Observation Date, subject to a maximum of the Maximum Days of Postponement; provided, however, that if the rescheduled Observation Date is more than five Business Days prior to the stated Maturity Date or Payment Date, then such stated Maturity Date or Payment Date shall not be postponed.

#### *Market Disruption Events — Single Index*

If a Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing with respect to a stock Index on any day that otherwise would be an Observation Date with respect to such Index, such date with respect to such Index will be postponed to the next following day that is both an Exchange Business Day with respect to such Index and a day on which no Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing with respect to such Index. In no event, however, will any Observation Date with respect to a stock Index be postponed by more than the Maximum Days of Postponement (as specified in the Final Terms) after the scheduled date for that Observation Date. If an Observation Date which immediately precedes the stated Maturity Date or any Payment Date for the relevant note is postponed, the stated Maturity Date or Payment Date will be postponed by the same number of Business Day(s) from and excluding the originally scheduled Observation Date to and including the actual Observation Date, subject to a maximum of the Maximum Days of Postponement; provided, however, that if the rescheduled Observation Date is more than five Business Days prior to the stated Maturity Date or Payment Date, then such stated Maturity Date or Payment Date shall not be postponed.

If an Observation Date with respect to a stock Index is postponed to the last possible day but a Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing on that day with respect to such index or if no reference price is published by the Underlyer Sponsor with respect to that day, that day will nevertheless be an Observation Date with respect to such Index. If the Calculation Agent determines that a reference price with respect to the relevant Index is not published by The Underlyer Sponsor with respect to the postponed Observation Date, the Calculation Agent will determine the Reference Price of the Index in its sole discretion in accordance with the formula and method of calculating this index last in effect prior to the occurrence of the first of the above events using the exchange traded or quoted prices of each index stock comprised in the relevant Index as of the close of trading in that market on that day falling the Maximum Days of Postponement after the scheduled Observation Date. However, if any of the above events has occurred in respect to the relevant index stock on that day falling the Maximum Days of Postponement after the scheduled Observation Date, the Calculation Agent will use its good faith estimate of the value for the relevant index stock as of the close of trading in that market on that day.

#### *Multiple Underlyer Indices and Observation Dates — Common Exchange Business Day but Individual Market Disruption Event*

Where the notes are linked to two or more indices (such indices being “**Underlyer Indices**” and each an “**Underlyer Index**”) (e.g., an Asian Absolute Performance note or a Digital note) and the final terms specify that “Common Market Disruption Events” is Not Applicable, the following provisions shall apply:

- if a scheduled Observation Date is not an Exchange Business Day with respect to any of the Underlyer Indices and no market disruption event occurs or is continuing, the Observation Date will be postponed to the next day that is an Exchange Business Day for all Underlyer Indices; or
- if a scheduled observation date is an Exchange Business Day for all Underlyer Indices but a Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing for any of the Underlyer Indices, the Observation Date will be postponed for the affected Underlyer Index only as described above under “Adjustments — Market Disruption Events — Single Index”.

*Multiple Underlyer Indices and Observation Dates — Common Exchange Business Day and Common Market Disruption Event*

Where the notes are linked to two or more indices (such indices being “**Underlyer Indices**” and each an “**Underlyer Index**”) (e.g., an Asian Absolute Performance note or a Digital note) and the final terms specify that “Common Market Disruption Events” is Applicable, the following provisions shall apply:

- if a scheduled Observation Date is not an exchange Business Day with respect to any of the Underlyer Indices and no Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing, the Observation Date will be postponed to the next day that is an Exchange Business Day for all Underlyer Indices;
- if a scheduled Observation Date is an Exchange Business Day for all Underlyer Indices but a Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing for any of the Underlyer Indices, the observation Date will be postponed for all Underlyer Indices as described above under “Adjustments — Market Disruption Events — Single Index”; provided that if the Observation Date is postponed to the last possible date, for each Underlyer Index other than an affected Index as of such date, the relevant Reference Index Level shall be determined by reference to the Reference Price published by the Underlyer Sponsor on such last possible date.

*Averaging Observation Dates — Postponement*

In respect of each Average Date and Initial Average Date (an “**Averaging Observation Date**”), if the Final Terms specify that “Averaging Postponement” is “Postponement”, the following provisions shall apply:

- if a scheduled Averaging Observation Date is an exchange Business Day with respect to one or more of the Underlyer Indices and no Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing in respect of such Underlyer Indices, the Observation Date will be such scheduled Averaging Observation Date for all such Underlyer Indices;
- if a scheduled Averaging Observation Date is not an exchange Business Day with respect to any of the Underlyer Indices and no Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing, the Observation Date will be postponed to the next day that is an Exchange Business Day for the affected Underlyer Indices only;
- where the final terms specify that
  - “Common Market Disruption Events” is Not Applicable, if a scheduled Observation Date is an Exchange Business Day for all Underlyer Indices but a Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing for any of the Underlyer Indices, the Observation Date will be postponed for the affected Underlyer Index only as described above under “Adjustments — Market Disruption Events — Single Index”;
  - “Common Market Disruption Events” is Applicable if a scheduled Observation Date is an Exchange Business Day for all Underlyer Indices but a Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing for any of the Underlyer Indices, the observation Date will be postponed for all Underlyer Indices as described above under “Adjustments — Market Disruption Events — Single Index”; provided that if the Observation Date is postponed to the last possible date, for each Underlyer Index other than an affected Index as of such date, the relevant Reference Index Level shall be determined by reference to the Reference Price published by the Underlyer Sponsor on such last possible date.



For the avoidance of doubt, an Averaging Observation Date determined in accordance with this section in respect of a scheduled Averaging Observation Date may fall on the same day that another Averaging Observation Date in respect of a different scheduled Observation Reference Date falls, whether or not such latter Averaging Observation Date was also determined in accordance with this provision.

#### *Averaging Observation Dates — Modified Postponement*

In respect of each Average Date and Initial Average Date (an “**Averaging Observation Date**”), if the Final Terms specify that “Averaging Postponement” is “Modified Postponement”, each Averaging Observation Date will be postponed as described under “—*Averaging Observation Dates — Postponement*” above, provided however, that if an Averaging Observation Date would otherwise be postponed to a day on which another Averaging Reference Date is or is deemed to have occurred, then such Averaging Observation Date will be further postponed to the next following day that is both an Exchange Business Day with respect to the relevant Index and a day on which no Market Disruption Event occurs or is continuing with respect to the relevant Index and on which another Averaging Reference Date does not or is not deemed to occur, *provided however* that in no event will any Observation Date with respect to a stock Index be postponed by more than the Maximum Days of Postponement (as specified in the Final Terms) after the scheduled date for that Observation Date.

#### *Discontinuance of Publication of a Stock Index*

If the Underlyer Sponsor of an Index discontinues publication of such Index and the Underlyer Sponsor or anyone else publishes a substitute Index that the Calculation Agent determines is comparable to such Index, then the Calculation Agent will determine the amount payable by reference to that substitute Index. We refer to any substitute index approved by the calculation agent as a successor index.

If the Calculation Agent determines that the publication of an Index has been discontinued and there is no successor index, or that the level of an Index is not available on any Observation Date because of a Market Disruption Event or for any other reason, or if for any other reason an Index is not available to us or the Calculation Agent on any relevant date, including our inability to use an Index for the purposes of performing the calculations required in connection with the note because such Index is not licensed for such purpose, the Calculation Agent will determine the amount payable using, in lieu of a published level for that Index, the level for that Index as at that Observation Date as determined by the Calculation Agent in accordance with the formula for and method of calculating that Index last in effect prior to the change, failure or cancellation, but using only those securities that comprised that Index immediately prior to that event.

If the calculation agent determines that an index, the components comprising an Index or the method of calculating an Index is changed at any time in any respect — including, but not limited to, by adding, deleting, substituting, reweighing or rebalancing any of the index components, and whether the change is made by the Underlyer Sponsor under its existing policies or following a modification of those policies, is due to the publication of a successor index, is due to events affecting one or more of the index components or their issuers or is due to any other reason — then the Calculation Agent will determine the amount payable using, in lieu of a published level for that Index, the level for that Index as at that Observation Date as determined by the calculation agent in accordance with the formula for and method of calculating that Index last in effect prior to the change, failure or cancellation, but using only those securities that comprised that Index immediately prior to that event.

## **Currencies and Foreign Currency Exchange Rates**

### ***Publication Fixing Day***

An Exchange Business Day with respect to a foreign exchange rate is a day on which either (1) an entity responsible for setting the official exchange rate, a spot exchange rate or other specified exchange rate publishes such rate or (2) transactions in the official exchange rate, spot exchange rate or other specified exchange rate are occurring in the global foreign exchange spot markets and foreign exchange

markets are settling payments in the specified principal financial centers of the relevant currencies, and, in each case, a Market Disruption Event with respect to a foreign currency exchange rate has not occurred or is not continuing.

### ***Market Disruption Events***

A Market Disruption Event with respect to a foreign currency exchange rate will be deemed to have occurred if an event has occurred or is continuing which makes it impossible for the Calculation Agent to obtain such relevant official exchange rate, spot exchange rate or other specified exchange rate.

### ***Adjustments***

#### *Non- Publication Fixing Days*

If any Observation Date with respect to a foreign currency exchange rate falls on a day that is not an Publication Fixing Day, the relevant Observation Date with respect to such rate will be postponed to the next following Publication Fixing Day. However, in no event will any Observation Date with respect to a Foreign Exchange Rate be postponed by more than the Maximum Days of Postponement (as specified in the Final Terms) after the scheduled date for that Observation Date. If an Observation Date immediately preceding the stated Maturity Date or any Payment Date for the relevant note is postponed, the stated Maturity Date or Payment Date will be postponed by the same number of Business Day(s) from and excluding the originally scheduled Observation Date to and including the actual Observation Date, subject to a maximum of the Maximum Days of Postponement (as specified in the Final Terms); provided, however, that if the rescheduled Observation Date is more than five Business Days prior to the stated Maturity Date or Payment Date, then such stated Maturity Date or Payment Date shall not be postponed in the event that an Observation Date has been postponed to the last date possible and such postponed date is not an Publication Fixing Day, the Calculation Agent shall determine the relevant official exchange rate, spot exchange rate or other specified exchange rate in a commercially reasonable manner in its sole discretion.

### **Hedging in Connection with Issuance of Indexed Notes**

In anticipation of the sale of indexed notes, we and/or our affiliates may enter into hedging transactions involving purchases of instruments linked to the relevant underlying(s) on the trade date. In addition, from time to time after we issue the offered notes, we and/or our affiliates may enter into additional hedging transactions and unwind those hedging transactions we have entered into, in connection with such notes and perhaps in connection with other notes we issue, some of which may have returns linked to the relevant underlying(s) or, if the underlying is an index, all or a portion of the index components. Consequently, with regard to indexed notes, from time to time, we and/or our affiliates:

- expect to acquire and dispose of positions in listed or over-the-counter options, futures, swaps or other instruments linked to the relevant underlying(s) or, if the underlying is an index, all or a portion of the index components,
- if the underlying is an index, may take or dispose of positions in the securities of the issuers of securities included in such indices,
- if the underlying is an index, may take or dispose of positions in listed or over-the-counter options or other instruments based on indices designed to track the performance of relevant equity markets or components of such markets, and/or
- may take short positions in any of the underlyers.

We and/or our affiliates may acquire long or short positions in securities similar to the offered notes from time to time and may, in our or their sole discretion, hold or resell those securities.

In the future, we and/or our affiliates would expect to close out any hedge positions relating to your note and perhaps hedge positions relating to the underlying(s) and, if the underlying is an index, other notes

with returns linked to the index components. Those steps are likely to involve sales and/or purchases of listed or over-the-counter options, futures or other instruments linked to the underlying(s) or, if the underlying is an index, perhaps to some or all of the index components. If the underlying is an index, they may also involve sales and/or purchases of some or all of the index components as well as listed or over-the-counter options, futures or other instruments linked to the index.

*The hedging activity discussed above may adversely affect the market price of your note from time to time and the supplemental payment amount, if any, we will pay on your note. See “Risk Factors — Considerations Relating to Indexed Notes — Trading and Other Transactions by Us in Instruments Linked to an Underlyer or the Components of an Underlyer May Impair the Market Price of an Indexed Note” and “Risk Factors — Considerations Relating to Indexed Notes — Our Business Activities May Create Conflicts of Interest Between You and Us” for a discussion of these adverse effects.*

### **Change in Interest Rate Note Provisions**

If “Change in Interest Rate Note Provisions” is specified in your final terms as being applicable, then this paragraph shall apply. Your final terms will include a table in the row entitled “Change in Interest Rate Note Provisions” which sets for the method by which the interest payable on your notes is determined for each interest period. Different methods of determining the interest payable on your notes, which may include fixed rate, floating rate and indexed note provisions, will apply to different interest periods.

### **Redemption and Repayment**

#### **Redemption at Maturity**

Unless previously redeemed, or purchased and cancelled as specified below, the notes will be redeemed by the Issuer by payment of the Amount Payable At Maturity (Final Redemption Amount) on the Maturity Date. In determining the Amount Payable At Maturity on your note, if your final terms specify the “Calculation Basis” to be “Per Denomination”, then the amount payable at maturity will be calculated on a per denomination basis and if your final terms specify the “Calculation Basis” to be “Notional”, then amount payable at maturity will be calculated on the basis of the outstanding face amount of your notes.

#### **Notes other than Indexed (Participation) Notes**

If the Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount) row indicates “Indexed (Participation) Notes” is Not Applicable, then your final terms will specify a fixed percentage which will be 100% if the notes are redeemable at par, or may be some other fixed multiple of the face amount of your notes (greater than 100%) that will be payable on the maturity date.

#### **Indexed (Participation) Notes**

If (i) the Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount) row indicates “Indexed (Participation) Notes” is applicable and (ii) either (a) “Maturity Lock-In” is indicated as not applicable or (b) “Maturity Lock-In” is indicated as applicable, but the Lock-In Condition (as defined under “Indexed Notes—Interest Rate Formulae—Digital” above) has not been satisfied, then the Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount) payable in respect of the notes shall be the Participation Amount, determined in accordance with the provisions below.

If your final terms indicate “Capped Participation” is applicable and “FX Participation” is not applicable the Participation Amount shall be an amount in the Specified Currency calculated in accordance with the formula below:

$$N \times \{ \text{Max} [ \text{Floor}; \text{Min} [ \text{Cap}; 100 + (P \times \text{Performance}) ] ] \}$$

If your final terms indicate “Capped Participation” and “FX Participation” are not applicable the Participation Amount shall be an amount in the Specified Currency calculated in accordance with the formula below:

$$N \times \{ \text{Max} [\text{Floor}; 100 + (P \times \text{Performance})] \}$$

If your final terms indicate “Capped Participation” and “FX Participation” are applicable the Participation Amount shall be an amount in the Specified Currency calculated in accordance with the formula below:

$$N \times \{ \text{Max} [\text{Floor}; \text{Min} [\text{Cap}; 100 + (P \times \text{Performance} \times \text{FXR})]] \}$$

If your final terms indicate “Capped Participation” is not applicable and “FX Participation” is applicable the Participation Amount shall be an amount in the Specified Currency calculated in accordance with the formula below:

$$N \times \{ \text{Max} [\text{Floor}; 100 + (P \times \text{Performance} \times \text{FXR})] \}$$

If your final terms indicate “Maturity Lock-In” is applicable, and the Lock-In Condition has been satisfied, then the Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount) payable in respect of the notes shall be the greater of the Participation Amount and the Lock-In Amount.

Defined terms used above:

**Base Currency** means the currency specified as such in the relevant Final Terms

**Cap:** means (i) an amount as specified in the relevant Final Terms or (ii) an amount determined by reference to market conditions by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion on or after the Trade Date and, if specified in the relevant Final Terms, is expected to be such amount as specified in the relevant Final Terms but shall not be more than any maximum amount and/or less than any minimum amount, in each case, as may be specified in the relevant Final Terms.

**Fixing Price Sponsor** means the entity specified as such in the relevant Final Terms, or its successor or replacement, as determined by the Calculation Agent, that is responsible for setting the FX (Initial) and FX (Final), and in each case, if not specified, the corporation or other entity that, as determined by the Calculation Agent, is responsible for setting the relevant rate

**Floor:** means (i) an amount or amounts as specified in the relevant Final Terms, or (ii) an amount or amounts determined by reference to market conditions by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion on or after the Trade Date and, if specified in the relevant Final Terms, is expected to be such amount as specified in the relevant Final Terms but shall not be more than any maximum amount and/or less than any minimum amount, in each case, as may be specified in the relevant Final Terms, in each case of (i) and (ii), which amounts may be contingent on the Reference Price (Final). In no circumstance will the Floor be less than 90%.

**FXR** means

- if the Final Terms specify “Non-Inverse Return”, an amount calculated by the Calculation Agent equal to:

$$\text{Max}\{ \text{FXR Floor}; \text{Min}\left[ \text{FXR Cap}; \frac{\text{FX(Final)}}{\text{FX(Initial)}} \right] \}$$

- if the Final Terms specify “Inverse Return”, an amount calculated by the Calculation Agent equal to:

$$\text{Max}\{\text{FXR Floor}; \text{Min}[\text{FXR Cap}; (\frac{\text{FX (Initial)}}{\text{FX (Final)}})]\}$$

**FXR Cap:** means (i) an amount as specified in the relevant Final Terms or (ii) an amount determined by reference to market conditions by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion on or after the Trade Date and, if specified in the relevant Final Terms, is expected to be such amount as specified in the relevant Final Terms but shall not be more than any maximum amount and/or less than any minimum amount, in each case, as may be specified in the relevant Final Terms.

**FXR Floor:** means (i) an amount or amounts as specified in the relevant Final Terms, or (ii) an amount determined by reference to market conditions by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion on or after the Trade Date and, if specified in the relevant Final Terms, is expected to be such amount as specified in the relevant Final Terms but shall not be more than any maximum amount and/or less than any minimum amount, in each case, as may be specified in the relevant Final Terms. In no circumstance will the FXR Floor be less than 90%.

**FX Price Source** means the display page(s) or price source(s) specified as such in the relevant Final Terms, or if the relevant rate is not published or announced by such FX Price Source at the relevant time, the successor or alternative price source, display page or publication for the relevant rate as determined by the Calculation Agent acting in its sole discretion

**FX Rate** means the Specified Rate of the Base Currency/Reference Currency exchange rate, expressed as an amount of the Reference Currency per unit of the Base Currency

**FX Valuation Date (Final):** means

- if “Averaging” is specified in the relevant final terms as Applicable, the Last Averaging Date, after all adjustments to such date are made in accordance with the definition of “Averaging Dates”, provided that such date will be further adjusted as described under “—Currencies and Foreign Currency Exchange Rates — Adjustments”.
- if “Averaging” is specified in the relevant final terms as Not Applicable, the Valuation Date, after all adjustments to such date are made in accordance with the definition of “Valuation Date”, provided that such date will be further adjusted as described under “—Currencies and Foreign Currency Exchange Rates — Adjustments”.

**FX Valuation Date (Initial):** means

- if “Averaging” is specified in the relevant final terms as Applicable, the Last Initial Averaging Date, after all adjustments to such date are made in accordance with the definition of “Averaging Dates”, provided that such date will be further adjusted as described under “—Currencies and Foreign Currency Exchange Rates — Adjustments”.
- if “Averaging” is specified in the relevant final terms as Not Applicable, the Initial Valuation Date, after all adjustments to such date are made in accordance with the definition of “Valuation Date”, provided that such date will be further adjusted as described under “—Currencies and Foreign Currency Exchange Rates — Adjustments”.

**FX (Final):** means the FX Rate, as reported or published by the Fixing Price Sponsor at or around the Valuation Time on the FX Valuation Date (Final), as published on the FX Price Source for such day, determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole discretion.

**FX (Initial):** means

- if the relevant final terms specifies an amount (expressed as an amount of the Reference Currency per unit of the Base Currency), such amount

- if the relevant final terms specifies “the Specified Rate”, the Specified Rate of the Base Currency/Reference Currency exchange rate, expressed as an amount of the Reference Currency per unit of the Base Currency, as reported or published by the Fixing Price Sponsor at or around the Valuation Time on the FX Valuation Date (Initial), as published on the FX Price Source for such day, determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole discretion.

**Last Averaging Date** means the Averaging Date corresponding to the Maturity Date for the Index scheduled to fall on the date specified as the “Last Averaging Date” in your Final Terms.

**Last Initial Averaging Date** means the Initial Averaging Date for the Index scheduled to fall on the date specified as the “Last Initial Averaging Date” in your Final Terms.

**Lock-In Amount:** A fixed percentage, specified in the relevant Final Terms, which will be 100% if the notes are redeemable at par, or may be some other fixed multiple of the face amount of your notes (greater than 100%) that will be payable on the maturity date.

“**Max**” followed by a series of amounts inside brackets, means whichever is the greater of the amounts separated by a semi-colon inside those brackets. For example, “*Max(x;y)*” means the greater of component x and component y.

“**Min**” followed by a series of amounts inside brackets, means whichever is the lesser of the amounts separated by a semi-colon inside those brackets. For example, “*Min(x;y)*” means the lesser of component x and component y.

**N or Nominal Amount:** means an amount specified as such in the relevant Final Terms.

**P or Participation:** means (i) an amount or amounts as specified in the relevant Final Terms, or (ii) an amount or amounts determined by reference to market conditions by the Calculation Agent in its sole and absolute discretion on or after the Trade Date and, if specified in the relevant Final Terms, is expected to be such amount as specified in the relevant Final Terms but shall not be more than any maximum amount and/or less than any minimum amount, in each case, as may be specified in the relevant Final Terms, in each case of (i) and (ii), which amounts may be contingent on the Reference Price (Final).

**Performance:** means an amount equal to the Index Performance *minus* the Strike.

**Reference Currency** means the currency specified as such in the relevant Final Terms

**Specified Rate:** means the official fixing rate, official mid closing rate, spot rate, mid rate, fixing rate, as specified in the relevant Final Terms

**Strike:** means an amount specified as such in the relevant Final Terms.

**Valuation Time** means each time in the place specified as such in the relevant Final Terms (or such other time when the relevant rate of the FX Rate is published, as determined by the Calculation Agent)

### **Redemption at the Option of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.**

We will not be entitled to redeem your note before its stated maturity date unless your final terms specify “Additional Redemption Rights at the Option of the Issuer” to be applicable, except in the event of certain developments involving a change in law (including a change in tax law) or in connection with the imposition of United States withholding taxes for which we have agreed to pay Additional Amounts, as described in this subsection under “— Redemption Upon Change in Law,” and “— Redemption Upon Payment of Additional Amounts” below. If your final terms specify “Additional Redemption Rights at the Option of the Issuer” to be applicable, they will also specify one or more “Issuer’s Redemption Date(s)”, and one or more “Issuer’s Redemption Price(s)”, which will be expressed as a percentage of the face amount of your note. The following paragraphs of this subsection apply only if your final terms specify “Additional Redemption Rights at the Option of the Issuer” to be applicable.

Your note will be redeemable at our option, in whole or in part, on Issuer's Redemption Date(s). If we redeem your note, we will do so at the Issuer's Redemption Price(s) of the face amount of your note, together with any interest accrued but unpaid to the applicable Issuer's Redemption Date. If different prices are specified for different Issuer's Redemption Dates, the price we pay will be the price that applies to the Issuer's Redemption Date on which your note is redeemed.

If we exercise an option to redeem any note, we will give to the holder written notice of the principal amount of the note to be redeemed, no fewer than the number of days or Business Days specified in your final terms as the "Issuer's Redemption Notice" before the applicable Issuer's Redemption Date. We will give the notice in the manner described under "— Notices" below. In addition, we will notify the Luxembourg Stock Exchange of any redemption.

We or our affiliates may purchase notes from investors who are willing to sell from time to time, either in the open market at prevailing prices or in private transactions at negotiated prices. Notes that we or they purchase may, at our discretion, be held, resold or cancelled.

### **Repayment at the Holder's Option**

You will not be entitled to require us to buy your note from you before its stated maturity, unless your final terms specify "Repayment at the Holder's Option" to be applicable. If your final terms specify "Repayment at the Holder's Option" to be applicable, they will also specify one or more "Holder's Redemption Date(s)", and one or more "Holder's Redemption Price(s)", which will be expressed as a percentage of the face amount of your note. The following paragraphs of this subsection apply only if your final terms specify "Repayment at the Holder's Option" to be applicable.

Your note will be repayable at the holder's option on the specified holder's redemption date at the specified holder's redemption price, together with interest accrued but unpaid (unless such date is an interest payment date) to the holder's redemption date.

If a holder of a note wishes to exercise its option to redeem any note, the holder will need to deliver notice to a paying agent of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., at least 30 days but not more than 45 days before the repayment date. Exercise of the repayment option by the holder of a note will be irrevocable. The holder of a note may not exercise the repayment option for less than the entire principal amount of its note.

If a note represented by a global note is subject to repayment at the holder's option, the depositary or its nominee, as the holder, will be the only person that can exercise the right of repayment. Any indirect owners who own beneficial interests in the global note and wish to exercise a repayment right must give proper and timely instructions to their banks or brokers through which they hold their interests, requesting that they notify the depositary to exercise the repayment right on their behalf. Different firms have different deadlines for accepting instructions from their customers, and you should take care to act promptly enough to ensure that your request is given effect by the depositary before the applicable deadline for exercise.

*Street name and other indirect owners should contact their banks or brokers for information about how to exercise a repayment right in a timely manner.*

### **Redemption Upon Change in Law**

The following paragraphs of this subsection apply only if your final terms specify "Redemption Upon Change in Law" to be applicable.

We may redeem, as a whole but not in part, any outstanding issuance of notes, if, at any time on or after the settlement date, a change in law has occurred with respect to such issuance, as described under "Description of the Program — Features Common to All Notes — Change in Law".

If we exercise the option to redeem, we will give to the holders of notes, not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice before the specified redemption date (unless otherwise required by law). In addition, we will notify the Luxembourg Stock Exchange of any redemption. The redemption price will be either (i) 100% of the principal of the notes (except original issue discount notes), together with accrued but unpaid interest to the redemption date or (ii) in the case of and indexed notes, the non-scheduled repayment amount, taking into account change in law. Original issue discount notes, however, will be redeemed at 100% of the accreted value (as defined above under “— Interest Rates — Fixed Rate Notes”), together with accrued but unpaid interest (if applicable), as of the redemption date. In the event of a change in law due to illegality, we will pay the non-scheduled repayment amount only to the extent permitted by applicable law.

The non-scheduled repayment amount for an indexed note redeemed upon a change in law or, if applicable, upon payment of additional amounts, as set forth below, will equal on any day, an amount, in the specified currency of the note based on the quotes of three qualified financial institutions, as the suitable market price of the note, taking into account its remaining present value, immediately before the redemption. In the event that quotes are not able to be obtained from three qualified financial institutions, the amount shall be determined in good faith by the calculation agent as the fair market value of the note, taking into account the remaining present value, immediately before the redemption.

With respect to notes listed on the Borsa Italiana S.p.A.'s MOT (Electronic bond market), the non-scheduled repayment amount will be in no case lower than 100% of the principal of the notes.

We must deliver to the fiscal agent a certificate affirming that we are entitled to exercise the right of redemption and setting forth in reasonable detail a statement of facts showing that the conditions precedent to the right to redeem the notes have occurred.

#### **Redemption Upon Payment of Additional Amounts**

The following redemption provisions will apply to the notes if the relevant final terms specify “Gross-up and Call in the Case of Tax Law Changes” to be applicable.

We may redeem, as a whole but not in part, any outstanding notes, if, at any time, as a result of certain changes in the laws or regulations of any U.S. taxing authority, at any time on or after the settlement date or such date as specified in your final terms, we are obligated to pay, on the next succeeding interest payment date or maturity date, additional amounts, as described under “— Payment of Additional Amounts” below, and that obligation cannot be avoided by the use of reasonable measures available to us. If we exercise the option to redeem, we will give to the holders of notes, not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice before the specified redemption date. In addition, we will notify the Luxembourg Stock Exchange of any redemption. The redemption price will be either (i) 100% of the principal of the notes (except original issue discount notes), together with accrued but unpaid interest to the redemption date or (ii) in the case of indexed notes the non-scheduled repayment amount. Original issue discount notes, however, will be redeemed at 100% of the accreted value (as defined above under “— Interest Rates — Fixed Rate Notes”), together with accrued but unpaid interest (if applicable), to the redemption date as of the redemption date.

The obligation to pay additional amounts must remain in effect at the time we give notice of redemption, and that notice of redemption must be given no earlier than 90 days before the date on which we would be obligated to pay additional amounts, if a payment in respect of the notes were then due. In addition, we must deliver to the fiscal agent a certificate affirming that we are entitled to exercise the right of redemption and setting forth in reasonable detail a statement of facts showing that the conditions precedent to the right to redeem the notes have occurred.

#### **Payment of Additional Amounts**

Unless required by law, we intend to make all payments on the notes without deducting U.S. withholding taxes. If we are required by law to withhold payments to non-U.S. investors, however, we will not pay additional amounts on those payments unless the applicable final terms explicitly states that the



gross-up of any payments due on the notes is applicable, and we will pay additional amounts on payments that are required to be withheld only to the extent described in this subsection. The following discussion in this subsection applies only if the relevant final terms specify “Gross-up and Call in the Case of Tax Law Changes” to be applicable:

We will pay additional amounts on a note only if the beneficial owner of the notes is a United States alien. The term “United States alien” means any person who, for U.S. federal income tax purposes is:

- a nonresident alien individual;
- a foreign corporation;
- a foreign partnership one or more of the members of which, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, is a foreign corporation, a nonresident alien individual or a nonresident alien fiduciary of a foreign estate or trust; or
- a nonresident alien fiduciary of an estate or trust that is not subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain from a note.

If the beneficial owner of a note is a United States alien, we will pay all additional amounts that may be necessary so that every net payment of interest, premium, if any, or principal on that note will not be less than the amount provided for in that note. By net payment, we mean the amount we or our paying agent pays after deducting or withholding an amount for or on account of any present or future tax, assessment or other governmental charge imposed with respect to that payment by a U.S. taxing authority.

Our obligation to pay additional amounts is subject to several important exceptions, however. We will **not** pay additional amounts for or on account of any of the following:

- any tax, assessment or other governmental charge imposed solely because of any time there is or was a connection between the beneficial owner — or between a fiduciary, settler, beneficiary or member of the beneficial owner, if the beneficial owner is an estate, trust or partnership — and the United States (other than the mere receipt of a payment or the ownership or holding of a note), including because the beneficial owner — or the fiduciary, settler, beneficiary or member — at any time, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:
  - is or was a citizen or resident or is or was treated as a resident of the United States;
  - is or was present in the United States;
  - is or was engaged in a trade or business in the United States;
  - has or had a permanent establishment in the United States;
  - is or was a passive foreign investment company or a controlled foreign corporation;
  - is or was a corporation that accumulates earnings to avoid U.S. federal income tax; or
  - is or was a “ten percent shareholder” of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.;
- any estate, inheritance, gift, sales, excise, transfer, wealth or personal property or any similar tax, assessment or other governmental charge;
- any tax, assessment or other governmental charge imposed solely because the holder or any other person fails to comply with any certification, identification or other reporting requirement concerning the nationality, residence, identity or connection with the United States of the holder or beneficial owner of such note, if compliance is required by statute or by regulation of the U.S. Treasury Department or by an applicable income tax treaty to which the United States is a party, as a precondition to exemption from such tax, assessment or other governmental charge;

- any tax, assessment or other governmental charge which is payable otherwise than by deduction or withholding from payments of principal of, premium, if any, or interest on such notes;
- any tax, assessment or other governmental charge imposed solely because the payment is to be made by a particular paying agent (including The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.) and would not be imposed if made by another paying agent;
- any tax, assessment or other governmental charge imposed solely because the holder (1) is a bank purchasing the note in the ordinary course of its lending business or (2) is a bank that is neither (A) buying the note for investment purposes only nor (B) buying the note for resale to a third party that either is not a bank or holding the note for investment purposes only;
- any tax, assessment or other governmental charge imposed under Section 871(m) of the Code, and any current or future regulations or official interpretations thereof; or
- any combination of the taxes, assessments or other governmental charges described above.

In addition, any amounts to be paid on the notes will be paid net of any deduction or withholding imposed or required pursuant to Sections 1471 through 1474 of the Code, any current or future regulations or official interpretations thereof, any agreement entered into pursuant to Section 1471(b) of the Code, or any fiscal or regulatory legislation, rules or practices adopted pursuant to any intergovernmental agreement entered into in connection with the implementation of such Sections of the Code, and no additional amounts will be required to be paid on account of any such deduction or withholding.

In addition, we will not pay additional amounts with respect to any payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest to any United States alien who is a fiduciary or a partnership, or who is not the sole beneficial owner of the payment, to the extent that we would not have to pay additional amounts to any beneficiary or settlor of the fiduciary or any member of the partnership, or to any beneficial owner of the payment, if that person or entity were treated as the beneficial owner of the note for this purposes.

When we refer to a “U.S. taxing authority” in this subsection and “— Redemption and Repayment — Redemption Upon Payment of Additional Amounts” above, we mean the United States of America or any state, other jurisdiction or taxing authority in the United States. When we refer to the “United States”, we mean the United States of America, including the states and the District of Columbia, together with the territories, possessions and all those areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States of America.

When we refer to any payment of interest or principal on a note, this includes any additional amount that may be payable as described above in respect of that payment.

### **Mergers and Similar Transactions**

We are generally permitted to merge or consolidate with another corporation or other entity. We are also permitted to sell our assets substantially as an entirety to another corporation or other entity. With regard to your note, however, we may not take any of these actions unless all of the following conditions are met:

- if the successor entity in the transaction is not The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., the successor entity must be organized as a corporation, partnership or trust and must expressly assume our obligations under the notes and the applicable fiscal agency agreement with respect to that series. The successor entity may be organized under the laws of any jurisdiction, whether in the United States or elsewhere;
- immediately after the transaction, no default under the notes of that issuance has occurred and is continuing. For this purpose, “default under the notes of that issuance” means an event of default with respect to that issuance or any event that would be an event of default with respect to that issuance if the requirements for giving us default notice and for our default having to continue for a specific period of time were disregarded; and
- certain other conditions of the applicable fiscal agency agreement are met.

If the conditions described above are satisfied, we will not need to obtain the approval of the holders of the notes in order to merge or consolidate or to sell our assets. Also, these conditions will apply only if we wish to merge or consolidate with another entity or sell our assets substantially as an entirety to another entity. We will not need to satisfy these conditions if we enter into other types of transactions, including any transaction in which we acquire the stock or assets of another entity, any transaction that involves a change of control of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. but in which we do not merge or consolidate and any transaction in which we sell less than substantially all our assets. For the avoidance of doubt, a violation of these conditions, when applicable, will not constitute an Event of Default.

Also, if we merge, consolidate or sell our assets substantially as an entirety and the successor is a non-U.S. entity, neither we nor any successor would have any obligation to compensate you for any resulting adverse tax consequences to the notes.

## **Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance**

### **Full Defeasance**

Unless we say otherwise in your final terms, the provisions for full defeasance will apply to any fixed rate note, the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on which is payable in U.S. dollars, so long as the note does not include the provisions discussed under “— Payment of Additional Amounts” above.

