

**COOPERATION ARRANGEMENT
BETWEEN THE BANK OF ALBANIA AND THE SINGLE RESOLUTION BOARD**

In view of the growing globalisation of the world's financial markets and the increase in cross-border operations and activities of financial institutions, the Bank of Albania and the Single Resolution Board ("SRB") have reached this Cooperation Arrangement ("CA") on the exchange of information and cooperation in connection with the Resolution planning and the implementation of such planning with respect to Entities with cross-border operations. The Bank of Albania and the SRB express, through this CA, their willingness to cooperate with each other in the interest of fulfilling their respective statutory objectives; enhancing communication and cooperation; assisting each other in the planning and the conduct of an orderly Resolution of an Entity; and maintaining confidence and financial stability in Republic of Albania ("Albania") and the European Banking Union.

SECTION ONE: DEFINITIONS

1. For the purpose of this CA the following definitions apply:
 - A. "Authority" means the Bank of Albania or the SRB;
 - (i) "Requested Authority" means the Authority to whom a request is made under this CA; and
 - (ii) "Requesting Authority" means the Authority making a request under this CA.
 - B. "Authorities" means the Bank of Albania and the SRB;
 - C. "Entity" or "Entities" means any entity, bank, body or group which is under direct responsibility of either of the two Authorities, according to Article 6 of the Law 133/2016 On The Recovery And Resolution of Banks in the Republic of Albania ("Law 133/2016"), in conjunction with Article 2 of the SRM Regulation respectively;
 - D. "Emergency Situation" means any circumstance in which the financial or operational condition of an Entity has been materially impaired, or can reasonably be expected to be materially impaired, in a manner likely to affect the cross-border operations of the Entity and requiring consultation or coordination by the Authorities;
 - E. "European Banking Union" means, collectively, the Participating Member States;
 - F. "National Competent Authorities" means a National Competent Authority designated by a participating Member State in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms (OJ L 176, 27.6.2013, p. 1.) and Directive 2013/36/EU, and specified in Annex C;

- G. "National Resolution Authorities" means a National Resolution Authority as defined in accordance with Article 3(1)(3) of the Regulation (EU) No 806/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2014 establishing uniform rules and a uniform procedure for the resolution of credit institutions and certain investment firms in the framework of a Single Resolution Mechanism ("SRM") and a Single Resolution Fund and amending Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 (OJ L 225, 30.7.2014, p. 1) ("SRM Regulation"), and specified in Annex B;
- H. "Non-participating Member State" means a Member State of the European Union, whose currency is not the Euro and which has not established a close cooperation in accordance with Article 7 of the Council Regulation (EU) No 1024/2013 of 15 October 2013 conferring specific tasks on the European Central Bank concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions (OJ L 287, 29.10.2013, p. 63) ("Single Supervision Mechanism Regulation" or "SSM");
- I. "Other Governmental Entity" means any one of:
 - (i) the Bank of Albania; or
 - (ii) the European Central Bank, the European Banking Authority, the National Resolution Authorities (as set forth in Annex B) and National Competent Authorities (as set forth in Annex C) of Participating Member States.
- J. "Participating Member State" means a Member State of the European Union, whose currency is the Euro or a Member State of the European Union, whose currency is not the Euro but which has established a close cooperation in accordance with the SSM;
- K. "Person" means a natural person, unincorporated association, partnership, trust, investment company, or corporation;
- L. "Resolution" means actions taken by an Authority to address an Emergency Situation involving a distressed Entity, consonant with its statutory mandate, being:
 - (i) in respect of the Bank of Albania through the application of its tasks as a Resolution Authority in accordance with Law 133/2016; and
 - (ii) in respect of the SRB, through the application of its tasks of a single Resolution Authority as part of the SRM in accordance with the SRM Regulation.

SECTION TWO: GENERAL FRAMEWORK

- 2. This CA is a statement of intent to consult, cooperate, and exchange information in connection with the implementation of the Resolution of Entities in Albania and in the European Banking Union in a manner consistent with and permitted by the laws and requirements that govern the Authorities. The Authorities will take steps to continue and enhance ongoing cooperation and communication through periodic and ad-hoc consultations between them, both during normal business-

as-usual circumstances and during periods of financial stress. As the condition of an Entity deteriorates, it is expected that cooperation between the Authorities will intensify as well. Additional communications may take place under the terms of this CA or as otherwise agreed by the Authorities.

