

Market Profile Romania



Global Securities Services

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Banking that matters.



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1. Overview

1.1. GEOPOLITICAL DATA

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Time Zone: | GMT + 2 |
| Daylight Saving Time: | YES |
| Currency: | Leu (RON) |
| Banking Holidays: | link |
| EU Membership: | YES |
| Schengen Zone: | NO |



1.2. G30 COMPLIANCE

| | |
|---|-----|
| Trade comparison by T+1 for direct market participants | YES |
| Trade comparison for indirect participants | YES |
| Central securities depository | YES |
| Trade netting system | YES |
| Delivery vs. payment | YES |
| Same day funds | YES |
| Rolling settlement T+2 | YES |
| Securities lending and borrowing | YES |
| ISIN | YES |

1.3. COUNTRY RATINGS

| Rating Agency | Issuer Default Rating Foreign Currency, LT | Outlook |
|----------------------|---|----------------|
| Fitch | BBB- | Negative |
| Moody's | Baa3 | Negative |
| Standard & Poor's | BBB- | Negative |

2. Regulation and supervision

2.1. REGULATORY/SUPERVISORY BODIES

Supervision of financial markets is carried out by the following institutions:

- **Central Bank:**
The National Bank of Romania (NBR) acts as the central bank. This is an independent public institution. The NBR's primary objective is to ensure and maintain price stability and to support the general economic policy of the State. NBR acts as State's agent so as to place with third parties, government securities, acts as registrar, depository and transfer agent for government securities.
- **Financial Supervisory Authority:**
The Financial Supervisory Authority (FSA) regulates and supervises the capital market, the commodity and financial derivative instruments markets, the private pensions sector and insurance, but also the specific institutions and operations. FSA is subordinated to the Romanian Parliament and submits reports to the Parliament's Commission for Budget, Finance and Banks.

2.2. KEY MARKET REGULATIONS

Below you will find a list of the key market regulations. For a complete list with up to date information on the acts please refer to the GSS Website (<http://gss.unicreditgroup.eu>) or contact your local GSS Relationship Manager.

| Regulation | Main focus |
|---|--|
| The Capital Market Law | The law provides the legal framework for the establishment and functioning of the financial markets, institutions and their specific operations. |
| The Law on Issuers of Financial Instruments and Market Operations | The law lays down the legal framework applicable to the market operations concerning financial instruments admitted or soon to be admitted for trading on a regulated market or traded on a multilateral trading system or on an organized trading system supervised by the Financial Supervisory Authority. |
| The Law regarding the Financial Instruments | The law transpose into the local legislation the UE Directive 2014/65/UE. |
| The Companies Law | The law provides the legal framework for carrying out the trading operations by natural and legal persons that may associate and set up trading companies. |
| The Banking Law | This law applies to banks and electronic money institutions, Romanian legal entities, and branches of foreign credit institutions in Romania. |
| Bucharest Stock Exchange Code | Comprises the set of norms, approved by the ASF, in order to ensure an efficient market, with correct rules. |
| Central Depository Code | A set of norms, approved by the ASF and NBR, providing the conditions for clearing, settlement and registration of financial instruments. |

2.3. SELF-REGULATORY ORGANISATIONS

The Romanian Banking Association is a non-profit organisation having as main targets to represent and defend its members' interests, to promote the principles of banking policy in domains of general interest for its members, to promote co-operation among banks and with national and international institutions and banking associations from other countries to train experts in the banking system and to communicate with the mass media. The Custodians Commission is set up under the Central Depository and has an advisory role by informing the Board of the Central Depository about custodians' specific issues.

The Association "ACI Romania - Financial Markets Association" is a professional, non-profit organisation, based on relationships of fellowship between dealers, with the objective of promoting the profession, without discrimination and on a professional level of competence and ethical standards of loyalty considered essential in the development of relations between members.

CFA Romania is a not-for-profit educational organisation with the mission to educate and inform investment decision-makers, promote ethical standards in the industry, and assist financial professionals in career development. CFA Romania promotes awareness and understanding of securities analysis, investing, and the operation of the securities markets.

