

Basel Committee on Banking Supervision Consultative Document Capital floors: the design of a framework based on standardised approaches

Q1. Assuming the respective floors were calibrated to achieve the same level of required capital, what are your views on the relative merits of a risk category-based floors and an aggregate RWA-based floor? What are your views on a floor based on exposure class?

A1: It seems to us that Risk Category based approach is more appropriate in order to set floors. Based on SFIL's portfolio & business structure (financing public sector entities), we strongly prefer category-based floors over than an aggregate RWA-based floors. As our profile is very specific compared to other European banks, we wish to avoid a situation where we would have to meet a RWA floor based on corporate benchmark. We want to underline the importance of taking into account specificities across banks so that a common ground is reached between peers sub categories (e.g European public sector lenders) and not globally. For example a bank like SFIL have to be benchmarked with European Public Sector lenders, namely BNG, MuniFi and so on and so fourth... in order to have a comparable Risk Weight (RW).

Q2. What are your views on the relative merits of the two options for adjusting for differences in the treatment of provisioning for credit risk?

A2: After studying in depth the two options, at this stage, SFIL's preference goes to option 1 which CAD ratio is two points over than the CAD ratio obtained by applying option 2. In addition, the RWA adjustment in option 2 is the same for all the banks whatever their risk profile and does not take into account our specificities.

Q3. Do you have any other comments regarding the design of the capital floor?

A3: We suggest the BIS committee to set the floors level by taking into account banks both portfolios structures and specificities.