If there is a change in applicable U.S. federal tax law, as described below, we can legally release ourselves from all payment and other obligations on any notes. This is called full defeasance. For us to do so, each of the following must occur:

- we must deposit in trust for the benefit of all holders of those notes a combination of money and/or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on those notes on their various due dates or, if we choose, on redemption;
- such deposit must be held in a non-interest bearing segregated trust account designated as a special deposit account pursuant to a written agreement, to be governed by the laws of the State of New York, between us and the defeasance trustee whereby title of such account is in the name of the defeasance trustee solely in its capacity as defeasance trustee and not in its capacity as a deposit bank;
- there must be a change in current U.S. federal tax law or an Internal Revenue Service ruling that lets us make the above deposit without causing the holders to be taxed on those notes any differently than if we do not make the deposit and just repaid those notes ourselves. Under current U.S. federal tax law, the deposit and our legal release from your note would be treated as though we took back your note and gave you your share of the cash and notes or bonds deposited in trust. In that event, you could recognize gain or loss on your note; and
- we must deliver to the fiscal agent and the defeasance trustee a legal opinion of our counsel confirming the tax law change described above.

Any right we have to redeem any notes will survive full defeasance with respect to those notes.

If we ever fully defeased your note, you would have to rely solely on the trust deposit for payments of your note. You would not be able to look to us for payment in the event of any shortfall.

### **Covenant Defeasance**

The provisions for covenant defeasance will apply to any fixed rate note, the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on which is payable in U.S. dollars.

Under current U.S. federal tax law, we can make the same type of deposit described in this subsection under “— Full Defeasance” above and be released from our obligations described under

under “— Mergers and Similar Transactions” above and any other covenants relating to your note that may be described in your final terms. This is called covenant defeasance. In that event, you would lose the protection of those restrictive covenants. In order to achieve covenant defeasance for any notes, we must do both of the following:

- we must deposit in trust for the benefit of the holders of those notes a combination of money and/or U.S. government or U.S. government agency notes or bonds that will generate enough cash to make interest, principal and any other payments on those notes on their various due dates or, if we choose, on redemption;
- such deposit must be held in a non-interest bearing segregated trust account designated as a special deposit account pursuant to a written agreement, to be governed by the laws of the State of New York, between us and the defeasance trustee whereby title of such account is in the name of the defeasance trustee solely in its capacity as defeasance trustee and not in its capacity as a deposit bank; and
- we must deliver to the fiscal agent and the defeasance trustee a legal opinion of our counsel confirming that under current U.S. federal income tax law we may make the above deposit without causing the holders to be taxed on those notes any differently than if we do not make the deposit and just repaid those notes ourselves.

Any right we have to redeem the notes will survive covenant defeasance with respect to those notes.

If we accomplish covenant defeasance on your note, you can still look to us for repayment of your note in the event of any shortfall in the trust deposit. You should note, however, that if one of the remaining events of default occurred, such as our bankruptcy, and your note became immediately due and payable, there may be a shortfall. Depending on the event causing the default, you may not be able to obtain payment of the shortfall.

## **Events of Default and Remedies**

### **Events of Default**

When we refer to an event of default with respect to any issuance of the notes, we mean any of the following:

- we do not pay the principal or any premium on any of such notes on the due date;
- we do not pay interest on any of such notes within 30 days after the due date; or
- we file for bankruptcy or other events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization relating to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. occur. Those events must arise under U.S. federal or state law, unless we merge, consolidate or sell our assets as described under “— Mergers and Similar Transactions” above and the successor firm is a non-U.S. entity. If that happens, then those events must arise under U.S. federal or state law or the law of the jurisdiction in which the successor firm is legally organized.

### **Remedies**

If an event of default occurs and is continuing (the default not having been cured or waived as provided under “—Meetings, Modification and Waiver of Covenants” below), the holder of an affected note may, at its option, by written notice to us and the fiscal agent, declare the principal amount of its note to be immediately due and payable. If the event of default occurs because of events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization relating to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., the principal amount of the notes of that series will be automatically accelerated, without any action by the fiscal agent or any holder.

For the purpose of determining whether the holders of each of our notes are entitled to take any action under the applicable fiscal agency agreement, we will treat the outstanding face amount of each such note as the outstanding principal amount of that note. Although the terms of each note may differ

from those of the other notes of the same series, holders of specified percentages in principal amount of all notes of each such series will be able to take action affecting all notes of such series. This action may involve changing some of the terms that apply to the notes of the relevant series, accelerating the stated maturity date of the notes of the relevant series after a default or waiving some of our obligations under the applicable fiscal agency agreement. These matters are discussed below under “— Events of Default and Remedies” and “— Meetings, Modification and Waiver of Covenants”.

### **Amount Payable on Default**

In respect of any Fixed Rate Note, Floating Rate Note, Fixed/Floating Note, and any Indexed Note for which the “Amount on Default” is specified as “Par Plus Accrued But Unpaid” in the applicable final terms, if an event of default occurs and the maturity of a note is accelerated, we will pay 100% of the face amount of the notes plus accrued but unpaid interest as of the date of acceleration, if any.

In respect of any Zero Coupon Note or any original issue Discount Note and any Note for which the “Amount on Default” is specified as “Accreted Value”, the amount payable on default will be 100% of the accreted value (as defined above under “— Interest Rates — Fixed Rate Notes”) as of the date of acceleration.

In respect of any Indexed Note for which the “Amount on Default” is specified as “Dealer Poll” in the applicable final terms (or nothing is so specified), if an event of default occurs and the maturity of an Indexed Note is accelerated, we will pay the Default Amount on that note. We describe the Default Amount below.

### ***Default Amount***

The Default Amount for an Indexed Note on any day will be an amount, in the Specified Currency of that note, equal to the cost of having a Qualified Financial Institution, of the kind and selected as described below, expressly assume all our payment and other obligations with respect to that note as of that day and as if no default or acceleration had occurred, or to undertake other obligations providing substantially equivalent economic value to you with respect to that note. That cost will equal:

- the lowest amount that a qualified financial institution would charge to effect this assumption or undertaking, *plus*
- the reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorneys’ fees, incurred by the holder of that note in preparing any documentation necessary for this assumption or undertaking.

During the Default Quotation Period for an Indexed Note, which we describe below, the holder and/or we may request a Qualified Financial Institution to provide a quotation of the amount it would charge to effect this assumption or undertaking. If either party obtains a quotation, it must notify the other party in writing of the quotation. The amount referred to in the first bullet point above will equal the lowest — or, if there is only one, the only — quotation obtained, and as to which notice is so given, during the default quotation period. With respect to any quotation, however, the party not obtaining the quotation may object, on reasonable and significant grounds, to the assumption or undertaking by the Qualified Financial Institution providing the quotation and notify the other party in writing of those grounds within two Business Days after the last day of the Default Quotation Period, in which case that quotation will be disregarded in determining the default amount.

### ***Default Quotation Period***

The Default Quotation Period for an Indexed Note is the period beginning on the day the Default Amount first becomes due and ending on the third Business Day after that day, unless:

- no quotation of the kind referred to above is obtained, or
- every quotation of that kind obtained is objected to within five Business Days after the due day as described above.

If either of these two events occurs, the Default Quotation Period will continue until the third business day after the first Business Day on which prompt notice of a quotation is given as described above. If that quotation is objected to as described above within five Business Days after that first Business Day, however, the Default Quotation Period will continue as described in the prior sentence and this sentence.

In any event, if the Default Quotation Period and the subsequent two Business Day objection period have not ended before the stated Maturity Date for any indexed note, then the Default Amount for that note will equal the Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount) of that note.

### ***Qualified Financial Institutions***

For the purpose of determining the Default Amount at any time, a Qualified Financial Institution must be a financial institution organized under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States of America or Europe, which at that time has outstanding debt obligations with a stated maturity of one year or less from the date of issue and rated either:

- A-1 or higher by Standard & Poor's Ratings Group or any successor, or any other comparable rating then used by that rating agency, or  
P-1 or higher by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. or any successor, or any other comparable rating then used by that rating agency.

### **Meetings, Modification and Waiver of Covenants**

Each fiscal agency agreement contains provisions for convening meetings of the holders of notes to consider matters affecting their interests. There are three types of changes which we can make to either the applicable fiscal agency agreement or any issuance of notes issued under that agreement.

### **Changes Requiring Each Holder's Approval**

First, there are changes that cannot be made without the approval of each holder of the note affected by the change under the applicable fiscal agency agreement. Here is a list of those types of changes:

- change the due date for the payment of principal of (or premium, if any) or any instalment of interest on any note;
- reduce the principal amount of any note, the portion of the principal amount which is payable upon acceleration of the maturity of the note, the interest rate or the premium payable upon redemption of the note;
- change the currency of payment in which the principal, premium or interest of any note is payable;
- change our obligation, if any, to pay additional amounts;
- shorten the period during which redemption of the notes is not permitted or permit redemption during a period when not previously permitted;
- modify our obligation to maintain required offices at which any payments on the notes are payable;
- reduce the percentage in principal amount of the notes outstanding necessary to modify, amend or supplement the applicable fiscal agency agreement or the terms and conditions of the notes or to waive any past default or future compliance; or
- reduce the percentage of aggregate principal amount of the notes outstanding required for the adoption of a resolution or the quorum required at any meeting of holders of notes at which a resolution is adopted.

For the avoidance of doubt, we may make any change to a note where we have the consent of the holder of the note affected by the change and any such consent given by the holder will be binding on any successor holder of such note.

### **Changes Not Requiring Approval**

The second type of change does not require any approval by holders of the notes of an affected issuance. This type of change is limited to the following:

- for the purpose of adding to our covenants for the benefit of any holders of any notes;
- for the purpose of surrendering any right or power conferred upon us in any notes;
- for the purpose of evidencing the succession of another person or entity to us and the assumption by any such successor of our covenants and obligations in any notes or the applicable fiscal agency agreement;
- for the purpose of curing any ambiguity in, or of curing, correcting or supplementing any defective provision of, any note or the applicable fiscal agency agreement; or
- for the purpose of amending any note or the applicable fiscal agency agreement in any other manner which we and the fiscal agent may determine, provided that such amendment shall not be inconsistent with the notes of such series and shall not adversely affect the interest of any holder of any note of such series in any material respect.

We may also make changes or obtain waivers that do not adversely affect a particular issuance of notes, even if they affect other issuances of notes. In those cases, we do not need to obtain the approval of the holder of the unaffected notes; we need only obtain any required approvals from the holders of affected notes.

### **Changes Requiring the Approval of 66 2/3% of the Holders**

Any other change to a particular issuance of notes would require the consent of at least 66 2/3% in aggregate principal amount of the affected notes at the time outstanding or the adoption of a resolution at a meeting of holders of the affected notes at which a quorum is present by 66 2/3% in aggregate principal amount of the affected notes then outstanding represented at such meeting. The same approval of 66 2/3% in aggregate principal amount of the affected notes then outstanding would be required for us to obtain a waiver of any of our covenants where we make promises about merging, which we describe under “— Mergers and Similar Transactions” above, and any other covenants in the applicable fiscal agency agreement or final terms.

### **Special Rules for Action by Holders**

When holders take any action under the notes or the applicable fiscal agency agreement, such as giving a notice of default, declaring an acceleration or approving any change or waiver, we will apply the following rules.

#### **Only Outstanding Notes Are Eligible**

Only holders of outstanding notes of the applicable issuance will be eligible to participate in any action by holders of notes of that issuance. Also, we will count only outstanding notes in determining whether the various percentage requirements for taking action have been met. For these purposes, a note will not be “outstanding”:

- if it has been surrendered for cancellation;
- if it is being held by the fiscal agent for re-issuance but has not yet been re-issued;
- if notes in lieu of or for substitution of the original notes have been authenticated and delivered;

- if we have deposited or set aside, in trust for its holder, money for its payment or redemption;
- if we have fully defeased it as described under “— Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance — Full Defeasance” above; or
- if we or one of our affiliates, such as Goldman Sachs International, is the owner.

### **Meetings and other Actions**

The quorum at any meeting called to adopt a resolution with respect to an issuance of notes will be persons holding or representing a majority in aggregate principal amount of that issuance of notes outstanding at the time and, at any reconvened meeting adjourned for lack of a quorum, 25% of the aggregate principal amount outstanding of that issuance of notes. For purposes of determining whether holders of the aggregate principal amount of notes required for any action or vote, or for any quorum, have taken such action or vote, or constitute such quorum, the principal amount of any particular note may differ from its principal amount at stated maturity but will not exceed its stated face amount upon original issuance, in each case if and as indicated in your final terms. Holders may be entitled to make, take or give certain requests, demands, authorizations, directions, notices, consents, waivers or other action, or to vote on certain actions, authorized or permitted by the applicable fiscal agency agreement with respect to the notes in accordance with the applicable procedures of the clearing systems and in accordance with such other reasonable procedures as we and the fiscal agent may agree.

### **Determining Record Dates for Action by Holders**

We will be entitled to set any day as a record date for determining which holders or beneficial owners of notes in global form will be entitled to make, take or give certain requests, demands, authorizations, directions, notices, consents, waivers or other action, or to vote on certain actions, authorized or permitted by the applicable fiscal agency agreement with respect to the notes. In addition, record dates for any note in global form may be set in accordance with procedures established by the relevant common depository or common safekeeper, as applicable, from time to time. Accordingly, record dates for notes in global form may differ from those for other notes.

## **Payment Mechanics for Notes**

### **Who Receives Payment?**

Interest will be payable to the person in whose name a registered note is registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the relevant interest payment date. However, interest payable at maturity but on a day that is not an interest payment date will be payable to the person to whom principal is payable. The first payment of interest on any registered note originally issued after a regular record date and before the next interest payment date will be made on the interest payment date following the next regular record date to the person in whose name the note is registered at the close of business on such next succeeding regular record date. The “regular record date” with respect to any global note will be the number of business day prior to each payment date (as such payment date may be adjusted in accordance with the business day convention) specified in the applicable final terms under “Regular Record Dates”, and the “regular record date” with respect to any non-global registered rate note will be the date 15 calendar days prior to each interest payment date, whether or not such date is a business day. With respect to a global registered note issued under NSS, the record date will be first business day prior to each interest payment date.

### **How We Will Make Payments**

Payments of principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on all fixed rate notes and floating rate notes will be made in the applicable specified currency at the offices and agencies described below. Payments of principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on notes denominated in other than U.S. dollars, however, will nevertheless be made in U.S. dollars at our option in the case of imposition of exchange controls or other circumstances beyond our control as described in this subsection under “— When the Specified Currency Is Not Available” below. In the case of an indexed note, the amount of



principal payable on such note may be determined by reference to an underlying asset, such as an index or other measure described in the applicable final terms.

### **Payment on Global Notes**

We will make payments on a global note in accordance with the applicable policies of each of Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg or some other depositary or common safekeeper, as applicable, as in effect from time to time. Under those policies, we will pay directly to Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg, and not to any indirect owners who own beneficial interests in the global note. An indirect owner's right to receive those payments will be governed by the rules and practices of Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg and their participants, as described under “— Form, Exchange, Registration and Transfer” below.

### **Payment on Registered Notes**

We will make payments on a note in registered non-global form as follows. We will pay interest that is due on an interest payment date to the holder at his or her address shown on the register for such notes as of the close of business on the regular record date. We will make all other payments by check or via wire transfer at the corporate trust office of the fiscal agent in the Borough of Manhattan, New York City and at the office of the paying agent, against surrender of the note.

### **When the Specified Currency Is Not Available**

If we are obligated to make any payment in a specified currency other than U.S. dollars and the specified currency or any successor currency is not available to us due to circumstances beyond our control — such as the imposition of exchange controls or a disruption in the currency markets — we will be entitled to satisfy our obligation to make the payment in that specified currency by making the payment in U.S. dollars, on the basis of the exchange rate determined by the exchange rate agent described below, in its discretion.

The foregoing will apply to any note, whether in global or non-global form, and to any payment, including a payment at maturity. Any payments made under the circumstances and in a manner described above will not result in a default under any note.

### **Exchange Rate Agent**

If we issue a note in a specified currency other than U.S. dollars, we will appoint a financial institution to act as the exchange rate agent and will name the institution initially appointed when the note is originally issued in the applicable final terms. We may select Goldman Sachs International or another of our affiliates to perform this role. We may change the exchange rate agent from time to time after the original issue date of the notes without your consent and without notifying you of the change.

All determinations made by the exchange rate agent will be in its sole discretion unless we state in the applicable final terms that any determination requires our approval. In the absence of manifest error, those determinations will be conclusive for all purposes and binding on you and us, without any liability on the part of the exchange rate agent.

### **Payment When Offices Are Closed**

If any payment is due on a note on a day that is not a business day, we will make the payment on the next day that is a business day. Payments postponed to the next business day in this situation will be treated under the applicable note as if they were made on the original payment date. Postponement of this kind will not result in a default under any note, and no interest will accrue on the postponed amount from the original payment date to the next day that is a business day. The term business day has a special meaning which we describe under “— Features Common to All Notes — Business Days” above.

## **The Paying Agent**

We have initially appointed as paying agent The Bank of New York Mellon. We may at any time terminate the appointment of any paying agent and appoint additional or other paying agents. However, we will maintain a paying agent for payment of principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the notes in one or more European cities, until all outstanding notes have been delivered to the fiscal agent for cancellation, or monies sufficient to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on all outstanding notes have been made available for payment and either paid or returned to us as provided in the notes. For so long as any notes are listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and the rules of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange shall so require, one of those paying agents will be in Luxembourg. Another of those paying agents shall be in a Member State of the European Union that will not be obliged to withhold or deduct tax on the notes pursuant to the EU Savings Directive or any other European Union Directive or agreement implementing the conclusion of the ECOFIN Council meeting of July 19, 2004 on the taxation of savings income or any law implementing or complying with, or introduced in order to conform to, the EU Savings Directive or any other such directive or agreement. Notice of any such termination or appointment and of any changes in the office through which any paying agent will act will be given as described under “— Notices” below.

## **Unclaimed Payments**

All money paid by us to a paying agent that remains unclaimed at the end of two years after the amount is due and payable (whether it be principal (and premium, if any) or interest) to a holder will be paid to us. After that two-year period, the holder may look only to us for payment and not to the fiscal agent, any other paying agent or anyone else.

## **Form, Exchange, Registration and Transfer**

### **Registered Notes**

We will issue notes as global notes in registered form. If the notes are stated in the applicable final terms to be issued under NSS and that they are intended to be recognized as eligible collateral for Eurosystem monetary policy and intra-day credit operations, then the notes will be registered in the name of a nominee for a common safekeeper for Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg and we will deliver these notes to a common safekeeper for Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg. Delivering the notes to a common safekeeper does not necessarily mean that the notes will be recognized as eligible collateral for Eurosystem monetary policy and intra-day credit operations by the Eurosystem either upon issue or at any time or all times during their life.

Global notes in registered form which are not issued under NSS will be deposited with, and registered in the name of a nominee of, a common depository for Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg or other clearing system as specified in the applicable final terms.

Investors may hold book-entry interests in a global note through organizations that participate, directly or indirectly, in the Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg systems. Book-entry interests in the registered notes and all transfers relating to the registered notes will be reflected in the book-entry records of Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg. The initial common depository for Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg will be The Bank of New York Mellon. The Depository Trust Company will not be the depository for the notes.

The distribution of the registered notes will be cleared through Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg. Any secondary market trading of book-entry interests in the registered notes will take place through Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg participants and will settle in same-day funds.

Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg have established electronic securities and payment transfer, processing, depository and custodial links among themselves and others, either directly or through custodians and depositories. These links allow securities to be issued, held and transferred among the clearing systems without the physical transfer of certificates. Special procedures to facilitate clearance

and settlement have been established among these clearing systems to trade securities across borders in the secondary market.

The policies of Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg will govern payments, transfers, exchanges, setting of record dates and other matters relating to the investor's interest in securities held by them. We have no responsibility for any aspect of the records kept by Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg or any of their direct or indirect participants. We also do not supervise these systems in any way.

Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg and their participants perform these clearance and settlement functions under agreements they have made with one another or with their customers. You should be aware that they are not obligated to perform or continue to perform these procedures and may modify or discontinue them at any time.

Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in the registered notes will not be entitled to have the notes registered in their names, will not be entitled to receive physical delivery of the notes in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders of the registered notes under the fiscal agency agreement governing the notes. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a registered note must rely on the procedures of the depositary and, if such person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such person owns its interest, in order to exercise any rights of a holder of notes.

Any note we issue may be represented by a master global note.

### ***Certificated Notes***

We will issue notes to you or your nominees, in fully certificated registered form, only if (1) we advise the fiscal agent in writing that both Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg are no longer willing or able to discharge their responsibilities properly, and the fiscal agent or we are unable to locate qualified successors within 60 days; (2) an event of default with respect to the notes has occurred and is continuing under the notes; or (3) we, at our option, elect to terminate the book-entry system. If any of the three above events occurs, we will reissue the notes (as authenticated by the fiscal agent) in fully certificated, registered form and will recognize the registered holders of the certificated notes as holders under the fiscal agent agreement.

In the event individual certificates for the notes are issued, the holders of such notes will be able to receive payment on the notes, effect transfers and exchanges of the notes and replace lost, stolen, destroyed or mutilated notes at the offices of the Luxembourg paying and transfer agent. We have appointed Banque Internationale à Luxembourg, *société anonyme* as paying and transfer agent in Luxembourg with respect to the notes in individual certificated form, and as long as the notes are listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, we will maintain a payment and transfer agent in Luxembourg. If we add, replace or terminate a paying and transfer agent or fiscal agent, we will give notice in the manner described below.

Unless and until we issue the notes in fully certificated, registered form, (1) you will not be entitled to receive a certificate representing your interest in the notes; (2) all references in this European base prospectus to actions by holders will refer to actions taken by the depositary, which may act upon instructions from direct participants in Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg; and (3) all references in this European base prospectus to payments and notices to holders will refer to payments and notices to the depositary, as the registered holder of the notes, which may distribute them to you in accordance with its policies and procedures.

The fiscal agent will mail notices by first class mail, postage prepaid, to each holder's last known address as it appears in the security register that the fiscal agent maintains. The fiscal agent will only mail these notices to the registered holder of the notes, unless we reissue the notes to you or your nominees in fully certificated form.

## **Extensions for Further Issuances**

Without the consent of any holders or the fiscal agent, Goldman Sachs International or any other underwriter, dealer or agent or any other person, we may issue additional notes identical to a prior issue from time to time.

## **Other Exchanges**

Owners of certificated registered notes will be able to exchange them for registered notes of smaller denominations or combined into notes of larger denominations, as long as the total principal amount is not changed. If any registered note is partially redeemed, the owner may similarly exchange the unredeemed portion of a note.

Each note authenticated and delivered upon any transfer or exchange of any note (whether in whole or in part) will carry the same rights to future accrued interest and to interest accrued and unpaid that was carried by the surrendered note (or part thereof).

## **Special Considerations for Global Securities**

As an indirect owner, an investor's rights relating to a global security will be governed by the account rules of the depository and those of the investor's financial institution or other intermediary through which it holds its interest (e.g., if Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg is the depository or common safekeeper), as well as general laws relating to securities transfers. We do not recognize this type of investor or any intermediary as a holder of securities and instead deal only with the depository or common safekeeper that holds the general security.

If securities are issued only in the form of a global security, an investor should be aware of the following:

- an investor cannot cause the securities to be registered in his or her own name, and cannot obtain non-global certificates for his or her interest in the securities, except in the special situations we describe below;
- an investor will be an indirect holder and must look to his or her own bank or broker for payments on the securities and protection of his or her legal rights relating to the securities;
- an investor may not be able to sell interests in the securities to some insurance companies and other institutions that are required by law to own their securities in non-book-entry form;
- an investor may not be able to pledge his or her interest in a global security in circumstances where certificates representing the securities must be delivered to the lender or other beneficiary of the pledge in order for the pledge to be effective;
- the depository's or common safekeeper's policies will govern payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices and other matters relating to an investor's interest in a global security, and those policies may change from time to time. We, the fiscal agent and any agent will have no responsibility for any aspect of the depository's or common safekeeper's policies, actions or records of ownership interests in a global security. We, the fiscal agent and any agent also do not supervise the depository or common safekeeper in any way;
- the depository or common safekeeper will require that those who purchase and sell interests in a global security within its book-entry system use immediately available funds and your broker or bank may require you to do so as well; and
- financial institutions that participate in the depository's or common safekeeper's book-entry system and through which an investor holds its interest in the global securities, directly or indirectly, may also have their own policies affecting payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices and other matters relating to the securities, and those policies may change from time to time. There may be more than one financial intermediary in the chain of ownership for an

investor. We do not monitor and are not responsible for the policies or actions or records of ownership interests of any of those intermediaries.

### **Considerations Relating to Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg**

Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg are securities clearing systems in Europe. Both systems clear and settle securities transactions between their participants through electronic, book-entry delivery of securities against payment. In addition, Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg may be depositaries for a global security.

As long as a global note is held by Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg, you may hold an interest in the global note only through an organization that participates, directly or indirectly, in Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg.

As noted above, payments, deliveries, transfers, exchanges, notices and other matters relating to the notes made through Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg must comply with the rules and procedures of those clearing systems. Those clearing systems could change their rules and procedures at any time. We have no control over those systems or their participants and we take no responsibility for their activities.

In addition, we may provide for other securities clearing systems and other depositaries or common safekeepers in the applicable final terms.

### **Registration of Transfer**

Holders of registered notes may present them for registration of transfer (with the form of transfer properly executed and endorsed) or exchange at the corporate trust office of the fiscal agent or at the office of any transfer agent that we designate for that purpose. Holders will not be required to pay a service charge, but they may be required to pay for any tax or other governmental charge associated with the transfer or exchange, and as described in the applicable fiscal agency agreement. Unless we say otherwise in applicable final terms, the transfer or exchange, and any replacement, will be made only if our fiscal agent or transfer agent, as the case may be, is satisfied with the documents of title and the identity of the person making the request. The transfer or exchange may also be subject to reasonable regulations that we may from time to time agree upon with the fiscal agent and any transfer agent.

We have initially appointed as security registrar and transfer agent, the fiscal agent acting through its corporate trust office in the Borough of Manhattan, New York City. We have also appointed the paying agent listed at the end of this European base prospectus as a transfer agent of registered notes. If the registered notes in global form are cancelled and we issue notes in non-global form, as long as any notes are listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, holders of the non-global notes can transfer those notes at the offices of Banque Internationale à Luxembourg, *société anonyme*, or its successor as our transfer agent in Luxembourg. We will name any additional initial transfer agents for any issuance of notes in the applicable final terms. We reserve the right to vary or terminate the appointment of the fiscal agent as security registrar or of any transfer agent or to appoint additional or other registrars or transfer agents or to approve any change in the office through which any registrar or any transfer agent acts. However, there will be at all times a registrar and transfer agent in the Borough of Manhattan, New York City.

If any issuance of notes is redeemable and we redeem less than all those notes, we may block the transfer or exchange of those notes during the period beginning 15 days before the day we mail the notice of redemption and ending on the day of that mailing, in order to freeze the list of holders to prepare the mailing. We may also refuse to register transfers of or exchange any notes selected for redemption, except that we will continue to permit transfers and exchanges of the unredeemed portion of any notes being partially redeemed.

## **Payment of Stamp and Other Taxes**

We shall pay all stamp and other duties, if any, which may be imposed by the United States or any U.S. political subdivision or taxing authority with respect to the applicable fiscal agency agreement or the issuance of the notes. Except as described under “— Payment of Additional Amounts” above, we will not be required to make any payment with respect to any tax, assessment or governmental charge imposed by any government or any political subdivision or taxing authority.

## **Notices**

As long as any notes are listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and its rules require, notices to holders of notes will be given by publication in a daily newspaper of general circulation in Luxembourg, which we expect to be the *Luxemburger Wort*, or on the website of the LSE at <http://www.bourse.lu>. The term “daily newspaper” means a newspaper that is published on each day, other than a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, in Luxembourg or, when applicable, elsewhere in Western Europe. A notice will be considered received on the date it is first published. If notice cannot be given as described in this paragraph because the publication of any newspaper is suspended or it is otherwise impractical to publish the notice, then notice will be given in another form. That alternate form of notice will be sufficient notice to each holder. Notices to be given to holders of notes in registered form will be sent by mail to the respective addresses of the holders as they appear in the security register and will be deemed delivered when mailed. Neither the failure to give notice to a particular holder, nor any defect in a notice given to a particular holder, will affect the sufficiency of any notice given to another holder. In the case of notes listed on Borsa Italiana S.p.A., if and so long as the rules of Borsa Italiana S.p.A. so require, such notices shall be published on the website of Borsa Italiana S.p.A. ([www.borsaitaliana.it](http://www.borsaitaliana.it)), and in any case according to the rules of Borsa Italiana S.p.A. from time to time applicable.

## **Title**

We, the fiscal agent and any of our agents may deem and treat the registered owner of any registered note as the absolute owner (whether or not the note is overdue and notwithstanding any notice to the contrary) for the purpose of making payment and for all other purposes.

## **Replacement of Notes**

If your notes become mutilated, destroyed, stolen or lost, we will replace them at your expense upon the delivery to the fiscal agent or the paying agent of the mutilated notes or evidence of the loss, theft or destruction satisfactory to the fiscal agent or the paying agent and us. In the case of a lost, stolen or destroyed note, an indemnity satisfactory to the fiscal agent or the paying agent and us may be required at your expense before a replacement note will be issued, and we may require that you pay any taxes and other governmental charges payable in connection with the replacement of notes and any other expenses (including the fees and expenses of the fiscal agent) connected with the replacement.

## **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We and Goldman Sachs International, as the agent, have entered into a distribution agreement with respect to the notes. Subject to certain conditions, the agent has agreed to use its reasonable efforts to solicit purchases of notes. We have the right to accept offers to purchase notes and may reject any proposed purchase of the notes. The agent may also reject any offer to purchase notes.

We may also sell notes to the agent who will purchase the notes as principal for its own account. In that case, the agent will purchase the notes at a price equal to the issue price specified in the applicable final terms, less a discount. The discount will equal the applicable commission on an agency sale of the notes with the same stated maturity.

The agent may resell any notes it purchases as principal to other brokers or dealers at a discount, which may include all or part of the discount the agent received from us. If all the notes are not sold at the initial offering price, the agent may change the offering price and the other selling terms.

We may also sell notes directly to investors. We will not pay commissions on notes we sell directly.

The notes are not, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and may not be offered or sold within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons except in certain transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Securities Act. (Terms used in this paragraph have the meanings given to them by Regulation S under the Securities Act.)

The notes are a new issue of securities, and there will be no established trading market for any note before its original issue date. We have been advised by Goldman Sachs International that it intends to make a market in the notes. However, neither Goldman Sachs International nor any of our other affiliates nor any other agent named in your final terms that makes a market is obligated to do so and any of them may stop doing so at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity or trading market for the notes.

We may use this European base prospectus in the initial sale of any note. In addition, Goldman Sachs International or any of our other affiliates may use this European base prospectus in a market-making transaction in any note after its initial sale. Unless we (or our agent) inform the purchaser otherwise in the confirmation of sale, this European base prospectus is being used in a market-making transaction.

Goldman Sachs International has agreed in the distribution agreement that, with respect to all notes issued as a part of the same tranche (within the meaning of Regulation S under the Securities Act), it will not offer, sell or deliver such notes, (1) as part of their distribution at any time or (2) otherwise until 40 days after the later of (A) the completion of the distribution of such tranche of notes as determined by Goldman Sachs International and (B) the closing date of such tranche of notes (or such other date as The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. may, in its sole discretion, deem necessary to comply with Regulation S) within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons except, in either case, in accordance with Regulation S under the Securities Act, and it will have sent to each dealer to which it sells such notes during the restricted period a confirmation or other notice describing the restrictions on offers and sales of notes within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons.

### **Selling Restrictions**

#### **Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under the Prospectus Directive**

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive, which we refer to as a Relevant Member State, Goldman Sachs International has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State, which we refer to as the Relevant Implementation Date, it has not made and will not make an offer of notes to the public in that Relevant Member State which are

the subject of the offering contemplated by this European base prospectus as completed by the final terms in relation thereto to the public in that Relevant Member State except that it may, with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date, make an offer of notes to the public in that Relevant Member State:

- (a) if the final terms in relation to the notes specify that an offer of those notes may be made other than pursuant to Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State, which we refer to as a Non-exempt Offer, following the date of publication of a prospectus in relation to such notes which has been approved by the competent authority in that Relevant Member State or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State, provided that any such prospectus has subsequently been completed by the final terms contemplating such Non-exempt Offer, in accordance with the Prospectus Directive, in the period beginning and ending on the dates specified in such prospectus or final terms, as applicable and the issuer has consented in writing to its use for the purpose of that Non-exempt Offer;
- (b) at any time to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- (c) at any time to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of Goldman Sachs International nominated by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. for any such offer; or
- (d) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of notes referred to in (b) to (d) above shall require The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or Goldman Sachs International to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of the preceding paragraph, the expression an “offer of notes to the public” in relation to any notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the notes, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State, and the expression “Prospectus Directive” means Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, including by Directive 2010/73/EU), and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

## **Other Selling Restrictions**

### **United Kingdom**

Goldman Sachs International has represented and agreed with The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. that:

- (1) in relation to any notes that have a maturity of less than one year (a) it is a person whose ordinary activities involve it in acquiring, holding, managing or disposing of investments (as principal or as agent) for the purposes of its business and (b) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell any notes other than to persons whose ordinary activities involve them in acquiring, holding, managing or disposing of investments (as principal or as agent) for the purposes of their businesses or who it is reasonable to expect will acquire, hold, manage or dispose of investments (as principal or as agent) for the purposes of their businesses where the issue of the notes would otherwise constitute a contravention of Section 19 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, which we refer to as the FSMA, by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.;
- (2) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of any notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.; and



- (3) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to such notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

## **Japan**

The notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act of Japan (Law No. 25 of 1948, as amended, the "FIEA") and, accordingly, Goldman Sachs International has agreed that it will not offer or sell any notes, directly or indirectly, in Japan, or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for reoffering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to any resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the FIEL and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

## **Hong Kong**

No advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued, or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue, (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere), if such advertisement, invitation or document is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside of Hong Kong or only to "professional investors" within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571, Laws of Hong Kong, the "SFO") and any rules made thereunder. In addition, in respect of notes which are not a "structured product" as defined in the SFO, the notes may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than (i) to "professional investors" within the meaning of the SFO and any rules made thereunder; or (ii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a "prospectus" within the meaning of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap 32, Laws of Hong Kong, the "CO") or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the CO.

Unless (a) the notes are not linked to an Underlying Asset or do not otherwise include a derivative and/or (b) you are an institution or are otherwise a sophisticated investor for whom an assessment of the suitability of the notes for you by the selling intermediary is not required under applicable Hong Kong laws, regulations and rules, you should take note of the following warning:

*This is a structured product involving derivatives. The investment decision is yours but you should not invest in the notes unless the intermediary who sells it to you has explained to you that the product is suitable for you having regard to your financial situation, investment experience and investment objectives.*

Where the notes are not linked to any Underlying Asset or do not otherwise include a derivative, if you are not an institution or a sophisticated investor for whom an assessment of the suitability of the notes for you by the selling intermediary is not required under applicable Hong Kong laws, regulations and rules, you should take note of the following warning:

*This is an investment product. The investment decision is yours but you should not invest in the notes unless the intermediary who sells it to you has explained to you that the product is suitable for you having regard to your financial situation, investment experience and investment objectives.*

In either case, you should also take note of the following warning:

*The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. You are advised to exercise caution in relation to the offer. If you are in any doubt about any of the contents of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice.*

The Issuer does not accept any responsibility for any acts or omissions of such intermediary.

