

SERVICE CONTRACT

For the Issuance of Fixed-Income Securities

Between

NATIONALE BANK VAN BELGIË N.V.,
having its registered office at Boulevard de Berlaimont 14, 1000 Brussels,
represented for the purposes of this contract by

.....
.....
hereafter “the NBB”, of the one part

and

.....
having its registered office at
with Legal Entity Identifier
represented for the purposes of this contract by

.....
.....
hereafter “the Issuer”

and

.....
having its registered office at
represented for the purposes of this contract by

.....
.....
hereafter “the Paying Agent”, of the other part.

The NBB, the Issuer and the Paying Agent are referred to hereafter jointly as “the Parties”.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 – Subject

1.1. The Issuer commissions the NBB, which hereby agrees, to provide central securities depository services relating to (*make a choice by ticking the relevant box*):

- dematerialised treasury notes and certificates of deposit, governed by the Law of 22 July 1991;
- dematerialised debt securities governed by the Belgian companies and Associations Code;
- other fixed-income securities held under the system provided for in the Royal Decree n°62 of 10 November 1967 on the deposit of fungible financial instruments and the settlement of transactions involving such instruments such as e.g. collective bearer securities (global notes);

described below, being securities issued by the Issuer

.....¹

denominated in (*make a choice by ticking the relevant box(es)*):

- euro;
- currencies other than the euro and the Danish krone, for which the European Central Bank publishes the daily reference exchange rates against the euro (“Foreign currencies”);

1.2. The Issuer enters into a Paying Agent contract with a direct Participant in the NBB’s securities settlement system (hereafter the “NBB-SSS”). A Paying Agent contract is not required if the Issuer is a direct Participant in the NBB-SSS.

The Paying Agent commits to complying with the conditions laid down in this contract.

The commitments and rights of the Issuer specified in this contract shall be implemented in the NBB-SSS by or with respect to the Paying Agent in its capacity as the Issuer’s agent.

If the Paying Agent is replaced by another Paying Agent or if the Paying Agent ceases for any reason to be a direct Participant in the NBB-SSS, the Issuer shall immediately appoint a new Paying Agent and notify the NBB-SSS in writing. An annex to this contract will then be drawn up with the new Paying Agent. The new Paying Agent must be a direct Participant in the NBB-SSS. A Paying

¹ Subject of the issue to be specified. If this is not an issue programme, the ISIN code of the bonds must be stated.

Agent which gives up its duties for any circumstance must continue to perform its duties until the new Paying Agent is able to take them over in full.

1.3. Capitalised terms which are not defined in this service contract shall have the same meaning as referred to in the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS.

Article 2 - Representation by the Issuer

2.1. The Issuer confirms that the execution of this service contract complies with the Issuer's articles of association.

2.2. The NBB reserves the right to suspend the execution of the contract in case of breach of this representation. Such a suspension shall be immediately notified in writing or by e-signed mail to the Issuer and the Participants. The settlement of transactions on the securities can be temporarily suspended until measures necessary to remedy the breach have been taken.

Article 3 - Information and documents to be supplied to the NBB-SSS

3.1. The Issuer shall supply the following data and documents to the NBB-SSS at least one week before the start of the issue programme:

- 1° the terms and conditions governing the issue and the prospectus, and all other documents required by the law and implementing decrees applying to the issue, and in general all documents intended for the investors;
- 2° the characteristics specific to each security series and any information relevant for the administration of the issue by NBB-SSS, including the following documents:
 - the Issuance Program (IP) summary (see Annex 19.4).
 - the Issuer Information Sheet (in case it concerns a new Issuer - see Annex 19.3a).

The Issuer must ensure that the status of its Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is either "Issued", "Pending Transfer" or "Pending Archival". In all cases, it shall immediately notice the NBB-SSS of any change related to the LEI. In the absence of a valid LEI of the Issuer, the NBB-SSS shall not accept the Issuance.