3. Trading

3.1. COMMONLY TRADED INSTRUMENTS

| Equities | | Money Market instruments | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ordinary shares | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Certificate of deposits |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Preferred shares | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Commercial papers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Employee shares | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | REPO transactions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Interest bearing shares | | |
| Government debt | | Corporate debt | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Government bonds | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Corporate bonds |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Treasury bonds | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Mortgage bonds |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Treasury bills | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Convertible bonds |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Treasury notes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Exchangeable bonds |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Municipal bonds | | |
| Derivatives | | Other instruments | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Options | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Exchange traded funds |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Futures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Investment funds |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Warrants | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Eurobonds funds |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Depository receipts |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Commodities |

3.2. BUCHAREST STOCK EXCHANGE – BSE

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Legal name | Bursa de Valori Bucuresti |
| Website | http://www.bvb.ro |
| Ownership structure | 100% Miscellaneous |
| Trading members | Authorised brokers, such as financial services investment companies, investment banks, credit institutions, investment firms from other EU member states |
| Traded instruments | Equities such as shares, rights, debt instruments such as corporate bonds, municipal bonds, government bonds, fund units, certificates, warrants |
| Traded method | Pre-Opening, Opening, Opened (Continuous trading), Pre-Closure, Closing auction, Trading at Last, Closed Status. During Opening, the following operations may be carried out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculating the price and volume based on the fixing algorithm; • Executing each symbol transaction at the symbol's opening price time in the respective market. Opened Status: trade occurs on the continuous market and orders, informative quotes, firm quotes and deals may be entered, adjusted, withdrawn, suspended or resumed, and transactions are concluded. |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------|
| | Under the Trading at Last status the orders may be executed only at the price determined by fixing algorithm in the Closing Status | |
| Settlement agent | Central Depository (CSD) | |
| Clearing agent | Central Depository (CSD) | |
| Trading hours | Main market | from 09:45 to 18:00 |
| Settlement cycle | T+2 | Main market |
| | T+2 | Government bond market |

3.3 OTC TRADING

OTC trading is allowed for all financial instruments.

For shares, OTC turnaround trading is possible as well. According to the Central Depository Code, OTC turnaround trades are the trades concluded outside the trading systems that cumulatively meet the following conditions:

- For trades concluded outside the trading systems there is one or there are more matching trades concluded on the BSE;
- Participant in the clearing - settlement and registry system, including custodian that settles the transaction / sale transactions concluded at Bucharest Stock Exchange, must settle the transaction / purchase transactions concluded outside the corresponding trading systems;
- Participant in the clearing - settlement and registry system, including custodian that settles the transaction / purchase transactions concluded at Bucharest Stock Exchange, must settle the transaction / sale transactions concluded outside the corresponding trading systems;
- The settlement date of the trades concluded outside the trading system is the same as for the corresponding transactions related to the trades concluded on BSE;
- The volume of financial instruments for the transactions concluded outside the trading system is at least equal to the volume of the corresponding financial instruments related to the transactions concluded at Bucharest Stock Exchange;
- More technical steps for OTC transactions settlement linked with a BSE trade (as part of an OTC turnaround) are allowed for the same beneficial owner.

4. Clearing

4.1. CENTRAL DEPOSITORY – DEPOZITARUL CENTRAL - DC

Clearing and settlement is performed by the Central Depository.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Legal name | Depozitarul Central |
| Website | http://www.depozitarulcentral.ro |
| Ownership structure | 69.00% Bucharest Stock Exchange 31.00% Other legal persons |
| Clearing members | Following types of membership are available: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants to the settlement system (brokers)• Custodian banks• Settlement banks |
| Scope of services | Central Depository offers services to the participants as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening and maintaining securities accounts;• Clearing and settlement of transactions with financial instruments registered in the DC system;• Cross-border settlement through links established with other CSDs;• Financial instrument borrowing and collateral operations. Currently, all financial instruments are allowed for this kind of operations;• Registration in the account administrated by the Participants of the amounts of money and/or financial instruments, as a result of corporate event processing;• Assigning and Maintaining Lei Codes;• Providing reports, information, data and statistics. |
| Risk model | In order to ensure the fulfilment of all transactions, DC applies risk management methods which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DC implemented Risk Management Policy• Guarantee Fund scheme for all participants• Daily guarantee for settlement banks based on the settlement report on a daily basis and for each net settlement session |