## **Ireland**

In addition to the circumstances referred to in the section entitled "Public Offer Selling Restrictions under the Prospectus Directive", Goldman Sachs International will be required to represent, warrant and agree that it has not offered, sold, placed or underwritten and that it will not offer, sell, place or underwrite the notes, or do anything in Ireland in respect of the notes, otherwise than in conformity with the provisions of:

- (i) the Prospectus (Directive 2003/71/EC) Regulations 2005 (as amended) and any Central Bank of Ireland ("**Central Bank**") rules issued and / or in force pursuant to Section 1363 of the Companies Act 2014;
- (ii) the Companies Act 2014;
- (iii) the European Communities (Markets in Financial Securities) Regulations 2007 (as amended) and it will conduct itself in accordance with any rules or codes of conduct and any conditions or requirements, or any other enactment, imposed or approved by the Central Bank;
- (iv) the Market Abuse (Directive 2003/6/EC) Regulations 2005 (as amended) and any Central Bank rules issued and / or in force pursuant to Section 1370 of the Companies Act 2014, and will assist the Issuer in complying with its obligations thereunder; and
- (v) the Central Bank Acts 1942 to 2015 and any codes of conduct rules made under Section 117(1) of the Central Bank Act 1989.

## **Singapore**

This European base prospectus has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore (the "MAS") under the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the "SFA").

Where the notes are:

- (i) linked to Underlying Assets which are shares or units of shares (other than shares or other units of a fund or a collective investment scheme) of a corporation (whether incorporated in Singapore or elsewhere) or debentures or units of debentures of an entity, interests in a limited partnership or limited liability partnership formed in Singapore or elsewhere, or such other product or class of products prescribed by the MAS ("Non-CIS Reference Items"); or
- (ii) linked to Underlying Assets which fall within the ambit of a "collective investment scheme" (as defined in the SFA) (the "CIS Reference Items"), but do not entitle the holder of the notes to physical delivery of the CIS Reference Items:

this European base prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes or the Non-CIS Reference Items may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes or the Non-CIS Reference Items be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the SFA, (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275, of the SFA, or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where notes or Non-CIS Reference Items are subscribed for or purchased under Section 275 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

- (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or
- (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor,

securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes or Non-CIS Reference Items pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 or the SFA except:

- 1) to an institutional investor or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA;
- 2) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer;
- 3) where the transfer is by operation of law;
- 4) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA; or
- 5) as specified in Regulation 32 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Shares and Debentures) Regulations 2005 of Singapore.

Where the notes are linked to CIS Reference Items and do provide for a right to physical delivery of the CIS Reference Items (whether such right is contingent on the fulfilment of any condition or not), the offer or invitation of the notes and CIS Reference Items, which is the subject of this base prospectus, does not relate to a collective investment scheme which is authorized under Section 286 of the SFA or recognized under Section 287 of the SFA. The Program and the Issuer are not authorized or recognized by the MAS and the notes and the CIS Reference Items are not allowed to be offered to the retail public. This base prospectus and any other document or material issued in connection with the offer or sale is not a prospectus as defined in the SFA, and accordingly, statutory liability under the SFA in relation to the content of prospectuses does not apply, and you should consider carefully whether the investment is suitable for you.

This European base prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes or CIS Reference Items may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes or CIS Reference Items be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 304 of the SFA, (ii) to a relevant person, or any person pursuant to Section 305(2), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 305 of the SFA or (iii) pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where notes or CIS Reference Items are subscribed for or purchased under Section 305 by a relevant person which is:

- (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or
- (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor,

securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the notes or CIS Reference Items pursuant to an offer made under Section 305 of the SFA except:

- 1) to an institutional investor or to a relevant person defined in Section 305(5) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 305A(3)(i)(B) of the SFA;
- 2) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer;
- 3) where the transfer is by operation of law;
- 4) as specified in Section 305A(5) of the SFA; or
- 5) as specified in Regulation 36 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations 2005 of Singapore.

### **Argentina**

The offering of notes has not been authorised by, and the notes have not been registered with, the Argentine Securities Commission (*Comisión Nacional de Valores*, "CNV"). The CNV has not approved any document related to the offering of the notes in Argentina. The notes will not be offered or sold in Argentina except in transactions that will not constitute a public offering of securities within the meaning of Sections 2 and 83 of the Capital Markets Law No. 26,831, as amended.

### **Austria**

For selling restrictions in respect of Austria, please see "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive" above.

In addition, the notes have not been and will not be offered, sold or publicly promoted or advertised in the Republic of Austria other than in compliance with the Austrian Capital Markets Act (*Kapitalmarktgesetz*) as well as the Austrian Act on Alternative Investment Fund Managers (*Alternative Investmentfonds Manager-Gesetz*), as amended, or any other laws applicable in the Republic of Austria governing the issue, offering and sale of Securities. Any offer of Securities in Austria, made pursuant to Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive (implemented in the Austrian Capital Markets Act) or otherwise, may require the filing of certain information relating to the applicable offer and the applicable notes with *Oesterreichische Kontrollbank AG* as soon as possible. "Qualified investor" for the purpose of Austrian offerings is a professional customer pursuant to sections 58 or 59 of the Securities Supervision Act 2007 or a suitable counterparty pursuant to section 60 Securities Supervision Act 2007 unless such person has applied for treatment as a non-professional customer; investment firms and credit institutions shall notify their classification irrespective of the applicable provisions on data protection upon request of the issuer.

### **Bahamas**

This European base prospectus in connection with the offer of notes by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. has not been filed with the Securities Commission of The Bahamas because such offering is exempted from the prospectus filing requirements of the Securities Industry Act, 2011. No offer or sale of any notes of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. can be made in The Bahamas unless the offer of the notes is made by or through a firm which is registered with the Securities Commission of The Bahamas to engage in the business of dealing in securities in The Bahamas and in compliance with Bahamian Exchange Control Regulations.

The notes can be offered outside of The Bahamas, without restriction, provided that all relevant documentation is signed outside of The Bahamas, except that persons or entities designated or deemed "resident" for the purposes of Bahamian Exchange Control Regulations will require the prior approval of The Central Bank of The Bahamas.

### **Belgium**

For selling restrictions in respect of Belgium, please see "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive" above.

In addition, any offeror of the notes will be required to represent and agree that it will not offer for sale, sell or market notes to any person qualifying as a consumer within the meaning of Article I.1.2 of the Belgian Code of Economic Law, as amended from time to time, unless such offer, sale or marketing is made in compliance with this Code and its implementing regulation.

### **Brazil**

The notes may not be offered or sold to the public in Brazil. Accordingly, the notes have not been and will not be registered with the Brazilian Securities and Exchange Commission (Comissão de Valores Mobiliários), nor have they been submitted to the foregoing agency for approval. Documents relating to the notes, as well as the information contained therein, may not be supplied to the public in Brazil, as the offering of notes is not a public offering of securities in Brazil, nor used in connection with any offer for subscription or sale of securities to the public in Brazil. A seller of the notes may be asked by the purchaser to comply with procedural requirements to evidence previous title to the notes and may be subject to Brazilian tax on capital gains which may be withheld from the sale price. Persons wishing to offer or acquire the notes within Brazil should consult with their own counsel as to the applicability of these registration requirements or any exemption therefrom.

### **British Virgin Islands (“BVI”)**

This European base prospectus is not an offer to sell, or a solicitation or invitation to make offers to purchase or subscribe for, the notes or any other securities or investment business services in the BVI. This European base prospectus may not be sent or distributed to persons in the BVI and the notes are not available to, and no invitation or offer to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire the notes will be made to, persons in the BVI. However, the notes may be offered and sold to business companies incorporated in the BVI and international limited partnerships formed in the BVI, provided that any such offering and sale is made outside the BVI or is otherwise permitted by BVI legislation.

Although not currently in force, it is possible that Part II of the Securities and Investment Business Act, 2010 of the BVI (“SIBA”) will be brought into force and become law in the BVI in the near future. Upon Part II of SIBA coming into force, the notes may not, and will not, be offered to the public or to any person in the BVI for purchase or subscription by or on behalf of the Issuer. The notes may continue to be offered to business companies incorporated in the BVI and international limited partnerships formed in the BVI, but only where the offer will be made to, and received by, the relevant company or limited partnership outside of the BVI. Once Part II of SIBA comes into force, the notes may also be offered to persons located in the BVI who are “qualified investors” for the purposes of SIBA.

This European base prospectus has not been reviewed or approved by, or registered with, the Financial Services Commission of the BVI and will not be so registered upon Part II of SIBA coming into force.

### **Bulgaria**

For selling restrictions in respect of Bulgaria, please see "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive" above.

### **Cayman Islands**

None of the notes shall be sold to or offered by way of subscription to any member of the public in the Cayman Islands whether directly or indirectly.

### **Chile**

The Issuer and the notes are not registered with the Chilean Securities and Insurance Commission (*Superintendencia de Valores y Seguros*, “SVS”) pursuant to Ley No. 18,045 (Ley de Mercado de Valores, “Securities Market Act”), as amended, of the Republic of Chile and, accordingly, no person shall offer or sell the notes within Chile or to, or for the account or benefit of persons in Chile except in

circumstances which have not resulted and will not result in a public offering and/or in the conduct of intermediation (*funciones de intermediación*) within the meaning of Chilean law.

This offer begins on the date of issuance of the Final Terms. This offer of notes complies with General Rule N°336 of the Chilean Superintendency of Securities and Insurances. Since the notes to which this offer refers have not been registered in the Foreign Securities Registry of the SVS, they are not subject to the supervision of such entity. As this offer of notes refers to not registered securities, there is no obligation of the issuer of the notes to deliver in Chile public information regarding the notes. These notes may not be publicly offered in Chile as long as they are not registered on the corresponding Securities Registry.

*The above paragraph has to be reproduced in Spanish in order to comply with the General Rule N°336. Therefore, the following paragraph is only a translation into Spanish of this paragraph's disclaimers and does not contain any additional statement.*

*Esta oferta comienza el día que se emitan los Final Terms. Esta oferta de valores cumple con la Norma de Carácter General 336 de la SVS. Dado que esta oferta versa sobre valores no inscritos en el Registro de Valores Extranjeros que lleva dicha Superintendencia, tales valores no están sujetos a la fiscalización de ésta. Como esta oferta de valores se refiere a valores no inscritos, no existe la obligación por parte de su emisor de entregar en Chile información pública respecto de dichos valores. Estos valores no podrán ser objeto de oferta pública mientras no sean inscritos en el Registro de Valores correspondiente.*

## **Colombia**

The issuance of the notes, as well as trading and payments in respect of the notes, will occur outside Colombia.

Any promotional material in respect of the notes is for the sole and exclusive use of the purchaser of notes and cannot be understood as addressed to, or be used by, any third party including those for which the purchaser may act as proxy, agent or representative.

The notes have not been and will not be offered in Colombia through a public offering pursuant to Colombian laws and regulations and neither will they be registered in the Colombian National Registry of notes and Issuers or on the Colombian Stock Exchange.

The purchaser of notes acknowledges the Colombian laws and regulations (specifically foreign exchange and tax regulations) applicable to any transaction or investment made in connection with the notes and represents that he/she/it is the sole liable party for full compliance with any such laws and regulations.

The investment in the notes is a permitted investment for him/her/it under his/her/its corporate bylaws and/or particular investment regime that may be applicable.

## **Costa Rica**

This is an individual and private offer which is made in Costa Rica upon reliance on an exemption from registration before the General Superintendence of Securities (“SUGEVAL”), pursuant to articles 7 and 8 of the Regulations on the Public Offering of Securities (“*Reglamento sobre Oferta Pública de Valores*”). This information is confidential, and is not to be reproduced or distributed to third parties as this is NOT a public offering of securities in Costa Rica.

The product being offered is not intended for the Costa Rican public or market and neither is it registered or will be registered before the SUGEVAL, nor can it be traded in the secondary market.

## **Czech Republic**

For selling restrictions in respect of the Czech Republic, please see “Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive” above, with the following exceptions:

“Qualified investors” for the purpose of Czech offering are (a) persons specified in Article 2a paragraph 1 and 2 of Act No. 256/2004 Coll., on Capital Markets Undertakings, as amended (the “Czech Capital Markets Act”) and/or (b) persons which are considered as professional customers under Article 2b of the Czech Capital Markets Act, to the extent of trading or investment instruments relating to the offered notes.

The monetary amount relevant for the exemption from the obligation to publish a prospectus under Article 3 (2) (c), (d), and (e) of the Prospectus Directive is determined by the applicable governmental regulations, as amended and/or replaced from time to time.

## **Denmark**

This European base prospectus has not been filed with or approved by the Danish Financial Supervisory Authority or any other regulatory authority in the Kingdom of Denmark. The notes have not been offered or sold and may not be offered, sold or delivered directly or indirectly in Denmark, unless in compliance with Chapter 6 or Chapter 12 of the Danish Act on Trading in Securities and executive orders issued pursuant thereto as amended from time to time.

## **Dominican Republic**

The issuance, circulation and offering of the notes has a strictly private character, falling beyond the scope of article 4 of Law 19-00 dated 8 May, 2000 and therefore no governmental authorizations are required in this issuance, circulation and offering.

## **El Salvador**

The recipient of this documentation hereby acknowledges and states that the same has been provided by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. under his direct and express request and instructions, on a private placement basis.

## **France**

Any offeror of the notes and the Issuer has represented and agreed that:

- (a) Offer to the public in France:

it has only made and will only make an offer of notes to the public (*offre au public*) in France or an admission of notes to trading on a regulated market in France in the period beginning (i) when a prospectus in relation to those notes has been approved by the *Autorité des marchés financiers* on the date of its publication, or (ii) when a prospectus has been approved by the competent authority of another Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive, on the date of notification of such approval to the *Autorité des marchés financiers*, and ending at the latest on the date which is 12 months after the date of approval of the prospectus, all in accordance with articles L. 412-1 and L. 621-8 to L. 621-8-3 of the French *Code monétaire et financier* and the *Règlement général* of the *Autorité des marchés financiers* and when formalities required by French laws and regulations have been carried out; or

- (b) Private placement in France:

it has only made and it will only make an offer of Notes to the public in France or an admission of Notes to trading on a regulated market in France in circumstances which do not require the publication by the offeror of a prospectus pursuant to the French *Code monétaire et financier* and the *Règlement*

*général* of the *Autorité des marchés financiers*, and in particular , it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell, directly or indirectly, any notes to the public in France, and has not distributed or caused to be distributed and will not distribute or cause to be distributed to the public in France, this Base Prospectus, the relevant Final Terms or any other offering material relating to the notes, and that such offers, sales and distributions have been and will be made in France only to (a) providers of the investment service of portfolio management for the account of third parties and/or (b) qualified investors (*investisseurs qualifiés*) acting for their own account, all as defined in, and in accordance with, articles L. 411-2 and D. 411-1, D. 744-1, D. 754-1 and D. 764-1 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*. The direct or indirect resale of the notes to the public in France may be made only as provided by, and in accordance with, articles L. 411-1, L. 411-2, L. 412-1 and L. 621-8 to L. 621-8-3 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*.

In addition, any offeror of the notes and the Issuer has represented and agreed that it has not released, issued, distributed or caused to be released, issued or distributed and will not release, issue distribute or cause to be released, issued or distributed in France, this Base Prospectus, the relevant Final Terms or any other offering material relating to the notes other than to investors to whom offers and sales of the notes in France may be made as described above.

### **Germany**

For selling restrictions in respect of Germany, please see "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive" above.

### **Greece**

Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended and in force as of the date hereof) has been transposed in Greece by Greek law 3401/2005 (as in force as of the date hereof). This document (and/or supplement and/or final terms thereto) has not been approved by the Hellenic Capital Markets Commission for the offer, distribution and marketing of the notes in Greece. For selling restrictions in respect of Greece, please see "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive" above.

### **Hungary**

An offer of notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this Base Prospectus as completed by the relevant final terms in relation thereto (hereinafter "**Offer**") is exempt from the obligation to publish a prospectus, if it complies with the terms regulated in Article 3 (2) of the Prospectus Directive (and, as transposed, in Section 14 (1) of Hungarian Act CXX of 2001 on the Capital Market) (hereinafter: "Exempt Offering"). An Offering of Notes is an Exempt Offering under Section 14 (1) of Hungarian Act CXX of 2001 on the Capital Market in either of the below cases:

- (a) notes are exclusively offered to qualified investors;
- (b) notes are offered to less than one hundred and fifty persons not considered as qualified investors in each EEA Member State;
- (c) notes are exclusively offered to investors each purchasing for at least one hundred thousand euro, or its equivalent in any other currency, from the notes offered;
- (d) the face value of the notes offered is at least one hundred thousand euro, or its equivalent in any other currency; or
- (e) the total consideration for all notes in the EU included in the offer does not exceed one hundred thousand euro, or its equivalent in any other currency, within twelve months from the date of announcement of the offer;



(f) a limited company is created by the transformation of a cooperative society and its shares are offered exclusively to the members and shareholders of the predecessor.

If the Offer is an Exempt Offering, neither this Base Prospectus nor Hungarian law requires preliminary approval or notification to the Hungarian National Bank. However, on the basis of Sections 16 and 18 of Hungarian Act CXX of 2001 on the Capital Market the equal distribution of information to all investors on the material information of the market, economic, financial and legal situation and prospects of the issuer and the information necessary to assess the rights attaching to the underlying instruments must be ensured by the agents distributing the underlying instruments, and any written Base Prospectus must indicate the private nature of the Offer. In line with Section 17 of Hungarian Act CXX of 2001 on the Capital Market the completion of the private placement in Hungary requires subsequent notification to the Hungarian National Bank within 15 days of completion.

The respective notes may also be offered in Hungary:

(a) if the offering of notes is an Exempt Offering; and

(b) the Pricing Supplement of the respective Security provides that an Exempt Offering may be conducted in Hungary, and

(c) the Issuer complies with the Hungarian rules applicable to the Exempt Offering of the respective Security.

If the Offer of the notes is not an Exempt Offering and the approval of this Base Prospectus requires notification to the Hungarian National Bank, the Issuer(s) will only offer the notes to the public in Hungary, if all rules specified in the Capital Market Act on such Offer are complied with. The Issuer has not authorised the making of any Offer of the notes in circumstances in which an obligation arises for the Issuer to publish or supplement a prospectus for such offer, except (i) if the Offer of the notes is an Exempt Offering; or (ii) in case a prospectus for such Offer has been approved by the Hungarian National Bank or, where appropriate, approved in another Relevant Member State and notified to the competent authority in that Relevant Member State and (in either case) published, all in accordance with the Prospectus Directive and, where appropriate, Hungarian Act CXX of 2001 on the Capital Market, provided that any such prospectus has subsequently been completed by final terms which specify that offers may be made other than Exempt Offerings or pursuant to Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State and such offer is made on or prior to the date specified for such purpose in such prospectus or final terms, as applicable.

## Italy

The offering of the notes has not been registered pursuant to Italian securities legislation and, accordingly, no notes may be offered, sold or delivered, nor may copies of this Base Prospectus or of any other document relating to the notes be distributed in the Republic of Italy, except:

- (i) to qualified investors (*investitori qualificati*), as defined under Article 100 of the Legislative Decree No. 58 of 24 February 1998, as amended (the "**Financial Services Act**"), as implemented by Article 34-ter, first paragraph, letter b), of CONSOB Regulation No. 11971 of 14 May 1999, as amended ("**CONSOB Regulation No. 11971**") and by Article 26, paragraph 1(d) of CONSOB Regulation No. 16190 of 29 October 2007, as amended ("**CONSOB Regulation No. 16190**"); or
- (ii) in other circumstances which are exempted from the rules on public offerings pursuant to Article 100 of the Financial Services Act and Article 34-ter, first paragraph, of CONSOB Regulation No. 11971.

Any offer, sale or delivery of the notes or distribution of copies of this Base Prospectus or any other document relating to the notes in the Republic of Italy under (i) or (ii) above must be:

- (a) made by an investment firm, bank or financial intermediary permitted to conduct such activities in the Republic of Italy in accordance with the Financial Services Act, CONSOB Regulation No. 16190 and Legislative Decree No. 385 of 1 September 1993, as amended (the "Banking Act");
- (b) in compliance with Article 129 of the Banking Act, as amended, and the implementing guidelines of the Bank of Italy which have been issued on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 and will come into force from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2016, as amended from time to time, pursuant to which the Bank of Italy may request periodic reporting, data and information on the issue or the offer of securities in the Republic of Italy (to be provided by uploading such information on the Infostast platform on the Bank of Italy's website); and
- (c) in compliance with any other applicable laws and regulations or requirement imposed by CONSOB or other Italian authority.

*Please note that in accordance with Article 100-bis of the Financial Services Act, where no exemption from the rules on public offerings applies under (i) and (ii) above, the subsequent resale of the notes on the secondary market in Italy must be made in compliance with the public offer and the prospectus requirement rules provided under the Financial Services Act and CONSOB Regulation No. 11971. Furthermore, the notes which are initially offered and placed in Italy or abroad to qualified investors only but, at any time in the 12 months following such placing, are regularly ("sistematicamente") resold on the secondary market in Italy to non-qualified investors, become subject to the public offer and the prospectus requirement rules provided under the Financial Services Act and CONSOB Regulation No. 11971. Where this occurs, if a prospectus has not been published, purchasers of the notes who are acting outside of the course of their business or profession may be entitled to declare such purchase void and can claim damages from any authorised intermediary from which the notes were purchased.*

### **Jersey**

No consent under Article 8(2) of the Control of Borrowing (Jersey) Order 1958 has been obtained in relation to the circulation in Jersey of any offer of Notes and any such offer must be addressed exclusively to a restricted circle of persons in Jersey. For these purposes an offer is not addressed exclusively to a restricted circle of persons unless (i) the offer is addressed to an identifiable category of persons to whom it is directly communicated by the offeror or the offeror's appointed agent, (ii) the members of that category are the only persons who may accept the offer and they are in possession of sufficient information to be able to make a reasonable evaluation of the offer and (iii) the number of persons in Jersey to whom the offer is so communicated does not exceed fifty.

### **Liechtenstein**

For selling restrictions in respect of Liechtenstein, please see "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive" above.

## **Luxembourg**

For selling restrictions in respect of Luxembourg, please see "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive" above.

## **Mexico**

The notes have not been and will not be registered with the Mexican National Securities Registry (*Registro Nacional de Valores*), maintained by the Mexican National Banking and Securities Commission (*Comisión Nacional Bancaria de Valores*), and may not be offered or sold publicly in Mexico. The notes may be sold in Mexico, by any person, including The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., to Mexican institutional and accredited investors pursuant to the private placement exemption set forth in Article 8 of the Mexican Securities Market Law (*Ley del Mercado de Valores*).

## **Norway**

For selling restrictions in respect of Norway, please see "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive" above.

In no circumstances may an offer of notes be made in the Norwegian market without the Instruments or Notes being registered in the VPS in dematerialised form, to the extent such Instruments or notes shall be registered, according to the Norwegian Securities Registry Act (*Nw. Verdipapirregisterloven, 2002*) and ancillary regulations.

## **Panama**

The notes have not been and will not be Registered with the Superintendence of Capital Markets of the Republic of Panama under Decree Law No.1 of July 8, 1999 (as amended to date, the "Panamanian Securities Act ") and may not be publicly offered or sold within Panama, except in certain limited transactions exempt from the registration requirements of the Panamanian Securities Act. These notes do not benefit from the tax incentives provided by the Panamanian Securities Act and are not subject to regulation or supervision by the Superintendence of Capital Markets of the Republic of Panama.

Institutional investors that purchase the notes pursuant to the institutional investor exemption must hold the notes for a year and during that period may only sell these notes to other institutional investors.

## **Paraguay**

This European base prospectus does not constitute a public offering of the notes or other financial products and services in Paraguay. Each purchaser of notes acknowledges that the notes to be offered under this Program will be issued outside of Paraguay. Each purchaser of notes acknowledges that any legal matter arising from any offer of notes shall not be submitted to any Paraguayan government authority. Each purchaser of notes acknowledges as well that the Paraguayan Deposit Insurance legislation does not cover the products offered hereby or assets or funds allocated for these purposes. The Paraguayan Central Bank, the Paraguayan National Stock Exchange Commission and the Paraguayan Banking Superintendence do not regulate the offering of these products or their undertaking. Each purchaser of notes should make his own decision whether this offering meets his investment objectives and risk tolerance level.

## **Peru**

The notes and this European base prospectus have not been registered in Peru under the *Decreto Supremo N° 093-2002-EF: Texto Único Ordenado de la Ley del Mercado de Valores*, (the "**Peruvian Securities Law**") or before the *Superintendencia del Mercado de Valores* and cannot be offered or sold in Peru except in a private offering under the meaning of the Peruvian Securities Laws. The Peruvian Securities Law provides that an offering directed exclusively to "institutional investors" (as defined in the

Institutional Investors Market Regulations) qualifies as a private offering. Notes acquired by institutional investors in Peru cannot be transferred to a third party, unless such transfer is made to another institutional investor or the notes have been previously registered with the *Registro Público del Mercado de Valores*.

## **Poland**

Goldman Sachs International has represented and agreed that it has not made and will not make an offer of notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this Base Prospectus as completed by the final terms in relation thereto to the public in Poland except that it may, make an offer of such notes to the public in Poland:

(a) if the final terms in relation to the notes specify that an offer of those notes may be made other than in situations mentioned in Article 7 section 4 of the Polish Act on Public Offers and conditions of introducing financial instruments to organised trading and on public companies of 29 July 2005 (as amended) (“Act on Public Offers”) (a “Non-exempt Offer”), when a Base Prospectus in relation to such notes has been approved in another Member State of the European Economic Area and notified to the Polish Financial Supervision Authority, provided that the Base Prospectus has subsequently been completed by the final terms contemplating such Non-exempt Offer, in accordance with the Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended) and its implementing measure in the relevant Member State, in the period beginning and ending on the dates specified in the Base Prospectus or final terms, as applicable, and the Issuer has consented in writing to its use for the purpose of that Non-exempt Offer; or

(b) at any time to any legal entity which is a professional client as defined in Article 3 item 39b) of the Polish Act on Trading in Financial Instruments of 29 July 2005 (as amended); or

(c) at any time in any other circumstances falling within Article 7 section 4 of the Act on Public Offers that described in (b) above.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression “an offer of notes to the public” in relation to any notes in Poland means public offer as defined in Article 3 section 1 of the Act on Public Offers, i.e. the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the subscription terms and the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to subscribe the notes, which is at any time addressed to at least 150 natural or legal persons or an unspecified addressee. Goldman Sachs International acknowledges that the acquisition and holding of notes by residents of Poland may be subject to restrictions imposed by Polish law (including foreign exchange regulations) and that the offer and sale of notes to Polish residents or within Poland in secondary trading may also be subject to restrictions.

## **Portugal**

No offer of the notes may be made in Portugal except under circumstances that will result in compliance with the rules concerning the marketing of the notes and the laws and regulations of Portugal generally.

In relation to Portugal, the notes may not be offered to the public in Portugal, except that an offer of the notes to the public in Portugal may be made:

(a) in the period beginning on the date of publication of a prospectus in relation to the notes which has been approved by the Portuguese Securities Exchange Commission (“*Comissão do Mercado de Valores Mobiliários*”, or the “CMVM”) in accordance with the Prospectus Directive as implemented in Portugal or, where appropriate, published in another Member State and notified to the CMVM all in accordance with Article 18 of the Prospectus Directive as implemented in Portugal, and ending on the date which is 12 months after the date of its approval;

- (b) at any time to any entities who are considered as qualified investors according to article 30 of the Portuguese Securities Code ("*Código dos Valores Mobiliários*", approved by the Decree-Law 486/99, of November 13, as amended); and
- (c) at any time in any other circumstances which do not require the publication by the Issuer of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive as implemented in Portugal.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an "offer of the securities to the public" shall have the meaning ascribed to it in "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive" above.

### **Saudi Arabia**

Notes may not be offered or sold to any person (which term includes any individual or legal entity) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and this European base prospectus and the relevant Final Terms may not be made available or delivered to any person (which term includes any individual or legal entity) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in connection with the offering, sale or advertising of the notes.

### **Slovakia**

For selling restrictions in respect of the Slovak Republic, please see "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive" above, with the following exemption:

"Qualified investors" for the purpose of Slovak offering of securities are persons specified in Article 120 paragraph 6 of Act No. 566/2001 Coll., on Securities and Investment Services and on amendment of another laws, as amended.

### **South Africa**

This European base prospectus does not constitute an offer for the sale of or subscription for, or the solicitation of an offer to buy and subscribe for the notes to the public as defined in the South African Companies Act, 2008 (as amended) (the "South African Companies Act"). This European base prospectus does not, nor is it intended to, constitute a prospectus prepared and registered under the South African Companies Act, 2008.

#### ***Offers not deemed to be offers to the public***

Offers for subscription for, or sale of, notes are not deemed to be offers to the public if:

(a) made only to certain investors contemplated in section 96(1)(a) of the South African Companies Act, 2008; or

(b) the total contemplated acquisition cost of Securities, for any single addressee acting as principal, is equal to or greater than ZAR1,000,000, or such higher amount as may be promulgated by notice in the Government Gazette of South Africa pursuant to section 96(2)(a) of the South African Companies Act, 2008.

Information made available in this Base Prospectus should not be considered as "advice" as defined in the South African Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, 2002.

### **Spain**

This European base prospectus has not been and it is not envisaged to be approved by, registered or filed with, or notified to the Spanish Securities Market Commission (*Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores*). It is not intended for the public offering or sale of the notes in Spain and does not constitute a prospectus (registration document or notes) for the public offering of the notes in Spain. Accordingly, no notes may be offered, sold, delivered, marketed nor may copies of this Base Prospectus or any other

document relating to the notes be distributed in Spain, and investors in the notes may not sell or offer such notes in Spain other than in compliance with the requirements set out by articles 35 of the Royal Legislative Decree 4/2015 of 23 October of the Securities Markets (*Real Decreto Legislativo 4/2015, de 23 de octubre, por el que se aprueba el texto refundido de la Ley del Mercado de Valores*), as amended and restated, ("**Royal Legislative Decree 4/2015**") and 38 of Royal Decree 1310/2005, of 5 November, on admission to trading of the notes in official secondary markets, public offerings and prospectus (*Real Decreto 1310/2005, de 4 de noviembre, en materia de admisión a negociación de valores en mercados secundarios oficiales, de ofertas públicas de venta o suscripción y del folleto exigible a tales efectos*), as amended and restated (the "**Royal Decree 1310/2005**") so that any sale or offering of the notes in Spain is not classified as a public offering of the notes in Spain.

The notes may not be listed, offered, sold or distributed in Spain, except in accordance with the requirements set out in Spanish laws transposing the Prospectus Directive, in particular Royal Legislative Decree 4/2015, and Royal Decree 1310/2005, of 4 November, or any other related regulations that may be in force from time to time, as further amended, supplemented or restated.

### **Sweden**

For selling restrictions in respect of Sweden, please see "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under The Prospectus Directive" above.

### **The Netherlands**

For selling restrictions in respect of The Netherlands, please see "Public Offer Selling Restrictions Under the Prospectus Directive" above.

### **Uruguay**

These notes have not been registered with the Central Bank of Uruguay and will not be offered or sold in Uruguay through public offerings.

### **Venezuela**

The notes may not be offered to the public in Venezuela and may not be sold or offered in Venezuela in any manner that may be construed as a public offering, as determined under Venezuelan securities laws. The notes may be sold by means of a private offer through sales that do not constitute a public offering, as determined under Venezuelan securities laws.

In connection with the issue of any tranche of notes, Goldman Sachs International (or persons acting on its behalf) may over-allot notes (provided that, in the case of any tranche of notes to be listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, the aggregate principal amount of notes allotted does not exceed 105 per cent of the aggregate principal amount of the relevant tranche) or effect transactions with a view to supporting the market price of the notes at a level higher than that which might otherwise prevail. However, there is no assurance that Goldman Sachs International (or persons acting on its behalf) will undertake stabilization action. Any stabilization action may begin on or after the date on which adequate public disclosure of the final terms of the offer of the relevant tranche of notes is made and, if begun, may be ended at any time, but it must end no later than the earlier of 30 days after the issue date of the relevant tranche of notes and 60 days after the date of the allotment of the relevant tranche of notes.

Goldman Sachs International is an affiliate of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

We may appoint agents, other than or in addition to Goldman Sachs International, with respect to the notes. Any agents will be named in the applicable final terms and those agents will enter into distribution agreements with substantially the same terms as the distribution agreement referred to above or such other agreements as we and such other agents may agree. The other agents may be affiliates or customers of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and may engage in transactions with and perform services

for The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. in the ordinary course of business. Goldman Sachs International may resell notes to or through another of our affiliates, as selling agent.

### **Market-Making Resales by Affiliates**

This European base prospectus may be used by Goldman Sachs International in connection with offers and sales of the notes in market-making transactions. In a market-making transaction, Goldman Sachs International may resell a note it acquires from other holders, after the original offering and sale of the note. Resales of this kind may occur in the open market or may be privately negotiated, at prevailing market prices at the time of resale or at related or negotiated prices. In these transactions, Goldman Sachs International may act as principal or agent, including as agent for the counterparty in a transaction in which Goldman Sachs International acts as principal, or as agent for both counterparties in a transaction in which Goldman Sachs International does not act as principal. Goldman Sachs International may receive compensation in the form of discounts and commissions, including from both counterparties in some cases. Other affiliates of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. may also engage in transactions of this kind and may use this European base prospectus for this purpose.

The aggregate initial offering price specified on the cover of this European base prospectus relates to the initial offering of the notes not yet issued as of the date of this European base prospectus. This amount does not include the notes to be sold in market-making transactions. The latter include notes to be issued after the date of this European base prospectus, as well as notes previously issued.

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. does not expect to receive any proceeds from market-making transactions. Goldman Sachs International does not expect that The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or any other affiliate that engages in these transactions will pay any proceeds from its market-making resales to The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.

Information about the trade and settlement dates, as well as the purchase, for a market-making transaction will be provided to the purchaser in a separate confirmation of sale.

*Unless The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or an agent informs you in your confirmation of sale that your note is being purchased in its original offering and sale, you may assume that you are purchasing your note in a market-making transaction.*

### **Matters Relating to Initial Offering and Market-Making Resales**

Each issuance of notes will be a new issuance, and there will be no established trading market for any note prior to its original issue date. We may not list any particular issuance on a securities exchange or quotation system. We have been advised by Goldman Sachs International that it intends to make a market in the notes, and any underwriters to whom we sell notes for public offering may also make a market in those notes. However, neither Goldman Sachs International nor any underwriter that makes a market is obligated to do so, and any of them may stop doing so at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity or trading market for any of the notes.

### **EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT**

*This section is only relevant to you if you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan (including a governmental plan, an IRA or a Keogh plan) proposing to invest in the notes.*

The U.S. Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”) and the Code, prohibit certain transactions (“prohibited transactions”) involving the assets of an employee benefit plan that is subject to the fiduciary responsibility provisions of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code (including individual retirement accounts, Keogh plans, and other plans described in Section 4975(e)(1) of the Code) (a “Plan”) and certain persons who are “parties in interest” (within the meaning of ERISA) or

“disqualified persons” (within the meaning of the Code) with respect to the Plan; governmental plans may be subject to similar prohibitions unless an exemption is available to the transaction. The assets of a Plan may include assets held in the general account of an insurance company that are deemed to be “plan assets” under ERISA and assets of a commingled investment vehicle in which a Plan invests if the assets of the vehicle are deemed to be “plan assets” under ERISA.