- 3° the executed copy of this service contract, signed by authorized representatives of the Issuer and of the Paying Agent.

If the data and documents referred to in this provision are not submitted within two Business days before the start of the issue, the NBB-SSS may decide to delay the start of the issue.

For the purpose of this contract, "Business day" means an NBB-SSS opening day as referred to in the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS.

3.2. If the service contract concerns the issue of dematerialised treasury notes, the Issuer shall submit the following data as soon as they are published:

- supplements to the prospectus;
- the updated versions and the half-yearly reports and tables concerning the activities and results which Issuers of treasury notes are required to produce in accordance with Article 2 and Article 5, §2 and §3 of the Law of 22 July 1991 and Article 22 of the Royal Decree of 14 October 1991 relating to treasury notes and certificates of deposit, as amended from time to time, or the latest half-yearly report published in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Decree of 14 November 2007 on the obligations upon Issuers of financial instruments admitted to trading on a regulated market, as amended from time to time.

3.3. Communication of information and documents as referred to in Article 3.1 and 3.2 are intended to inform the NBB-SSS of the terms and conditions of the issue and of the rights attached to the issued securities. It does not relieve the Issuer of its obligation to provide the investors with the information stipulated by law and by the regulations for the issue of the concerned securities, and in general, to ensure that the issue complies with any conditions laid down by law, regulation or administrative provision, applicable to the issue.

The NBB-SSS will notify its Participants of the admission to the system of each new issue and of the principal rights attached to the issued securities.

3.4. The NBB is not required to examine whether the Issuer fulfils the conditions laid down by the Law and its implementing regulation for the issue. The Issuer and the Paying Agent jointly and severally guarantee the Bank that no issue will take place if one or more of those conditions are not fulfilled.

Article 4 - Conduct of the issue

4.1. In addition to the data and documents supplied in accordance with Article 3.1, the Issuer shall communicate the following data to NBB-SSS as soon as possible and in any event no later than 11:00 CET on the subscription settlement day:

- the Security information form (see Annex 19.3b), including the following information:
 - the ISIN code assigned to the securities;
 - the currency of issue;
 - the nominal amount of securities actually subscribed to be entered in the Securities Accounts;
 - the subscription price;
 - the redemption price;
 - the subscription settlement date;

- the redemption date;
 - the interest rate and, if appropriate, the yield on the securities with a view to determine the accrued interest on those securities in accordance with Articles 8 and 9 of the Royal Decree of 26 May 1994 on the deduction and payment of withholding tax on income from movable assets in accordance with Chapter 1 of the Law of 6 August 1993 on transactions in certain securities, as amended from time to time; and,
 - the interest payment details.
- In the case of securities with a variable interest rate, the data referred to in the last two indents above must be communicated no later than 11:00 CET on the Business day preceding the first day of each interest period.

The securities are identified in the NBB-SSS by their ISIN code. It is the responsibility of the Issuer to provide the NBB-SSS with the ISIN code of the security as soon as possible and in accordance with Article 4.1. No security can be issued and no instruction can be accepted by the NBB-SSS as long as the ISIN code of the security has not yet been communicated by the Issuer. The NBB-SSS cannot be held responsible for any rejected instruction due to late communication of the ISIN code.

Information relating to the characteristics of the securities communicated by the Issuer in accordance with Article 4.1 or in accordance with any other service contract for the issuance of fixed-income Securities entered into by the Issuer with the NBB may be published by the NBB on the NBB-SSS website and updated during the lifetime of the issued securities. The Issuer agrees that such information shall include the outstanding amount (e.g., the outstanding amount of an ISIN is the initial amount of the ISIN including updates from early partial redemptions, tapping, pool factor, etc.), including in circumstances where it could constitute sensitive information. The data are published for information purposes only.

- 4.2. In case of an issue of dematerialised treasury notes, certificates of deposit or dematerialised debt securities, the NBB-SSS shall on the subscription settlement date credit the securities account of the Issuer or of its Paying Agent in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS.