5. Settlement

5.1. CENTRAL DEPOSITORY – DEPOZITARUL CENTRAL - DC

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Legal name | Depozitarul Central |
| 17f-7 eligibility | Yes |
| Website | http://www.depozitarulcentral.ro |
| Ownership structure | 69.00% Bucharest Stock Exchange 31.00% Other legal persons |
| Scope of services | The Central Depository ensures the clearing, settlement and registration for the shares listed and traded at the Bucharest Stock Exchange. |
| Accounts held | The direct participants in the DC system (i.e. brokers and custodians) may open individual or global accounts at the DC level. Individual sub-accounts opened in the name of beneficial owners are opened at the participant level. The global accounts have disclosure requirements on the DC request. |
| Eligible instruments | All instruments traded at the Bucharest Stock Exchange such as: equities, fixed income instruments (municipal bonds, corporate bonds), government bonds, foreign shares and rights. |
| Level of dematerialisation | According to the Capital Market Law, all instruments listed and traded are dematerialised. |
| Stock Exchange Settlement | The clearing and settlement process for the instruments traded on the Bucharest Stock Exchange is provided by the Central Depository. The trading system is separated by the clearing and settlement system. The brokers conclude the transactions on the BVB trading system and, afterwards, allocate the custodian clients' transactions to the special account. The allocation is done through settlement instructions in the post trading system which is matching with the custodian bank instruction in the RoClear system. According to the Central Depository cut-offs, the settlement instructions shall be instructed until SD-1. For the trades instructed in RoClear system on SD, a penalty up to 100 RON per instruction is charged by the Central Depository. |
| OTC Settlement | OTC transactions are settled on a gross basis. The gross settlement of transactions concluded outside trading systems and registered in the Central Depository's system are executed on the date agreed by the participants of the clearing, settlement and registry system, but no later than T+2. |
| Settlement Protection | The risk management is organised on two levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Settlement banks' level - The risk management is performed by the Central Bank. In order to ensure the existence of the funds for net settlement, the clearing participants (settlement banks) have to pledge collaterals (cash and financial instruments) in an amount at least equal with the net debit position for the settlement date and updated on a daily basis.• Central Depository level – The DC has the following risk management measures: trading limits, Guarantee Fund, margins, special sell out trades, imposed sell-out procedures, buy-in and imposed buy-ins. The Central Depository establishes a trading limit for each participant (except the custodians), in order to mitigate the risk of non-payment of the obligations resulted from the settlement of transactions. Each participant (broker and custodian) has to make contributions to the Guarantee Fund and margins, which are administered by the Central Depository. |

Sell-out trades may be initiated by the DC in case the participant does not have enough money on settlement date. The DC can initiate the imposed sell-out procedure in order to sell the securities of the participant.

A buy-in procedure is applied by the DC in case of a lack of shares on the SD.

Investor Protection The Investor Compensation Fund was established as a legal entity, a joint stock company set up in accordance with the Law no. 31/1990 regarding commercial companies, the Law no. 297/2004 regarding the capital market, the National Securities Commission (NSC) Regulation no. 3/2006 regarding the authorisation, structuring and functioning of the Fund.

The purpose of the Investor Compensation Fund, as defined by the NSC regulations in force, is to compensate investors in case of a member's default, i.e. a member is unable to pay its debt and to collect contributions from members. Investment firms, asset management companies and credit institutions authorised by the NSC to perform investment activities on regulated markets, are members of the fund. The eligible investors are mainly private individuals and non-financial entities.

The maximum compensation is EUR 20,000 per investor.

Identified Risk None

5.2 SAFIR DEPOSITORY SYSTEM

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Legal name | National Bank of Romania |
| 17f-7 eligibility | YES |
| Website | http://www.bnro.ro |
| Ownership structure | Central Bank |
| Scope of services | The National Bank of Romania operates the financial instruments depository and settlement system SaFIR, acting as Central Securities Depository for the government securities issued on the interbank market, the certificates of deposit issued by the National Bank of Romania and other fixed income financial instruments set by National Bank of Romania's Board. |
| Accounts held | Participant banks open omnibus accounts at SaFIR level. |
| Eligible instruments | Government bonds |
| Level of dematerialisation | The financial instruments are fully dematerialised. |
| Stock Exchange Settlement | Not applicable |

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| OTC Settlement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the primary market the auctions are announced by NBR two days in advance. However, an issuing calendar is published on a quarterly basis; • Primary dealers (commercial banks authorised by the Central Bank based on a specific document submitted) have to send the bids in the name of the bank and the bank clients, on the auction day by 12:00 local time; • The bid is considered as a commitment for payment for the entire amount in the auction, the Central Bank confirms the allocation on T+0 by 16:00 local time; • On T+2 the cash settlement takes place and the securities are credited (the settlement at SAFIR is real DVP); • Secondary market transactions for government bonds/bills are concluded between clients directly. Trades details are confirmed to the custodian banks in order to conclude the settlement on settlement date. |
| Settlement Protection | Real STP. Risk management is set forth by SaFIR system rules and is managed via payment queues, gridlock mechanism, validation module and acceptance and matching of messages. |
| Investor Protection | Sovereign risk assigned |
| Identified Risk | None |

6. Payment System

6.1. GENERAL INFORMATION

National Bank of Romania (NBR) runs a payment system for large-value payments in lei (ReGIS), a payment system for large-value payments in Euro (TARGET2-România), as well as a central depository and securities settlement system (SaFIR).

