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### **Affiliation of Crédit Agricole CIB with Crédit Agricole Network**

The following is provided to explain the process and legal effect of the Crédit Agricole Network's internal financial solidarity mechanism in favour of any Affiliates ("*Affiliés*") extended in December 2011 by, Crédit Agricole S.A. ("CASA"), acting in its capacity as central organisation ("*Organe central*") of the Crédit Agricole Network, to Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank ("CACIB"). CASA has historically provided strong support to CACIB, as demonstrated during the recent financial crisis. The extension of this financial support mechanism to CACIB was designed to formalize this support under French law and, thereby, to achieve the equalization of Moody's long and short-term debt and deposit ratings between CASA and CACIB (S&P and Fitch already assigned a long and short-term debt and deposit ratings to CACIB equivalent to that of CASA).

In accordance with and pursuant to article R 512-18 of the French Code Monétaire et Financier ("CMF"), the existing Crédit Agricole Network's internal financial solidarity mechanism in favour of specified "Affiliates" has been formally extended to include CACIB. This extension was accomplished by a Decree of the French Government to modify article R 512-18 of the CMF and by formal approval by the Boards of CASA and CACIB of the "*affiliation*" of CACIB to Credit Agricole Network, all of which respectively occurred in November and December 2011. The mechanism known as "affiliation" has the legal effect under French law of an explicit and unlimited support of CACIB by CASA and the Crédit Agricole Network. As a result, pursuant to article L. 511-31 of the CMF, CASA, as the central organisation of the Crédit Agricole Network, has a legal obligation to take all necessary measures to guaranty the liquidity and solvency of the affiliated members.

Because this solidarity mechanism is provided for under and incorporated into French Law, no contractual guarantee is necessary. As an "obligation de résultat" under French law, the affiliation mechanism is in the nature of a performance obligation of CASA to take all necessary measures to provide the support described above.

The foregoing is provided only for the information of our clients and counterparts and is not intended to constitute, create or to be relied upon as an independent undertaking or obligation of CACIB, CASA or any of its affiliates.