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. and certain of its affiliates each may be considered a “party in interest” or a “disqualified person” with respect to many Plans, and, accordingly, prohibited transactions may arise if the notes are acquired by or on behalf of a Plan unless those notes are acquired and held pursuant to an available exemption. In general, available exemptions are: transactions effected on behalf of that Plan by a “qualified professional asset manager” (prohibited transaction exemption 84-14) or an “in-house asset manager” (prohibited transaction exemption 96-23), transactions involving insurance company general accounts (prohibited transaction exemption 95-60), transactions involving insurance company pooled separate accounts (prohibited transaction exemption 90-1), transactions involving bank collective investment funds (prohibited transaction exemption 91-38), and transactions with service providers under Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(d)(20) of the Code where the Plan receives no less nor pays no more than “adequate consideration” (within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(f)(10) of the Code). The person making the decision on behalf of a Plan or a governmental plan shall be deemed, on behalf of itself and the plan, by purchasing and holding the notes, or exercising any rights related thereto, to represent that (a) the plan will receive no less and pay no more than “adequate consideration” (within the meaning of Section 408(b)(17) of ERISA and Section 4975(f)(10) of the Code) in connection with the purchase and holding of the notes, (b) none of the purchase, holding or disposition of the notes or the exercise of any rights related to the notes will result in a non-exempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or the Code (or, with respect to a governmental plan, under any similar applicable law or regulation), and (c) neither The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. nor any of its affiliates is a “fiduciary” (within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA (or any regulations thereunder) or, with respect to a governmental plan, under any similar applicable law or regulation) with respect to the purchaser or holder in connection with such person’s acquisition, disposition or holding of the notes, or as a result of any exercise by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or any of its affiliates of any rights in connection with the notes, and no advice provided by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. or any of its affiliates has formed a primary basis for any investment decision by or on behalf of such purchaser or holder in connection with the notes and the transactions contemplated with respect to the notes.

*If you are an insurance company or the fiduciary of a pension plan or an employee benefit plan (including a governmental plan, an IRA or a Keogh plan), and propose to invest in the notes, you should consult your legal counsel.*

## LISTING AND GENERAL INFORMATION

If indicated in the applicable final terms, application will be made to list the particular issue of notes issued under this European base prospectus on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

Pursuant to Luxembourg law, this European base prospectus and all supplements to the European base prospectus, all documents incorporated by reference herein and filed with the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier, and any final terms will be made available by the Luxembourg Stock Exchange on its website at <http://www.bourse.lu>.

As long as any notes are listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. will maintain a paying agent in Luxembourg. The paying agent and listing agent in Luxembourg is Banque Internationale à Luxembourg, *société anonyme*. We are under no obligation to maintain the listing of any notes that are listed.

As long as any notes remain outstanding, copies of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Restated Certificate of Incorporation, Amended and Restated By-laws and most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and Current Reports on Form 8-K may be obtained during normal



business hours on any weekday (*i.e.*, except Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays) at the specified office of, or upon written request to, the fiscal agent and, as long as any notes are listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and its rules require, free of charge at the office of the listing agent in Luxembourg. In connection with any note listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, a copy of the final terms, the European base prospectus and supplements to the European base prospectus may be obtained from the listing agent. In addition, a copy of each fiscal agency agreement will be available for inspection at those offices during those hours.

Issues of notes denominated in Swiss francs will be effected in compliance with the relevant regulations of the Swiss National Bank.

The issuance of the notes has been authorized by resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. on October 28, 2011 and a Determination of the Treasurer, dated June 5, 2014.

Our board of directors has a written related person transactions policy regarding the review and approval of transactions between us and “related persons” (independent directors, executive officers, immediate family members of an independent director or executive officer, or known 5% shareholders). Under the policy, transactions that exceed \$120,000 in which a related person has a direct or indirect material interest are submitted to our Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee (or, in some cases, to the Committee Chair or Audit Committee Chair) for approval. Certain transactions including employment relationships, ordinary course brokerage and other services and other ordinary course non-preferential transactions are considered preapproved transactions, and thus do not require specific approval under the policy (although these transactions must be reported to the Committee).

In determining whether to approve a related person transaction, the following factors, among others, are considered: whether the transaction is fair and reasonable to us and on substantially the same terms as would apply to comparable third-parties; the business reasons for the transaction; whether the transaction would impair the independence of an independent director; whether the transaction presents a conflict of interest, taking into account the size of the transaction, the financial position of the independent director or executive officer, the nature of the independent director’s or executive officer’s interest in the transaction and the ongoing nature of the transaction; any disclosure or reputational issues; and whether the transaction is material, taking into account the significance of the transaction to our investors.

Except as described in the section “Certain Relationships and Related Transactions” on pages 72 to 74 of the 2016 Proxy Statement, each incorporated by reference herein, there are no other potential conflicts of interests between any duties to The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. by the directors and executive officers thereof and their private interests and/or other duties.

We are in compliance in all material respects with the corporate governance standards of the NYSE, which are applicable to us as a corporation organized in the United States whose securities are listed on such exchange.

We are registered in the State of Delaware in the United States. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is organized and exists under the Delaware General Corporation Law. We filed our original certificate of incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on July 21, 1998. Pursuant to the laws of the State of Delaware, the duration of our company is unlimited. Our registration number is 2923466. Pursuant to the paragraph headed “Third” of the second clause our Restated Certificate of Incorporation, the purpose of our company is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which corporations may be organized under the Delaware General Corporation Law.

The business address of the directors of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is 200 West Street, New York, New York 10282, United States, telephone +1 (212) 902-1000.

#### **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

Our consolidated statements of financial condition as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2015, the related consolidated statements of earnings, cash flows and changes in shareholders' equity for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2013, December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2015, and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2015 (which is included in management's report on internal control over financial reporting) are incorporated herein by reference to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 and have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, as stated in their report incorporated by reference herein. No other information in this European base prospectus has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, is an independent registered public accounting firm under the rules of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, of 300 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017, U.S.A., and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

### **Yield**

In relation to any tranche of fixed rate notes, an indication of yield in respect of such notes will be specified in the applicable final terms. The yield is calculated at the issue date of the notes on the basis of the relevant issue price. The yield indicated will be calculated as the yield to maturity as at the issue date of the notes and will not be an indication of future yield.

### **Material Adverse or Significant Changes and Legal Proceedings**

There has been no material adverse change in the prospects of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. since December 31, 2015.

There has been no significant change in the financial or trading position of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. subsequent to December 31, 2015.

In the foregoing statements required by the Prospectus Regulation, references to the "prospects" and "financial or trading position" of the Issuer, are specifically to the ability of the Issuer to meet its full payment obligations under the notes in a timely manner. Material information about our financial condition and prospects is included in the periodic reports on Forms 10-K, 10-Q and 8-K which are incorporated by reference into this European base prospectus.

The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. has not been involved in any governmental, legal or arbitration proceedings during the 12 months before the date of this European base prospectus which may have, or have had in the recent past, significant effects on The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. financial position or profitability, except as may otherwise be indicated in Part II, Item 8: Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Note 27: Legal Proceedings of our 2015 Form 10-K.

## TAXATION

### UNITED STATES TAXATION

The following is a summary of the principal United States federal income and estate tax consequences to a United States alien holder. You are a United States alien holder if you are the beneficial owner of a note and are, for United States federal income tax purposes:

- a nonresident alien individual;
- a foreign corporation;
- a foreign partnership; or
- an estate or trust that in either case is not subject to United States federal income tax on a net income basis on income or gain for a note

that does not hold the note in connection with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States.

This summary deals only with notes that are properly treated as debt for U.S. federal income tax purposes. The United States federal income tax consequences of owning notes that may not be so treated will be discussed in the applicable final terms.

This discussion assumes that the note is not subject to the rules of Section 871(h)(4)(A) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, relating to interest payments that are determined by reference to the income, profits, changes in the value of property or other attributes of the debtor or a related party.

Prospective purchasers of notes should be advised that any bank which purchases a note will be deemed to represent that it is not purchasing the note in the ordinary course of its lending business and that it is buying the note either (1) for investment purposes only or (2) for resale to a third party that either is not a bank or is holding the note for investment purposes only.

*Please consult your own tax advisor concerning the consequences of owning these notes in your particular circumstances under the Internal Revenue Code and the laws of any other taxing jurisdiction.*

Under United States federal income and estate tax law, and subject to the discussions below under “—Foreign Account Tax Compliance Withholding”, “—Dividend Equivalent Payments” and “—Backup Withholding and Information Reporting”, if you are a United States alien holder of a note:

(1) we and other U.S. payors generally will not be required to deduct United States federal withholding tax from payments of principal and premium (if any) and interest, including original issue discount, to you if, in the case of payments of interest:

(a) you do not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote;

(b) you are not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to us through stock ownership; and

(c) the U.S. payor does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and:

(A) you have furnished to the U.S. payor an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN, Form W-8BEN-E or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are not a United States person;

(B) in the case of payments made outside the United States to you at an offshore account (generally, an account maintained by you at a bank or other financial institution at any location outside the United States), you have furnished to the U.S. payor documentation that establishes your identity and your status as a person who is not a United States person;

(C) the U.S. payor has received a withholding certificate (furnished on an appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form W-8 or an acceptable substitute form) from a person claiming to be:

(x) a withholding foreign partnership (generally a foreign partnership that has entered into an agreement with the Internal Revenue Service to assume primary withholding responsibility with respect to distributions and guaranteed payments it makes to its partners);

(y) a qualified intermediary (generally a non-United States financial institution or clearing organization or a non-United States branch or office of a United States financial institution or clearing organization that is a party to a withholding agreement with the Internal Revenue Service); or

(z) a United States branch of a non-United States bank or of a non-United States insurance company;

and the withholding foreign partnership, qualified intermediary or United States branch has received documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a person who is not a United States person in accordance with United States Treasury regulations (or, in the case of a qualified intermediary, in accordance with its agreement with the Internal Revenue Service);

(D) the U.S. payor receives a statement from a securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business:

(x) certifying to the U.S. payor under penalties of perjury that an Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN, Form W-8BEN-E or an acceptable substitute form has been received from you by it or by a similar financial institution between it and you; and

(y) to which is attached a copy of the Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN, Form W-8BEN-E or acceptable substitute form; or

(E) the U.S. payor otherwise possesses documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payment as made to a person who is not a United States person in accordance with United States Treasury regulations.

(2) no deduction for any United States federal withholding tax will be made from any gain that you realize on the sale or exchange of your note;

(3) a note held by an individual who at death is not a citizen or resident of the United States will not be includible in the individual's gross estate for purposes of the United States federal estate tax if:

(a) the decedent did not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote at the time of death; and

(b) the income on the note would not have been effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the decedent at the time of death.

### **Foreign Account Tax Compliance Withholding (FATCA)**

A U.S. law enacted in 2010 (commonly known as “FATCA”) could impose a withholding tax of 30% on interest income (including original issue discount) and other periodic payments on notes paid to you or any non-U.S. person or entity that receives such income (a “non-U.S. payee”) on your behalf, unless you and each such non-U.S. payee in the payment chain comply with the applicable information reporting, account identification, withholding, certification and other FATCA-related requirements. This withholding tax could also apply to all payments made upon maturity, redemption, or sale of certain notes by a non-compliant payee. In the case of a payee that is a non-U.S. financial institution (for example, a clearing system, custodian, nominee or broker), withholding generally will not be imposed if the financial institution complies with the requirements imposed by FATCA to collect and report (to the U.S. or another relevant taxing authority) substantial information regarding such institution’s U.S. account holders (which would include some account holders that are non-U.S. entities but have U.S. owners). Other payees, including individuals, may be required to provide proof of tax residence or waivers of confidentiality laws and/or, in the case of non-U.S. entities, certification or information relating to their U.S. ownership.

Withholding may be imposed at any point in a chain of payments if the payee is not compliant. A chain may work as follows, for example: The payment is transferred through a paying agent to a clearing system, the clearing system makes a payment to each of the clearing system’s participants, and finally the clearing system participant makes a payment to a non-U.S. bank or broker through which you hold the notes, who credits the payment to your account. Accordingly, if you receive payments through a chain that includes one or more non-U.S. payees, such as a non-U.S. bank or broker, the payment could be subject to withholding if, for example, your non-U.S. bank or broker through which you hold the notes fails to comply with the FATCA requirements and is subject to withholding. This would be the case even if you would not otherwise have been directly subject to withholding.

A number of countries have entered into, and other countries are expected to enter into, agreements with the U.S. to facilitate the type of information reporting required under FATCA. While the existence of such agreements will not eliminate the risk that notes will be subject to the withholding described above, these agreements are expected to reduce the risk of the withholding for investors in (or investors that indirectly hold notes through financial institutions in) those countries.

The withholding tax described above could apply to all interest and other periodic payments on the notes. In addition, the withholding tax described above could apply to payments upon the maturity, redemption or sale of notes on or after January 1, 2019. We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of this withholding tax, so if this withholding applies, you will receive less than the amount that you would have otherwise received.

Depending on your circumstances, you may be entitled to a refund or credit in respect of some or all of this withholding. However, even if you are entitled to have any such withholding refunded, the required procedures could be cumbersome and significantly delay your receipt of any withheld amounts. You should consult your own tax advisors regarding FATCA. You should also consult your bank or broker through which you would hold the notes about the likelihood that payments to it (for credit to you) may become subject to withholding in the payment chain.

### **Dividend Equivalent Payments**

It is possible that your notes could be deemed to be wholly or partially reissued for tax purposes if an underlying asset, position, index or basket containing the foregoing, that is referenced by your notes, is modified, adjusted or discontinued. In addition, as discussed in the risk factor above entitled “U.S. Taxation Developments May Have a Negative Impact on Your Indexed Notes”, the U.S. Treasury Department has issued final regulations under Section 871(m) of the Code which impose U.S. federal withholding tax on “dividend equivalent” payments made on “specified ELLs” that are issued on or after the Grandfather Date (as defined in the risk factor above). Indexed notes that directly or indirectly

reference shares of a U.S. corporation may be treated as “specified ELIs” for this purpose. It is therefore possible that a holder that acquires indexed notes before the “Grandfather Date” could nevertheless be subject to such withholding tax in the future if the indexed notes are deemed to be wholly or partially reissued for U.S. federal income tax purposes after such date.

We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of this withholding tax, so if this withholding applies, you will receive less than the amount that you would have otherwise received.

### **Backup Withholding and Information Reporting**

In general, payments of principal, premium (if any) or interest, including original issue discount, made by us and other payors to you will not be subject to backup withholding or information reporting provided that the certification requirements described in clause (1)(c) above are satisfied or you otherwise establish an exemption. We and other payors, however, are required to report payments of interest on your notes on Internal Revenue Service Form 1042-S, even if the payments are not otherwise subject to information reporting requirements.

In addition, payment of the proceeds from the sale of notes effected at a United States office of a broker will not be subject to backup withholding and information reporting provided that:

(1) the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and you have furnished to the broker:

(a) an appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form W-8 or an acceptable substitute form certifying, under penalties of perjury, that you are not a United States person; or

(b) other documentation upon which the broker may rely to treat the payment as made to a person who is not a United States person in accordance with United States Treasury regulations; or

(2) you otherwise establish an exemption.

If you fail to establish an exemption and the broker does not possess adequate documentation of your status as a person who is not a United States person, the payments may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding. However, backup withholding will not apply with respect to payments made to an offshore account maintained by you unless the broker has actual knowledge that you are a United States person.

In general, payment of the proceeds from the sale of notes effected at a foreign office of a broker will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, a sale effected at a foreign office of a broker will be subject to information reporting and backup withholding if:

(1) the proceeds are transferred to an account maintained by you in the United States;

(2) the payment of proceeds or the confirmation of the sale is mailed to you at a United States address; or

(3) the sale has some other specified connection with the United States as provided in United States Treasury regulations;

unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the documentation requirements described above (relating to a sale of notes effected at a United States office of a broker) are met or you otherwise establish an exemption.

In addition, payment of the proceeds from the sale of notes effected at a foreign office of a broker will be subject to information reporting, but not backup withholding, if the broker is:

- (1) a United States person;
- (2) a controlled foreign corporation for United States tax purposes;
- (3) a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business for a specified three-year period; or
- (4) a foreign partnership, if at any time during its tax year:
  - (a) one or more of its partners are "U.S. persons", as defined in United States Treasury regulations, who in the aggregate hold more than 50% of the income or capital interest in the partnership; or
  - (b) such foreign partnership is engaged in the conduct of a United States trade or business;

unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the documentation requirements described above (relating to a sale of notes effected at a United States office of a broker) are met or you otherwise establish an exemption.

## **EU SAVINGS DIRECTIVE**

Under EC Council Directive 2003/48/EC on the taxation of savings income (the "Savings Directive") each Member State was required to provide to the tax authorities of another Member State details of payments of interest or other similar income payments ("Savings Income") made by a person within its jurisdiction to or collected by such a person for an individual or to certain non-corporate entities, resident in that other Member State (interest payments on the notes will for these purposes be Savings Income). However, for a transitional period, Austria was instead allowed to apply a withholding system in relation to such payments, deducting tax at 35 per cent. The transitional period was to terminate at the end of the first full fiscal year following agreement by certain non-EU countries to the exchange of information relating to such payments.

A number of non-EU countries, including Switzerland, and certain dependent or associated territories of certain Member States adopted and implemented similar measures (either provision of information or transitional withholding - a withholding system in the case of Switzerland) in relation to payments of Savings Income made by persons within their jurisdictions to individuals, or to certain non-corporate entities, resident in Member States.

In addition, Member States entered into reciprocal arrangements with certain of those non-EU countries and dependent or associated territories of certain Member States in relation to payments of Savings Income made by a person in a Member State to an individual, or to certain non-corporate entities, resident in certain dependent or associated territories or non-EU countries.

Where an individual holder receives a payment of Savings Income from any Member State or dependent or associated territory employing a withholding arrangement, the individual holder may be able to elect not to have tax withheld. The formal requirements may vary slightly from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. They generally require the individual holder to produce certain information (such as his tax number) and consent to details of payments and other information being transmitted to the tax authorities in his home state. Provided that the other tax authority receives all of the necessary information the payment will not be subject to withholding under EC Council Directive 2003/48/EC or the relevant law conforming with the directive in a dependent or associated territory.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development ("OECD") was tasked by the G20 with undertaking the technical work needed to take forward the single global standard for automatic

exchange of financial account information endorsed by the G20 in 2013. The OECD has released a full version of the Standard for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information in Tax Matters (the "Common Reporting Standard"), which calls on governments to obtain detailed account information from their financial institutions and exchange that information automatically with other jurisdictions on an annual basis. On 9 December 2014, the Economic and Financial Affairs Council of the European Union officially adopted the revised Directive on Administrative Cooperation 2011/16/EU (as amended by Council Directive 2014/107/EU, the "ACD") (regarding mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation), which effectively incorporates the Common Reporting Standard. EU Member States are required to adopt and publish the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the ACD by 31 December 2015. They are required to apply these provisions from 1 January 2016 and to start the automatic exchange of information no later than end of September 2017.

The EU Savings Directive will be repealed from 1 January 2017 in the case of Austria and has been repealed, effective 1 January 2016, in the case of all other Member States (subject to ongoing requirements to fulfil administrative obligations such as the reporting and exchange of information relating to, and accounting for withholding taxes on, payments made before those dates). This is to prevent overlap between the Savings Directive and the ACD.

### **THE PROPOSED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS TAX ("FTT")**

On 14 February 2013, the European Commission published a proposal (the "Commission's Proposal") for a Directive for a common FTT in Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia and Slovakia.

The Commission's Proposal has very broad scope and could, if introduced, apply to certain dealings in the notes (including secondary market transactions) in certain circumstances. Primary market transactions referred to in Article 5(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1287/2006, such as the issuance and subscription of notes, are expected to be exempt.

Under the Commission's Proposal the FTT could apply in certain circumstances to persons both within and outside of the participating Member States. Generally, it would apply to certain dealings in the notes where at least one party is a financial institution, and at least one party is established in a participating Member State. A financial institution may be, or be deemed to be, "established" in a participating Member State in a broad range of circumstances, including (a) by transacting with a person established in a participating Member State or (b) where the financial instrument which is subject to the dealings is issued in a participating Member State.

The Commission's proposal remains subject to negotiation between the participating Member States and the scope and legality of any such tax is uncertain. Additional EU Member States may decide to participate and/or certain of the participating Member States may decide to withdraw. It was announced in December 2015 that Estonia had withdrawn. In December 2015, a joint statement was issued by several participating Member States, indicating an intention to make decisions on the remaining open issues by the end of June 2016.

Prospective holders of notes are advised to seek their own professional advice in relation to the FTT.



## AUSTRIA

*The following is a brief overview of Austrian (income) tax aspects in connection with the notes. It does not claim to fully describe all Austrian tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, disposition or redemption of the notes. In some cases a different tax regime may apply. As under the program different types of notes may be issued, the tax treatment of such notes can be different due to their specific terms. Further, this overview does not take into account or discuss the tax laws of any country other than Austria nor does it take into account the investors' individual circumstances. Prospective investors are advised to consult their own professional advisors to obtain further information about the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, disposition, redemption, exercise or settlement of any of the notes. Only personal advisors are in a position to adequately take into account special tax aspects of the particular notes in question as well as the investor's personal circumstances and any special tax treatment applicable to the investor. Tax risks resulting from the notes (in particular from a potential qualification as a foreign investment fund within the meaning of sec 188 of the Austrian Investment Funds Act) shall in any case be borne by the investors.*

*This overview is based on Austrian law as in force as of the date of this European base prospectus. The laws and their interpretation by the tax authorities may change and such changes may also have retroactive effect. With regard to certain innovative or structured financial notes or instruments there is currently neither case law nor comments of the financial authorities as to the tax treatment of such financial notes and instruments. Accordingly, it cannot be ruled out that the Austrian financial authorities and courts or the Austrian paying agents adopt a view different from that outlined below.*

*An amendment to the tax legislation was passed by the Austrian National Council and published in the National Gazette on 14 August 2015. It contains a rise of the flat (special) tax rate and the withholding tax rate for individuals from 25% to 27.5% from 1 January 2016 for most investment income. Loss compensation rules were also amended.*

### **Individual Investors**

*Individual is Austrian resident or has his/her habitual abode in Austria*

For the purpose of the principles regarding the taxation of investment income in Austria outlined below it is assumed that the notes are securitized, legally and factually offered to an indefinite number of persons (public offering) and are neither equity instruments as shares or participation rights (*Substanzgenussrechte*) nor investment fund units. In case of private placements other principles apply. For not securitized derivatives the principles outlined below would be applicable if the custodian or paying agent (see below) withholds and pays tax as explained below on a voluntary basis. If income from the notes is paid out by a custodian or a paying agent (credit institutions including Austrian branches of foreign credit institutions paying out the income to the holder of the notes [*depotführende oder auszahlende Stelle*]) located in Austria, the custodian or paying agent has to withhold and pay to the financial authorities 27.5% withholding tax. The term "income from the notes" includes (i) interest payments as well as (ii) income, if any, realized upon redemption or prior redemption or (iii) income realized upon sale of the notes (capital gains). In the case of notes that are performance linked (e.g., structured notes, index certificates) with reference items such as shares, bonds, certificates, indices, currency exchange rates, fund shares, future contracts, interest rates or baskets of such assets including discounted share certificates and bonus certificates, the total capital gains would be treated as income from derivative financial instruments according to section 27 para 4 Austrian Income Tax Act (*Einkommensteuergesetz*, "AITA"). Additional special rules on deducting 27.5% withholding tax apply to cash or share notes.

In case no withholding tax is levied on income from the notes (i.e., interest income is not paid out by a custodian or paying agent in Austria), Austrian resident individual investors will have to declare the income derived from the notes in their income tax returns pursuant to the AITA. In this case the income from the notes is subject to a flat income tax rate of 27.5% pursuant to section 27a subpara 1 AITA.

Upon relocation abroad investment income until the time of relocation is taxable in Austria. However, in case of relocation within the European Union or the European Economic Area (under certain conditions regarding assistance among the authorities) taxation can be postponed upon actual realization of the income based on a respective application for notes held as non-business assets. Special rules also apply to the transfer of a custodian account from Austria abroad. Since 1 January 2016 for notes held as business assets, exit tax arises upon relocation but generally may be paid over seven years.

The 27.5% withholding tax generally constitutes a final taxation (*Endbesteuerung*) for all Austrian resident individuals, if they hold the notes as a non-business asset. Final taxation means that no further income tax will be assessed and the income is not to be included in the investor's income tax return. In case of an average income tax rate below 27.5%, the income may, nevertheless, be included in the individual tax return and the withholding tax is credited against income tax or paid back, respectively. Expenses in this regard (e.g., bank fees or commissions) are not tax deductible (*Abzugsverbot*) according to section 20 para 2 AITA. Loss compensation to a certain extent is applicable under certain conditions.

The Treaty between the Republic of Austria and the Swiss Confederation on Cooperation in the Areas of Taxation and Capital Markets and the Treaty between the Republic of Austria and the Principality of Liechtenstein on Cooperation in the Area of Taxation provide that a Swiss or Liechtenstein, respectively, paying agent has to withhold a tax amounting to 25% or 27.5% on, inter alia, interest income, dividends and capital gains from assets booked with an account or deposit of such Swiss or Liechtenstein paying agent or managed by a Swiss or Liechtenstein paying agent, if the relevant holder of such assets is tax resident in Austria. For Austrian income tax purposes this withholding tax has the effect of final taxation regarding the underlying income if the AITA provides for the effect of final taxation for such income. The taxpayer can opt for voluntary disclosure instead of the withholding tax by expressly authorising the Swiss or Liechtenstein paying agent to disclose to the competent Austrian authority the income and capital gains; these subsequently have to be included in the income tax return.

#### *Risk of Requalification*

Further, subject to certain conditions, the notes may be re-qualified as units of a foreign investment fund in the meaning of section 188 of the Austrian Investment Funds Act (*Investmentfondsgesetz*). Pursuant to section 188 of the Austrian Investment Funds Act, the term "foreign investment fund" comprises (i) undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities ("**UCITS**") the state of origin of which is not Austria, (ii) alternative investment funds ("**AIF**") pursuant to the Austrian Act on Alternative Investment Fund Managers (*Alternative Investmentfonds Manager-Gesetz*) the state of origin of which is not Austria; and (iii) alternative undertakings subject to a foreign jurisdiction, irrespective of the legal form they are organized in, the assets of which are invested according to the principle of risk-spreading on the basis either of a statute, of the undertaking's articles or of customary exercise, in cases of abnormally low taxation in the state of residence. Uncertainties exist as to the precondition under which a foreign issuer has to be qualified as an AIF manager; regarding the definition of an AIF, the guidelines issued by the Austrian Financial Market Authority are applicable. Prospective investors are, therefore, advised to consult their tax advisors to obtain further information about the interpretation of the law and the application of the law by the tax authorities in this regard. In this respect it should be noted that the Austrian tax authorities have commented upon the distinction between index certificates of foreign issuers, on the one hand, and foreign investment funds, on the other hand, in the Investment Fund Regulations 2008. Pursuant to these regulations, a foreign investment fund may be assumed if for the purpose of the issuance a predominant actual purchase of the reference asset by the issuer or a trustee of the issuer, if any, is made or actively managed assets exist. Direct held debt securities, the performance of which depends on an index, should not be seen as foreign investment funds. The term investment fund, however, does not encompass collective real estate investment vehicles pursuant to the Austrian Real Estate Funds Act (*Immobilien-Investmentfondsgesetz*).

In case of requalification of a financial instrument into a foreign investment fund, such foreign investment fund units are regarded as transparent for tax purposes. Both distributions as well as retained income are subject to income tax. Retained income is deemed distributed for tax purposes (so called "income equivalent to distributions" [*ausschüttungsgleiche Erträge*]), if not distributed within four months after the end of the fiscal year of the fund in which such income arose. For fiscal years ending after 30

September 2015 the time of attribution of such taxable income was generally moved to earlier dates. In case a foreign investment fund does not have an Austrian tax representative or such income equivalent to distributions is not reported to the Austrian tax authorities by the investor itself, a lump sum calculation will take place. Such lump sum calculation generally results in a higher tax basis. Generally, the flat (special) income tax rate of 27.5% applies. Capital gains on a disposal of units in foreign investment funds are taxed by means of the 27.5% withholding tax or are taxed at the Special Income Tax Rates of 27.5%.

*Individual is neither Austrian resident nor has his/her habitual abode in Austria*

In case the investor (natural person) is neither Austrian resident nor has his/her habitual abode in Austria, Austrian income tax will not apply on interest payments as well as capital gains from the redemption or disposal of the notes, provided that the issuer is not Austrian resident, does not have its seat or place of management in Austria or is not an Austrian branch of a foreign bank. If the non-resident individual investor is not subject to limited income tax liability in Austria, tax deduction can be omitted, subject to certain conditions. The Austrian custodian or paying agent may refrain from withholding already at source, if the non-resident investor furnishes proof of non-residency.

### **Corporations / Private Foundations**

Corporate investors deriving business income from the notes may avoid the application of withholding tax by filing a declaration of exemption (*Befreiungserklärung*) in the meaning of section 94 no 5 AITA with the custodian or paying agent. Additionally, the notes have to be held in a custodial account with a credit institution. Otherwise the withholding tax is credited against corporate income tax. Generally, income from the notes is subject to corporate income tax at a rate of 25%.

In case of private foundations pursuant to the Austrian Private Foundations Act (*Privatstiftungsgesetz*) fulfilling the prerequisites contained in section 13 subpara 1 of the Austrian Corporate Income Tax Act (*Körperschaftsteuergesetz*) and holding the notes as a non-business asset no withholding tax is levied on income on such notes under the conditions set forth in section 94 no 12 AITA. However, on income from the notes an interim tax (*Zwischensteuer*) at a rate of 25% is levied. This interim tax can be credited against withholding tax for amounts granted to beneficiaries of the private foundation pursuant to the Austrian Private Foundations Act.

### **Austrian Implementation of the EU Savings Directive**

Under the EC Council Directive 2003/48/EC on the taxation of savings income, each Member State is required, from 1 July 2005, to provide to the tax authorities of another Member State details of payments of interest or other similar income paid by a person within its jurisdiction to, or collected by such a person for, an individual resident in that other Member State; however, for a transitional period, Austria, Belgium and Luxembourg were instead entitled to apply a withholding system in relation to such payments, deducting tax at rates rising over time to 35%. The transitional period is to terminate at the end of the first full fiscal year following the agreement by certain non-EU countries to the exchange of information relating to such payments.

Also with effect from 1 July 2005, a number of non-EU countries, and certain dependent or associated territories of certain Member States, have agreed to adopt similar measures (either provision of information or transitional withholding) in relation to payments made by a person within its jurisdiction to, or collected by such a person for, an individual resident in a Member State. In addition, the Member States have entered into reciprocal provision of information or transitional withholding arrangements with certain of those dependent or associated territories in relation to payments made by a person in a Member State to, or collected by such a person for, an individual resident in one of those territories.

The Austrian EU Withholding Tax Act 2004 (*EU-Quellensteuergesetz*) implementing the European Union Savings Directive, may be applicable if a paying agent in Austria (which might be, e.g., any Austrian bank holding a securities account for a holder of the notes) pays out interest within the meaning of the Directive to a beneficial owner who is an individual resident in another Member State other than Austria provided that no exception from such withholding applies. The withholding tax amounts to 35%.

Regarding the issue of whether certificates are subject to the withholding tax, the Austrian tax authorities distinguish between certificates with and without a capital guarantee (a capital guarantee being the promise of a repayment of a minimum amount of the capital invested or the promise of the payment of interest), with the reference assets being of relevance. Furthermore, pursuant to the guidelines published by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance, income from derivatives, such as futures, options or swaps, does not generally qualify as interest in the sense of the Austrian EU Withholding Tax Act.

In December 2014 the Council adopted directive 2014/107/EU amending provisions on the mandatory automatic exchange of information between tax administrations. It extended the scope of that exchange to include interest, dividends and other types of income held by private individuals and certain entities. Directive 2014/107/EU entered into force on 1 January 2016. Austria was granted an additional year to apply the new rules. Transitional provisions for cases of overlap of scope prevent parallel application. That means that there will be full tax transparency between all EU Member States from 2018, at the latest. From that date the Austrian EU-Withholding Tax will no longer be levied. Consequently Directive 2003/48/EC was repealed by the Council on 10 November 2015.

### ***Responsibility for Withholding of Taxes***

The Issuer is not liable for the withholding of taxes at source. Withholding tax is levied by an Austrian custodian or paying agent.

### ***Inheritance and Gift Tax***

In Austria, inheritance and gift tax is not levied any more. Gifts are, however, to be notified to the tax authorities. This applies if the donor or the acquirer is an Austrian tax resident at the time of the donation. In case of corporations, the registered seat or the actual place of management in Austria is relevant. Exemptions apply to donations between close family members if the value of the gift(s) does not exceed EUR 50,000 within one year and to donations between other persons if the value of the gift(s) does not exceed EUR 15,000 within five years. Although this disclosure requirement does not trigger any tax for the donation in Austria, breach of the disclosure requirement may be fined with an amount of up to 10% of the value of the gift.

Certain gratuitous transfers of assets to (*Austrian and foreign*) private foundations and comparable legal estates are subject to foundation transfer tax (*Stiftungseingangssteuer*). Such tax is triggered if at the time of the transfer the transferor and/or the transferee have a domicile, their habitual abode, their legal seat or their place of management in Austria. Certain exemptions apply in cases of transfers mortis causa of certain financial assets if income from such financial assets is subject to tax at the flat rate of 25%. The tax basis is the fair market value of the assets transferred minus any debts, calculated at the time of transfer. The tax rate is 2.5% in general with a higher rate of 25% applying in special cases. Special provisions apply to transfers to entities falling within the scope of the tax treaty between Austria and Liechtenstein.

Further, gratuitous transfers of notes may trigger income tax at the level of the transferor.

### ***Transfer Taxes***

There are no transfer taxes, registration taxes or similar taxes payable in Austria as a consequence of the acquisition, ownership, disposition or redemption of the notes.

However, on 5 May 2014, the Ministers of Finance of 10 participating member countries of the European Union adopted a declaration for enhanced cooperation regarding the introduction of a financial transaction tax based on the proposal by the European Commission adopted on 14 February 2013. Austria is one of the participating countries. The first steps of implementation are planned now for 2016. Although no law has been passed so far in Austria, such financial transaction tax may be incurred on transactions such as the acquisition, disposition or redemption of the notes in the future.

## **BELGIUM**

*The following is a general description of certain Belgian withholding tax considerations relating to the notes. It specifically contains information on taxes on the income from the notes withheld at source and provides an indication as to whether the Issuer assumes responsibility for the withholding of taxes at the source. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all tax considerations relating to the notes, whether in Belgium or elsewhere. Prospective purchasers of the notes should consult their own tax advisers as to which countries' tax laws could be relevant to acquiring, holding and disposing of the notes, payments of interest, principal and/or other amounts under the notes and the consequences of such actions under the tax laws of Belgium. This overview is based upon the law as in effect on the date of this European base prospectus. The information contained within this section is limited to withholding taxation issues, and prospective investors should not apply any information set out below to other areas, including (but not limited to) the legality of transactions involving the notes.*

If the Issuer is making payments in respect of the notes, which qualify as "interest" for Belgian tax purposes, and these payments are made to investors via a Belgian paying agent or other financial intermediary established in Belgium, then a 27 per cent. withholding tax will normally apply, save where an exemption is applicable (e.g. for interest payments made by non-residents (like the Issuer) to non-resident investors which are not imputed on the results of a Belgian establishment of the debtor and which are made through regulated financial intermediaries (including licensed clearing or settlement institutions) established in Belgium, subject to compliance with some certification requirements regarding conditions applicable to the investor). This withholding tax is the final tax for private individuals and non-profit legal entities resident in Belgium and constitutes an advance tax payment for individual professional investors and companies established in Belgium, which is creditable against their final income tax assessment and any excess withholding may be refundable.