3. The SRB fulfils the tasks of a European Resolution Authority as part of the SRM in accordance with the SRM Regulation. The main aims of the SRM are to ensure effective and uniform Resolution rules and equal conditions of Resolution financing across Participating Member States under a centralised power of Resolution. The SRB is responsible for the collection of information and the cooperation with National Resolution Authorities for the elaboration of Resolution planning for Entities under its scope, including the assessment of resolvability and the determination of the minimum requirement for own funds and eligible liabilities. In performing its tasks the SRB works with other relevant authorities, which in some instances are the primary sources of certain relevant information and with which requests for such information must be coordinated. It is responsible for the adoption and monitoring of execution of Resolution schemes for all Entities falling under its direct scope of responsibilities as set by the SRM Regulation. In accordance with Article 18(7) of the SRM Regulation, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union are responsible for approving or objecting to the Resolution scheme adopted by the SRB with regard to the scheme's discretionary aspects. Moreover, pursuant to Articles 7(3) and 31(1) of the SRM Regulation, the SRB receives from National Resolution Authorities any draft decisions on which it may express its views. In case of non-compliance and where necessary to ensure the consistent application of high Resolution standards the SRB may issue warnings to the relevant National Resolution Authority. Furthermore, at any time, the SRB may decide to exercise direct powers under Article 7(4) of the SRM Regulation. The SRB also represents National Resolution Authorities of the Participating Member States for the purpose of consultation and cooperation with Non-Participating Member States or third countries pursuant to Article 32(1) of the SRM Regulation and conclude cooperation arrangements on behalf of National Resolution Authorities of Participating Member States pursuant to Article 32(4) of the SRM Regulation. This does not affect the Bank of Albania's ability to communicate, share information and establish relations with National Resolution Authorities, provided that the Bank of Albania informs the SRB accordingly.
4. The Bank of Albania is the central bank of Albania. According to Article 12 of the Law 8269/1997 on the Bank of Albania, the Bank of Albania is exclusively responsible for the licensing and supervision of all Entities in Albania. According to Articles 2 and 71(1) of the Law 9662/2006 on the Banks in the Republic of Albania and Article 6 of the Law 133/2016, Bank of Albania is the Supervisory and Resolution Authority for Entities, banks, branches of foreign banks operating in Albania and the branches of the banks licensed by the Bank of Albania operating outside the territory of Albania. The Supervisory and Resolution functions are exercised through two different organizational units within the Bank of Albania, which have different reporting and dependence lines, by ensuring their independence in the respective decision-making process. Article 70 of the Law 133/2016 provides that the Bank of Albania has the right to enter cooperation arrangements with Resolution authorities of another country or international authorities, which are responsible for the Resolution of an Entity, which is part of a banking group or a financial group that operates in Albania, or

vice versa, in order to establish the scope and manner of carrying out the Resolution in case of a cross-border group Resolution.

5. This CA expresses the Authorities' intent to enhance and strengthen their consultation and cooperation in understanding the complexities inherent in the cross-border operations of Entities, in conducting cooperative analyses of the challenges in the Resolution of such Entities, and in contingency planning for such challenges and Resolutions.
6. This CA does not constitute an agreement binding under international law.
7. This CA does not create any legally binding obligations, confer any rights, modify, supersede any domestic laws or restrict the Authorities in the exercise of their statutory powers and functions. This CA does not confer any rights upon any Person, including any right or ability directly or indirectly to obtain, suppress, or exclude any information or to challenge the execution of a request for assistance under this CA.
8. The Authorities acknowledge that any particular assistance, information or cooperation may be provided pursuant to the CA only if permitted under their respective laws, regulations or requirements.
9. This CA does not affect any arrangements under other agreements or memoranda of understanding, nor does this CA limit the terms of future arrangements.
10. This CA does not limit an Authority from taking solely those measures described herein in fulfilment of its Resolution or other functions. In particular, this CA does not affect any right of an Authority to communicate with, or obtain information or documents from, any Person subject to its jurisdiction that is located in the territory of the other Authority.
11. The Authorities intend that the cooperation and information sharing arrangements under this CA should be implemented in a manner that is compatible with the obligations and commitments that an Authority may have to an asset management, banking or other regulatory Authority or agency pursuant to memoranda of understanding or other agreements.
12. The Authorities intend periodically to review the functioning and effectiveness of cooperation arrangements between them with a view, *inter alia*, to expanding or altering the scope or operation of this CA should that be judged necessary. Such periodic review will seek to ensure that this CA accommodates and responds to changing circumstances and benefits from lessons learned. It will also be updated if there are material developments – for example, changes to either of the Authorities' responsibilities – that are likely to impact the way the Bank of Albania and the SRB work together.