For global notes: the Issuer or the Paying Agent acting on behalf of the Issuer shall hand over to the NBB-SSS by no later than 11:00 CET on the issue settlement date, a collective bearer security representing the bonds issued. That security, duly authenticated by the Issuer, shall conform to the law governing the security and shall represent all the issue rights. The NBB-SSS shall credit the Securities Account of the Issuer or of its Paying Agent, with the nominal amount of the securities represented by the collective bearer security that the Issuer or its Paying Agent has handed over to the NBB-SSS. That amount shall be credited on the subscription settlement date following the

issue of the collective security in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS (see also Article 5 below).

4.3. The Issuer or its Paying Agent shall then by no later than the subscription settlement date allocate the securities issued among the institutions which maintain the subscribers' securities accounts in accordance with the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS.

4.4. In case of issuance of dematerialised debt securities, on the subscription settlement date, the Issuer shall record the number of dematerialised securities in circulation in the register of registered securities ("registre des titres nominatifs"/"register van de effecten op naam") in the name of the NBB-SSS in accordance with Article 7:35 of the Code of Companies and Associations. The Issuer shall make the necessary amendments in the register when dematerialised securities are subsequently repaid, converted to registered securities or created as a result of the conversion of registered securities.

4.5. The NBB performs the issue according to the Terms and Conditions governing the NBB-SSS and following the instructions provided by the Issuer in accordance with Articles 3.1, 2° and 4.1 and provided that those instructions are compatible with the Terms and Conditions governing the NBB-SSS. The NBB shall not verify whether these instructions comply with the terms and conditions governing the issue, the prospectus or all other documents applicable to the issue of the securities.

The NBB can never be held liable in relation to the Issuer, its Paying Agent or any third person on account of

- book entries which have formed the subject of the communication to the NBB-SSS in accordance with Articles 3.1, 2° and 4.1 (including but not exclusively in cases where the amount of the programme as specified in the prospectus has been exceeded), or
- errors or omissions committed by the Issuer in connection with the communications referred to in Articles 3.1, 2° and 4.1.

Article 5 – Custody, entry in accounts and deposit of securities issued under the fungibility regime

5.1. The NBB shall act as custodian of the collective security representing the individual debt securities (collective bearer bond) or shall act as nominee (registered securities) for the account of the Participants in the NBB-SSS, for each Participant in the sum of the nominal amount of the securities recorded on its Securities Account.

The collective security representing the entries on the Securities Accounts shall constitute a single deposit held in accordance with the fungibility principle.

The NBB is entitled to entrust the collective security to a sub-depository.

5.2. Within ten Business Days of the reimbursement of the securities, the NBB or its agent shall deliver, against a certificate of receipt, the collective bearer security to the Issuer or its agent. The collective bearer security shall be perforated to indicate its cancellation.

Article 6 - Payment of interests and of refundable principal on securities denominated in euro

6.1. The interest on securities denominated in euro is payable by the NBB-SSS to the Participants at the intervals indicated by the Issuer and based on the Interest payment date and the annual interest rate communicated by the Issuer in accordance with Article 4.1.

6.2. On the Interest payment date of the securities (for the purposes of this contract, "Interest payment date" means the date on which the Issuer must pay the amount of interest in accordance with the instructions given to the NBB-SSS by the Issuer or, if that date is not a Business day, the next Business day), the NBB-SSS shall execute the cash debits and credits as follows:

- 1° the NBB-SSS automatically debits the total amount of the interest from the T2S Dedicated Cash Account (T2S DCA) of the Issuer or of its Paying Agent in the NBB's books or another central bank's books during the night-time settlement window and in accordance with the conditions specified in the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS;
- 2° subject to the debit described under 1°, the NBB-SSS automatically credits the amount of the net interest (determined on the basis of the Securities Accounts balances at the end of the Business day preceding the interest payment date) on the T2S DCA of the Participants having a position in the concerned security, and creates a separate dedicated withholding tax transaction on income from movable assets when applicable. That interest is credited during the night-time settlement window after debiting the total amount as described in 6.2.1° and in accordance with the conditions specified in the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS.