- ReGIS is the national real-time gross settlement system of payments in domestic currency provided by the NBR. The system is used for the settlement of central bank's operations, interbank transfers, as well as of urgent or large-value payments in Romanian Leu (above 50,000 lei). ReGIS ensures the real-time processing (on a continuous basis) and the settlement in the central bank money, with immediate finality.
- TARGET2 is the real-time gross settlement (RTGS) system for euro payments, offered by the Eurosystem (the European Central Bank and the central banks of the Member States that have adopted the euro). The system is used for the settlement of central bank operations, large-value euro interbank transfers as well as other payments in euro. The cash positions stemming from the ancillary systems (payment systems and securities settlement systems) are also settled via the system.
- The National Bank of Romania operates the financial instruments depository and settlement system SaFIR, acting as Central Securities Depository for the government securities issued on the interbank market, the certificates of deposit issued by the National Bank of Romania and other fixed income financial instruments set by National Bank of Romania's Board.

6.2. LIMITATIONS, DEADLINES, CUT-OFF TIMES

The local clearing systems do not allow back-valuation or future-valuation.

In ReGIS, liquidity can be managed in a flexible manner.

The minimum reserves that credit institutions must maintain at the central bank represent deposited funds in the settlement account and may be used for intraday settlement.

Furthermore, the NBR grants the participants in ReGIS interest-free intraday credit (the intraday credit facility) collateralised by the same types of assets that are eligible for the NBR monetary policy operations as well.

The main liquidity management instruments in ReGIS that are made available to the participants are:

- the prioritisation of payments;
- the active management of the payment queue;
- the active (on-line) control of information on its own liquidity;
- the set-up of reserves on its own account.

ReGIS opens at 8:00 local time. The system starts the operating day at 8:30 and closes at:

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 16:00 | Initial cut-off: customer payments |
| 17:00 | Final cut-off: interbank payments |
| 17:45 | General cut-off |
| 18:00-18:30 | Closing of the system |

7. Securities Lending

7.1. SECURITIES LENDING

The FSA regulation concerning securities lending operations and short selling provides rules as follows:

- Securities lending operations may be performed only for the following purposes:
 - to perform short selling transactions, including if the financial instruments are initially borrowed by intermediaries to be subsequently lent to their own clients in order to perform short selling transactions;
 - to perform operations in the margin account;
 - to complete the settlement of transactions, in the event that the intermediary providing custody services does not send the transfer order corresponding to the instruction for the settlement of an allocation transaction to the central depository;
 - to complete the settlement of the transactions, in the event that, on the settlement date, it is found that the financial instruments are not available for settlement (they are not transferred from the system of another central depository or of an international financial institution with which the central depository has established electronic links, by an instruction of transfer without change of ownership);
 - in the context of the market maker activities;
 - to perform settlement operations of the derivatives involving physical delivery;
 - in the context of exercising the role of an authorised participant of a tradable UCITS or of managing a tradable UCITS.
- It is prohibited to borrow financial instruments exclusively to obtain dividends or to exercise votes in the general meetings of shareholders.
- The intermediaries shall be responsible for the ongoing monitoring of the operations whereby financial instruments are lent and associated collateral established, in terms of compliance with the applicable legal provisions.
- The intermediaries involved in securities lending transactions will have to report to the FSA on a monthly basis the number of lending/borrowing transactions, the value of lent securities, and the scope of the lending/borrowing transaction as well as the clients' identity.
- The funds resulting from the settlement of the short sale transaction based on the financial instruments borrowed are considered assets of the customer which are constituted as margin to secure the loan. After settlement of the short sale transaction, the funds set as margin can be replaced by other financial instruments at the same amount. Assets constituted as margin may not be lent.
- If the issuing company distributes dividends or interest on financial instruments during the loan period, the respective payment shall be made by the borrower to the lender.

7.2. SHORT SELLING

Short selling transactions with shares admitted to trading on a regulated market or on an ATS system are carried out with consideration of the provisions of EU Regulation no. 236/2012 and the regulations issued in its application.

Before concluding a short sale under a loan granted or intermediated by an intermediary, each client shall open a margin account to that participant.

In case of short sales made pursuant the EU Regulation no. 236/2012 and the regulations issued in its application, the client is obliged to notify in writing or by means of communication agreed by the parties and can be subsequently verified that the order given to the intermediary is a "short sale order" and submit the evidence of the loan agreement, according to the Rules of Implementing EU Regulation no. 827/2012.