SECTION THREE: COMMON PRINCIPLES REGARDING RESOLUTIONS OF ENTITIES WITH CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS

13. Managing a crisis involving the cross-border activities of an Entity is a matter of common interest for Albania and the European Banking Union. The successful management and Resolution of a crisis involving an Entity with significant cross-

border activities in Albania and the European Banking Union requires careful *ex ante* preparation to establish optimal processes and steps to ensure effective coordination and implementation of possible monitoring of Entities, crisis management, recovery and Resolution strategies.

14. Arrangements and tools for cross-border Resolution should be flexible and designed to allow for adaptation to the specific features of a crisis and the individual institutions involved. Cross-border arrangements will build on effective Resolution regime arrangements and cooperation between the Authorities, and the Authorities should undertake steps to improve their ability promptly to assess the broader effects of any financial crisis and its cross-border implications based on common terminology and analyses.
15. Arrangements for crisis Resolution should reflect the division of responsibilities between the Authorities and other responsible regulators and supervisors, and the coordinating role of home country regulators and supervisors. Where possible and feasible, the Authorities should implement Resolution options that are consistent with their respective Resolution objectives, in particular aimed at pursuing financial stability and protecting insured depositors, insurance policy holders and other retail customers, duly considering the potential impact of their Resolution actions on the financial stability of Albania and the European Union.
16. The Authorities recognise the importance of the cross-border crisis management groups ("CMGs") as developed by the Financial Stability Board ("FSB") under the Financial Stability Forum ("FSF") *Principles for Cross-border Cooperation on Crisis Management* (April 2009) and the FSB *Recommendations on Reducing the Moral Hazard posed by Systemically Important Financial Institutions* (2010), and intend to work together to ensure that the CMGs in which they may jointly participate effectively strengthen institution-specific cross-border Resolution preparation and arrangements, consistent with the FSF *Principles for Cross-border Cooperation on Crisis Management* (April 2009) and the FSB *Key Attributes of Effective Resolution Regimes for Financial Institutions* as adopted by the G20 at the Cannes Summit in November 2011 and as amended in October 2014.

SECTION FOUR: MECHANISM AND SCOPE OF RESOLUTION CONSULTATION, COOPERATION, AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

17. The Authorities recognise the importance of close and effective communication concerning the global operations of Entities, and intend to consult regularly regarding general Resolution developments, including the sharing of all relevant information, including, to the extent permitted by applicable law and not contrary to public policy, Entity-developed recovery plans and agency-developed Resolution plans pertaining to the group as a whole or to individual subsidiaries where plans of subsidiaries exist, and issues relevant to the operations, activities, and regulation of such Entities. Furthermore, the Authorities will seek to enhance cooperation in the analysis of Entities' Resolution issues, planning for potential Resolution scenarios, and appropriate simulations, contingency planning or other work designed to improve preparations of the Authorities for managing and resolving crises involving Entities.
18. The Authorities will also work with Other Governmental Entities and with Entities themselves in developing Resolution plans and strategies for Entities and in

ensuring that such plans and strategies remain current. To the extent possible, in respect of any confidentiality and other restrictions, the Authorities intend to:

- (i) discuss approaches to Resolution planning;
- (ii) share ideas and strategies; and
- (iii) facilitate mutual understanding of Resolution plan rulemaking, rules, practice and implementation in each other's jurisdiction.