If the payments made by the Issuer on the notes would qualify as "dividends" for Belgian tax purposes and these payments are made to investors via a Belgian paying agent or other financial intermediary established in Belgium, then a 27 per cent. withholding tax will normally apply, save where an exemption is applicable (e.g. for non-Belgian source dividends received by Belgian resident companies or Belgian establishments of non-resident companies resident in another Member State of the EEA). Again, this withholding tax is the final tax for private individuals and non-profit legal entities resident in Belgium and constitutes an advance tax payment for individual professional investors and companies established in Belgium, which is creditable against their final income tax assessment and any excess withholding may be refundable.

As non-resident of Belgium, not acting through a Belgian establishment or branch office, the Issuer does not assume responsibility for the Belgian withholding tax referred to above.

## **BULGARIA**

To the extent that (a) the Issuer of the notes under this European base prospectus is a non-Bulgarian entity and (b) any payments under the notes will be paid by non-Bulgarian entities, no withholding tax will be imposed in Bulgaria on the income from the notes.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

*The following is a brief overview of the Czech (income) tax aspects in connection with the notes. It does not claim to fully describe all the Czech tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, disposition or redemption of the notes. In some cases a different tax regime may apply. As under the Program different types of notes may be issued, the tax treatment of such notes may be different due to their specific terms. Further, this overview does not take into account or discuss the tax laws of any country other than the Czech Republic, nor does it take into account the investors' individual circumstances. Prospective investors are advised to consult their own professional advisors to obtain further information about the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, disposition, redemption, exercise or settlement of any of the notes. Only personal advisors are in a position to adequately take into account special tax aspects of the particular notes in question as well as the investor's personal circumstances and any special tax treatment applicable to the investor. Tax risks resulting from the notes shall in any case be borne by the investors.*

*This overview is based on Czech law as in force as of the date of this European Base Prospectus. The laws and their interpretation by the tax authorities may change and such changes may also have retroactive effect. With regard to certain innovative or structured financial notes or instruments there is currently neither any case-law nor comments of the tax authorities as to the tax treatment of such financial notes and instruments. Accordingly, it cannot be ruled out that the Czech tax authorities and courts or the Czech paying agents adopt a view different from that outlined below.*

### **Individual Investors**

All payments of interest and principal by the Issuer under the notes can be made free and clear of any withholding or deduction for or on account of any taxes of whatsoever nature imposed, levied, withheld, or assessed by Czech taxing authority.

Interest (which includes also proceeds as the difference between a notes' nominal value, redemption amount, and lower issue price) paid to an individual who is a Czech tax resident (or to a Czech permanent establishment of an individual who is not a Czech tax resident) is subject to tax in the amount of 15% (plus a 7 percent solidarity surcharge if the notes are included in the business property of an individual and the income exceeds 48 times the average wage).

Profit from the sale of notes generated by an individual who is a Czech tax resident, or by a Czech tax non-resident through its permanent establishment located in the Czech Republic, is included in the general income tax base and is subject to the 15% income tax. In general, a loss suffered by this category of taxpayers in sales of notes is non-deductible; however, under certain conditions, the loss and the profit from the sale of notes and other securities may be offset, with the ultimate result being generally tax-deductible.

Any gain derived from the sale of the notes is exempt from Czech personal income tax if (i) the individual has held the notes for more than three years prior to their sale and the notes have not been held in connection with the business activities of the Czech holder or if so, (ii) the notes will be sold after three years following the termination of such business activities at the earliest. Income from the sale of the notes will also be exempt from tax if his/her (gross) worldwide income from the sale of securities (including the notes) in a given calendar year does not exceed the amount of CZK 100,000.

In case of non-resident holders of the notes no Czech tax will apply to the resulting interest payments and capital gains (we suppose that the investor does not have a Czech permanent establishment the notes are attributable to).

## **Corporations**

Interest (which also includes proceeds as the difference between the Notes' nominal value, redemption amount, and its lower issue price) paid to a legal entity that is a Czech tax resident (or to a Czech permanent establishment of a legal entity that is not a Czech tax resident) is included in the general tax base and is subject to the applicable corporate income tax rate (amounting to 19% in 2016).

Profit from the sale of notes generated by a legal entity that is a Czech tax resident, or by a Czech tax non-resident through its permanent establishment located in the Czech Republic, is included in the general corporate income tax base and is subject to income tax (amounting to 19% in 2016). In general, a loss suffered by this category of taxpayers in sales of notes is tax-deductible.

In case of non-resident holders of the notes no Czech tax will apply to the resulting interest payments and capital gains (we suppose that the investor does not have a Czech permanent establishment the notes are attributable to).

## **DENMARK**

*The following is an overview description of the taxation in Denmark of the notes according to the Danish tax laws in force as of the date of this prospectus and is subject to any changes in law and the interpretation and application thereof, which changes could be made with retroactive effect. The following overview does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to acquire, hold or dispose of the notes, and does not purport to deal with the tax consequences applicable to all categories of investors, some of which (such as professional dealers in securities) may be subject to special rules. Potential investors are under all circumstances strongly recommended to contact their own tax advisor to clarify the individual consequences of their investment, holding and disposal of the notes. The Issuer makes no representations regarding the tax consequences of purchase, holding or disposal of the notes.*

*This section does not address the potential tax consequences of the U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act for Danish resident noteholders. Payments of interest and principal on notes may be subject to withholding tax under the FATCA withholding tax may also affect payments on the notes.*

### **Taxation at source**

Under existing Danish tax laws, no general withholding tax or coupon tax will apply to payments of interest or principal or other amounts due on the notes, other than in certain cases on payments in respect of controlled debt in relation to the Issuer as referred to in The Danish Corporation Tax Act (in Danish "Selskabsskatteloven") of 20 May 2015 (as amended). This will not have any impact on noteholders who are not in a relationship whereby they control, or are controlled by, the Issuer or where the noteholders and the Issuer are not controlled by the same group of persons or shareholders.

### **Resident holders of notes**

Private individuals, including individuals who are engaged in financial trade, companies and similar enterprises resident in Denmark for tax purposes or receiving interest on the notes through their permanent establishment in Denmark are liable to pay tax on such interest.

Capital gains and losses are taxable to individuals and corporate entities in accordance with the Danish Capital and Exchange Gains Act (in Danish "Kursgevinstloven") of 18 September 2013 (as amended) (the "Act"). Gains and losses on notes issued to corporate entities are included in the taxable income in accordance with a mark-to-market principle (in Danish "lagerprincippet"), i.e. on an unrealized basis.

Gains and losses on notes issued to individuals are generally included in the taxable income on a realized basis. However, the gain or loss will only be included in the taxable income when the net gain or loss for the year on debt claims, net gains/losses on debt denominated in foreign currency and gains/losses on investment certificates in bond-based investment funds subject to minimum taxation in total exceeds DKK 2,000.

#### *Structured notes*

Structured notes can be designed in many ways and with many different underlying assets or in a way that the yield will depend on various index or currency flows. If the notes are considered as structured notes for Danish tax purposes the following tax rules apply.

Gains and losses on structured notes are generally treated as gains and losses on financial instruments in accordance with section 29(3) of the Act. However, exceptions apply on notes which are adjusted in relation to developments in the consumer prices index (as computed by Statistics Denmark (Danmarks Statistik)), the net consumer-price index or a similar index within the European Union or any of its member states. The gains and losses are calculated irrespective of the rules applying to the underlying asset.

Gains and losses on structured notes issued to both corporate entities and individuals are predominantly treated as taxable income in accordance with a mark-to-market principle, i.e. on an unrealised basis.

Corporate entities are generally able to deduct losses on structured notes, but individuals may only deduct losses on structured notes against gains on other financial instruments. However, in both cases, certain restrictions and exceptions apply.

#### *Pension Funds*

Pension funds and other entities governed by the Danish Act on Taxation of Pension Investments Returns (in Danish "*Pensionsafkastbeskatningsloven*") of 10 October 2014 (as amended) are, irrespective of realization, taxed on the annual increase or decrease on the market value of the Notes according to a mark-to-market principle as specifically laid down in the act.

## **FINLAND**

*The following overview relates only to Finnish withholding tax issues with respect to payments made in respect of the notes to persons who are generally liable to tax on Finland (i.e. persons that are resident of Finland for tax purposes). The overview does not deal with any other Finnish tax implications of acquiring, holding or disposing of the notes. Investors are advised to seek professional advice relating to other tax implications in respect of acquiring, holding or disposing of the notes.*

As the Issuer is not resident in Finland for tax purposes, there is no Finnish withholding tax (Fi. *lähdevero*) applicable to the payments made by the Issuer in respect of the notes.

However, Finland operates a system of preliminary taxation (Fi. *ennakonpidätysjärjestelmä*) to secure payment of taxes in certain circumstances. In the context of the notes, a tax of 30 per cent will be deducted and withheld from all payments that are treated as interest or as compensation comparable to interest, when such payments are made by a Finnish Paying Agent to individuals. Any preliminary tax (Fi. *ennakonpidätys*) will be used for the payment of the individual's final taxes (which means that they are credited against the individual's final tax liability).



## FRANCE

*The following is a general description of the French withholding tax treatment of income from the notes. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all tax considerations relating to the notes, whether in France or elsewhere. In particular, it does not describe the French tax treatment applicable to holders of notes who are tax residents of France, except in relation to French withholding tax on interest and does not discuss any other French tax such as other French income tax rules, French registration duties or French tax on financial transactions. It applies only to holders who are tax residents in France and who do not hold the notes in connection with a permanent establishment or a fixed base in another State. Prospective purchasers of the notes should consult their own tax advisers as to which countries' tax laws could be relevant to acquiring, holding and disposing of the notes and receiving payments of interest, principal and/or other amounts under the notes and the consequences of such actions under the tax laws of France. This overview is based upon the law as in effect on the date of this Base Prospectus, which may change at any time, possibly with retrospective effect.*

Payments of interest (and principal) by the Issuer under the notes may in principle be made without any compulsory withholding or deduction for or on account of French income taxes to the extent that the Issuer is not incorporated in France or otherwise acting through a French establishment.

However, pursuant to Article 125 A of the French tax code and subject to certain exceptions, if the payment of interest and other similar income is made to French resident individuals in connection with the management of their private assets, it would be subject to a 24 per cent withholding tax. Social contributions (CSG, CRDS and other related contributions) are also levied by way of withholding tax at an aggregate rate of 15.5 per cent on interest paid to French tax resident individuals.

This withholding tax is levied by the paying agent if it is established in France.

If the paying agent is established outside France, the interest paid are declared, and the corresponding tax paid, within the first 15 days of the month following the interest payment, either by the taxpayer himself, or by the paying agent if established in an EU Member State or European Economic Area member State that has signed a bilateral mutual administrative assistance agreement in tax matters with France, provided that the paying agent has been granted a power of attorney for that purpose by the taxpayer.

This withholding tax does not trigger a discharge of the individual's personal income tax or, where applicable, of the exceptional contribution on high income earners. It constitutes an installment on account of the taxpayer's final income tax and is creditable against the final personal income tax due by the taxpayer with respect to the year during which it is withheld, the surplus, if any, being refunded to the taxpayer.

## GERMANY

*The following is a general description of certain German tax considerations relating to the payment of principal and interest in respect of the notes. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all tax considerations relating to the notes and does not deal with other tax aspects of acquiring, holding or disposing of the notes. It relates only to persons who are the absolute beneficial owners of notes and any related coupons and may not apply to certain classes of holders. In addition, these comments may not apply where interest on the notes is deemed to be the income of any other person for tax purposes. This overview is based upon the law as in effect on the date of this European base prospectus and is subject to any change in law that may take effect after such date even with retrospective effect. The following is a general guide which is limited to withholding tax issues and should be treated with appropriate caution.*

*Taxation and its effects depend on the individual circumstances of the taxpayer. Prospective purchasers of notes should, therefore, consult their tax advisers as to the tax consequences of such purchase applicable to their particular situation under the tax laws of the country in which they are resident for tax purposes and under the tax laws of the Federal Republic of Germany and taking into account the final terms.*

*The Issuer does not assume responsibility for any withholding of taxes at the source.*

### **Tax Residents**

#### *Taxation of interest income and capital gains*

Payments of interest on the notes to persons who are tax residents of Germany (i.e. persons whose residence, habitual abode, statutory seat, or place of effective management and control is located in Germany) are subject to German income or corporate tax (plus solidarity surcharge (*Solidaritätszuschlag*) at a rate of 5.5 per cent. on the respective taxable amount). Furthermore, church tax may apply. Such interest may also be subject to trade tax if the notes form part of the assets of a German trade or business.

Capital gains from the disposal, redemption, repayment or assignment of notes held as non-business assets are subject to German income tax and solidarity surcharge. The taxable capital gain will be the difference between the proceeds from the disposition, redemption, repayment or assignment on the one hand and the acquisition and disposal costs on the other hand. Where notes are issued in a currency other than Euro, the disposal proceeds and the acquisition costs each will be converted into Euros using the relevant current exchange rates, so that currency gains and losses will also be taken into account in determining taxable income.

Where a note forms part of the property of a German trade or business generally, each year the part of the difference between the issue or purchase price of the note and its redemption amount (if such amount is fixed at the time of the acquisition) attributable to such year as well as interest accrued must be taken into account as interest income and may also be subject to trade tax.

#### *Withholding Tax*

If (i) notes are held in a custodial account which the holder of the notes maintains with a German credit institution or a German financial services institution, each as defined in the German Banking Act (*Gesetz über das Kreditwesen*) (including a German branch of a foreign credit institution or of a foreign financial services institution, but excluding a foreign branch of a German credit institution or a German financial services institution) (a "German Bank") or a German securities trader (*Wertpapierhandelsunternehmen*) or a German securities trading bank (*Wertpapierhandelsbanken*) or one of these entities executes the sale of the Securities and (ii) the relevant entity pays or credits the relevant payments under the notes (a "German Disbursing Agent") and (iii) the respective payments qualify as interest payments on bonds and claims, which are publicly registered or entered into a foreign register or for which collective global notes or partial

debentures were issued, or qualify as capital gains from the sale or redemption of coupons, if the linked bonds are not subject to the sale or the redemption, or qualify as capital gains from the sale or redemption of other capital claims within the meaning of sec. 20 para. 1 no. 7 of the German Income Tax Act or qualify as gains arising from forward transactions (*Termingeschäft*) or arising from the sale of a financial instrument which is designed as forward transaction, the German Disbursing Agent would withhold or deduct German withholding tax at a rate of 26.375 per cent. (including solidarity surcharge).

In case interest payments on bonds and claims, which are publicly registered or entered into a foreign register or for which collective global notes or partial debentures were issued, or proceeds from the sale or redemption of coupons, if the linked bonds are not subject to the sale, or proceeds from the sale or redemption of other capital claims within the meaning of sec. 20 para. 1 no. 7 of the German Income Tax Act are paid out or credited by the debtor or a German Bank to a holder other than a foreign credit institution or foreign financial services institution against handing over of the notes or interest coupons, which are not safe-kept or administered by the debtor or the German Bank ("Over-the-counter Transaction") the aforesaid institution is obliged to withhold tax at a rate of 26.375 per cent. (including solidarity surcharge).

Withholding tax will also apply with regard to proceeds from notes held as business assets, provided the requirements as set forth above are met, unless in cases of proceeds deriving from forward transactions (*Termingeschäfte*) or from the sale of the notes (i) the holder of the notes qualifies as corporation being subject to unlimited taxation in Germany or (ii) such proceeds are business income of a German business and the holder of the notes declares this fact to the German Disbursing Agent by ways of an official form.

#### *Flat Tax Regime*

Generally for private individuals holding the notes as private assets, withholding taxes levied on income deriving from capital investments (e.g. interest income under the notes and also capital gains) becomes a final flat tax of 25 per cent. plus a solidarity surcharge thereon, which is currently levied at 5.5 per cent., resulting in an aggregate tax burden of 26.375 per cent. If the holder of the notes holds the notes with a German Disbursing Agent, then such flat tax will be directly withheld by such German Disbursing Agent (see above section on Withholding Tax). An individual holder may in addition be subject to church tax. Since 1 January 2015, for individuals subject to church tax an electronic information system for church withholding tax purposes applies in relation to investment income, with the effect that church tax will be collected automatically by the paying office by way of withholding unless the holder of the notes has filed a blocking notice (*Sperrvermerk*) with the German Federal Central Tax Office (*Bundeszentralamt für Steuern*) in which case the holder of the notes will be assessed to church tax. If church tax has to be taken into account within the withholding tax procedure by the German Disbursing Agent, the flat tax is to be reduced by 25 per cent. of the church tax applying to the respective taxable income. Such reduced withholding tax amount is the assessment base for the church tax to be withheld by the German Disbursing Agent. The church tax rate varies between the German federal states. If the income from the notes was not subject to withholding tax, the flat tax is levied in the course of the annual assessment procedure.

#### *Tax Base*

The tax base depends upon the nature of the respective income:

With regard to current interest income, the gross interest the resident holder receives is subject to the flat tax upon accrual of the interest.

Regarding the sale or redemption of the notes, the capital gain is calculated on the difference between the proceeds from the redemption, transfer or sale after deduction of expenses directly related to the transfer, sale or redemption and the acquisition costs, if the notes were purchased or sold by the German Disbursing Agent and had been held in a custodial account with such German Disbursing Agent. In case the resident holder transfers the notes to another account, the initial German Disbursing Agent has to inform the new German Disbursing Agent about the acquisition costs of the notes, otherwise 30 per cent. of the proceeds from the sale or redemption of the notes are deemed as assessment base for the withholding tax.

Apart from an annual lump-sum deduction (*Sparer-Pauschbetrag*) for investment type income of EUR 801 (EUR 1,602 for married couples and for partners in accordance with the registered partnership law (*Gesetz über die Eingetragene Lebenspartnerschaft*) filing jointly) investors holding the notes as private assets will not be entitled to deduct expenses incurred in connection with the investment in the notes from their income. In addition, such holders could not offset losses from the investment in the notes against other type of income (e.g. employment income).

In general, no withholding tax will be levied if the holder of notes is an individual (i) whose notes do not form part of the property of a German trade or business nor gives rise to income from the letting and leasing of property and (ii) who filed a certificate of exemption (*Freistellungsauftrag*) with the German Disbursing Agent but only to the extent the interest income derived from the notes together with other investment income does not exceed the maximum exemption amount shown on the certificate of exemption. Similarly, no withholding tax will be deducted if the holder of notes has submitted to the German Disbursing Agent a certificate of non assessment (*Nichtveranlagungsbescheinigung*) issued by the relevant local tax office.

If the notes are not held as private assets but as a business assets, gains relating to a sale, transfer or redemption of the notes and payments of interest are subject to German corporation tax or income tax and in any case trade tax as part of current operating profit. Losses incurred under the notes may only be limited tax deductible.

If the notes are held as business assets, a withholding tax charge will not be a final tax, but might result in a tax credit or refund of the withholding tax.

### **Non-residents**

Non-residents of Germany are, in general, exempt from German income taxation, unless the respective payments qualify as taxable income from German sources within the meaning of section 49 of the German Income Tax Act, e.g. if the notes are held in a German permanent establishment or through a German permanent representative or payments are paid within the scope of an Over-the-counter Transaction or for another reason stipulated in said section 49 of the German Income Tax Act. In this case a holder of the notes will be subject to a limited tax liability in Germany and income tax or corporation tax as the case may be and solidarity surcharge will be levied on the German income. In addition, interest income and capital gains will be subject to trade tax if the notes belong to a German permanent establishment of the holder.

Generally, German withholding taxes may be levied, even if the right to tax the income is, e.g. due to a double taxation treaty, not with Germany if the further conditions set out above are met. However, under certain conditions, the investor in the notes may be eligible for a full or partial refund.

Under certain circumstances non-residents may benefit from tax reductions or tax exemptions under double tax treaties, if any, entered into with Germany.

### **Other Taxes**

No stamp, issue, registration or similar taxes or duties will be payable in Germany in connection with the issuance, delivery or execution of the notes. Net assets tax (*Vermögensteuer*) is currently not levied in Germany. Please note, Germany may levy financial transaction tax in the future.

## GREECE

*The following is an overview of certain material Greek income tax consequences in relation to payment of interest under the notes and transfer of the notes. The statements herein regarding taxation in Greece are based on Law 4172/2013 (the New Income Tax Code) in force in Greece in principle as of 1 January 2014 and are subject to any changes in law. Since no relevant precedent, administrative guidelines or evidence of practical application of the Greek taxation framework, as amended, exists, the discussion below is qualified in its entirety. Potential investors should not rely on that overview and should seek tax advice from their advisers on their own taxation.*

### **Withholding Tax on Interest Payments**

Pursuant to the NITC and *Circulars of the Ministry of Finance* N° 1042/2015 and 1011/2014, a withholding tax of 15 per cent will be imposed on interest on the notes paid to Greek tax resident noteholders and to permanent establishments maintained in Greece by non-Greek tax residents, if such payments are made by legal persons and entities who are tax residents in Greece or by permanent establishments in Greece. Such withholding tax exhausts the tax liability of such noteholders who are individuals, provided the relevant income does not qualify as business income.

### **Capital Gains Arising From the Transfer of the Notes**

By virtue of Article 42 of the NITC and the guidelines laid down by the *Circular of the Ministry of Finance* N° 1032/2015, Capital gains arising from the transfer of the notes, if acquired by Greek tax resident individuals, concur to form the taxable basis comprised of gains arising from the transfer of certain securities taxed at 15 per cent, provided such gains do not qualify as business income. No such tax shall apply in case of capital gains obtained by holders who are not tax resident in Greece (individual or legal entity) or do not maintain, for tax purposes, a permanent establishment in Greece.

Capital gains arising from the transfer of the notes, if acquired by Greek tax resident individuals concur to form the taxable basis for business income tax purposes (taxed at a scale of 26 to 33 per cent), provided they qualify as business income.

Capital gains arising from the transfer of the notes, if acquired by Greek tax resident legal persons and entities or by permanent establishments maintained in Greece by non-Greek tax residents concur to form the taxable basis for business income tax purposes (taxed at a scale of 26 to 33 per cent or at a flat rate of 29 per cent, depending on the level of such taxpayers' book-keeping obligations).

## HUNGARY

*The following is a brief overview of Hungarian tax aspects in connection with the notes. The below overview does not fully describe all tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, disposition or redemption of the notes. This overview only discusses the tax laws of Hungary as in force on 9 February 2016 and based on the individual circumstances a different tax regime may apply. As under the Program different types of notes may be issued, the tax treatment of such notes can be different due to their specific terms. This overview does not take into account the investors' individual circumstances.*

*Prospective investors are advised to consult their own professional advisors to obtain further information about the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, disposition, redemption, exercise or settlement of any of the notes.*

*It cannot be excluded that Hungarian tax authorities or courts or the Hungarian Payers (as defined below) adopt a view different from that outlined below.*

## ***Income Taxation of Private individuals***

### *Withholding (Income) Tax*

Unless otherwise provided for in the applicable convention on the avoidance of double taxation between Hungary and another State where the private individual has its tax residency, the income of a private individual is subject to Hungarian personal income tax, which is withheld in the form of withholding tax. A private individual is subject to withholding taxation of certain capital incomes if such capital income is paid to the private individual taxpayer by a legal person, other organization, or private entrepreneur resident in Hungary that (who) provides taxable income, irrespective of whether such payment is made directly or through an intermediary (post office, credit institution) (a "Hungarian Payer"). The general rate of the withholding tax is 15% (fifteen per cent).

- In respect of interest, Hungarian Payer shall mean the person who pays any interest income to any private individual according to the Personal Income Tax Act, the borrower of a loan or the issuer of a bond,
- in respect of dividends, Hungarian Payer shall mean the taxpayer from whose assets such dividends are paid.
- In respect of revenues originating from a transaction concluded with the involvement of a licensed stockbroker, Hungarian Payer shall mean such stockbroker (consignee).
- In respect of income that is earned in a foreign country and taxable in Hungary, Hungarian Payer shall mean the person (legal person, other organization, or private entrepreneur) commissioned in Hungary, with the exception of transaction orders given to a credit institution solely for the performance of a transfer (payment).
- In respect of any taxable payment made by a non-resident company through its branch or commercial representation, such branch or commercial representation shall be considered a Hungarian Payer.

As long as the Issuer is not a Hungarian Payer, the Issuer is not liable for the withholding of taxes.

The withholding tax also applies if the private individual is not a Hungarian tax resident, i.e. is generally not subject to Hungarian income tax.

The withholding tax applies to the following kinds of income, each defined or detailed further in Act CXVII of 1995 on Personal Income Tax:

- interest income,
- income from securities lending,
- dividend income,
- capital gains income.

However, whether a withholding tax is actually applicable to a certain income, the exact details of the security, the income payment and the tax subject (holder of the security) shall be examined. Incomes which do not fit into the definitions of these incomes belong to the general tax base of private individuals, which is taxed at the same level of personal income tax, but is subject to higher social contribution burden.

## **Interest Income**

'Interest income' shall mean the following (narrowed for the purposes of this Prospectus):

a) in case of the balance of any deposit account (savings deposit account), or payment account, the part of the interest credited and/or capitalized based on a contract (including standard service agreements and interest conditions) made between the private individual and a payment service provider that is not in excess of the fair market value;

b) in connection with debt securities and collective investments in transferable securities, which are offered and traded publicly:

ba) the income paid to the private individual under the title of interest and/or yield, due to the fact that the securities are held at a specific time prescribed as a precondition for entitlement to interest and/or yield,

bb) the gains achieved when called, redeemed, or transferred not including the transfer of collective investments in transferable securities in an exchange market, or in a market of another EEA Member State or in a Member State of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) from the income payable to the private individual - irrespective of the net current value, accumulated interest or yield it represents - to the extent established according to the provisions on capital gains;

c) by way of derogation from paragraphs a)-b) directly above, if the interest income established according to paragraphs a)-b) represents any asset (e.g. securities) from which the tax cannot be deducted, the taxable amount shall be calculated by multiplying the fair market value of the asset by either 1.18, or 1.27 if the interest income is subject to a healthcare contribution obligation.

The legal title of tax liability in connection with any interest income not mentioned in paragraphs a)-c) above and Section 65 (1) of the Personal Income Tax Act or that is obtained by way of derogation from the conditions defined therein shall be determined in consideration of the contract between the parties affected (meaning the private individual and the person paying the interest income, or between these persons and a third party), and the relating tax liabilities of the payer or the private individual shall be satisfied accordingly (including, in particular, the assessment, payment and declaration of income, tax amount, tax advance, and the related disclosures).

If the private individual does not acquire the income through a Hungarian Payer, the private individual shall establish the private income tax after the interest income in its own tax return and pay it. The rate of the tax is 15% (fifteen per cent).

The revenues in connection with which the Act on the Rules of Taxation prescribes compulsory data disclosure (pursuant to the EU Savings Directive 2003/48/EC, see below) relating to income received in the form of interest payments shall not be taken into account as income in Hungary. In case of long-term investments ("tartós befektetés"), interest income shall be free of tax if the private individual does not interrupt the deposit period of five years.

## **Securities Lending Fee**

The entire fee of securities lending acquired by the private individual shall qualify as taxable income. The Hungarian Payer shall establish, deduct and pay the tax, the amount of which is 15%.

## **Profit Realized on Swaps**

Profit realized on swaps shall mean the part of the proceeds received by a private individual in a tax year in connection with interest-rate, currency and equity swaps (swap receipts) that is in excess of the expenses (swap expenses) the private individual has incurred and verified as directly related to the transaction in question. Any sum of swap expenses that is in excess of swap receipts shall be treated as a loss realized on swaps.

Profits and/or losses realized on swaps:

a) shall be determined by the Hungarian Payer at the end of the tax year separately for each transaction, and they shall supply a certificate to the private individual affected by 31 January of the year following the tax year broken down according to transactions, and shall disclose such information to the National Tax and Customs Authority in accordance with the Act on the Rules of Taxation;

b) shall be recorded by the private individual in the absence of a Hungarian Payer.

By way of derogation from the above, the legal title of the income and the amount of tax liability shall be determined in consideration of the contract between the parties affected (meaning the private individual to whom the income was paid and the other party to the transaction, or between these persons and a third party) and the circumstances under which the income was obtained if it is established that the private individual arranged the transaction in a way to make a profit without any real risk, by setting conditions in derogation from the market price, exchange rates, interest rates, fees and other factors.

In connection with the profit realized on swaps, the Hungarian Payer is not subject to the obligation of tax deduction. The private individual affected shall assess the profit realized on swaps and the tax payable on such income following the end of the tax year separately for each transaction, and shall declare them in his tax return filed for the tax year, and shall pay the tax by the deadline prescribed for filing tax returns.

If a swap is carried over to the next tax year, and if the private individual realizes any loss on this swap that covers such carried over period (as well), and indicates this loss separately for each transaction in his tax return filed for the tax year when the loss was realized, the private individual shall be entitled to tax compensation that may be claimed as tax paid in the tax return.

Tax compensation shall be established separately for each transaction on an annual basis, cumulatively (carried over) under the duration of the transaction, supported by regularly updated bookkeeping records (see Section 65/B of the Private Income Tax Act).

### **Dividend Income**

All revenues of private individuals received as dividends or dividend advance shall be considered income. For the purposes of this Prospectus:

a) dividend shall mean (among others):

interest on interest-bearing shares,

– income specified as dividends by the laws of other countries,

– the yield of venture capital notes,

– the payment made by the trustee to the private individual beneficiary or settlor from the yields of the trust assets, based on a [Hungarian] trust deed; (unless the beneficiary obtained such status as consideration for or related to an activity, transfer of assets or provision of services), it shall be assumed that yields are acquired before capital from the trust assets, if yield and capital cannot be separately identified, the entire amount obtained by the private individual shall be regarded as dividend;

– payment as a share from its profits by a small taxpayer company to its shareholder not notified as a small taxpayer;

b) dividend advance shall mean any prepayments of dividends made on the dividend estimated for the tax year.



The tax on dividends (dividend advances) shall be assessed by the Hungarian Payer:

a) including resident credit institutions and investment service providers, in connection with any payment (credit) of dividend (dividend advance) earned abroad to a private individual through the securities account (securities escrow account) it maintains on behalf of that private individual;

b) in due consideration of the rules on inability to deduct withholding tax and of the special rules of taxation applicable to the income of foreign nationals laid down in Act on the Rules of Taxation;

at the time of payment, and shall be declared and paid.

If there is no Hungarian Payer involved, the tax shall be assessed by the private individual in his tax return prepared without assistance from the tax authority and pay it before the deadline prescribed for filing. The amount of dividend advance and the tax shall be indicated for information purposes in the tax return filed for the year when the payment was made, and the amount of dividend paid as approved, and the tax deducted shall be declared in the tax return filed for the year when the resolution establishing the dividend was approved, and shall show the tax deducted and paid from the dividend advance as tax deducted.

### **Capital Gains Income**

'Income from capital gains realized' shall mean the proceeds received upon the transfer of securities (not including lending arrangements), less the purchase price of the securities and any incidental costs associated with the acquisition of the securities. Any portion of the said profit that is to be treated as part of some other type of income shall not be considered as a capital gain.

The Hungarian Payer shall assess the amount of income realized from the revenues, the tax and tax advance corresponding to the legal title of the income relying on the data and information at its disposal on the day of payment or that can be obtained, or as verified by the private individual relating to acquisition costs and the incremental costs, and shall declare and pay it in accordance with the Act on the Rules of Taxation. If the income does not originate from a Hungarian Payer, the private individual shall establish the tax in his tax return prepared without assistance from the tax authority and pay it before the deadline prescribed for filing.

Private individuals shall include in their tax returns, in the total of their income from capital gains realized during the tax year, or by way of self-assessment of their tax returns, that part of the purchase price of securities and the incremental costs associated with the securities that the payer did not take into account when determining income.

### **Controlled Capital Market Transactions**

In case of income from controlled capital market transactions, no withholding tax applies, however, if the Hungarian Payer of such income is an investment service provider, it shall report certain income information to the Hungarian tax authority.

Income from controlled capital market transactions shall mean the profit realized on controlled capital market transaction(s) the private individual has made during the tax year - including the capital market transactions covered by the same legal provisions at the private individual's choice - (not including interest income, or if income from long-term investments has to be established based on the transaction), and received in money from all such transactions (total profit realized on transactions) that is in excess of the total losses the investment service provider has charged to the private individual in connection with a given transaction or transactions, and paid during the tax year (total loss realized on transactions). Losses on controlled capital market transactions shall include the sum of total loss realized on transactions that is in excess of the total profit realized on transactions.

Controlled capital market transaction shall mean any transaction concluded with an investment service provider, or with the help of an investment service provider - other than swaps - involving financial

instruments (other than privately placed securities) or commodities, as well as spot transactions concluded within the framework of financial services, or within the framework of investment services and ancillary investment services involving foreign exchange or currency, where such deals are concluded by financial settlement and, in either case, if they satisfy the provisions of the said acts pertaining to transactions, except for the transactions where a price - other than the fair market value - is used as specified by the investment service providers customer and/or the parties he represents (a private individual, and/or any person closely linked to one another by their common interests, directly or otherwise), and

a) if executed within the framework of activities supervised by the Hungarian financial supervisory authority (FSA),

b) that is concluded with an investment service provider, or with the help of an investment service provider, operating in the money markets of any EEA Member State, or any other State with which Hungary has an agreement on double taxation, and

ba) if executed within the framework of activities supervised by the competent authorities of that State, and

bb) if the given State is not an EEA Member State, there are facilities in place to ensure the exchange of information between the competent authorities mentioned above and the FSA, and

bc) for which the private individual has a certificate made out by the investment service provider to his name, containing all data and information for each and every transaction concluded during the tax year for the assessment of his tax liability.

The private individual affected shall assess - in accordance with the provisions on capital gains as well - the profit realized on such controlled capital market transaction(s) and the tax payable on such income relying on the documents (certificates of execution) made out by the investment service provider or on his own records, and shall declare them in his tax return filed for the tax year, and shall pay the tax by the deadline prescribed for filing tax returns.

If the private individual realized any loss in connection with a controlled capital market transaction during the tax year and/or during the year preceding the current tax year, and/or in the two years preceding the current tax year, and if this loss is indicated in his tax return filed for the year when the loss was realized, the private individual shall be entitled to tax compensation that may be claimed as tax paid in the tax return.

### **Exceptions**

A withholding tax obligation may also be created or cease due to a convention on (the avoidance of) double taxation, between Hungary and another State. The tax obligation may cease if the notes are held as long-term investment and the further requirements are met.

#### *Valuable Consideration Obtained in The Form of Securities*

In connection with any valuable consideration obtained by a private individual in the form of securities, income shall mean the fair market value of the security prevailing at the time of acquisition of the security, less the verified cost (value) of the security and any incremental costs associated with it. The type of tax liability attached to this income shall be determined on the basis of the relationship between the parties concerned (the private individual and the person from whom the security originates, and the said persons and a third party) and the circumstances under which the income was obtained, and the ensuing tax liabilities prescribed upon the payer or the private individual in question (including, in particular, the assessment, payment and declaration of income, tax amount, tax advance, and the related disclosures) shall be satisfied accordingly.

Among other cases, the valuable consideration obtained by a private individual in the form of securities shall not be treated as income if the private individual

obtained the security in question through exercising a right that was obtained in a transaction offering equal conditions to all parties concerned;

– has obtained the shares from another private individual by means of a contract with mutual consideration, provided that the amount (value) of consideration reaches the nominal value of shares, or, where there is no nominal value, their accountable par from the issuers subscribed capital; without prejudice to the applicability of other provisions on tax exemptions.

The tax rate is 15% (fifteen per cent).