8. Corporate actions

8.1. COMMON CORPORATE ACTION EVENTS

| Mandatory events | Voluntary events |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bonus issue | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dividend option |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dividend |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Early redemption | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interest payment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority issue |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maturity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Repurchase offer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maturity (final) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reverse stock split |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Merger | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shareholders meeting |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pari-passu | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spin-off |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partial redemption | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stock split |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rights issue | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stock dividend | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tender offer | |

8.2. DATING CONVENTIONS

Registration date is the date established by the Board of Directors of the company which serves to identify the shareholders entitled to attend and vote in the GSM. Registration date should be later than the date of the convening notice publication and prior to the GSM.

Record date is set up within the general shareholders' meeting and serves to identify the shareholders who will benefit from dividends or other rights or who will be affected by the decisions from the GSM. The established date shall be subsequent to the date of the general shareholders' meeting by at least 10 working days.

Ex-date is the date falling one settlement cycle (standard settlement cycle is T + 2 working days) minus one business day before the registration date, as of which the financial instruments forming the object of the corporate bodies' resolutions are traded without the rights resulting from such resolution.

Payment date shall be established by the issuer so that it is a business day falling no more than 15 business days after the registration date. In the case of dividends, the general shareholders meeting shall establish as payment date a business day falling no more than 15 business days after the registration date, but no later than 6 months from the general assembly of shareholders establishing the dividends.

8.3. SOURCES OF C/A INFORMATION

Public official data gathered from the Bucharest Stock Exchange announcements section, Official Gazette and the issuers' official website are used as sources of C/A information

8.4. LOCAL C/A SPECIFICS

According to the Capital Market Law, all listed securities are in dematerialised form, kept in book-entry accounts.

All securities transfers are processed by the Central Depository (CSD) as direct debit/credit entries to the participant global accounts with CSD. The Central Depository acts as a Registrar.

9. Proxy voting

9.1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The announcement of the AGM by the issuer is made at least 30 days in advance, in the Official Gazette. Information should be available on market information channels and an intermediary of media channels, according to the NSC regulations in daily newspapers widely circulated in Romania, on the Bucharest Stock Exchange information system (FTP – File Transfer Protocol) and mandatory in the Official Gazette 30 days in advance.

Shareholders are permitted to vote directly or by an authorised power of attorney.

The owner of the shares after record date is allowed, with no restriction, to sell the shares acquired.

The result of the meeting is available as soon as the minutes are distributed to the shareholders and must be accomplished by the management.

9.2. ANNOUNCEMENT

The announcement of the AGM by the issuer is made at least 30 days in advance, in the Official Gazette. Information should be available on market information channels and an intermediary of media channels, according to the NSC regulations in daily newspapers widely circulated in Romania, on the Bucharest Stock Exchange information system (FTP – File Transfer Protocol) and mandatory in the Official Gazette 30 days in advance.

9.3. VOTING PROCESS

The available voting procedures are as follows:

- Direct vote: shareholders may exercise their right to personal vote after proving their identity;
- Shareholders may delegate other persons to represent them and vote in GMs through:
 - ✓ a power of attorney given in order to exercise some or all of the rights in a general meeting for one or more companies included in the PoA
 - ✓ special power of attorney given in order to represent the shareholder in a single general meeting of an issuer, containing specific voting instructions
 - ✓ general authorization given for the representation in one or more general meetings for one or more companies identified in the PoA, which does not contain specific voting instructions.

The delegate will be physically present at a GSM.

- Shareholders may vote via correspondence, using the special ballot papers/forms for voting by correspondence.
- Electronic vote is possible if the issuer meets the technical requirements.

Shareholders represented by the local custodians can cast their vote within a shareholders meeting through voting instructions transmitted by electronic means, as well as the shareholders may appoint and revoke their representatives by electronic means.

Any issuer shall accept a proxy instruction given by a shareholder to a credit institution providing custody services, without requesting any further documents.

Proof of shareholder status may be conditional only on the requirements necessary to identify the shareholders and only to the extent that they are proportionate to the intended purpose.

The credit institution may participate and vote at the GSM, provided that it submits to the issuer a declaration on its own risk, signed by the legal representative of the credit institution, stating:

- a) Clearly the name / name of the shareholder on behalf of which the credit institution participates and votes in the GSM;
- b) The credit institution provides custody services to that shareholder.

The declaration provided above shall be deposited with the issuer 48 hours before the general meeting or within the period prescribed by the article of association, in original, signed and stamped, if necessary, without further formalities in relation to its form. The Issuer admitted to trading on a regulated market accepts the statement provided above, without requesting any other documents relating to the identification of the shareholder.