19. To the extent practicable and as appropriate in the particular circumstances, including the status of efforts to address any difficulties experienced by an Entity, each Authority will endeavour to inform the other Authority:

- (i) of any intended or conducted regulatory changes relating to Resolution regimes and which may have a significant, material impact on the operations or activities of an Entity in the other jurisdiction; and
- (ii) of the respective statutory and other legal requirements, including procedural requirements, applicable to the recognition and enforcement of foreign Resolution proceedings under their respective jurisdictions.

This will, however, be without prejudice to any arrangements relating to specific prudential issues.

20. Each Authority will make available staff as appropriate to give presentations to, and run training sessions for, the other Authority, to share expertise and knowledge.

21. Each Authority will designate a contact person or persons of sufficient seniority *ex ante*, to be involved in ongoing Resolution and crisis management of Entities. These contact people will be listed in Annex A of this CA. Each Authority will inform the other Authority of these appointments and any changes thereto. Senior level contacts will be supported by regular working-level contact and collaboration, potentially including joint work on issue of common interest.

22. To the extent necessary to supplement periodic consultations, and so far as consistent with any Entity-specific cooperation arrangements agreed by both parties through any Entity's CMG and with ensuring compliance with the laws or regulations of Albania or the European Union (including the European Banking Union), the Authorities intend to cooperate with each other in assisting with Resolution planning (including implementation of such planning). The assistance covered by this paragraph may include, as appropriate to each Entity and in accordance with the rights of each Authority to collect or otherwise obtain information, providing:

- (i) information relevant to the financial and operational conditions of an Entity, including, for example, capital structure, liquidity, and funding profiles, internal controls procedures, external market or ratings information, Entities and locations providing important operational capabilities, and identification of materially significant subsidiaries, branches and affiliates, such as Entities engaged in capital markets, information technology and data processing services;

(ii) assistance in interpreting requested information, if such assistance is needed;
and

(iii) assistance in obtaining other information located in the Requested Authority's jurisdiction that may be relevant to the Requesting Authority's planning and implementation of Resolution.

In addition, the Authorities will discuss and agree on the information each should provide to the other for the purpose of planning and implementing Resolutions (which may include monitoring of Entities, crisis management activities and review of recovery and Resolution plans).

23. The Authorities recognise that communication and coordination can play an important role in promoting efficiency and preserving value in the Resolution of an Entity. The Authorities further acknowledge that their legal duties and objectives will often align with the goals of maximising recoveries, minimising losses and minimising moral hazard. Where this is the case, they will endeavour, subject to applicable laws and regulations, to cooperate and coordinate in order to identify and implement Resolution processes and joint communication strategies that meet these goals in both of their respective jurisdictions. For these purposes, both Authorities will provide a list of relevant units and responsible persons with their contact information in Annex A of this CA.

24. The Authorities recognise that there may from time to time be technical matters related to specific Resolution plans and Resolution cases upon which it might be necessary to take a broadly common view or position. Through regular dialogue, the Authorities will seek to identify such matters. To the extent that the respective objectives of the Authorities can be best advanced through a joint articulation of such view or position and/or through joint engagement with third parties, the Authorities will seek to do so.

25. English will be the working language in all written and spoken communication.

SECTION FIVE: EXECUTION OF REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

26. To the extent possible, a request for information pursuant to Section Four should be made in writing, and addressed to the relevant contact person(s) (see Annex A). A request should generally specify the following:

(i) the information sought by the Requesting Authority;

(ii) a general description of the matter which is the subject of the request and the purpose for which the information is sought; and

(iii) the desired time period for reply and, where appropriate, the urgency thereof.

27. In Emergency Situations, the Authorities will endeavour to notify each other of the Emergency Situation and communicate information to each other as would be appropriate in the particular circumstances, taking into account all relevant factors, including the status of efforts to address the Emergency Situation. During Emergency Situations, requests for information may be made in any form, including orally, provided such communication is confirmed subsequently in

writing. The Authorities will endeavour to provide information as quickly as possible during Emergency Situations.

