

ECB Operations Managers Group: Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The ECB Operations Managers Group (ECB OMG) is a forum for interaction between the ECB and industry-wide market professionals involved in operational issues in the foreign exchange and capital markets. The objective of the ECB OMG is to discuss and maintain regular contacts on operational matters like settlement practices, market infrastructure developments, regulatory trends and financial innovation affecting operations. The information thus obtained helps the ECB to carry out its tasks under the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. In addition, the ECB OMG acts as a forum for responding to crisis situations that may arise in financial markets, in particular those affecting euro area market participants. The ECB OMG will help support the implementation and maintenance of the FX Global Code, and facilitate adherence to the Code, as far as it addresses operations.

2. Governance and Membership

The ECB OMG is composed of one ECB representative and approximately 20 private-sector participants with a comprehensive knowledge of operations management. These individuals are chosen by the ECB with regard to the institution they represent, their responsibilities within that institution, their on-going role in the market and their interest in joining the group. The selection criteria are aimed at ensuring participation by a wide range of institutions from the banking industry. Occasionally, non-member experts are invited to present or discuss specific issues. A selected number of representatives from the euro area national central banks are members of the ECB OMG.

Members are invited to represent the perspective not only of their individual institution, but also of the market as a whole. They should be able to use their knowledge and expertise to actively contribute to discussions. Any change in a member's position within his or her institution will result in a review of his or her membership; the seat cannot be automatically passed on to a replacement within the firm without the ECB's approval.

Membership and their term of appointment are considered by the ECB. To ensure the quality of the discussions, equal treatment and broad representativeness, membership is subject to an annual review. This review will be based on merit, for example regular attendance of the meetings, contribution to the group's notes and presentations, active participation in the discussions, the role of the represented institution in market operations. The ECB can suspend membership.

The ECB OMG is chaired by the ECB's Head of Financial Operations Services Division. The ECB provides the Secretariat, proposes the agenda and participates in the discussion. Members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled meetings in person. They should contact the Secretary if they are unable to attend. Each institution nominates an alternate who can participate in the exceptional absence of the member, subject to the ECB's approval.

3. Procedures

The ECB OMG usually meets four times per year on the ECB's premises for a four-hour meeting, normally starting at 13:00 CET.

The meetings follow an agenda which is circulated to the members beforehand. The agenda is established by the Chair in consultation with the members and the Secretary. Members are encouraged to propose topics for inclusion in the agenda and in the work programme.

In addition to the pre-arranged meetings, ad-hoc teleconferences may be requested at any time by the ECB, either at its own initiative or at the request of members.

Confidential, commercially-sensitive information, including information relating to a member's institution or the ECB, will not be discussed at the meetings or teleconferences.

Agendas, a list of participants, summaries of the ECB OMG discussions and material presented are published on the ECB's website. The summaries are first circulated to participants to allow any comments they have to be addressed prior to disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed, meeting summaries do not attribute the views that are expressed to any specific members.