10. Income collection

10.1. DIVIDEND PAYMENTS

Dividends are generally payable on an annual basis. Dividend distribution is announced at the annual general meeting of the issuer. The ex-dividend date is on the second day prior to the record date announced by the company. The Central Depository provides the issuer with the records of the registry on record date. The dividend payment has to be made by the issuer to the account of the local custodian bank, which allocates the payment to the individual accounts of a foreign investor. There are no restrictions on repatriation of dividends for foreign investors. The payment date shall be established by the issuer to be a business day falling no more than 15 business days after the registration date. In the case of dividends, the general shareholders meeting shall establish as payment date a business day falling no more than 15 business days after the registration date, but no later than 6 months from the general shareholders meeting establishing the dividends. Shareholders' accounts are credited with the dividend amount only after the actual receipt from the issuer. According to the new issued FSA Regulation on issuers of financial instruments and market operations (5/2018), issuers may defer payments of dividends to shareholders in order for shareholders to benefit from more favourable tax conditions.

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Announcements | Announcements are monitored in multiple official sources (BSE, Official Gazette, issuers' websites, etc.). Then they are introduced in the custody system interface with SWIFT. SWIFT notifications are released to the customers. |
| Dating Conventions | If a company registers profit and the GSM decides to pay dividends, the record date will be set up in the GSM as well. The record date is the date at which the registered shareholders are entitled to receive their dividends. |
| Payment Execution | The Romanian legal framework in place defines the payment date for dividends. This shall be decided by the issuer to be a business day falling no more than 15 business days after the registration date, but no later than 6 months from the general shareholders meeting establishing the dividends. |

10.2. INTEREST & MATURITY PAYMENTS

Entitlements are based on the settled position at record date. Payment is done on an actual basis. All fixed income instruments are issued in a dematerialised form; therefore, it is not required to present the coupons to the issuer. The paying agent is paying the coupon with the same day value date and in accordance with the calendar published. Market practice is that the interest is accrued on a 365-day basis, but the issuer is free to mention in the prospectus whether the interest is calculated on a 365- or a 360-day basis.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Announcements | For Government Bonds the announcement is received from Central Bank by SWIFT (MT564). For fixed income instruments registered with Central Depository, announcements are posted on the stock exchange web site (www.bvb.ro). For all instruments the calendar is published when the instrument is issued. |
| Dating Conventions | Interest and maturity payments are settled in accordance with the calendar published. |
| Payment Execution | Payments are executed and sent to the client account on the day of the receipt of the funds, within the specific date according to the calendar published. |

11. Taxation

11.1. WITHHOLDING TAX

Income earned by non-residents from activities performed in Romania or from Romanian sources is generally subject to a 16% tax, with certain exceptions.

The issuer has the obligation to calculate, retain and pay the tax due to the State Budget.

| Tax Rates | Type of income | Tax rate |
|-----------|----------------|----------|
| | Interest | 16%* |
| | Dividends | 5% |
| | Royalties | 16% |

* Taxpayers resident in an EU or EEA Member State who obtain interest income from Romania may choose to settle the tax withheld by paying corporate income tax for the taxable profit related to this income. In this regard non-residents may register (for corporate tax purposes) in Romania and therefore include to the taxable base any costs related to the interest income earned.

Relief at Source Tax relief at source is applicable for income derived from Romanian sources, in accordance with the Romanian fiscal regulations.

More favorable tax rates/exemptions provided by the Double Tax Treaties concluded by Romania with other jurisdictions may be applied.

In order to apply the favourable fiscal treatment provided by the Double Tax Treaties, the non-resident is required to provide the income payer with a tax residency certificate issued by the relevant authorities, valid for the period when the income was obtained. The tax residency certificate should stipulate that the foreign beneficiary was tax resident during the year(s) in which the Romanian income was received. The tax residency certificate is valid for the year in which the payments are made with an extension of the first 60 days of the following year, provided that the residency conditions have not changed. Otherwise, the withholding tax rates provided by the domestic legislation are applicable.

Tax Reliefs Revenues exempt from withholding tax:

- Interest income derived from bonds issued by the Romanian authorities;
- Interest income derived in connection to debt instruments/titles which are issued by Romanian companies based on a prospectus approved by the competent regulatory body;
- Dividends distributed to companies which are residents in an EU Member State if the recipient company has held, at the time of distribution, a minimum of 10% of the shares of the Romanian company for a continuous period of at least one year (Parent Subsidiary Directive);
- Interest and royalties paid by a Romanian company to a company resident in another EU Member State provided that the non-resident company held, prior to the time of payment of the interest / royalty, at least 25% of the share capital of the Romanian company for a continuous period of at least two years (Interest and Royalties Directive);
- Dividends and interest incomes obtained from Romania by EU and Economic European Area (EEA) registered pension funds.