SECTION SIX: PERMISSIBLE USES AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

28. It is understood that information may be shared pursuant to this CA to the extent such sharing is reasonable and subject to any relevant statutory and regulatory provisions, including those restricting disclosure. In addition, the provision of, or request for, information under this CA may be denied on grounds of public interest or national security, or when disclosure would interfere with an ongoing investigation.
29. Any confidential information received from a Requested Authority will be used only for the planning and implementation of Resolutions (which may include monitoring of Entities, crisis management activities and review of Resolution plans). To the extent permitted by law, a Requesting Authority will hold confidential all information (other than publicly available information) received from a Requested Authority pursuant to this CA and will not disclose such information other than as necessary to carry out its Entity monitoring, crisis management, Resolution planning or implementation responsibilities and consistent with paragraphs 30, 31, and 32.
30. Except as provided in paragraph 31, before a Requesting Authority discloses any confidential information received from a Requested Authority to a third party, the Requesting Authority will request and obtain prior written consent from the Requested Authority, which will not be unreasonably withheld.
31. In the event that a Requesting Authority is required by statute or legal process¹ to disclose confidential information provided pursuant to this CA, it will, to the extent permitted by law², inform the Requested Authority about such possible onward sharing. If the Requested Authority does not consent to such disclosure, then, the Requesting Authority will take all available and appropriate steps to resist disclosure, including by employing legal means to challenge the order or by advising the third party requiring such information of the possible negative consequences that such disclosure might have on the future exchange of confidential information between the Authorities³.
32. With respect to paragraph 30, the SRB represents that it is required by Article 30(2) of the SRM Regulation to disclose on an ongoing basis during business-as-usual (for example, to individual members of internal Resolution teams), confidential information with National Resolution Authorities listed in Annex B hereto (the "Onward Sharing Recipients"). The SRB further represents that obtaining consent of, or providing notice to, the Bank of Albania prior to such disclosure to the Onward Sharing Recipients would prove burdensome in light of the ongoing nature of this requirement to disclose. The SRB may therefore disclose confidential information to the Onward Sharing Recipients on a need-to-know basis pursuant to this requirement, subject to the following condition:

¹ In the case of the SRB, this may mean sharing with the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and the European Central Bank.

² For example, a subpoena or court order requesting information may bar the Bank of Albania from disclosing the existence of such subpoena or order.

³ Such steps also would be taken as appropriate in the context of the instances referred to in footnote 2.

Before disclosing confidential information to the Onward Sharing Recipients, the SRB will obtain assurance from each Onward Sharing Recipient receiving such confidential information, that, in addition to such professional secrecy requirements as may be required by law, the confidential information will not be further disclosed by the Onward Sharing Recipient, except to other persons listed on Annex B on a need-to-know basis or as authorised by the SRB after the SRB obtains the Bank of Albania's written consent.

The SRB will inform the Bank of Albania on a regular basis of such requests and of any information shared with any of the Onward Sharing Recipients as a result thereof.

33. No privileges or confidentiality associated with information provided by an Authority are intended to be waived as a result of sharing such information pursuant to this CA.

SECTION SEVEN: REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

34. Authorities may review the functioning and effectiveness of cooperation and information exchange under this CA, either every two years, or after an earlier interval when deemed necessary by both Authorities.

35. Any amendment to this CA requires mutual consent of the Authorities and will be confirmed in writing unless otherwise agreed upon.

SECTION EIGHT: DISCONTINUATION

36. Cooperation in accordance with this CA will commence as of the date written below and continue indefinitely subject to modification by the mutual consent of the Authorities or discontinuation by an Authority with 30 days advance written notice to the other Authority. After discontinuation, the confidentiality provisions in Section Six will continue to apply to any information provided under this CA prior to discontinuation.

Signed at Tirana,
this 03 day of October, 2018

(Signature)

Natasha Ahmetaj
Second Deputy Governor
Bank of Albania

Signed at Brussels,
this 27 day of September, 2018

(Signature)

Elke König
Chair
Single Resolution Board