The interest is calculated as follows:

- the amount of interest to be debited in accordance with paragraph 1, 1° shall be calculated by applying the interest rate to the total interest-bearing amount of the issuance, the outcome being rounded down to the nearest cent;
- the amounts of interest to be credited to each of the beneficiary and for each account in accordance with paragraph 1, 2° shall be calculated by applying the interest rate to the interest-bearing amount of the concerned securities held in account, the outcome being rounded down to the nearest cent;

- When calculating the interest to be paid, if necessary, the NBB-SSS takes the “Bond factor” into account, which is the percentage of the capital outstanding over the interest period in relation to the original amount issued. The fraction made up by the Bond factor is expressed in a number with twelve decimals. The Bond factor to be applied for any new interest period shall be notified to the NBB at the latest by 15:00 CET on the second Business day preceding each interest period;
- In the case of securities with variable interest rate, if the interest rate becomes negative, the NBB-SSS shall automatically apply an interest rate of zero percent, without asking prior consent of the Issuer or its Paying Agent.

6.3. On the Principal reimbursement date of the securities, the NBB-SSS shall execute the cash debits and credits as follows:

- 1° the NBB-SSS automatically debits the amount of the refundable principal from the T2S DCA of the Issuer or of its Paying Agent in the NBB’s books or other central bank’s books during the night-time settlement window and in accordance with the conditions specified in the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS;
- 2° subject to the debit described under 1°, the NBB-SSS automatically credits on the T2S DCA of the Participants having a position in the concerned security the amount of the refundable principal (determined on the basis of the Securities Accounts balances at the end of the Business day preceding the Principal reimbursement date), and creates a separate dedicated withholding tax transaction on income from movable assets when applicable. The reimbursements are credited during the night-time settlement window after debiting the total amount as described in 6.3.1. and in accordance with the conditions specified in the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS.

For the purposes of this contract, “Principal reimbursement date” means the date on which the Issuer must reimburse the principal in accordance with the instructions given to the NBB-SSS by the Issuer or, if that date is not a Business day, the next Business day.

On the Principal reimbursement date for final redemption of the securities, the Participants’ Securities Accounts shall be debited in order to cancel the amount of the reimbursed securities.

Payments of interests shall always be processed separately from the reimbursement of the principal even if the Interest payment date and the Principal reimbursement date coincide.

6.4. A collective bearer security has no coupons.

The NBB-SSS is exempt from presenting this security to the Issuer in order to obtain payment of interests or payment of the refundable principal.

6.5. The Issuer undertakes, if appropriate via its Paying Agent, to have sufficient funds available to be able to pay the amounts due by way of capital and interest on the due date.

Article 7 - Payment of interests and of the refundable capital on dematerialised securities denominated in Foreign currencies

7.1. The following provisions govern exclusively the securities denominated in Foreign currencies which are not participating in T2S. For the purpose of this contract, “T2S” stands for “TARGET2-Securities” and means the Eurosystem’s single technical settlement solution enabling central securities depositories and national central banks to provide core, borderless and neutral securities settlement services in central bank money in Europe. The securities denominated in Foreign currencies participating in T2S, i.e. DKK, are handled in accordance with Article 6.

7.2. Without prejudice to the application of the tax rules, the NBB-SSS provides the Foreign currency financial service in accordance with the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS. The Foreign currency financial service allows the settlement through the system of the cash leg in Foreign currencies for Corporate actions (i.e. payment of interests and of the refundable capital) relating to securities denominated in Foreign currencies.