In order to apply tax exceptions provided by EU Directives, non-residents are required to present a certificate of tax residence and a declaration attesting cumulative fulfilment of the conditions laid down by the respective EU Directive.

11.2. CAPITAL GAINS TAX

Capital gains obtained by non-residents from the sale of financial instruments held in Romanian companies are taxable. However, the most favourable provisions of the Double Taxation Treaty may be applicable in certain conditions, as described above at paragraph 11.1. The capital gain is defined as the difference between the selling price and the fiscal value. The fiscal value is calculated as the acquisition cost including any commissions, fees or any other amounts paid for the acquisition. The Fiscal Code does not stipulate any specific rule for the allocation of the acquisition price in case of non-resident legal entities, but the method used in the accounting rules of the company (i.e. FIFO, LIFO or Weighted Average Cost) is recognized.

In case of non-resident individuals, the sale sequence is FIFO per each symbol and the acquisition price at each purchase date is to be determined upon WAC method.

Mergers, spin-offs, transfer of assets and exchanges of shares between a Romanian company and a company tax resident in another EU Member State are neutral from a tax perspective, under certain conditions and should not trigger the capital gains tax.

Tax Rates 16%

Relief at Source Residents of a country with which Romania has concluded a Double Tax Treaty, should comply with the necessary requirements to avail any benefits outlined in the treaty.

Non-residents have to appoint a fiscal representative with a Romanian fiscal domicile in order to fulfill the obligations toward the tax authorities (pay the capital gain tax – if applicable, submit the quarterly fiscal statements to the Romanian authorities and submit the yearly tax return).

Certain non-residents can either appoint a resident fiscal representative in Romania or they can file directly with the fiscal authorities. This exception is applicable to taxpayers having fiscal domicile in an EU Member State, in the European Economic Area or in a jurisdiction with which Romania has concluded a treaty providing administrative cooperation in the field of taxation.

Appointing a fiscal representative is not required in case of tax-exempt revenues.

Tax Reliefs The following types of revenues are tax exempt:

- Income of mutual investment funds without legal personality from the transfer of securities owned directly or indirectly in a Romanian legal entity;
- Income earned by non-residents from transfer of bonds issued or guaranteed by the Romanian government;
- Income obtained on foreign capital markets from the transfer of securities issued by Romanian residents;

11.3. STAMP DUTY

No Stamp Duty is applicable.

- Tax Rates N/A
- Tax Reliefs N/A

11.4. OTHER TAXES

Health Insurance Contribution

In some circumstance, investment income derived starting 1 January 2017 may be subject to health insurance contribution. Foreign individuals who obtain the right to extend temporary residence or domicile in Romania could fall under this law provision. The due amount is determined by tax authority decision issued in the current fiscal year by applying the rate of 10% to a taxable amount established in accordance with the law provisions.

11.5. TAX RECLAIM PROCESS

In Romania the tax reclaim process is provided by the provisions of the Fiscal Procedure Code.

In the case of capital gains obtained by non-residents, as a general rule, the tax reclaim process is carried-out by the fiscal representative appointed by the client in Romania. In case of tax on dividends, the issuer processes the tax reclaim.

For the income subject to withholding tax, the process is managed by the income payer.

A refund can be claimed if the tax residency certificate is made available within five years following the payment.

11.6. DOUBLE TAXATION TREATIES

Due to the amount of data, for the most up to date DTTs please refer to our website: <http://qss.unicreditgroup.eu>

DTTs are listed in the /MARKET/DOCUMENTS section.

11.7. OTHER INFORMATION

Foreign individuals or entities subject to a fiscal legal relationship have the obligation to register in Romania in order to obtain a fiscal register number (NIF).

Registration with the tax authorities must be made within 30 days of the date of circumstances which gave rise to the obligation occurred.

The registration form shall be submitted directly (legal representative), by the authorized representative or by the income payer to the registry of competent authority or by post as registered mail.

Forms to be submitted:

- Form 015 for entities;
- Form 030 for individuals.

The forms and related filling instructions (in Romanian language) can be accessed at https://www.anaf.ro/anaf/internet/ANAF/asistenta_contribuabili/toate_formularele_cu_explicatii

The forms in English language are available at the following link: https://www.anaf.ro/anaf/fiscal_forms/

As a special provision in force starting 1 January 2018, banks are required to get a tax identification number for each new non-resident customer requesting a cash account.

