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### **Czech Republic issues successful long 10-year EUR 2 billion Eurobond**

On February 20th, The Czech Republic, rated A1, AA-, and A+ (all stable outlook) by Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch respectively, launched and priced a new long 10-year EUR 2bn Eurobond issue, achieving a coupon of 3.875%. Barclays Capital, Česká spořitelna (Erste Group), SG CIB and UniCredit were mandated as Joint-Lead Managers.

The successful issuance of the Czech Republic's first EUR benchmark after almost one-and-half year absence from the Euro market was well prepared by a highly professional 5-day European Roadshow during the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. The Roadshow included group presentations and one-to-one meetings in Munich, Cologne, Frankfurt, Wiesbaden, Vienna, Amsterdam, The Hague, Paris, and London. Almost 50 investors had the opportunity to discuss the strong fundamentals of the Czech Republic with the Ministry of Finance delegation.

Based on strong investor feedback received during the Roadshow and the favorable market conditions the Joint Lead Managers started to collect indication of interests on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> of February at 10:15 CET at mid-swaps +170bps area.

The orderbook officially opened at 13:10 CET with initial price guidance of mid-swaps +160-165 bps. The orderbook quickly reached over EUR 3bn. At 13:45 CET, the orderbook closed with over EUR 3.5bn of total size and over 190 single accounts participating. Based on this high quality orderbook, the spread was fixed at mid-swaps +160 bps, the very tight end of the initial spread guidance. The final size was set at EUR 2bn, the upper side of the announced range of EUR 1 – 2 bn.

The strong fundamentals of the country as one of the lowest indebted nation in the European Union allowed the Czech Republic to place its new long 10-year issue with a very limited issue premium of 5-7 bps to its existing secondary curve. This new issue premium is one of the lowest seen in 2012 so far in the Sovereign market and underpins the credibility and attractiveness of the Czech Republic as an issuer, thanks to both its high credit profile and its scarcity value. Furthermore, the spread for the Czech Republic's 10-year transaction is the lowest in the CEE region and it is the first 10-year transaction in the region in 2012.

The high quality investor demand for the transaction was provided by Funds with 40% followed by Banks (35%) and Insurance Companies (20%). Central Banks took 4% of the transaction.

Major international demand came out of Germany (23%) and BeNeLux (22%). France and Austria followed with 14% and 13% respectively. CEE (6%), the UK (5%), Switzerland (5%) and other accounts (6%) completed the European contribution, while a remarkably solid demand of 4% came out of Asia.

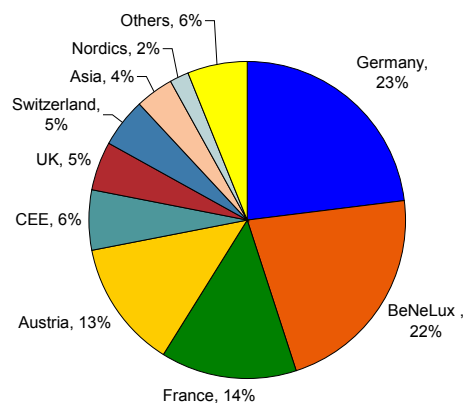
*Mr. Jan Gregor, Deputy Minister of Finance of the Czech Republic said: "This EUR 2bn transaction represents an important step in the execution of our funding strategy for 2012. I am very pleased with the execution and outcome of this transaction, in spite of its execution in volatile times. I particularly welcomed the strong participation of accounts visited during the European Roadshow, which proved our marketing efforts right. Furthermore, I really appreciate the investors' acknowledgement of our strong and stable credit fundamentals, as well as the reforms passed by the Czech Government."*

Proceeds of the Czech Republic's benchmark Eurobond transaction will be used for covering deficits of the State Budget, the repayment of state debt and other purposes authorised by law.

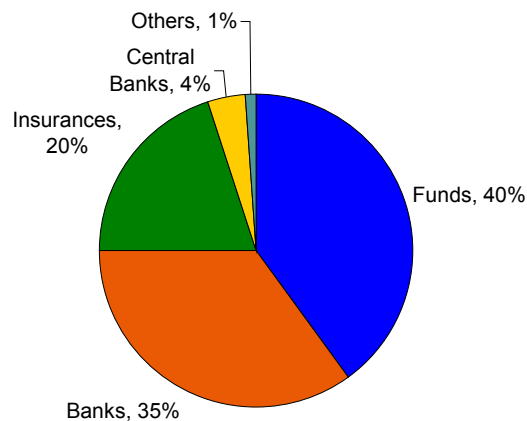
The Eurobond was issued off of the Czech Republic's EUR 10 billion EMTN Programme, updated on February, 10<sup>th</sup> 2012.

### **Distribution Statistics**

**By Geography:**



**By Investor Type:**



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