



Independent auditor's report

in accordance with article 14 of Legislative Decree No. 39 of 27 January 2010

To the quotaholders of MPS Covered Bond Srl

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of MPS Covered Bond Srl (below, also the “Company”), which comprise the balance sheet as of 31 December 2021, the income statement, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement for the year then ended and the notes to the financial statements, including also a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as of 31 December 2021, and of the result of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of this report. We are independent of the Company pursuant to the regulations and standards on ethics and independence applicable to audits of financial statements under Italian law. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to paragraph “Preamble” of the notes to the financial statements where the directors state that the sole purpose of the Company, which was established pursuant to Law no. 130 of 30 April 1999, is to participate in issues of covered bonds in its capacity as assignee of a loan portfolio, which is purchased through loans granted by the assignor bank and which is intended to secure the bonds issued by the latter.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SpA

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As described by the directors, the Company has recognised financial assets purchased, loans received and other transactions performed as part of the abovementioned transactions in the notes to the financial statements in accordance with Law no. 130 of 30 April 1999 and the regulations previously in force issued by the Bank of Italy, under which any receivables relating to each transaction are segregated to all intents and purposes from the Company's assets and from those relating to other transactions. Our opinion is not qualified for this matter.

Responsibilities of the directors and the sole statutory auditor for the Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union and, in the terms prescribed by law, for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern and, in preparing the financial statements, for the appropriate application of the going concern basis of accounting, and for disclosing matters related to going concern. In preparing the financial statements, the directors use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The sole statutory auditor ("sindaco unico") is responsible for overseeing, in the terms prescribed by law, the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of our audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia), we exercised our professional judgement and maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit. Furthermore:

- We identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; we designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks; we obtained audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;



- We obtained an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control;
- We evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors;
- We concluded on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern;
- We evaluated the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicated with those charged with governance, identified at an appropriate level as required by ISA Italia, regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified during our audit.

Report on Compliance with other Laws and Regulations

Opinion in accordance with Article 14, paragraph 2, letter e), of Legislative Decree No. 39/2010

The directors of MPS Covered Bond Srl are responsible for preparing a report on operations of MPS Covered Bond Srl as of 31 December 2021, including its consistency with the relevant financial statements and its compliance with the law.

We have performed the procedures required under auditing standard (SA Italia) No. 720B in order to express an opinion on the consistency of the report on operations with the financial statements of MPS Covered Bond Srl as of 31 December 2021 and on its compliance with the law, as well as to issue a statement on material misstatements, if any.

In our opinion, the report on operations is consistent with the financial statements of MPS Covered Bond Srl as of 31 December 2021 and is prepared in compliance with the law.



With reference to the statement referred to in article 14, paragraph 2, letter e), of Legislative Decree No. 39/2010, issued on the basis of our knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have nothing to report.

Florence, 11 March 2022

PricewaterhouseCoopers SpA

Signed by

Marco Mancini
(Partner)

This report has been translated into English from the Italian original solely for the convenience of international readers