#### *Valuable Consideration Obtained by Way of Rights in Securities*

If income is not realized from profits made by means of controlled capital market transactions, the following rules shall apply:

As regards the valuable consideration obtained through the transfer (assignment), termination, endorsement of the purchase, subscription, sale or other similar right in securities (exclusive of rights attached to other securities) or through the waiver of such right, from the proceeds received by the private individual the margin above the costs charged, as verified, to the private individual in connection with the acquisition of the right and the incremental costs associated with the transaction (in connection with a gratuitous or complimentary right, including any income that is deemed taxable at the time the right is acquired). The amount of income shall be assessed as on the day when received.

In connection with securities obtained by way of a purchase, subscription or other similar right in securities, the private individual obtaining them shall be subject to the provisions pertaining to valuable considerations obtained in the form of securities. In this case the date of the acquisition of income shall be determined as the date of the acquisition of the right of control over the security or the date when the private individual (or any other person acting on his behalf) takes possession of the security in question (including, in particular, when the security is credited to the securities account), whichever occurs earlier.

As regards the valuable consideration obtained through the exercise of a sale option or other similar right in securities, that part of the income defined on the basis of the obtained valuable consideration that is greater than the fair market value of the security that is effective on the day of transfer (income component for the exercise of the right in question), less the costs charged, as verified, to the private individual (in connection with a gratuitous or complimentary right, including any income that is deemed taxable at the time the right is acquired) shall be treated as income, with the exception that:

a) the amount of income from the remaining part of the proceeds received in connection with the transfer of the security shall be determined in compliance with the provisions on capital gains, with due consideration of what is contained in paragraph b);

b) where paragraph a) applies, the part of the costs charged to the private individual in connection with the acquisition of the right may be deducted from the proceeds mentioned therein under the title of transfer costs, that is in excess of the proceeds from the exercise of the option. The amount of income shall be assessed as on the day of transfer of the security in question.

The tax rate is 15% (fifteen per cent).

#### *Healthcare Contribution*

Private individuals resident in Hungary (as defined in Act LXXX of 1997 on the Eligibility for Social Security Benefits and Private Pensions and the Funding for These Services (hereinafter: ESSA)), shall be liable to pay 6 % healthcare contribution:

a) on interest income specified in Section 65 of the Personal Income Tax Act (see above) and constituting part of the tax base, except for interest income or interest exempted under the Personal Income Tax Act;

b) on the time deposit interest defined in Section 67/B of the Personal Income Tax Act, if the term deposit under the long-term investment contract is interrupted before the last day of the three-year deposit term.

The following (among others) shall be exempt from healthcare contribution:

a) interest income earned in connection with interest or dividend paid on debt securities issued by any EEA Member State covered by the Personal Income Tax Act, denominated in forints, or interest income earned upon the redemption, repurchase or transfer of such securities;

b) interest income earned in connection with interest or dividend paid on collective investment instruments, or interest income earned upon the redemption, repurchase or transfer of such collective investment instruments, where:

ba) according to internal policy of the organization issuing the collective investment instruments, or other similar internal regulations that is made available to investors, debt securities issued by any EEA Member State, denominated in forints shall cover at least 80 per cent of all investments made by such organization throughout the period of holding of such securities; and

bb) the organization issuing the collective investment instruments is subject to capital market supervision in accordance with the relevant legislation of the European Union.

The payer shall establish and deduct the 6 % healthcare contribution payable by the payer and the private individual monthly, and shall pay it by the 12th day of the month following the month during which the income was paid (provided) and shall declare it to the state tax authority. If the income is from a source other than a payer, or there is no possible way to have the healthcare contribution deducted, the healthcare contribution shall be established and paid by the private individual, and shall declare it in due observation.

Payers shall establish, and deduct the amount of healthcare contribution payable on interest income and long-term investment interest, and the base thereof, irrespective of the individual's resident status, and shall declare it in the gross value as a liability independent of the private individual. If the private individual is not required to pay the healthcare contribution (due to being non-resident), an application for refund of any healthcare contribution deducted may be submitted, with adequate proof attached to verify his nonresident status under the ESSA or of being exempted from the payment of healthcare contribution.

The private individual is not required to declare the healthcare contribution on interest income, if the income is received from a payer. However, the private individual shall assess, declare and pay healthcare contribution on the time deposit interest defined in Section 67/B of the Personal Income Tax Act, if the term deposit under the long-term investment contract is interrupted before the last day of the three-year deposit term, as set out above.

### ***Corporate Income Tax***

Generally, with the exception of special cases, legal entities and Hungarian ring-fenced trust assets are not subject to any corporate income tax withholding in connection with capital gains (interest, dividend and return on security sales revenues) on the basis of Act LXXXI of 1996 on Corporate Income Tax.

The tax rate is 10% for the part of the positive tax base that does not exceed HUF 500 million. For the part above that, the tax rate is 19%.

## ***EU Savings Directive***

Although the EU Savings Directive 2003/48/EC has been repealed from 1 January 2016, the measures implementing the directive remained effective under Hungarian law.

As the transposition of Directive 2003/48/EC, Section 52 (12) and Schedule No. 7 of Act XCII of 2003 on the Rules of Taxation regulates the exchange of information between authorities of the EU member states regarding interest payments and equivalent payments on the basis of the following principles:

- A payer shall supply to the state tax authority the information on the beneficial owner and the amount of interest paid.
- For the purposes of the information exchange obligation, payer means any economic operator or other organization who pays interest to or secures the payment of interest for the immediate benefit of a beneficial owner established in another Member State of the European Union.
- An economic operator paying interest to members of an organization who qualify as beneficial owners, via the same organization resident in another EU Member State shall also provide information to the state tax authority, except for certain cases.
- For the purposes of the information exchange, Schedule No. 7. defines the notion of interest payment and beneficial owner.
- The payer shall take all reasonable steps to establish the identity of the beneficial owner in accordance.
- The Hungarian tax authority transfers the provided data to the tax authority of the member state of the beneficial owner's tax residence."

## ***Inheritance duty***

If a private investor deceases, the inheritance may be subject to inheritance duty ("öröklési illeték"). Inheritance duty is applicable to the assets within Hungary; as well as the moveable assets inherited by a Hungarian citizen/resident/legal person if such assets are not subject to inheritance in the country of their location.

The base for such inheritance duty is the clear value of the acquired assets (i.e. after the deduction of liabilities). The duty rate is 18%.

Inheritance of the deceased investor's lineal relatives (parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren etc., including where relationship is based on adoption) and surviving spouse is free of inheritance duty.

## ***Gift duty***

The free transfer of the notes is subject to gift duty payable by the receiving party. The base for the duty is the value of the gift. The duty rate is 18%.

The following (among others) are not subject to gift duty:

- gift in the value not exceeding HUF 150,000 in market value if no document was made;
- gift acquired by the donor's lineal relatives (parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren etc., including where relationship is based on adoption) and spouse;
- the transfer of assets to a trustee notified as such to the tax authority, under a trust deed established pursuant to the Civil Code, unless the trustee acquires it as a beneficiary.

- the acquisition of the trust assets and its yield by the settlor (even as a beneficiary).

### ***Financial transaction duty***

Hungarian payment service providers are obliged to pay financial transaction duty for each crediting on Hungarian bank accounts. The general rate of the duty is 0.3 per cent. of the transferred amount but the maximum of HUF 6,000. Thus, crediting of the proceeds of the Securities to Hungarian bank accounts may be subject to additional banking fees if the payment service providers charge such duty to the clients directly.

## **IRELAND**

*The following comments are of a general nature, relating only to the position of persons who are the absolute beneficial owners of the notes. The following is a general overview only of the Irish withholding tax treatment on the date of this European base prospectus in relation to income payments in respect of the notes. This overview is based on Irish law and what is understood to be the practice of the Irish Revenue Commissioners, in each case as in effect on the date of this European base prospectus, which are subject to prospective or retroactive change. The comments are not exhaustive and do not deal with any other Irish tax aspects of acquiring, holding, disposing of, abandoning, exercising or dealing in the notes. Prospective investors in the notes should consult their own advisors as to the Irish tax consequences of acquiring, holding, disposing of, abandoning, exercising or dealing in the notes.*

### ***Irish Withholding Tax On Interest Payments***

Irish interest withholding tax should not apply to interest payments which have their source outside Ireland. On the basis that the Issuer is not resident in Ireland and has no presence in Ireland, that no interest payments will be made from Ireland, that no Irish situate assets will be secured and that the notes will not be deposited with an Irish depository, interest payments on the notes should not have an Irish source and, thus, no Irish interest withholding tax should arise.

### ***Irish Withholding Tax On Annual Payments***

Irish withholding tax can also apply to payments, other than interest payments, which are annual payments for Irish tax purposes. However, Irish withholding tax should not apply to annual payments which have their source outside Ireland. On the basis that the Issuer is not resident in Ireland and has no presence in Ireland, that no payments will be made from Ireland, that no Irish situate assets will be secured, and that the notes will not be deposited with an Irish depository, any annual payments on the notes should not have an Irish source and, thus, no Irish withholding tax should arise on such payments.

### ***Irish Encashment Tax***

Irish encashment tax may be required to be withheld at the standard rate (currently 20%) from any interest payments or annual payments paid in respect of the notes where such payments are paid or collected by a person in Ireland on behalf of any holder of the notes. Holders of the notes should therefore note that the appointment of an Irish collection agent or an Irish paying agent could result in the deduction of 20% encashment tax by such agent from interest payments or annual payments on the notes. A holder of the notes that is not resident in Ireland for tax purposes may claim an exemption from this form of withholding tax by submitting an appropriate declaration of non-Irish tax residency to the Irish agent.

## ITALY

*The following is a general description of certain Italian tax consideration relating to the notes. It specifically contains information on taxes on income from the notes withheld at source. It does not in any way constitute, nor should it be relied upon as being, a tax advice or a tax opinion covering any or all of the relevant tax considerations surrounding or connected to the notes. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase, own or dispose of the notes and does not purport to deal with the tax consequences applicable to all categories of prospective beneficial owners of the notes, some of which may be subject to special rules. Prospective purchasers should be aware that tax treatment depends on the individual circumstances of each client: as a consequence they should consult their tax advisers as to the consequences under Italian tax law and under the tax laws of the country in which they are resident for tax purposes and of any other potentially relevant jurisdiction of acquiring, holding and disposing of notes and receiving payments of interest, principal and/or other amounts under the notes, including in particular the effect of any state, regional or local tax laws. This overview is based upon Italian tax laws as in effect as of the date of this Prospectus.*

*This section does not address the potential tax consequences of the U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act for Italian resident noteholders. A FATCA withholding tax may affect payments on the notes.*

### **Italian Tax Treatment of the Notes**

#### **Notes having 100% capital reimbursement**

##### **Italian Resident Investors**

Legislative Decree No. 239 of 1 April 1996, as a subsequently amended, (the “Decree No. 239”) provides for the applicable regime with respect to the tax treatment of interest, premium and other income (including the difference between the redemption amount and the issue price) from notes falling within the category of bonds (*obbligazioni*) or debentures similar to bonds (*titoli similari alle obbligazioni*) issued, inter alia, by non-Italian resident issuers.

For these purposes, debentures similar to bonds are defined as bonds that incorporate an unconditional obligation to pay, at maturity, an amount not less than their nominal value (whether or not providing for interim payments) and that do not give any right to directly or indirectly participate in the management of the relevant issuer or of the business in relation to which they are issued nor any type of control on the management.

Where an Italian resident investor is:

- (a) an individual not engaged in a commercial activity (*esercizio di attività commerciali*) to which the notes are connected (unless he has opted for the application of the *risparmio gestito regime* – as described below);
- (b) a non-commercial partnership pursuant to Article 5 of the Presidential Decree No. 917 of 22 December 1986, (“TUIR”) (with the exception of general partnerships, limited partnerships and similar entities);
- (c) a public or private entity (other than a company) or a trust not carrying out a commercial activity; or
- (d) an investor exempt from Italian corporate income taxation;

interest, premium and other income (including the difference between the redemption amount and the issue price), relating to the notes, accrued during the relevant holding period, are subject to a withholding tax equal to 26%, referred to as *imposta sostitutiva*. In the event that the investors described above are engaged in a commercial activity (*esercizio di attività commerciali*) to which the notes are connected, the *imposta sostitutiva* applies as a provisional tax and may be deducted from the final income tax due by the relevant investor.

Where an Italian resident investor is a company or similar commercial entity pursuant to Article 73 of TUIR or a permanent establishment in Italy of a non-Italian-resident entity – to which the notes are effectively connected – and the notes are deposited with an authorized intermediary, interest, premium and other income from the notes will not be subject to *imposta sostitutiva*, but must be included in the relevant investor's income tax return and are therefore subject to general Italian corporate taxation ("IRES", currently levied at the rate of 27.5%; the rate will be reduced to 24% starting from fiscal year 2017) and, in certain circumstances, depending on the "status" of the investor, also to regional tax on productive activities ("IRAP", generally levied at the rate of 3.9%, even though regional surcharges may apply).

Under the current regime provided by Law Decree No. 351 of 25 September 2001, converted into law with amendments by Law No. 410 of 23 November 2001, payments of interest in respect of the notes made to Italian resident real estate investment funds established pursuant to Article 37 of Legislative Decree No. 58 of 24 February 1998, as amended and supplemented, and Article 14-bis of Law No. 86 of 25 January 1994 are subject neither to *imposta sostitutiva* nor to any other income tax in the hands of a real estate investment fund. A withholding tax may apply in certain circumstances at the current rate of 26% on distributions made by real estate investment funds. The same tax regime applies to payments of interest made to an Italian resident SICAF mainly investing in real estate assets and governed by Legislative Decree No. 44 of 4 March 2014.

If an investor is resident in Italy and is an open-ended or closed-ended investment fund (the "Fund") or a SICAV, and the notes are deposited with an authorised intermediary, interest, premium and other income accrued during such investor's holding period will not be subject to *imposta sostitutiva*. A withholding tax may apply in certain circumstances at the current rate of 26% on distributions made by the Fund or the SICAV to certain categories of investors. The same tax regime applies to payments of interest made to an Italian resident SICAF not mainly investing in real estate assets and governed by Legislative Decree No. 44 of 4 March 2014.

Where an Italian resident investor is a pension fund (subject to the regime provided for by article 17 of the Legislative Decree No. 252 of 5 December 2005, as subsequently amended) and the notes are deposited with an authorised intermediary, interest (including the difference between the redemption amount and the issue price), premium and other income relating to the notes and accrued during the holding period will not be subject to *imposta sostitutiva*, but must be included in the result of the relevant portfolio accrued at the end of the tax period, to be subject to the special 20% substitute tax applicable to Italian pension funds.

Pursuant to Decree No. 239, *imposta sostitutiva* is applied by banks, *società di intermediazione mobiliare* ("SIMs"), fiduciary companies, *società di gestione del risparmio*, stockbrokers and other entities identified by a decree of the Ministry of Economics and Finance (each an "Intermediary").

For the Intermediary to be entitled to apply the *imposta sostitutiva*, it must (i):

- (a) be resident in Italy; or
- (b) be resident outside Italy, with a permanent establishment in Italy; or
- (c) be an entity or a company not resident in Italy, acting through a system of centralised administration of securities and directly connected with the Department of Revenue of the Italian Ministry of Finance having appointed an Italian representative for the purposes of Decree No. 239;



and (ii) intervene, in any way, in the collection of interest or in the transfer of the notes. For the purpose of the application of the *imposta sostitutiva*, a transfer of notes includes any assignment or other act, either with or without consideration, which results in a change of the ownership of the relevant notes or a transfer of the notes to another deposit or account held with the same or another Intermediary.

Where the notes are not deposited with an Intermediary, the *imposta sostitutiva* is applied and withheld by any entity paying interest to an investor. If interest and other proceeds on the notes are not collected through an Intermediary or any entity paying interest and as such no *imposta sostitutiva* is levied, the Italian resident beneficial owners listed above under (a) to (d) will be required to include interest and other proceeds in their yearly income tax return and subject them to a final substitute tax at a rate of 26%. The Italian individual investor may elect instead to pay ordinary personal income tax (“IRPEF”) at the applicable progressive rates in respect of the payments; if so, the investor should generally benefit from a tax credit for withholding taxes applied outside of Italy, if any.

### **Non-Italian Resident Investors**

No Italian *imposta sostitutiva* is applied on payments to a non-Italian resident investor of interest relating to the notes provided that, if the notes are held in Italy, the non-Italian resident investor declares itself to be a non-Italian-resident according to Italian tax regulations.

### **Notes qualifying as Atypical Securities (notes not having 100% capital reimbursement)**

In case notes representing debt instruments implying a “use of capital” do not guarantee the total reimbursement of the principal, under Italian tax law they should qualify as “atypical securities” (titoli atipici).

For notes issued by a non-Italian-resident Issuer, a 26% withholding tax may apply in Italy if the Notes are placed (collocare) in Italy and interest payments on the notes are collected through an Italian bank or other qualified financial intermediary. However, such 26% withholding tax does not apply to interest payments made:

to a non-Italian-resident noteholder. If notes issued by a non-Italian resident Issuer and beneficially owned by non-Italian residents are deposited with an Italian bank or other resident intermediary (or permanent establishment in Italy of foreign intermediary) or are sold through an Italian bank or other resident intermediary (or permanent establishment in Italy of foreign Italy of foreign intermediary) or in any case an Italian resident intermediary (or permanent establishment in Italy of foreign intermediary) intervenes in the payment of interest and other income on such notes, to ensure payment of interest and other income without application of Italian taxation a non-Italian- resident Noteholder may be required to produce to the Italian bank or the relevant intermediary a self-declaration stating that he, she or it is not resident in Italy for tax purposes; and

to an Italian resident noteholder which is (i) a company or similar commercial entity (including the Italian permanent establishment of foreign entities to which the Notes are effectively connected), (ii) a commercial partnership, or (iii) a commercial private or public institution.

In case notes issued by a non-Italian resident issuer are held by an Italian resident individual engaged in a business activity and are effectively connected with same business activity, the interest and other income will be subject to the 26% “entrance” withholding tax on a provisional basis and will be included in the relevant income tax return. As a consequence, the interest and other income will be subject to the ordinary income tax and the withholding tax may be recovered as a deduction from the income tax due.

### **Capital Gains Tax**

Any gain obtained from the sale or redemption of the notes would be treated as part of the taxable income (and, in certain circumstances, depending on the “status” of the investor, also as part of the net value of production for IRAP purposes) if realized by: (i) an Italian resident company; (ii) an Italian

resident commercial partnership; (iii) the Italian permanent establishment of foreign entities to which the notes are effectively connected; or (iv) Italian resident individuals engaged in a commercial activity (esercizio di attività commerciali) to which the notes are connected.

Where an Italian resident investor is an individual not holding the notes in connection with an entrepreneurial activity, any capital gain realized by such investor from the sale or redemption of the notes would be subject to an imposta sostitutiva, levied at the current rate of 26%. Under some conditions and limitations, investors may set off losses with gains. This rule applies also to certain other entities holding the notes. In respect of the application of the imposta sostitutiva, taxpayers may opt for one of the three regimes described below.

Under the tax declaration regime (regime della dichiarazione), which is the ordinary regime for taxation of capital gains realized by Italian resident individuals not engaged in a commercial activity (esercizio di attività commerciali) to which the notes are connected, the imposta sostitutiva on capital gains will be chargeable, on a yearly cumulative basis, on all capital gains, net of any incurred capital loss, realized by the Italian resident individual. The investor holding notes not in connection with a commercial activity (esercizio di attività commerciali) must indicate the overall capital gains realized in any tax year, net of any relevant incurred capital loss, in the annual tax return and pay imposta sostitutiva on such gains together with any balance of income tax due for such year. Capital losses in excess of capital gains may be carried forward against capital gains realized in any of the four succeeding tax years.

As an alternative to the tax declaration regime, Italian resident individual investor holding the notes not in connection with a commercial activity (esercizio di attività commerciali) may elect to pay the imposta sostitutiva separately on capital gains realized on each sale or redemption of the notes (the risparmio amministrato regime provided for by Article 6 of the Legislative Decree 21 November 1997, No. 461 as a subsequently amended, the "Decree No. 461"). Such separate taxation of capital gains is allowed subject to (1) the notes being deposited with Italian banks, SIMs or certain authorised financial intermediaries; and (2) an express valid election for the risparmio amministrato regime being punctually made in writing by the relevant investor. The depository is responsible for accounting for imposta sostitutiva in respect of capital gains realized on each sale or redemption of the notes (as well as in respect of capital gains realized upon the revocation of its mandate), net of any incurred capital loss, and is required to pay the relevant amount to the Italian Tax Authorities on behalf of the taxpayer, deducting a corresponding amount from the proceeds to be credited to the investor or using funds provided by the investor for this purpose. Under the risparmio amministrato regime, where a sale or redemption of the notes results in a capital loss, such loss may be deducted from capital gains subsequently realized, within the same notes management, in the same tax year or in the following tax years up to the fourth. Under the risparmio amministrato regime, the investor is not required to declare the capital gains in its annual tax return.

Any capital gains realized or accrued by Italian resident individual investors holding the notes not in connection with a commercial activity (esercizio di attività commerciali) who have entrusted the management of their financial assets, including the notes, to an authorised intermediary and have validly opted for the so-called risparmio gestito regime (the regime provided by Article 7 of Decree No. 461) will be included in the computation of the annual increase in value of the managed assets accrued, even if not realized, at year end, subject to a 26% imposta sostitutiva, to be paid by the managing authorised intermediary. Under the risparmio gestito regime, any depreciation of the managed assets accrued at year end may be carried forward against increase in value of the managed assets accrued in any of the four succeeding tax years. Under the risparmio gestito regime, the investor is not required to declare the capital gains realized in its annual tax return.

Any capital gains realized by an investor which is an Italian resident real estate investment fund established pursuant to Article 37 of Legislative Decree No. 58 of 24 February 1998, as amended and supplemented, and Article 14-bis of Law No. 86 of 25 January 1994 are subject neither to substitute tax nor to any other income tax in the hands of a real estate investment fund. The same tax regime applies to capital gains realised by an Italian resident SICAF mainly investing in real estate assets and governed by Legislative Decree No. 44 of 4 March 2014.

Any capital gains realized by an investor which is a Fund or a SICAV will neither be subject to imposta sostitutiva nor to any form of taxation in the hands of the Fund or of the SICAV, but any income paid by a Fund or by a SICAV in favor of its participants will be subject to taxation in accordance with the specific rules provided for the different kind of participants. The same tax regime applies to capital gains realised by an Italian resident SICAF not mainly investing in real estate assets and governed by Legislative Decree No. 44 of 4 March 2014.

Any capital gains realized by an investor which is an Italian pension fund (subject to the regime provided for by Article 17 of the Legislative Decree No. 252 of 5 December 2005, as subsequently amended) will be included in the result of the relevant portfolio accrued at the end of the tax period, to be subject to the 20 % special substitute tax applicable to Italian pension funds.

Capital gains realized by non-Italian resident investors from the sale or redemption of the notes are not subject to Italian taxation, provided that the notes (1) are transferred on regulated markets, or (2) if not transferred on regulated markets, are held outside Italy. Moreover, even if the notes are held in Italy, no imposta sostitutiva applies if the non-Italian resident investor is resident for tax purposes in a Country which recognizes the Italian tax authorities' right to an adequate exchange of information. The provisions of applicable tax treaties against double taxation entered into by Italy apply if more favorable and provided that all relevant conditions are met.

### **Inheritance and Gift Tax**

Transfers of any valuable assets (including the notes) as a result of death or inter vivos gift (or other transfers for no consideration) and the creation of liens on such assets for a specific purpose (vincoli di destinazione) are taxed as follows:

4% if the transfer is made to spouses and direct descendants or ancestors; in this case, the transfer is subject to tax on that part of value that exceeds Euro 1,000,000 (per beneficiary);

6% if the transfer is made to brothers and sisters; in this case, the transfer is subject to the tax on that part of value that exceeds Euro 100,000 (per beneficiary);

6% if the transfer is made to relatives up to the fourth degree (*parenti fino al quarto grado*), to persons related by direct affinity as well as to persons related by collateral affinity up to the third degree (*affini in linea retta nonché affini in linea collaterale fino al terzo grado*); and

8% in all other cases.

If the transfer is made in favor of persons with severe disabilities, the tax applies on that part of value that exceeds Euro 1,500,000.

Moreover, an anti-avoidance rule is provided in case of gift of assets, such as the notes, whose sale for consideration would give rise to capital gains to be subject to the *imposta sostitutiva* provided for by Decree No. 461, as subsequently amended. In particular, if the donee sells the notes for consideration within five years from their receipt as a gift, the latter is required to pay the relevant *imposta sostitutiva* as if the gift had never taken place.

### **Transfer Tax and Registration Tax**

Contracts relating to the transfer of notes are subject to the registration tax as follows: (i) public deeds and notarised deeds (*atti pubblici e scritture private autenticate*) executed in Italy are subject to fixed registration tax at rate of Euro 200; (ii) private deeds (*scritture private autenticate*) are subject to registration tax at rate of Euro 200 only in case of use or voluntary registration.

### **Stamp Duty**

Pursuant to Law Decree No. 201 of 6 December 2011, a proportional stamp duty applies on an annual basis to the periodic reporting communications sent by financial intermediaries to their clients and relating to securities and financial instruments. The stamp duty applies at a rate of 0.20%; this stamp duty is determined on the basis of the market value or – if no market value is available – the nominal value or redemption amount of the securities held. The stamp duty can not exceed the amount of Euro 14,000 if the recipient of the periodic reporting communications is an entity (i.e., not an individual).

It may be understood that the stamp duty applies both to Italian resident and non-Italian resident investors, to the extent that the notes are held with an Italian-based financial intermediary.

## **Wealth Tax**

Pursuant to Law Decree No. 201 of 6 December 2011, Italian resident individuals holding the notes abroad are required to pay a wealth tax (IVAFE) at a rate of 0.20% for each year. This tax is calculated on an annual basis on the market value of the notes at the end of the relevant year or – if no market value is available – the nominal value or the redemption value of such financial assets held abroad. Taxpayers are entitled to an Italian tax credit equivalent to the amount of any wealth tax paid in the State where the financial assets are held (up to an amount equal to the IVAFE due).

## **Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) depending on the features of the Notes**

Pursuant to Law No. 228 of 24 December 2012, a FTT applies to (a) transfer of ownership of shares and other participating securities issued by Italian resident companies or of financial instruments representing the just mentioned shares and/or participating securities (irrespective of whether issued by Italian resident issuers or not) (the “Relevant Securities”), (b) transactions on financial derivatives (i) the main underlying assets of which are the Relevant Securities, or (ii) whose value depends mainly on one or more Relevant Securities, as well as to (c) any transaction on certain securities (i) which allow to mainly purchase or sell one or more Relevant Securities or (ii) implying a cash payment determined with main reference to one or more Relevant Securities.

Notes could be included in the scope of application of the FTT if they meet the requirements set out above. On the other hand, notes falling within the category of bonds (*obbligazioni*) or debentures similar to bonds (*titoli similari alle obbligazioni*) are not included in the scope of the FTT.

The FTT on derivative instruments is levied at a fixed amount that varies depending on the nature of the relevant instrument and the notional value of the transaction, and ranges between Euro 0.01875 and Euro 200 per transaction. The amount of FTT payable is reduced to 1/5 of the standard rate in case the transaction is performed on regulated markets or multilateral trading facilities of certain EU and EEA member States. The FTT on derivatives is due by each of the parties to the transactions. FTT exemptions and exclusions are provided for certain transactions and entities.

The FTT is levied and paid by the subject (generally a financial intermediary) that is involved, in any way, in the execution of the transaction. Intermediaries which are not resident in Italy but are liable to apply the FTT can appoint an Italian tax representative for the purposes of the FTT. If no intermediary is involved in the execution of the transaction, the FTT must be paid by the taxpayers. Investors are advised to consult their own tax advisers on the possible impact of the FTT.

## **Tax Monitoring Obligations**

Pursuant to Italian Law Decree 28 June 1990, No. 167, converted by Law 4 August 1990, No. 227, as amended (“Decree No. 167”), individuals, non-commercial institutions and non-commercial partnerships resident in Italy who, at the end of the fiscal year, hold investments abroad or have foreign financial assets (including Notes held abroad and/or Notes issued by a non-Italian resident Issuer) must, in certain circumstances, disclose the aforesaid and related transfers to, from and occurred abroad, to the Italian tax authorities in their income tax return (or, in case the income tax return is not due, in a proper form that must be filed within the same time prescribed for the income tax return).

This obligation does not exist (i) in cases where each of the overall value of the foreign investments or financial assets at the end of the fiscal year, and the overall value of the related transfers to, from and occurred abroad carried out during the relevant fiscal year, does not exceed Euro 15,000, as well as (ii) in case the financial assets are given in administration or management to Italian banks, SIMs, fiduciary companies or other professional intermediaries, indicated in Article 1 of Decree No. 167, or if one of such intermediaries intervenes, also as a counterpart, in their transfer, provided that income deriving from such financial assets is collected through the intervention of such an intermediary.

### **Italian Implementation of the EU Savings Directive**

Under EC Council Directive 2003/48/EC on the taxation of savings income in the form of interest payments (the "EU Savings Directive"), Member States are required to provide to the tax authorities of other Member States details of certain payments of interest or similar income made by a paying agent (within the meaning of the EU Savings Directive) within its jurisdiction to an individual resident in that other Member State. Legislative decree No. 84 of 18 April 2005 ("Decree No. 84") implemented in Italy, as of 1 July 2005, the EU Savings Directive.

However, on 10 November 2015, the Council of the European Union adopted Council Directive 2015/2060 of 10 November 2015, repealing the EU Savings Tax Directive with effect from 1 January 2016. Certain provisions of the EU Savings Tax Directive will continue to be effective during 2016 and Austria will continue to apply the EU Savings Directive until 31 December 2016 (and until 30 June 2017 in relation to some of its obligations or, in any case, until those obligations have been fulfilled). The repeal of the EU Savings Tax Directive is aimed at preventing overlap between the EU Savings Tax Directive and a new automatic exchange of information regime to be implemented under Council Directive 2011/16/EU on Administrative Cooperation in the field of Taxation (as amended by Council Directive 2014/107/EU).

Under Decree No. 84, subject to a number of important conditions being met, in the case of interest paid to individuals which qualify as beneficial owners of the interest payment and are resident for tax purposes in another Member State, Italian qualified paying agents shall report to the Italian Tax Authorities details of the relevant payments and personal information on the individual beneficial owner. Such information is transmitted by the Italian Tax Authorities to the competent foreign tax authorities of the State of residence of the beneficial owner.

As at the date of this Prospectus, the above mentioned Council Directive 2015/2060, repealing the EU Savings Tax Directive with effect from 1 January 2016, has not yet been implemented under Italian national legislation.

Prospective investors resident in a Member State of the European Union should consult their own legal or tax advisers regarding the consequences of the EU Savings Tax Directive in their particular circumstances.

### **Luxembourg**

*The following is a general description of certain Luxembourg withholding tax considerations relating to the notes. It specifically contains information on taxes on the income from the notes withheld at source and provides an indication as to whether the issuer assumes responsibility for the withholding of taxes at the source. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all tax considerations relating to the notes, whether in Luxembourg or elsewhere. Prospective purchasers of the notes should consult their own tax advisers as to which countries' tax laws could be relevant to acquiring, holding and disposing of the notes payments of interest, principal and/or other amounts under the notes and the consequences of such actions under the tax laws of Luxembourg. This overview is based upon the law as in effect on the date of this European base prospectus. The information contained within this section is limited to withholding taxation issues, and prospective investors should not apply any information set out below to other areas, including (but not limited to) the legality of transactions involving the notes.*

## **Withholding Tax**

Under the Luxembourg general tax laws currently in force and subject the exception below, there is no withholding tax to be withheld by the debtor of Securities on payments of principal, premium or arm's length interest (including accrued but unpaid interest). Nor is any Luxembourg withholding tax payable upon redemption or repurchase of Securities to the extent said Securities do not (i) give entitlement to a share of the profits generated by the issuing company and (ii) the issuing company is not thinly capitalised.

Under the Luxembourg law of 23 December 2005, as amended (the "**Law**"), payments of interest or similar income made or ascribed by a paying agent established in Luxembourg to or for the immediate benefit of an individual beneficial owner who is tax resident of Luxembourg and to certain residual entities securing interest payments on behalf of Luxembourg individual residents will be subject to a withholding tax of 10 per cent. In case the individual beneficial owner is an individual acting in the course of the management of his/her private wealth, said withholding tax will be in full discharge of income tax. Responsibility for the withholding tax will be assumed by the Luxembourg paying agent. Payments of interest under Securities coming within the scope of the Law would be subject to withholding tax at a rate of 10 per cent.

## **Registration tax**

Neither the issuance nor the transfer of Securities will give rise to any Luxembourg stamp duty, issuance tax, registration tax, transfer tax or similar taxes or duties. Notwithstanding, documents relating to the Securities, other than the Securities themselves, presented in a notarial deed or in the course of litigation may require registration. In this case, and based on the nature of such documents, registration duties may apply.

## THE NETHERLANDS

*The following overview outlines the principal Netherlands tax consequences of the acquisition, holding, settlement, redemption and disposal of the notes, but does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all Netherlands tax considerations that may be relevant. For purposes of Netherlands tax law, a holder of notes may include an individual or entity who does not have the legal title of these notes, but to whom nevertheless the notes or the income thereof is attributed based on specific statutory provisions or on the basis of such individual or entity having an interest in the notes or the income thereof. This overview is intended as general information only and each prospective investor should consult a professional tax adviser with respect to the tax consequences of the acquisition, holding, settlement, redemption and disposal of the notes.*

*This overview is based on tax legislation, published case law, treaties, regulations and published policy, in each case as in force as of the date of this Prospectus, and does not take into account any developments or amendments thereof after that date whether or not such developments or amendments have retroactive effect.*

*This overview does not address the Netherlands tax consequences for:*

- (i) investment institutions (fiscale beleggingsinstellingen);*
- (ii) pension funds, exempt investment institutions (vrijgestelde beleggingsinstellingen) or other entities that are not subject to or exempt from Netherlands corporate income tax;*
- (iii) holders of notes holding a substantial interest (aanmerkelijk belang) or deemed substantial interest (fictief aanmerkelijk belang) in the Issuer and holders of notes of whom a certain related person holds a substantial interest in the Issuer. Generally speaking, a substantial interest in the Issuer arises if a person, alone or, where such person is an individual, together with his or her partner (statutory defined term), directly or indirectly, holds or is deemed to hold (i) an interest of 5% or more of the total issued capital of the Issuer or of 5% or more of the issued capital of a certain class of shares of the Issuer, (ii) rights to acquire, directly or indirectly, such interest or (iii) certain profit sharing rights in the Issuer;*
- (iv) persons to whom the notes and the income from the notes are attributed based on the separated private assets (afgezonderd particulier vermogen) provisions of the Netherlands income tax Act 2001 (Wet inkomstenbelasting 2001) and the Netherlands gift and inheritance tax Act (Successiewet 1956);*
- (v) entities which are a resident of Aruba, Curacao or Sint Maarten that have an enterprise which is carried on through a permanent establishment or a permanent representative on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius or Saba, to which permanent establishment or permanent representative the notes are attributable; and*
- (vi) individuals to whom notes or the income there from are attributable to employment activities which are taxed as employment income in the Netherlands.*

*For the purpose of the Netherlands tax consequences described herein, it is assumed that the Issuer is neither a resident of the Netherlands nor deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for Netherlands tax purposes.*

*Where this overview refers to the Netherlands, such reference is restricted to the part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands that is situated in Europe and the legislation applicable in that part of the Kingdom.*

### **Withholding Tax**

All payments made by the Issuer under the notes may be made free of withholding or deduction for any taxes of whatsoever nature imposed, levied, withheld or assessed by the Netherlands or any political subdivision or taxing authority thereof or therein.