For this purpose, the Issuer or its Paying Agent and each Participant having a position in the relevant securities (‘investor participant’) shall have a Foreign currency Cash Account (FCA) in accordance with the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS. Each issuer or as the case may be its Paying Agent shall entitle the NBB-SSS with the power to instruct any debit movements on its designated FCA (Annex 18.8a).

The issuer or as the case may be its Paying Agent shall also have a Dedicated Transfer Account (DTA) in accordance with the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS. The issuer or as the case may be its Paying Agent shall entitle the NBB with the power to instruct any debit movements on its designated DTA (Annex 18.8a). The issuer or as the case may be its Paying Agent, shall ensure that sufficient funds are available on the FCA to allow the settlement of the Corporate action on the Intended payment date. The DTA shall only be used for crediting the full amount paid out by the Paying Agent towards Participants having a position in the relevant securities and subsequently debiting all amounts due to Participants having a position in the relevant securities.

The interest on securities denominated in Foreign currencies is payable by the NBB-SSS to the Participants at the intervals indicated by the Issuer on the basis of the Interest payment date and the annual interest rate communicated by the Issuer in accordance with Article 4.1. The interest payments are generated based on the End Of Day positions in the T2S Day Schedule (between 18:00 – 18:45 CET) on the Participants securities accounts on Record Date. Consequently, securities transfers between different Participants shall be allowed during the Business day preceding an interest payment date or a reimbursement date (no “frozen day”).

7.3. On the Interest payment date, the NBB-SSS shall execute the cash debits and the cash credits as follows, in accordance with the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS:

- 1° At Start of Day of the Payment date and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS, the NBB-SSS automatically orders the debit of the total amount of the interests from the Foreign currency Cash Account of the Issuer or of its Paying Agent and shall credit this amount on the DTA designated by the Paying Agent;
- 2° subject to the debit described under 1°, the NBB-SSS automatically debits the amount of net interest (determined on the basis of the securities accounts balances at the end of the Business day preceding the Interest payment date) from the DTA and credits this amount on the FCA of Participants having a position in the concerned security, and create a separate dedicated withholding tax transaction on income from movables assets when applicable. The interest is credited after the credit of the DTA has been processed and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS.

The interest is calculated as described in Article 6.2.

Each Issuer and, as the case may be, its Paying Agent is responsible for properly funding its FCA in order to allow the settlement of Instructions described under point 1° and point 2°.

7.4. On the Principal reimbursement date of the securities, the NBB-SSS shall execute the cash debits and credits as follows, in accordance with the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS:

- 1° At Start of Day of the Payment date and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS, the NBB-SSS automatically orders the debit of the amount of the refundable principal from the FCA of the Issuer or of its Paying Agent and shall credit this amount on the DTA designated by the Paying Agent;
- 2° subject to the debit described under 1°, the NBB-SSS automatically debits the amount of the refundable principal (determined on the basis of the securities accounts balances at the end of the Business day preceding the Principal reimbursement date) from the DTA

and credits this amount on the FCA of Participants having a position in the concerned security, and create a separate dedicated withholding tax transaction on income from movables assets when applicable. The reimbursements are credited after the credit of the DTA has been processed and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS.

Each Issuer and, as the case may be, its Paying Agent is responsible for properly funding its FCA in order to allow the settlement of Instructions described under point 1° and point 2°.

On the principal reimbursement date for final redemption, of the securities, the Participants' Securities Accounts shall be debited in order to cancel the amount of the reimbursed securities.

Payments of interests shall always be processed separately from the reimbursement of the principal even if the Interest payment date and the Principal reimbursement date coincide.

Article 8 – Early reimbursement of the issue

The Issuer shall inform the NBB-SSS as soon as possible and no later than five Business days before the early reimbursement date of the exercise of its right the effect an early redemption of the securities. The NBB-SSS shall advise the Participants of the exercise of that right.

Article 9 – Fees payable to the Bank

In payment for the services provided for in this contract, the Issuer shall pay to the NBB a fee which is calculated and collected in accordance with Article 8.1.6. of the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS and annex 19.1, including any amendments thereto.