12. Disclosure requirements

12.1. OBLIGATIONS FOR ISSUERS

The issuers of listed shares are obliged to inform the BSE about any price sensitive events. The information has to be published in at least one newspaper widely circulated in Romania. The following information has to be disclosed:

- Consolidated Changes in performing the main activities of the company
- Planned crucial changes in the financial and accounting policy of the company shareholders' meetings
- Changes in management
- Changes in the ownership structure
- New issues of securities
- Decisions on dividends
- Amount of approved capital and related issue of shares
- Change of ownership stake in a company held by a member of managing board or supervisory board.

12.2. OBLIGATIONS FOR INVESTORS

The following disclosure requirements are in place for local and foreign investors:

Investors are obliged to disclose, through an acquisition or sale, a change of 5, 10, 20, 33, 50, 75 and 90% of the shares of voting rights. The stockholder, whether foreign or domestic, must notify the Financial Supervisory Authority (FSA), the market (BSE) and the company within three business days of the relevant change.

Investors are obliged to disclose information if they act in concert with other shareholders in case of SIFs companies, with whom they hold more than 5%. The law limits the holdings on SIFs at 5%.

Investors that want to purchase 33% of a listed company must obtain prior approval of the Financial Supervisory Authority (FSA).

Investors wishing to acquire 5, 10, 20, 33 or 50% of a bank, must obtain the prior permission of the National Bank of Romania (NBR).

Obligation for launching offers: The voluntary takeover bid is a public purchase offer addressed to all shareholders, for all their holdings, launched by a person who does not have this obligation, in order to acquire more than 33% of the voting rights.

Mandatory takeover bids: A person who, as a result of their purchase or those of the persons acting in concert with, holds more than 33% of the voting rights in an undertaking must launch a public offer addressed to all securities holders for all their holdings as soon as possible, but no later than two months from reaching this holding position.

The obligatory withdrawal of shareholders from an undertaking: Following the public purchase offer addressed to all shareholders for all their holdings, the offerer has the right to demand the shareholders which have not subscribed to the offer, to sell to them the shares at a reasonable price, if they are in one of the following situations:

- They hold shares accounting for more than 95% of the share capital.
- They have acquired within the public purchase offer addressed to all shareholders and for all their holdings, shares accounting for more than 90% of those targeted by the offer.

12.3. VIOLATION CONSEQUENCES

The laws applicable to the capital market provide administrative, disciplinary and penal sanctions in case of a breach of the provisions and of the regulations adopted in the laws application. For example, sanctions under "MiFID" law may include warnings or fines up to 10% of the annual turnover of the legal person, as well as withdrawal or suspension of the authorization, temporary or permanent cease of activity of a management function or of the responsible individual.

13. Account management

13.1. COMMON ACCOUNT STRUCTURES

Securities account structure:

At the Central Depository level, the following types of accounts may be opened:

- global accounts - for registration of securities that belong to different clients, with disclosure requirements,
- individual accounts opened in the name of the securities owner
- omnibus individualized accounts – for registration of securities of any of the participant’s clients (e.g. global custodian’s clients).

At the National Bank level, for government bonds, omnibus and individual accounts may be opened.

The market regulations provide segregated accounts in the name of a beneficial owner to be kept in the intermediaries’ books. The segregation is required for all types of listed and traded securities. The segregation is kept per beneficial owner, based on the account opening documentation received.

Segregated Accounts

At the CSD level participants may open individual accounts, omnibus individualized accounts or global accounts. As per the regulations in force, individual sub-accounts are opened at the intermediaries’ level (i.e. custodians or brokers). The segregated securities accounts are opened for each underlying client based on the documentation received by the market participant. The segregated accounts shall comply with the market disclosure requirements. The disclosure is mandatory and shall be submitted to the CSD twice a year and on the issuer’s requests. Disclosure reports are mainly required in relation to corporate actions. The disclosure is made based on CSD requirements addressed to participants and is mandatory.

For the Central Bank, omnibus accounts in the name of participants with the mention “clients” are opened. Individual accounts in the investor’s name may be also opened.

Nominee/Omnibus Accounts

The nominee concept is not recognised in the Romanian capital market. Global accounts with mandatory disclosure requirements are opened by the market intermediaries at the depositories. Segregated sub-accounts are kept at the intermediaries’ level.

13.2. KYC/AML REQUIREMENTS

- Law No. 129/2019 for preventing and combating money laundering and terrorism financing, as for the addition and modification of some normative acts.
- The National Bank of Romania Regulation no. 9/2008 regarding Know Your Customer procedures in order to prevent money laundering and terrorism financing.

The above local regulations, among others, regulate the following topics: customer due diligence, transaction monitoring, external reporting process and reporting of suspicious transactions, staff recruiting and training, recording and record keeping of information.

14. Disclaimer

This publication is presented to you by:

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