### **Corporate and Individual Income Tax**

- (a) Residents of the Netherlands

If a holder of the notes is a resident of the Netherlands or deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for Netherlands corporate income tax purposes and is fully subject to Netherlands corporate income tax or is only subject to Netherlands corporate income tax in respect of an enterprise to which the notes are attributable, income derived from the notes and gains realized upon the redemption, settlement or disposal of the notes are generally taxable in the Netherlands (at up to a maximum rate of 25%).

If an individual is a resident or deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for Netherlands individual income tax purposes, income derived from the notes and gains realized upon the redemption, settlement or disposal of the notes are taxable at the progressive rates (at up to a maximum rate of 52%) under the Netherlands Income Tax Act 2001 (*Wet inkomstenbelasting 2001*), if:

(i) the individual is an entrepreneur (*ondernemer*) and has an enterprise to which the notes are attributable or the individual has, other than as a shareholder, a co-entitlement to the net worth of an enterprise (*medegerechtigde*), to which enterprise the notes are attributable; or

(ii) such income or gains qualify as income from miscellaneous activities (*resultaat uit overige werkzaamheden*), which includes activities with respect to the notes that exceed regular, active portfolio management (*normaal, actief vermogensbeheer*).

If neither condition (i) nor condition (ii) applies, an individual holding the notes must determine taxable income with regard to the notes on the basis of a deemed return on income from savings and investments (*sparen en beleggen*), rather than on the basis of income actually received or gains actually realized. This deemed return on income from savings and investments is fixed at a rate of 4% of the individual's yield basis (*rendementsgrondslag*) at the beginning of the calendar year (1 January), insofar as the individual's yield basis exceeds a certain threshold (*heffingvrij vermogen*). The individual's yield basis is determined as the fair market value of certain qualifying assets held by the individual less the fair market value of certain qualifying liabilities on 1 January. The fair market value of the notes will be included as an asset in the individual's yield basis. The 4% deemed return on income from savings and investments is taxed at a rate of 30%.

(b) Non-residents of the Netherlands

If a person is neither a resident nor is deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for Netherlands tax purposes, such person is not liable to Netherlands income tax in respect of income derived from the notes and gains realized upon the settlement, redemption or disposal of the notes, unless:

(i) the person is not an individual and such individual (1) has an enterprise that is, in whole or in part, carried on through a permanent establishment or a permanent representative in the Netherlands to which permanent establishment or permanent representative the notes are attributable, or (2) is (other than by way of securities) entitled to a share in the profits of an enterprise or a co-entitlement to the net worth of an enterprise, which is effectively managed in the Netherlands and to which enterprise the notes are attributable.

This income is subject to Netherlands corporate income tax at progressive rates up to a maximum rate of 25%.

(ii) the person is an individual and such person (1) has an enterprise or an interest in an enterprise that is, in whole or in part, carried on through a permanent establishment or a permanent representative in the Netherlands to which permanent establishment or permanent representative the notes are attributable, or (2) realizes income or gains with respect to the notes that qualify as income from miscellaneous activities (*resultaat uit overige werkzaamheden*) in the Netherlands, which includes activities with respect to the notes that exceed regular, active portfolio management (*normaal, actief vermogensbeheer*), or (3) is, other than by way of securities, entitled to a share in the profits of an enterprise which is effectively managed in the Netherlands and to which enterprise the notes are attributable.



Income derived from the notes as specified under (1) and (2) is subject to individual income tax at up to a maximum rate of 52%. Income derived from a share in the profits of an enterprise as specified under (3) that is not already included under (1) or (2) will be taxed on the basis of a deemed return on income from savings and investments (as described above under "Residents of the Netherlands").

### **Gift and Inheritance Tax**

#### (a) Residents of the Netherlands

Generally, gift and inheritance tax (*schenk- en erfbelasting*) will be due in the Netherlands in respect of the acquisition of the notes by way of a gift by, or on behalf of, or on the death of, a holder that is a resident or deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for the purposes of the Netherlands Gift and Inheritance Tax Act 1956 (*Successiewet 1956*) at the time of the gift or his or her death. A gift made under a condition precedent is deemed to be a made at the time the condition precedent is fulfilled and is subject to Netherlands gift tax if the donor is, or is deemed to be resident of the Netherlands at that time.

A holder of Netherlands nationality is deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for the purposes of the Netherlands Gift and Inheritance Tax Act 1956 (*Successiewet 1956*) if he or she has been resident in the Netherlands and dies or makes a gift within ten years after leaving the Netherlands. A holder of any other nationality is deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for the purposes of the Netherlands gift and inheritance tax if he or she has been resident in the Netherlands and makes a gift within a twelve months period after leaving the Netherlands for the purposes of the Netherlands Gift and Inheritance tax Act 1956. The same twelve-month rule may apply to entities that have transferred their seat of residence out of the Netherlands.

#### (b) Non-residents of the Netherlands

No gift or inheritance tax will be due in the Netherlands in respect of the acquisition of the notes by way of a gift by, or as a result of, the death of a holder that is neither a resident nor deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for the purposes of the Netherlands Gift and Inheritance Tax Act 1956 (*Successiewet 1956*). However, inheritance tax will be due in the case of a gift of the notes by, or on behalf of, a holder who at the date of the gift was neither a resident nor deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands for the purposes of the Netherlands Gift and Inheritance Tax Act 1956 (*Successiewet 1956*), but such holder dies within 180 days after the date of the gift, and at the time of his or her death is a resident or deemed to be a resident of the Netherlands. A gift made under a condition precedent is deemed to be a made at the time the condition precedent is fulfilled.

### **Value Added Tax**

In general, no value added tax will arise in respect of payments in consideration for the issue of the notes or in respect of a cash payment made under the notes, or in respect of a transfer of notes.

### **Other Taxes and Duties**

No registration tax, customs duty, transfer tax, stamp duty or any other similar documentary tax or duty will be payable in the Netherlands by a holder in respect of or in connection with the subscription, issue, placement, allotment, delivery or transfer of the notes.

## NORWAY

*The following is a general description of the Norwegian tax considerations relating to the notes. The description is based on legislation as at the date of this document. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all tax considerations relating to the notes, whether in Norway or elsewhere. It is recommended that prospective investors of the notes consult their own tax advisers for information with respect to the special tax consequences that may arise as a result of holding the notes, including the applicability and effect of foreign income tax rules, provisions contained in double taxation treaties and other rules which may be applicable. Any changes to applicable tax laws may have a retrospective effect.*

*The Final Terms may cause the taxation of the notes to depart from the taxation treatment described in this summary.*

### **Taxation of Norwegian residents**

#### *Fixed Rate Notes and Floating Rate Notes*

The Fixed Rate Notes and Floating Rate Notes will normally be classified as debt instruments for Norwegian tax purposes, and this is assumed in the following. It is also assumed that the notes are debentures (“mengdegjeldsbrev”). In preparatory works, “mengdegjeldsbrev” has been defined as several debt instruments issued at the same time with identical text.

For Norwegian noteholders, interest on the notes is taxable as “ordinary income”, subject to a flat rate of 25%. This applies irrespective of whether the Norwegian noteholders are individuals or corporations. Interest is as a rule taxed on an accrual basis (i.e. regardless of when the return is actually paid).

Redemption of the notes as well as prior disposal of the notes are treated as a realisation of such notes and may result in a capital gain or loss for Norwegian noteholders under Norwegian tax law. Capital gains will be taxable as “ordinary income”, subject to the flat rate of 25 per cent. Losses will be deductible from a Norwegian noteholder’s “ordinary income”.

Any capital gain or loss is computed as the difference between the amount received by the Norwegian noteholder on realisation and the cost price of the notes. The cost price is equal to the price for which the Norwegian noteholder acquired the notes. Costs incurred in connection with the acquisition and realisation of the notes may be deducted from a Norwegian noteholder’s taxable income in the year of the realisation.

The value of the notes held by an individual Norwegian noteholder at the end of each income year will be included in the computation of his/her taxable net wealth for municipal and state net wealth tax purposes. Under Norwegian tax law, listed notes are valued at their quoted value on 1 January in the relevant assessment year. The marginal rate of net wealth tax is currently 0.85 per cent.

#### *Indexed Notes*

The Indexed Notes should as a starting point be taxed as debentures, see above regarding Fixed Rate Notes and Floating Rate Notes. However, index-determined interest is taxable when and to the extent it is unconditional for the noteholder, i.e. when it cannot be lost irrespective of the further development of the index.

In case the repayment of the principal amount on Indexed Notes is fully or partially conditional on the development of the underlying (the index), it cannot be totally excluded that such notes may be classified as financial derivatives (not debentures/debt instruments). In that case, the Norwegian exemption method is normally applicable for corporate noteholders if the derivative is deemed to derive its value from an

index covering mainly (90 per cent or more) shares/equities being qualifying investment objects under the exemption method. Shares in companies resident within the EU/EEA are as a main rule qualifying investment objects. If the exemption method does not apply, gain or loss on the financial derivative will be included in the noteholder's ordinary income (taxable at a rate of 25 per cent).

### **Withholding tax**

All payments of interest and principal by the Issuer in the context of holding, disposal, redemption or repurchase of the notes (classified as debentures or financial derivatives, cf. above) will not be subject to Norwegian withholding tax.

## **POLAND**

*The following information about certain Polish taxation matters is based on the laws and practice in force as of the date of this Base Prospectus and is subject to any changes in law and the interpretation and application thereof, which changes could be made with retroactive effect. The following information does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all the tax consequences and considerations that may be relevant to acquisition, holding, disposing and redeeming of or cancelling (as applicable) the notes, and does not purport to deal with the tax consequences applicable to all categories of investors. The following information is based on the assumption that no Agent is located in Poland. The following information is not intended to be, nor should it be construed to be, legal or tax advice. It is recommended that potential purchasers of the notes consult with their legal and tax advisors as to the tax consequences of the purchase, holding, sale or redemption of notes.*

### **Withholding tax**

There is no withholding tax in Poland in relation to the notes.

### *Taxation of income*

#### **Polish resident individuals**

Individuals having their place of residence in Poland ("Polish Resident Individuals") are subject to Polish Personal Income Tax ("PIT") on their worldwide incomes irrespective of the country from which the incomes were derived. Income earned by Polish Resident Individuals on the disposal or redemption of notes should not be combined with income from other sources but will be subject to the 19 per cent. flat PIT rate. The income is calculated as the difference between the revenue earned on the disposal or redemption of notes (in principle, the selling price or redemption amount) and the related costs (in principle, the issue price). The tax is settled by Polish Resident Individuals on an annual basis. Interest under notes earned by a Polish Resident Individuals should not be combined with income from other sources and will be subject to the 19 per cent. flat PIT rate. The tax is settled by Polish Resident Individuals on an annual basis. Generally, tax withheld in other countries on interest income can be deducted against tax payable on this income in Poland unless otherwise provided by the provisions of the Double Tax Treaty concluded between Poland and country where the tax was withheld.

#### **Polish resident entities**

Entities having their seat or place of management in Poland ("Polish Resident Entities") are subject to Polish Corporate Income Tax ("CIT") on their worldwide incomes irrespective of the country from which the incomes were derived. Income earned by Polish Resident Entities on the disposal or redemption of notes is subject to the 19 per cent. CIT rate. The income is calculated as the difference between the revenue earned on the disposal or redemption of notes (in principle, the selling price or redemption amount) and the related costs (in principle, the issue price).

The amount of interest earned by a Polish Resident Entity under notes is subject to the 19 per cent. CIT rate. Generally, tax withheld in other countries on interest income can be deducted against tax payable on this income in Poland unless otherwise provided by the provisions of the Double Tax Treaty concluded between Poland and country where the tax was withheld.

### **Non-resident individuals and entities**

Individuals and entities that are Polish non-residents will not generally be subject to Polish taxes on income resulting from the disposal or redemption of notes unless such income is attributable to an enterprise which is either managed in Poland or carried on through a permanent establishment in Poland. However, some double tax treaties concluded by Poland may provide for a different tax treatment (for example, in case of the disposal of share/notes in a real estate company). In addition, in the case of individuals resident in a country which does not have a double tax treaty with Poland, there may be a risk of taxation of the types of income referred to in this paragraph, in the case of the disposal/redemption of notes quoted on the Warsaw Stock Exchange.

### ***Taxation of inheritances and donations***

The Polish tax on inheritance and donations is paid by individuals who received title to notes by right of succession, as legacy, further legacy, testamentary instruction or gift only if at the moment of the acquisition of the notes the acquirers were the Polish citizens or had residence within the territory of Poland. The rates of tax on inheritances and donations vary depending on the degree of kinship by blood, kinship through marriage or other types of personal relationships existing between the testator and the heir, or between the donor and the donee (the degree of the kinship is decisive for the assignment to a given tax group). The tax rate varies from 3 per cent. to 20 per cent. of the taxable base depending on the tax group to which the recipient was assigned. Acquisition of ownership of notes by a spouse, descendants, ascendants, stepchildren, siblings, stepfather or stepmother is tax exempt if the beneficiary notifies the head of the competent tax office of the acquisition within six months of the day when the tax liability arose or, in the case of an inheritance, within six months of the day when the court decision confirming the acquisition of the inheritance becomes final.

### ***Tax on civil law transactions***

Generally tax on civil law transactions at the rate of 1 per cent. is levied on the sale or exchange of the rights exercised in Poland. The taxpayer of this tax is only the purchaser of the rights. The tax is also imposed on agreements for the sale or exchange of the rights exercised outside Poland (including notes) only if the sale or exchange agreement is concluded in Poland and the purchaser has a place of residence or seat in the territory of Poland. However, the sale of notes (i) to investment firms (including foreign investment firms within the meaning of the Polish Act on Trading on Financial Instrument), or (ii) via investment firms (including foreign investment firms) acting as intermediaries, or (iii) the sale of the notes either on the Warsaw Stocks Exchange or on any multilateral trading facility operating in accordance with relevant regulations (i.e. in the "Organized trading"), or (iv) outside the Organized trading by investment firms (including foreign investment firms) if the notes had been acquired by such firms as a part of Organized trading - is exempt from tax on civil law transactions.

### ***Other Taxes***

No other Polish taxes should be applicable to the notes.

### ***Polish implementation of the EU Savings Tax Directive***

In accordance with EC Council Directive 2003/48/EC on the taxation of savings income, which was replaced from 1 January 2016 by the Directive 2014/107/EU, Poland will provide to the tax authorities of another EU member state (and certain non-EU countries and associated territories specified in that directive) details of payments of interest or other similar income paid or made available by a person having its seat within Poland to, or collected by such a person for, an individual resident in such other state.

## PORTUGAL

*The following is a general description of certain Portuguese withholding tax considerations relating to the Notes. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all tax considerations relating to the Notes, whether in Portugal or elsewhere, neither does it purport to address the tax consequences applicable to all categories of investors, some of which may be subject to special rules. This overview is based upon the law as in effect on the date of this Private Placement Memorandum. It is subject to any change of the law that may apply after such date. The information contained within this section is limited to withholding taxation on income paid to Portuguese resident entities, and prospective investors should not apply any information set out below to other areas. Prospective purchasers of the Notes should consult their own tax advisers as to the consequences of making an investment in, holding or disposing of the Notes and the receipt of any amount under the Notes.*

Payments of interest (and principal) and other income by the relevant Issuers under the Notes may in principle be made without any withholding for or on account of Portuguese taxes to the extent that the relevant Issuers are not residents of Portugal or are not otherwise acting through a Portuguese permanent establishment.

However, interest and other income (excluding capital gains) arising from the Notes is subject to withholding tax at a 28 per cent. rate when paid or made available by Portuguese resident entities (acting on behalf of the Issuer or of the holders of the Notes) to Portuguese resident individuals, in which case tax should be withheld by the former.

In this case, the holder of the Notes may choose to treat the withholding tax as a final tax or to tax the income at the general progressive income tax rates of up to 48 per cent. (plus (i) an additional surcharge of 2.5 per cent. applicable on income exceeding EUR 80,000 and up to EUR 250,000 and of 5 per cent. applicable on income exceeding EUR 250,000 and (ii) a surtax of up to 3.5 per cent. on income exceeding the annual national minimum wage), in which case the withholding will be considered as a payment on account of the final tax liability.

Such income when paid or made available to accounts in the name of one or more resident accountholders acting on behalf of unidentified third parties is subject to a final withholding tax rate of 35 per cent. unless the relevant beneficial owners of the income are identified, in which case the general tax rules apply.

A withholding tax rate of 35 per cent. also applies to income due by non-resident entities domiciled in a country, territory or region subject to a clearly more favourable tax regime included in the "low tax jurisdictions" list (approved by Ministerial order no. 150/2004, of 13 February 2004, as amended) and paid or made available by Portuguese resident entities to individuals resident in Portugal.

### ***EU Savings Directive / Mandatory Automatic Exchange of Information***

Under EC Council Directive no. 2003/48/EC, of 3 June 2003, on taxation of savings income in the form of interest payments, Member States are required to provide to the tax authorities of another Member State, details of payments of interest (or similar income) paid by a person within its jurisdiction to an individual resident in that other Member State.

A number of non-EU countries and certain dependent or associated territories of certain Member States have agreed to adopt similar measures (either provision of information or transitional withholding) in relation to payments made by a person within its jurisdiction to, or collected by such a person for, an individual resident in a Member State. In addition, the Member States have entered into reciprocal provision of information or transitional withholding arrangements with certain of those dependent or associated territories in relation to payments made by a person in a Member State to, or collected by such a person for, an individual resident in one of those territories.

Portugal has implemented the above Directive on taxation of savings income in the form of interest payments into the Portuguese law through Decree-Law no. 62/2005, of 11 March 2005, as amended by Law no. 39-A/2005, of 29 July 2005.

Meanwhile, further measures in the field of information exchange were adopted at the EU-level, namely with the approval by the European Council of the Directive no. 2014/107/EU of 9 December 2014 which amended EU Council Directive no. 2011/16/EU (“**Administrative Cooperation Directive**”) to extend the mandatory automatic exchange information to a wider range of income, including financial income, in line with the Standard for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information in Tax Matters issued by OECD in July 2014 and with the bilateral exchange agreements between the United States of America and several other countries to implement the United States’ Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (“**FATCA**”).

Given the broader scope of Council Directive no. 2014/107/EU and in order to prevent overlap between the EU Savings Directive and Administrative Cooperation Directive (as amended by Council Directive no. 2014/107/EU), the EU Savings Directive has been repealed with effect from 1 January 2016 (and from 1 January 2017 in case of Austria) by the Council Directive 2015/2060 of 10 November 2015.

Notwithstanding, certain provisions of the EU Savings Tax Directive, namely the obligation to provide the tax authorities of another Member State with details of payments of interest (or similar income) paid by a person within its jurisdiction to an individual resident in that other Member State will continue to be effective during 2016 or, in any case, until those obligations have been fulfilled.

Although Portugal was required to implement the Council Directive no. 2014/107/EU by no later than 1 January 2016, as at the date of this Private Placement Memorandum the above mentioned Council Directive has not been yet implemented under the Portuguese national legislation.

Prospective investors resident in Portugal should consult their own legal or tax advisers regarding the consequences of the Council Directive no. 2014/107/EU in their particular circumstances.

## **SLOVAKIA**

*The following is a brief overview of Slovakia (income) tax aspects in connection with the notes. It does not claim to fully describe all Slovak tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, disposition or redemption of the notes. In some cases a different tax regime may apply. As under the Program different types of notes may be issued, the tax treatment of such notes can be different due to their specific terms. Further, this overview does not take into account or discuss the tax laws of any country other than Slovakia nor does it take into account the investors' individual circumstances. Prospective investors are advised to consult their own professional advisors to obtain further information about the tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership, disposition, redemption, exercise or settlement of any of the notes. Only personal advisors are in a position to adequately take into account special tax aspects of the particular notes in question as well as the investor's personal circumstances and any special tax treatment applicable to the investor.*

*This overview is based exclusively on Slovak law as in force as of the date of this European Base Prospectus. The laws and their interpretation by the tax authorities may change. With regard to certain innovative or structured financial notes or instruments there is currently neither case law nor comments of the financial authorities as to the tax treatment of such financial notes and instruments. Accordingly, it cannot be ruled out that the Slovak financial authorities and courts or the Slovak paying agents adopt a view different from that outlined below.*

### **Slovak taxation in general**

In the case where payments vis-à-vis Slovak investors and related to the notes (in Slovak: “*dľhopisy*”) issued on the basis of the European Base Prospectus will not be made either by Slovak entity nor Slovak

resident transfer/payment agent will take care of the payments related to the notes, such payments related to the above notes will not be subject to the withholding or securing tax in the Slovak Republic.

If the payments related to the notes not being the state notes are paid by the paying agent resident or having a permanent establishment in the Slovak Republic, there is a high risk that the interest or any other similar income paid (i) to individuals, (ii) to a taxable party not established or founded to conduct business (e.g., associations of legal entities, chambers of professionals, civic associations, including trade union organizations, political parties and movements, churches and religious communities recognized by the State, etc.), (iii) to the National Bank of Slovakia or (iv) to a non-resident legal entity not conducting business in the territory of the Slovak Republic through a permanent establishment (i.e., a legal entity not having its registered office or its place of actual management or its permanent establishment in the territory of the Slovak Republic – non-Slovak tax resident) could be subject to the 19 per cent withholding tax (or 35 per cent in case of countries that are not protected by bilateral Double Taxation Treaty).

Further, any interest paid or any other similar income from notes not being the state notes paid by the paying agent resident or having a permanent establishment in the Slovak Republic to other non-Slovak tax resident not mentioned in the previous paragraph may still be subject to 19 per cent (or 35 per cent) securing or withholding tax, unless the non-Slovak tax resident is a tax resident of an EU Member State (in which case no tax securing is required). No tax securing is required if a non-Slovak tax resident proves that he already pays Slovak income tax prepayments; the respective tax administrator may however decide otherwise. In any case, such tax security would be subsequently credited against the final Slovak tax liability of the non-Slovak tax resident in its income tax return. The applicable Double Taxation Treaty may further provide for exemption or credit of whole amount of such tax paid in Slovakia or part thereof.

Furthermore, please note that the tax consideration of the regime of interest paid to other types of taxable parties, as mentioned above or the tax consideration of the regime of interest paid from others types of securities as notes, if applicable, would be much more complex and would require separate more detailed consideration.

### ***Individual Investors***

#### *Individual is Slovak resident*

All payments of interest and principal by the Issuer under the notes can be made free and clear of any withholding or deduction for or on account of any taxes of whatsoever nature imposed, levied, withheld, or assessed by Slovakia or taxing authority thereof or therein, in accordance with the applicable Slovak law, subject however to:

The application of 19 per cent Slovak withholding tax (in Slovak: "zrážková daň"), if income derived from the notes is paid out by a custodian or a paying agent (financial institutions including Slovak branches of foreign financial institutions paying out the income to the holder of the notes) located in Slovakia. The term "income from the notes" includes (i) interest and (ii) other income derived from the notes.

In case no withholding tax is levied on income from the notes (i.e., interest income is not paid out by a custodian or paying agent in Slovakia), Slovak resident individual investors will have to declare the income derived from the notes in their income tax returns pursuant to the Slovak Income Tax Act. In this case the income from the notes is generally subject to Slovak personal income tax at the 19 per cent or 25 per cent rate.

#### *Individual is not Slovak resident*

In case of non-resident holders of the notes, Slovak withholding tax will generally apply on resulting interest payments, provided that such income is attributable to his/her Slovak permanent establishment and that such payments are made by a custodian or paying agent in Slovakia.

## **Capital Gains**

Income realized by a non-Slovak tax resident, not holding the notes through a permanent establishment in the Slovak Republic, from the sale of the notes: (i) to a Slovak tax resident, or (ii) to a Slovak permanent establishment of another non-Slovak tax resident will be subject to taxation in the Slovak Republic, unless an applicable Double Taxation Treaty provides for other taxation of income or capital gains realized from the sale of the notes by such non-Slovak tax resident. Most of the applicable Double Taxation Treaties do not permit taxation of such income in the Slovak Republic at all.

If such income realized by a non-Slovak tax resident still remains taxable in the Slovak Republic under the previous paragraph and the applicable Double Taxation Treaty does not state otherwise, a 19 per cent securing tax (or 35 per cent in case of countries that are not protected by bilateral Double Taxation Treaty) is deducted by the purchaser, unless the non-Slovak tax resident is a tax resident of an EU Member State (in which case no tax securing is required). Further, no tax securing should be required if a non-Slovak tax resident proves that he already pays Slovak income tax prepayments; the respective tax administrator may however decide otherwise. In any case, such tax security would be subsequently credited against the final Slovak tax liability of the non-Slovak tax resident. The applicable Double Taxation Treaty may further provide for exemption or credit of whole amount of such tax paid in Slovakia or part thereof.

Income realized by Slovak tax residents from the sale of the notes is generally subject to Slovak corporate income tax at 22 per cent flat rate or personal income tax at the 19 per cent or 25 per cent rate. Losses from the sale of the notes will only be tax deductible if the conditions prescribed by Slovak Income Tax Act are met.

If the income related to sale of the notes is paid by the paying agent resident or having a permanent establishment in the Slovak Republic, there is a high risk that such income paid (i) to a taxable party not established or founded to conduct business (e.g., associations of legal entities, chambers of professionals, civic associations, including trade union organizations, political parties and movements, churches and religious communities recognized by the State, etc.), or (ii) to the National Bank of Slovakia could be subject to the 19 per cent withholding tax (self-assessed by these taxpayers).

## **Revaluation differences**

Slovak tax residents that prepare their financial statements under the Slovak Accounting Standards or under the International Financial Reporting Standards may be required to reevaluate the notes to fair value for accounting purposes, whereby the revaluation would be accounted for as revenue or expense. Such revenue is generally taxable and the corresponding expense should be generally tax deductible for Slovak tax purposes.

## **EU Savings Directive**

Under Directive 2003/48/EC on the taxation of savings income (the “**Directive 2003/48/EC**”) that has been implemented into Slovak law, Member States are required to provide to the tax authorities of another Member State details of payments of interest (as defined in the Savings Directive) made by a paying agent (as defined in the Savings Directive) within its jurisdiction to an individual resident in that other Member State. On 10 November 2015, the Council of the European Union adopted Council Directive (EU) 2015/2060 of 10 November 2015, repealing the Directive 2003/48/EC, with effect from 1 January 2016 (the “**Directive 2015/2060/EU**”). Certain provisions of the Directive 2003/48/EC will continue to be effective during 2016 and Austria will continue to apply the Directive 2003/48/EC until 31 December 2016. The repeal of the Directive 2003/48/EC is aimed at preventing overlap between the EU Savings Tax Directive and a new automatic exchange of information regime to be implemented under Council Directive 2011/16/EU on Administrative Cooperation in the field of Taxation (as amended by Council Directive 2014/107/EU).



### **Responsibility for Withholding of Taxes**

The Issuer is generally not liable for the withholding of taxes at source. Withholding tax is levied by a Slovak custodian or paying agent.

### **Inheritance and Gift Tax**

In Slovakia, inheritance and gift tax has been abolished as of 2004.

### **Other applicable taxes**

No Slovak stamp duty, registration, transfer or similar tax will be payable in connection with the acquisition, ownership, sale or disposal of the notes. Certain immaterial registration fees may however be applicable.

### **SPAIN**

*The following is a general description of the Spanish withholding tax treatment and indirect taxation of payments under the notes. The statements herein regarding Spanish taxes and withholding taxes in Spain are based on the laws in force as well as administrative interpretations thereof in Spain as at the date of this European base prospectus and are subject to any changes in law occurring after such date, which changes could be made on a retroactive basis. It does not purport to be a complete analysis nor a comprehensive description of all tax considerations relating to the notes, whether in Spain or elsewhere, which may be relevant to a decision to subscribe for, purchase, own or dispose of the notes and does not purport to deal with the tax consequences applicable to all categories of investors, some of which (such as dealers in securities or commodities) may be subject to special rules. Prospective purchasers of the notes should consult their own tax advisers as to which countries' tax laws could be relevant to acquiring, holding and disposing of the notes and receiving payments of interest, principal and/or other amounts under the notes and the consequences of such actions under the tax laws of Spain. This overview regarding Spanish taxes and withholding taxes in Spain is based upon Spanish law, as well as administrative interpretations, as in effect on the date of this European base prospectus, which may change at any time, possibly with retrospective effect.*

### **Personal Income Tax ("PIT") / Corporate Income Tax ("CIT") / Non Resident Income Tax ("NRIT")**

- (A) *Spanish resident individuals*
- (i) *Interest payments under the notes*

Income earned by Spanish resident individuals under notes should qualify as interest payments. In general, interest payments obtained by Spanish resident individuals should be subject to withholding tax at 19 per cent. rate on account of PIT (creditable against final tax liability). Expenses relating to the management and deposit of the notes, if any, will be tax-deductible, excluding those pertaining to discretionary or individual portfolio management. Notwithstanding the above, as non-resident in Spain entities not acting through a permanent establishment are not bound to withhold on account of PIT on payments made to Spanish resident individuals, interest payments under notes should be only subject to withholding tax in Spain in case they are deposited in a depository entity or individual resident in Spain (or acting through a permanent establishment in Spain) or if an entity or individual resident in Spain (or acting through a permanent establishment in Spain) is in charge of the collection of the income derived from the notes, provided that such income had not been previously subject to withholding tax in Spain.

Notwithstanding the above, Spanish resident individuals earning such income will still be subject to PIT – to be declared in their annual tax returns – according to the following rates:

- Amounts up to EUR 6,000.00: 19 per cent.

- Amounts between EUR 6,000.01 and EUR 50,000: 21 per cent.
- Amounts exceeding EUR 50,000: 23 per cent.

However, when certain income included in the taxpayer's taxable base has already been taxed abroad, the taxpayer shall be entitled to a tax credit against the PIT taxable base for the lowest amount of the following: (i) the amount effectively paid abroad; and (ii) the amount resulting from applying the average tax rate to the taxable base effectively taxed abroad.

(ii) *Income upon transfer or redemption of the notes*

Income earned upon transfer or redemption of the notes should be subject to Spanish withholding tax at 19 per cent. rate on account of PIT (creditable against final tax liability). Notwithstanding this, as non-resident in Spain entities not acting through a permanent establishment are not bound to withhold on account of PIT on payments made to Spanish resident individuals, income upon transfer or redemption of the notes should be subject to withholding tax in Spain only if there is a financial entity acting on behalf of the seller, provided such entity is resident for tax purposes in Spain or has a permanent establishment in the Spanish territory and such income had not been previously subject to withholding tax in Spain.

However, when the notes (i) are represented in book-entry form; (ii) are admitted to trading on a Spanish secondary stock exchange; and (iii) generate explicit yield, holders can benefit from a withholding tax exemption in respect of the income arising from the transfer or reimbursement of the notes, exception made of income derived from accounts entered into with financial entities, provided that such income were based on financial instruments, such as notes. However, under certain circumstances, when a transfer of the notes has occurred within the 30-day period immediately preceding any relevant coupon payment date such holders may not be eligible for such withholding tax exemption.

Notwithstanding the above, Spanish resident individuals earning such income will still be subject to PIT, to be declared in their annual tax returns, according to the following rates:

- Amounts up to EUR 6,000.00: 19 per cent.
- Amounts between EUR 6,000.01 and EUR 50,000: 21 per cent.
- Amounts exceeding EUR 50,000: 23 per cent.

However, when certain income included in the taxpayer's taxable base has already been taxed abroad, the taxpayer shall be entitled to a tax credit against the PIT taxable base for the lowest amount of the following: (i) the amount effectively paid abroad; and (ii) the amount resulting from applying the average tax rate to the taxable base effectively taxed abroad.

(B) *Spanish resident companies*

Interest payments under the notes shall be subject to withholding tax at 19 per cent. rate on account of CIT (creditable against final tax liability). Notwithstanding this, as non-resident in Spain entities not acting through a permanent establishment are not bound to withhold on account of CIT on payments made to Spanish resident entities, interest payments under notes should be only subject to withholding tax in Spain in case they are deposited in a depositary entity or individual resident in Spain (or acting through a permanent establishment in Spain) or if an entity or individual resident in Spain (or acting through a permanent establishment in Spain) is in charge of the collection of the income derived from the notes, provided that such income had not been previously subject to withholding tax in Spain.

Income upon transfer or redemption of the notes should be subject to Spanish withholding tax at 19 per cent. rate on account of CIT (creditable against final tax liability). Notwithstanding this, as non-resident in Spain entities not acting through a permanent establishment are not bound to

withhold on account of CIT on payments made to Spanish resident entities, income upon transfer or redemption of the notes should be subject to withholding tax in Spain only if there is a financial entity acting on behalf of the seller, provided such entity is resident for tax purposes in Spain or has a permanent establishment in the Spanish territory and such income had not been previously subject to withholding tax in Spain.

However, when (i) the notes are represented in book-entry form and are admitted to trading on a Spanish secondary stock exchange or on the Spanish Alternative Fixed Income Market (*MARF*); or (ii) the notes are listed on an OECD market; a withholding tax exemption should apply in respect of interest payments and income arising from the transfer or redemption of the notes, exception made of income derived from accounts entered into with financial entities, provided that such income were based on financial instruments, such as notes.

Spanish resident companies earning such income will still be subject to CIT, to be declared in their annual tax returns, at a general 25 per cent. rate. However, when certain income included in the taxpayer's taxable base has already been taxed abroad, the taxpayer shall be entitled to a tax credit against the CIT taxable base for the lowest amount of the following: (i) the amount effectively paid abroad; and (ii) the amount that should have been paid in Spain in the case that such income had been obtained in Spain.

*(C) Individuals and companies with no tax residency in Spain*

*(i) Income obtained through a permanent establishment*

Ownership of the notes by investors who are not resident for tax purposes in Spain will not in itself create the existence of a permanent establishment in Spain.

The tax rules applicable to income deriving from the notes under NRIT in this scenario are, generally, the same as those previously set out for Spanish resident companies, subject to the provisions of any relevant double tax treaty.

*(ii) Income obtained without a permanent establishment*

Income obtained by investors residing outside Spain and without a permanent establishment within the Spanish territory would not be considered, in general terms, as Spanish-source income and, therefore, would not be subject to taxation and withholding tax in Spain.

***Net Wealth Tax ("NWT")***

Only individual holders of notes would be subject to the NWT as legal entities are not taxable persons under NWT.

Relevant taxpayers will be (i) individuals who have their habitual residence in Spain regardless of the place where their assets or rights are located or could be exercised; and (ii) non-Spanish resident individuals owning assets or rights which are located or could be exercised in Spain, in each case, whose net wealth is higher than EUR 700,000, as this amount is considered as exempt from NWT.

Taxpayers should include in their NWT self-assessment the notes (as qualifying as debt instruments) for the following amounts:

- (i) if they are listed in an official market, the average negotiation value of the fourth quarter; and
- (ii) in other case, its nominal value (including redemption premiums).

The value of the notes together with the rest of the taxpayer's wealth, once reduced by the deductible in rem liens and encumbrances which reduce the rights and assets values and the personal debts of the taxpayer, shall be taxed at a tax rate between 0.2 to 2.5 per cent.

Finally, please note that the Spanish regions are entitled to modify (i) the threshold of net wealth exempt from taxation; (ii) the tax rates; and (iii) the tax benefits and exemptions to be applied in their territory.

### ***Inheritance and Gift Tax ("IGT")***

#### ***(A) Individuals with tax residency in Spain***

Individuals resident in Spain who acquire ownership or other rights over notes by inheritance, gift or legacy will be subject to IGT. The applicable effective tax rates range between 7.65 per cent. and 81.6 per cent., depending on several factors such as family relationship and pre-existing heritage. However, it is necessary to take into account that the IGT (including certain tax benefits) has been transferred to the Spanish regions. Therefore, an analysis must be made in each specific case to determine to what extent any regional legislation might be applicable, since there might be differences in respect of the final taxation under IGT depending on the region in which an investor resides.