If the Paying Agent opts at a later stage to apply the Bond factor, an additional administrative charge will be levied.

The handling charge in accordance with point I.1 of Annex 19.1 to the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS is EUR (excl. VAT) and is payable to the NBB after signature of the contract.

Article 10 – Default by the Issuer

10.1. In the event of default by the Issuer or by its Paying Agent, i.e. in the occurrence of one of the events referred to in Article 10.2.2. of the Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS, and in the case of a shortage of funds, any reimbursement on the due date or payment of interest due shall be automatically suspended without notice of default until the Issuer or its Paying Agent has executed valid payment of the total capital or the total interests.

The Paying Agent shall inform the NBB-SSS upon receipt of information regarding the opening of Insolvency proceedings against an Issuer.

10.2. If the Issuer is represented by a Paying Agent, the latter must notify the Bank of the Issuer's default or the shortage of funds as early as possible and always before 15:00 CET on the Business day preceding the Principal reimbursement date or the Interest payment date.

After that deadline has elapsed, the Paying Agent is deemed to have approved the execution of the repayments or the interest payments on the due date, and its account will therefore be debited.

The notification to the NBB by the Paying Agent shall be done by e-signed e-mail or, alternatively, by SWIFT (message type MT599) with confirmation within 24 hours by registered mail with a return receipt.

Article 11 – Tax system

The securities registered with the NBB-SSS are subject to the tax rules laid down by the Law of 6 August 1993 on transactions in certain securities and its implementing regulations, particularly with regards to the formulas applicable for the calculation of interests.

With regards to the tax liabilities of the NBB-SSS, the Issuer, the Participants and clients, reference is made to the laws and regulations in force.

Article 12 – Applicable law – Competence

12.1. This service contract, as well as the transactions settled on their basis, shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Belgium.

12.2. In the event of any dispute arising in connection with the interpretation or execution of this service contract, the Parties shall endeavour to amicably settle it within a reasonable period of time following the invitation thereto by the most diligent Party. If the Parties do not succeed in finding a solution or reaching an agreement in order to settle the dispute, the latter shall be submitted by the most diligent Party to the jurisdiction of the Courts of Brussels.

12.3. In relation to the Issuer and the Paying Agent, the NBB is subject to no obligations or conditions relating to exercise of a right concerning the issued securities other than those specified in this service contract or in the applicable Belgian regulations.

The provisions of this service contract take precedence over any provision to the contrary in the prospectus or in any contract document relating to the issue.

This service contract does not affect the rights of the Issuer or of the Paying Agent in its capacity as an NBB-SSS Participant.

12.4. The Terms and Conditions governing the participation in the NBB-SSS and the regulations and administrative guidelines adopted by the NBB pursuant to the tax rules, including any future amendments, apply wherever no express provision is made in this contract.

12.5. The undersigned Parties to this contract agree that, under the service contract concluded between them on, it will no longer be possible to effect new issues from².

Article 13 – Electronic signature

In order to electronically execute this service contract, the Parties shall use either a qualified electronic signature within the meaning of the Regulation (UE) 910/2014 of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (the “ e-IDAS Regulation”) or the advanced electronic signature generated by the ESCB-PKI token. When using this latter, the Parties acknowledge and agree that the advanced certificate issued by Banco de España in the framework of the ESCB-PKI shall have the same characteristics and probative force than a qualified certificate in the meaning of Article 28 of the e-IDAS Regulation, hereby including the reversal of the burden of proof regarding the authenticity of the signature generated by it.

Article 14 – Entry into force

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the last signing Party.

Done [in three originals³] in Brussels, whereby each Party recognizes to have received one original version.

For the Issuer, on

² Dates to be entered. This clause should only be included if this contract refers to a current issue programme for which a contract already exists with the same Paying Agent.

³ If handwritten signature only.

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For the Paying Agent, on

For the National Bank of Belgium, on