#### ***(B) Companies with tax residency in Spain***

Companies resident in Spain which acquire ownership or other rights over the notes by inheritance, gift or legacy are not subject to IGT, as income obtained will be subject to CIT.

#### ***(C) Individuals and companies with no tax residency in Spain***

Non-Spanish resident individuals and companies which are not resident in Spain and do not have a Spanish permanent establishment that acquire ownership or other rights over the notes by inheritance, gift or legacy, will not be subject to IGT provided that the notes were not located in Spain and the rights deriving from them could not be exercised within Spanish territory.

The acquisition of notes by inheritance, gift or legacy by non-resident companies with a permanent establishment within the Spanish territory is not subject to the IGT, as income obtained will be subject to the NRIT.

### ***Value Added Tax, Transfer Tax and Stamp Duty***

Acquisition and transfer of notes, in principle, shall not trigger Transfer Tax and Stamp Duty, nor will they be taxable under Value Added Tax.

## **SWEDEN**

### ***Swedish Withholding Tax***

There is no Swedish withholding tax at source (*källskatt*) applicable on payments made by the issuer in respect of the notes. However, Sweden operates a system of preliminary tax (*preliminärskatt*) to secure payment of taxes. In the context of the notes a preliminary tax of 30% will be deducted from all payments of interest in respect of the notes made to any individuals, or estates, that are resident in Sweden for tax purposes provided the paying entity is subject to reporting obligations. A preliminary tax of 30 per cent. will also be deducted from any other payments in respect of the notes not treated as capital gains, if such payments are paid out together with payments treated as interest. Depending on the relevant holder's overall tax liability for the relevant fiscal year the preliminary tax may contribute towards, equal or exceed the holder's overall tax liability with any balance subsequently to be paid by or to the relevant holder, as applicable.

## UNITED KINGDOM

*The following comments are of a general nature, relating only to the position of persons who are absolute beneficial owners of the notes and is based on United Kingdom law in force in England and Wales and what is understood to be the current practice of Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs ("HMRC"), in each case at the date of this European base prospectus, which may change at any time, possibly with retrospective effect. The following is a general overview only of the United Kingdom withholding taxation treatment at the date hereof in relation to income payments in respect of the notes and certain provisions allowing HMRC to obtain and exchange information. The comments are not exhaustive, and do not deal with other United Kingdom tax aspects of acquiring, holding, disposing of or abandoning the notes.*

### **Interest payments**

Interest will only be subject to a deduction on account of United Kingdom income tax if it has a United Kingdom source in which case it may fall to be paid under deduction of United Kingdom income tax at the basic rate (currently 20 per cent.) subject to such relief as may be available under the provisions of any applicable double taxation treaty or to any other exemption which may apply.

The location of the source of a payment is a complex matter. It is necessary to have regard to case law and HMRC practice. Some of the case law is conflicting but HMRC takes the view that in determining the source of interest all relevant factors must be taken into account. HMRC has indicated that the most important factors in determining the source of a payment are where the Issuer does business and where its assets are located, since these influence where a creditor would sue for payment. However, HMRC has also indicated that, depending on the circumstances, other relevant factors may include the place of performance of the contract, the method of payment, the proper law of contract, the competent jurisdiction for any legal action and the location of any security for the debt, although other factors may also be relevant.

Where interest has a United Kingdom source, any payment of interest may nonetheless be made without withholding or deduction for or on account of United Kingdom income tax where any of the following conditions are satisfied:

(i) if the notes are and continue to be "quoted Eurobonds" as defined in section 987 of the Income Tax Act 2007. The notes will constitute "quoted Eurobonds" if they carry a right to interest and are and continue to be listed on a "recognized stock exchange" within the meaning of section 1005 of the Income Tax Act 2007. Notes admitted to trading on a "recognized stock exchange" outside the United Kingdom will be treated as "listed" on a "recognized stock exchange" if (and only if) they are admitted to trading on that exchange and they are officially listed in accordance with provisions corresponding to those generally applicable in European Economic Area states in a country outside the United Kingdom in which there is a "recognized stock exchange" (the Luxembourg Stock Exchange is a "recognized stock exchange" for these purposes); or

(ii) if the relevant interest is paid on notes with a maturity date of less than one year from the date of issue and which are not issued under arrangements the effect of which is to render such notes part of a borrowing with a total term of a year or more.

The references to "interest" above mean "interest" as understood in United Kingdom tax law and in particular any premium element of the redemption amount of any notes redeemable at a premium may constitute a payment of interest subject to the withholding tax provisions discussed above and reporting requirements as outlined below. The statements above do not take any account of any different definitions of "interest" or "principal" which may prevail under any other law or which may be created by the terms and conditions of the notes or any related documentation.

### ***Other payments***

Payments under the notes which do not amount to interest or annual payments for the purposes of United Kingdom tax will normally not be subject to United Kingdom withholding tax.

### ***Information Exchange***

HMRC has powers, in certain circumstances, to obtain information. The persons from whom HMRC can obtain information include: a person who receives (or is entitled to receive) a payment derived from notes; a person who makes such a payment (received from, or paid on behalf of another person); a person by or through whom interest is paid or credited; a person who effects or is a party to transactions in respect of notes (which includes an issue of notes) on behalf of others; registrars or administrators in respect of transactions in respect of notes; and each registered or inscribed holder of notes. The information HMRC can obtain includes: details of the beneficial owner of the notes; details of the person for whom the notes are held, or the person to whom the payment is to be made (and, if more than one, their respective interests); information and documents relating to transactions in the notes; and, in relation to interest paid or credited on money received or retained in the United Kingdom, the identity of the security under which interest is paid.

In certain circumstances the information which HMRC has obtained using these powers may be exchanged with tax authorities in other jurisdictions.

**FORM OF FINAL TERMS (Series F Notes)**

Final Terms No. [●] to the European Base Prospectus dated April 21, 2016,  
as supplemented]



**The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.**  
Euro Medium-Term Notes, Series F

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*[Title of [[Fixed Rate [(Zero Coupon)] [(Discount)]] [/] [Floating Rate] [/] [Indexed (Range Accrual)] [Indexed (Steepener/Flattener)] [Indexed (Asian [Absolute] Performance)] [Indexed (Digital)] [Indexed (Outperformance)] [Indexed (Participation)] notes]*

*Contractual Terms:*

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[Terms used herein shall be deemed to be defined as such for the purposes of the General Note Conditions set forth in the base prospectus dated April 21, 2016, as it may be supplemented (the "Base Prospectus"), which is a base prospectus for the purposes of the Prospectus Directive. This document constitutes the Final Terms of the Notes described herein for the purposes of Article 5.4 of the Prospectus Directive and must be read in conjunction with such Base Prospectus. Full information on the Issuer and the offer of the Notes is only available on the basis of the combination of these Final Terms and the Base Prospectus.]

*[The following alternative language applies if the first tranche of an issue which is being increased was issued under a Base Prospectus with an earlier date.]*

[Terms used herein shall be deemed to be defined as such for the purposes of the General Note Conditions set forth in the base prospectus dated [June 5, 2015] [June 5, 2014] [June 10, 2013] [June 8, 2012] [June 10, 2011] [June 11, 2010] [as supplemented by prospectus supplement no. 3 thereto dated October 19, 2011] which [is/are] incorporated by reference in the Base Prospectus dated April 21, 2016, as it may be supplemented (the "Base Prospectus"), which is a base prospectus for the purposes of the Prospectus Directive including the terms and conditions incorporated by reference in the Base Prospectus. This document constitutes the Final Terms of the Notes described herein for the purposes of Article 5.4 of the Prospectus Directive and must be read in conjunction with such Base Prospectuses. Full information on the Issuer and the offer of the Notes is only available on the basis of the combination of these Final Terms and the Base Prospectuses.]

The Base Prospectus is available for viewing at [www.bourse.lu](http://www.bourse.lu) and during normal business hours at the registered office of the Issuer, and copies may be obtained from the specified office of the Paying Agent in Luxembourg. [These Final Terms are available for viewing at [www.bourse.lu](http://www.bourse.lu)] [*Include where the notes are to be admitted to trading on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange*] / [●] [*insert other website if the notes will not be admitted to trading on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and the Final Terms will be published elsewhere.*]

*[If the Notes have a denomination of at least EUR 100,000, then this sentence should be deleted.]* A summary of the Notes (which comprises the summary in the Base Prospectus as amended to reflect the provisions of these Final Terms) is attached to these Final Terms.

*[Specify whether each of the items below is applicable or not applicable. Italics denote guidance for completing final terms.]*

<b>Tranche Number</b>	[F-●] <i>[If fungible with an existing tranche, include the date on which the Notes become fungible]</i>
<b>Face Amount (Aggregate Notional Amount)</b>	[●] <i>[If fungible with an existing tranche, specify the face amount of this tranche and the entire face amount of all fungible tranches]</i>
<b>Denomination</b>	[●]
<b>Minimum Investment</b>	[●] [Not applicable]

<b>Type of Note</b>	[[Fixed Rate [(Zero Coupon)] [(Discount)]] [/] [Floating Rate] [/] [Indexed (Range Accrual)] [Indexed (Steepener/Flattener)] [Indexed (Asian [Absolute] Performance)] [Indexed (Digital)] [Indexed (Outperformance)] [Indexed (Participation)]] Series F note
<b>Specified Currency</b>	[•]
<b>Trade Date</b>	[•]
<b>Original Issue Date (Settlement Date)</b>	[•] [If fungible with an existing tranche, specify the original issue dates of all fungible tranches]
<b>ISIN Code</b>	[•]
<b>Common Code</b>	[•]
<b>[WKN</b>	<i>If applicable</i> [•]
<b>[Valoren Number</b>	<i>If applicable</i> [•]
<b>Stated Maturity Date</b>	[•]
<b>Original Issue Price</b>	[•] per cent. of the Face Amount [plus accrued interest from <i>[insert date]</i> (if applicable)].
<b>Net Proceeds to Issuer</b>	[[Up to] [•] per cent. of the Face Amount
<b>Original Issue Discount</b>	[Not Applicable] [Applicable] [If Not Applicable, delete the remainder of this row.] [If Discount Note: <b>OID:</b> [•]%] <b>Accretion Date:</b> [•] each year <b>Accretion Rate:</b> [•]% per annum
<b>Amount Payable at Maturity (Final Redemption Amount)</b>	[If Indexed (Participation) notes is Not Applicable: [[100%] <i>[insert number greater than 100]</i> % of the Face Amount outstanding on the Stated Maturity Date]] <b>Indexed (Participation) Notes:</b> [Applicable][Not Applicable] [If Indexed (Participation) notes is Applicable. Select the applicable provisions for each and delete the remainder. For all other notes, delete the remainder of this row.] See “General Note Conditions — Redemption and Repayment — Redemption at Maturity — Indexed (Participation) Notes” in the European base prospectus <b>Index:</b> [•] <b>Index Sponsor:</b> [•] <b>Index Currency:</b> [•] <b>Index Valuation Time:</b> [•] <b>Capped Participation:</b> [Applicable][Not Applicable] <b>FX Participation:</b> [Applicable][Not Applicable][ <i>If Not Applicable, delete the following sub-paragraphs</i> ] (i) <b>FXR:</b> [Non-Inverse Return][Inverse Return] (ii) <b>FX (Initial):</b> [[•] / The Specified Rate] (iii) <b>FXR Cap:</b> [[•] / Expected to be [•] [but shall not be [more than [•]] [and] [less than [•]]] / Not Applicable] (iv) <b>FXR Floor:</b> [•] / Expected to be [•] [but shall not be [more than [•]] [and] [less than [•]]]



- (v) **Reference Currency:** *[insert currency]*
- (vi) **Base Currency:** *[insert currency]*
- (vii) **Specified Rate:** [Official fixing rate / Official mid closing rate / Spot rate / Mid rate / Fixing rate].
- (viii) **Fixing Price Sponsor:** [●]
- (ix) **Valuation Time:** *[insert time]*
- (x) **FX Price Source:** [●]

**Maturity Lock-In:** [Applicable][Not Applicable]

*[If Maturity Lock-In is "Applicable",*

**Lock-In Amount:** [100%]*[insert number greater than 100]*% of the Face Amount outstanding on the Stated Maturity Date].

**Nominal Amount (N):** [●]

**Participation:** [[If Reference Price (Final) is *[greater]/[less] than [or equal to]* [Reference Price (Initial)],[●], [●]; otherwise,] [●] / Expected to be [●] [but shall not be [more than [●]] [and] [less than [●]]]].

**Cap:** [[●] / Expected to be [●] [but shall not be [more than [●]] [and] [less than [●]]] / Not Applicable].

**Floor:** [[If Reference Price (Final) is *[greater]/[less] than [or equal to]* [Reference Price (Initial)],[●], [●]; otherwise,] [●] / Expected to be [●] [but shall not be [more than [●]] [and] [less than [●]]]].

**Strike:** [●]

**Reference Price (Initial):** [[●] / Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price/ Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]].

**Valuation Date:** [[●]/Not Applicable].

**Initial Valuation Date:** [[●]/Not Applicable].

**Averaging:** [Applicable/Not Applicable]. *[If Not Applicable, delete the following sub-paragraphs]*

- (i) **Averaging Dates:** [[●] / Not Applicable].
- (ii) **Initial Averaging Dates:** [[●] / Not Applicable].
- (iii) **Last Averaging Date:** [[●] / Not Applicable].
- (iv) **Last Initial Averaging Date:** [[●] / Not Applicable].
- (v) **Averaging Postponement:** [Postponement][Modified Postponement]

**Initial Observation Period:** [Applicable/Not Applicable]

*[If Initial Observation Period is "Applicable",*

**Initial Observation Dates:** *[insert dates]*.

**Final Observation Period:** [Applicable/Not Applicable]

*[If Final Observation Period is "Applicable",*

**Observation Level:** [Lowest][Highest].

**Final Observation Dates:** [●]

**Maximum Days of Postponement:** [[8][●]][Business Days]]

**Yield to Maturity**

*Fixed Rate notes only:* [●]%

**Interest Rate Note Provisions**

[Not Applicable] [Applicable]

*[If Not Applicable, delete the remainder of this row. If applicable, select the applicable interest rate provisions for each Interest Payment Date and delete the remainder. Repeat as required.]*

<b>For [all][the] Interest Payment Date[s] Scheduled for [●] [and][through] [●]</b>
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<p><b>Fixed Rate:</b> [Applicable][Not applicable] <i>[If Not applicable, delete the rest of this row:]</i></p> <p>See “General Note Conditions — Interest Rates — Fixed Rate Notes”</p> <p><b>Interest Rate:</b> ●% per annum</p> <p><b>Interest Payment Dates:</b> <i>[specify]</i></p> <p><b>Day Count Fraction:</b> [[1/1 (ISDA)] [Actual/Actual (ISDA)] [Actual/Actual (ICMA)] [Actual/Actual (Bond)] [Actual/Actual (Euro)] [Actual/365 (Fixed)] [Actual/360 (ISDA)] [Actual/360 (ICMA)] [30/360 (ISDA)]]</p>
<p><b>Floating Rate:</b> [Applicable][Not applicable] <i>[If Not applicable, delete the rest of this row:]</i></p> <p>See “General Note Conditions — Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes”</p> <p><b>Interest Rate:</b> A rate per annum equal to the Base Rate <i>[multiplied by the Spread Multiplier]</i><i>[plus the Spread]</i><i>[subject to the] [Minimum Rate]</i><i>[and]</i><i>[the Maximum Rate]</i></p> <p><b>[Minimum Rate:</b> ●%]</p> <p><b>[Maximum Rate:</b> ●%]</p> <p><b>Base Rate:</b> [●]</p> <p><b>[Spread:</b> [●]% per annum][Not Applicable]</p> <p><b>[Spread Multiplier:</b> [●]% per annum][Not Applicable]</p> <p><b>Compounding Interest:</b> [Applicable][Not Applicable]</p> <p><b>Base Rate 0% Floor:</b> [Applicable][Not Applicable]</p> <p><b>Underlyer Maturity:</b> [Three month] [Six month] [1 year] <i>[specify]</i></p> <p><b>Underlyer Currency:</b> [EUR] [USD] <i>[specify]</i></p> <p><b>Underlyer Screen Page:</b> [●]</p> <p><b>[Applicable Reference Rate:</b> [●]]</p> <p><b>[Relevant Time:</b> [●]]</p> <p><b>[Principal Financial Center:</b> [●]]</p> <p><b>Interest Determination Dates:</b><i>[specify]</i></p> <p><b>Interest Reset Dates:</b> [The first day of the Interest Period]</p> <p><b>Interest Payment Dates:</b> <i>[specify]</i></p> <p><b>Day Count Fraction:</b> [[1/1 (ISDA)] [Actual/Actual (ISDA)] [Actual/Actual (ICMA)] [Actual/Actual (Bond)] [Actual/Actual (Euro)] [Actual/365 (Fixed)] [Actual/360 (ISDA)] [Actual/360 (ICMA)] [30/360 (ISDA)]]</p>
<p><b>Steepener / Flattener:</b> [Applicable][Not applicable] <i>[If Not applicable, delete the rest of this row:]</i></p> <p>See “General Note Conditions — Indexed Notes — Interest Rate Formulae — Steepener and Flattener Notes”</p> <p><b>Base Rate 1:</b> <i>[insert base rate]</i></p> <p><b>Base Rate 1 Maturity:</b> [Three month] [Six month] [1 year] <i>[specify]</i></p> <p><b>Base Rate 1 Currency:</b> [EUR] [USD] <i>[specify]</i></p> <p><b>Base Rate 1 Screen Page:</b> <i>[specify]</i></p> <p><b>Base Rate 1 Multiplier:</b> [1]<i>[specify]</i></p> <p><b>Base Rate 1 Interest Determination Dates:</b> <i>[specify]</i></p> <p><b>Base Rate 2:</b> <i>[insert base rate]</i></p> <p><b>Base Rate 2 Maturity:</b> [Three month] [Six month] [1 year] <i>[specify]</i></p> <p><b>Base Rate 2 Currency:</b> [EUR] [USD] <i>[specify]</i></p>

**Base Rate 2 Screen Page:** [specify]

**Base Rate 2 Multiplier:** [1][specify]

**Base Rate 2 Interest Determination Dates:** [specify]

**Comparison Base Rate:** [Applicable][Not Applicable]

*[If Comparison Base Rate is "Applicable",*

**Comparison Base Rate:** [insert base rate]

**Comparison Base Rate Maturity:** [Three month] [Six month] [1 year] [specify]

**Comparison Base Rate Currency:** [EUR] [USD] [specify]

**Comparison Base Rate Screen Page:** [specify]

**Comparison Base Rate Multiplier:** [1][specify]

**Comparison Base Rate Spread:** [0][specify]

**[Minimum Rate:** ●%

**[Maximum Rate:** ●%

**Participation:** ●%

**[Spread:** [●]% per annum][Not Applicable]

**Interest Payment Dates:** [specify]

**Day Count Fraction:** [[1/1 (ISDA)] [Actual/Actual (ISDA)] [Actual/Actual (ICMA)] [Actual/Actual (Bond)] [Actual/Actual (Euro)] [Actual/365 (Fixed)] [Actual/360 (ISDA)] [Actual/360 (ICMA)] [30/360 (ISDA)]

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**Range Accrual Provisions:** [Applicable][Not applicable] *[If Not applicable, delete the rest of this row:]*

See "General Note Conditions — Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes — Range Accrual Notes"

**Interest Rate:** A rate of ●% per annum subject to the Range Accrual Provisions]

Underlyers	Accrual Range	Underlyer Daily Fixings
[insert Base Rate] [[ccy1][ccy2] FX Fixing] [specify]	[[Equal to or] greater than ●] [or][and] [[[Equal to or] less than ●]	[specify]
[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]

*[For each Underlyer that is a Base Rate:*

Base Rate Underlyers	Maturity	Currency	Screen Page
[insert Base Rate]	[specify]	[specify]	[specify]
[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]

*[For each Underlyer that is a Foreign Currency Exchange Rate:*

Exchange Rate Underlyers	Bid/Ask/Mid	Fixing Page	Fixing Time
[[ccy1][ccy2] FX Fixing	[—] [bid] [ask] [mid]	[specify]	[specify]

[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]
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**Asian Performance:** [Applicable][Not applicable] *[If Not applicable, delete the rest of this row:]*  
See “General Note Conditions — Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes — Asian Performance Notes”

**Absolute:** [Applicable][Not applicable]

**Interest Rate Table:**

Interest Period Number	Interest Payment Date	Observation Dates
1	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[insert Valuation Date]</i> <i>[insert Averaging Dates]</i> <i>[insert Final Observation Dates]</i>
2 <i>[repeat as required]</i>	<i>[insert date]</i>	<i>[repeat as required]</i>

**[Minimum Rate: ●%]**  
**[Maximum Rate: ●%]**  
**[Spread: ●%]**  
**Participation Rate:** [[100%] / [●%]]

**Index Information Table:**

Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	Weighting
[●]	[●] [●]	[●]	[[●] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	[●]%
<i>[repeat]</i>	<i>[repeat]</i>	<i>[repeat]</i>	<i>[repeat]</i>	<i>[repeat]</i>

**Averaging:** [Applicable/Not Applicable].  
*[If Averaging is “Applicable”,*  
**Initial Averaging Dates:** *[insert dates].*  
**Averaging Postponement:** [Postponement][Modified Postponement]

**Initial Observation Period:** [Applicable/Not Applicable]  
*[If Initial Observation Period is “Applicable”,*  
**Initial Observation Dates:** *[insert dates].*  
*[If Averaging and Initial Observation Period are “Not Applicable”,* **Initial Valuation Date:** *[insert date].*

**Final Observation Period:** [Applicable/Not Applicable]

[If Final Observation Period is "Applicable",

**Final Observation Dates:** [insert dates].

**Observation Level:** [Lowest][Highest].

**Common Exchange Business Day:** [Applicable][Not applicable]

**Day Count Fraction:** [1/1 (ISDA)] [specify]

**Digital:** [Applicable][Not applicable] [If Not applicable, delete the rest of this row:]

See "General Note Conditions — Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes — Digital Notes"

**Lock-In:** [Applicable][Not applicable]

**Interest Protection:** [Applicable][Not applicable]

**Worst-Of:** [Applicable][Not applicable]

**Best-Of:** [Applicable][Not applicable]

**Multiple Conditions:** [Applicable][Not applicable]

**Floating Coupon:** [Applicable][Not Applicable]

**Interest Rate Table:**

Interest Period Number	Interest Payment Date	Observation Dates	Applicable Coupon
[●]	[insert date]	[insert Valuation Date] [insert Averaging Dates] [insert Final Observation Dates]	[[●]%/] [A rate per annum equal to the Base Rate [plus the Spread][subject to the [Minimum Rate][and][the Maximum Rate] <b>[Minimum Rate: ●%]</b> <b>[Maximum Rate: ●%]</b> <b>Base Rate: [●]</b> [Spread: [●]% per annum][Not Applicable] <b>Underlyer Maturity:</b> [Three month] [Six month] [1 year] [specify] <b>Underlyer Currency:</b> [EUR] [USD] [specify] <b>Underlyer Screen Page:</b> [●] <b>Interest Determination Date:</b> [specify]
[repeat as required]	[insert date] [repeat as required]	[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]

**Index Information Table:**

Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)	Performance Measure	Barrier Level

[•]	[•] [•]	[•]	[[•] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]	In respect of [each] Interest Period [Number [•]], [Equal to or] [Greater] [Less] Than; [repeat as required]	In respect of [each] Interest Period [Number r [•]], [•]% [repeat as required ]
[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]	[repeat]

**Averaging:** [Applicable/Not Applicable].

[If Averaging is “Applicable”,

**Initial Averaging Dates:** [insert dates].

**Averaging Postponement:** [Postponement][Modified Postponement]

[If Averaging is “Not Applicable”, **Initial Valuation Date:** [insert date].

**Initial Observation Period:** [Applicable/Not Applicable]

[If Initial Observation Period is “Applicable”,

**Initial Observation Dates:** [insert dates].

[If Averaging and Initial Observation Period are “Not Applicable”, **Initial Valuation Date:** [insert date].

**Final Observation Period:** [Applicable/Not Applicable]

[If Final Observation Period is “Applicable”,

**Final Observation Dates:** [insert dates].

**Observation Level:** [Lowest][Highest].

**Common Market Disruption Events:** [Applicable][Not applicable]

**Day Count Fraction:** [1/1 (ISDA)] [Actual/Actual (ISDA)] [Actual/Actual (ICMA)]  
[Actual/Actual (Bond)] [Actual/Actual (Euro)] [Actual/365 (Fixed)]  
[Actual/360 (ISDA)] [Actual/360 (ICMA)] [30/360 (ISDA)]

**OutPerformance:** [Applicable][Not applicable] [If Not applicable, delete the rest of this row:]

See “General Note Conditions — Interest Rates — Floating Rate Notes — OutPerformance Notes”

**Performance Factor:** [+][-][•]%

**Interest Rate Table:**

Interest Payment Date	Observation Dates	Applicable Coupon
[insert date]	[insert Valuation Date] [insert Averaging Dates] [insert Final Observation Dates]	[[•]%/] [A rate per annum equal to the Base Rate [plus the Spread][subject to the] [Minimum Rate][and][the Maximum Rate] <b>[Minimum Rate:</b>

		•%] <b>[Maximum Rate:</b> •%] <b>Base Rate: [•]</b> <b>[Spread: [•]% per</b> annum][Not Applicable] <b>Underlyer Maturity:</b> [Three month] [Six month] [1 year] [specify] <b>Underlyer</b> <b>Currency: [EUR]</b> [USD] [specify] <b>Underlyer Screen</b> <b>Page: [•]</b> <b>Interest</b> <b>Determination</b> <b>Date:[specify]]</b>
[insert date] [repeat as required]	[repeat as required]	[repeat as required]

**Index Information Table:**

Index	Index Sponsor Index Currency	Index Valuation Time	Reference Price (Initial)
<b>Primary Index: [•]</b>	[•] [•]	[•]	[[•] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]
<b>Secondary Index: [•]</b>	[•] [•]	[•]	[[•] / [Initial Reference Price / Initial Average Price / Initial Highest Price / Initial Lowest Price]

**Averaging:** [Applicable/Not Applicable].

[If Averaging is "Applicable",

**Initial Averaging Dates:** [insert dates].

**Averaging Postponement:** [Postponement][Modified Postponement]

[If Averaging is "Not Applicable", **Initial Valuation Date:** [insert date].

**Initial Observation Period:** [Applicable/Not Applicable]

[If Initial Observation Period is "Applicable",

**Initial Observation Dates:** [insert dates].

[If Averaging and Initial Observation Period are "Not Applicable", **Initial Valuation Date:** [insert date].

**Final Observation Period:** [Applicable/Not Applicable]

[If Final Observation Period is "Applicable",

**Final Observation Dates:** [insert dates].

**Observation Level:** [Lowest][Highest].  
**Common Exchange Business Day:** [Applicable][Not applicable]  
**Day Count Fraction:** [1/1 (ISDA)] [Actual/Actual (ISDA)] [Actual/Actual (ICMA)]  
[Actual/Actual (Bond)] [Actual/Actual (Euro)] [Actual/365 (Fixed)]  
[Actual/360 (ISDA)] [Actual/360 (ICMA)] [30/360 (ISDA)]

**Maximum Days of Postponement:** [[8][•]][Business Days]  
**Default Amount:** [Par Plus Accrued But Unpaid / Dealer Poll / Accreted Value]  
**Interest Commencement Date** *For notes that bear interest, the interest commencement date*  
*[For notes that do not bear interest: Not Applicable]*  
**Interest Payment Dates** *For notes that bear interest: •[•, and •] of each year[, beginning with • and ending with •]*  
*[For notes that do not bear interest: Not Applicable]*  
**Interest Period** *For notes that bear interest a period from and including an Interest Payment Date (or the Interest Commencement Date, in the case of the initial Interest Period) to but excluding the next succeeding Interest Payment Date (or the Stated Maturity Date, in the case of the final Interest Period)*  
*[For notes that do not bear interest: Not Applicable]*  
**Calculation Basis** [Per Denomination] [Notional]  
**Regular Record Dates** [•] *[For registered notes under NSS: 1] Business Day(s)*  
**Additional Redemption Rights at the Option of the Issuer** [Not Applicable] [Applicable]  
*[If Not Applicable, delete the remainder of this row.]*

Issuer's Redemption Date	Issuer's Redemption Price
<i>[insert date]</i>	[•] per cent.
<i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i>	[•] per cent. <i>[repeat as required]</i>

**Issuer's Redemption Notice:** [•] [Business Days][days]

**Repurchase at the Holder's Option** [Not Applicable] [Applicable]  
*[If Not Applicable, delete the remainder of this row.]*

Holder's Redemption Date	Holder's Redemption Price
<i>[insert date]</i>	[•] per cent.
<i>[insert date] [repeat as required]</i>	[•] per cent. <i>[repeat as required]</i>

**Redemption Upon Change in Law** [Not Applicable] [Applicable]

**Tax gross-up for eligible holders; and Call in the Case of Tax Law Changes** [Not Applicable] [Applicable]

**Business Days** [New York], [London], *[specify]*

**Business Day Convention** [Modified] Following [[Adjusted] [Unadjusted]]

**Intended to be held in a manner which would allow Eurosystem eligibility** [No] [Yes. Note that the designation "yes" simply means that the Notes are intended upon issue to be deposited with one of the ICSDs as common safekeeper, and registered in the name of a nominee of one of the ICSDs acting as common safekeeper, and does not necessarily mean that the Notes will be recognized as eligible collateral for Eurosystem monetary policy and intra-day credit operations by the Eurosystem either upon issue or at any or all times during



their life. Such recognition will depend upon the ECB being satisfied that Eurosystem eligibility criteria have been met.]

**Form of Notes**

[Registered global notes only, registered in the name of a nominee for a common safekeeper for Euroclear and Clearstream, Luxembourg]/[•]

**Any Clearing System(s) other than Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. and Clearstream Banking, société anonyme and the relevant identification number(s):**

[specify other, give name(s), address(es) and number(s)] [Not Applicable]

**Calculation Agent**

[For fixed rate notes: Not applicable]

[Otherwise: [Goldman Sachs International] [specify]]

**Listing and Admission to Trading**

[For notes listed on the regulated market: Application [has been][will be] made to the Luxembourg Stock Exchange for the notes to be admitted to trading on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange's regulated market and to be listed on the Official List of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange [with effect from [\*]; see "Listing and General Information" in the European base prospectus] [Specify other listings]

[When notes are to be fungible with an existing issue, indicate if original notes are already admitted to trading on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange]

[For all other notes: Not applicable]

[If the Notes have a denomination of at least EUR 100,000: Estimate of total expenses related to admission to trading: [\*]]

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Final Terms, dated •

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE UNDERLYER[S]

[where the underlying is an index, the name of the index.]

[where the underlying is an interest rate, a description of the interest rate.]

[an indication where information about the past and the further performance of the underlying and its volatility can be obtained]

[INDEX DISCLAIMER] [Insert only if applicable]

## [TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE OFFER]

[(If the Notes have a denomination of at least EUR 100,000 to which Annex XX (XIII) of the Prospectus Regulation applies, then this section should be deleted.)]

**[Offer Period:** An offer of the Notes may be made by the agents other than pursuant to Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive in the Public Offer Jurisdictions during the period commencing on (and including) [●] and ending on (and including) [●].

**Offer Price:** [[●]% of the Original Issue Price] [specify].

**Conditions to which the offer is subject:** [The offer of the Notes for sale to the public in the Public Offer Jurisdiction(s) are subject to the relevant regulatory approvals having been granted, and the Notes being issued.] [specify]

**Description of the application process:** [Not Applicable/give details].

**Description of possibility to reduce subscriptions and manner for refunding excess amount paid by applicants:** [Not Applicable/give details].

**Details of the minimum and/or maximum amount of application:** [Not Applicable][The maximum number of Notes to be issued is [●]].

**Details of the method and time limits for paying up and delivering the Notes:** [The Notes will be issued on the Issue Date against payment to the Issuer of the net subscription moneys.] [specify]

**Manner in and date on which results of the offer are to be made public:** The results of the

offering will be available on the following website [●] on or around the end of the Offer Period

**Procedure for exercise of any right of preemption, negotiability of subscription rights and treatment of subscription rights not exercised:** [Not Applicable/give details].

**Whether tranche(s) have been reserved for certain countries:** [●] [Not Applicable].

**Process for notification to applicants of the amount allotted and the indication whether dealing may begin before notification is made:** [Not Applicable/give details].

**Amount of any expenses and taxes specifically charged to the subscriber or purchaser:** [Not Applicable/give details].

**Name(s) and address(es), to the extent known to the Issuer, of the placers in the various countries where the offer takes place:** [None/give details].

**Name(s) and address(es) of any paying agents and depository agents in each country:** [None/give details]

**Consent to use the Base Prospectus**

**Identity of financial intermediary(ies) that are allowed to use the Base Prospectus:** [insert name and address of any financial intermediary which has consent to use the Base Prospectus]

**Offer period during which subsequent resale or final placement of Notes by financial intermediaries can be made:** [specify]

**Conditions attached to the consent:** [insert any clear and objective conditions attached to the consent to use the Base Prospectus]]

## DISTRIBUTION

*[(If the Notes have a denomination of at least EUR 100,000 to which Annex XX (XIII) of the Prospectus Regulation applies, then this section should be deleted.)]*

- Method of distribution:** [Syndicated / Non-syndicated].
- [*Include if syndicated* — Names and addresses of Purchasing Agents and underwriting commitments: [Give names, addresses and underwriting commitments].]
- [*Include names and addresses of entities agreeing to underwrite the issue on a firm commitment basis and names and addresses of the entities agreeing to place the issue without a firm commitment or on a “best efforts” basis if such entities are not the same as the Purchasing Agents.*]
- [*Include if syndicated* — Date of Terms Agreement: *specify*]
- [*Include if non-syndicated* — Name and address of Dealer: [give name and address].]
- Non-exempt Offer:** [Not Applicable] [An offer of the Notes may be made by the Managers [and [*specify, if applicable*]] other than pursuant to Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive in [Austria / Belgium / Bulgaria / the Czech Republic / Denmark / Finland / France / Germany / Greece / Hungary / Ireland / Italy / Luxembourg / The Netherlands / Norway / Poland / Portugal / Slovakia / Spain / Sweden [and] the United Kingdom] (“**Public Offer Jurisdictions**”) during the period from [*specify date*] until [*specify date*] (“**Offer Period**”). See further paragraph entitled “Terms and Conditions of the Offer” above.]
- Reasons for the offer** [*specify*] [Not applicable]
- Estimated net proceeds:** [•][*If proceeds are intended for more than one use will need to split out and present in order of priority. If proceeds insufficient to fund all proposed uses state amount and sources of other funding.*]
- Estimated total expenses:** [•][*Include breakdown of expenses*]
- Name(s) and address(es) of any paying agents and depository agents in each country:** [None/*give details*]

**ISSUE-SPECIFIC SUMMARY OF THE SECURITIES**

*[Insert issue-specific summary if applicable]*



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**THE PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF  
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United States of America

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**FISCAL AGENT AND PAYING AGENT**

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UK

**LISTING AGENT, PAYING AGENT AND TRANSFER AGENT IN LUXEMBOURG**

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Luxembourg

**LEGAL ADVISORS TO  
THE GOLDMAN SACHS GROUP, INC.**

**As to United States law:**  
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**As to United States law  
(including as to United States  
Federal Income tax law):**  
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