

Transaction Update: Danske Bank A/S (Cover Pool D Mortgage Covered Bonds)

Saerligt Daekkede Obligationer

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Table Of Contents

Major Rating Factors

Outlook: Stable

Rationale

Program Description

Rating Analysis

Environmental, Social, And Governance (ESG)

Related Criteria

Related Research

Transaction Update: Danske Bank A/S (Cover Pool D Mortgage Covered Bonds)

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Ratings Detail

Reference Rating Level	aa	+	Jurisdiction-Supported Rating Level	aaa	+	Maximum Achievable Covered Bond Rating	aaa	=	Covered Bond Rating	
Resolution Regime Uplift	+2		Assigned Jurisdictional Support Uplift	+2		Collateral Support Uplift	+3		AAA/Stable	
Systemic Importance	Very Strong		Jurisdictional Support Assessment	Very Strong		Overcollateralization Adjustment	-1		Counterparty Risk	
Resolution Counterparty Rating	AA-		Legal Framework	Very Strong		Liquidity Adjustment	0		Country Risk	
Issuer Credit Rating Or Parent Rating Or Guarantor Rating	A+		Systemic Importance	Very Strong		Potential Collateral Based Uplift	+4		aaa	
			Sovereign Credit Capacity	Very Strong					aaa	

Note: As a starting point of the analysis, we may use the ICR of the parent or guarantor when the issuer is not rated, but it belongs to a group with a rated parent or payments under the covered bonds are guaranteed by another rated entity.

Major Rating Factors

Strengths

- Very strong jurisdictional support assessment and 'aaa' jurisdictional-supported rating level (JRL).
- Well-seasoned residential loans in Denmark with low loan-to-value (LTV) ratios (cover pool LTV ratio of about 47.1%).
- Liquidity risk is mitigated by the bonds' soft-bullet repayment profile.
- The program benefits from three unused notches that would protect the ratings on the covered bonds if we were to lower the long-term issuer credit rating (ICR) on Danske Bank A/S.

Weaknesses

- The available overcollateralization (OC) is provided on a voluntary basis, reducing the collateral-based uplift by one notch.
- The cover pool includes about 58.3% of second-lien loans that we consider have a higher risk than first-lien loans.

Outlook: Stable

S&P Global Ratings' stable outlook on its ratings on Danske Bank A/S' cover pool D mortgage covered bond program and related issuances of "saerligt daekkede obligationer" (SDOs) reflects our view that we would not automatically lower the ratings if we were to lower our long-term ICR on Danske Bank by up to three notches.

We would lower our ratings on the covered bonds if the credit enhancement needed to maintain the ratings were to exceed the available credit enhancement.

Rationale

We are publishing this transaction update following our periodic review of Danske Bank's cover pool D's mortgage covered bond program and related issuances.

Our covered bond ratings process follows the methodology and assumptions outlined in our "Covered Bonds Criteria," published on Dec. 9, 2014, and "Covered Bond Ratings Framework: Methodology And Assumptions," published on June 30, 2015.

The 'AAA' ratings reflect our reference rating level (RRL) of 'aa-' and our jurisdiction-supported rating level (JRL) of 'aaa', as well as the overcollateralization coverage of the 'AAA' credit risk.

The ratings on the program and related issuances are not constrained by legal, operational, counterparty risks, or country risks.

On Dec. 16, 2021, we raised the long-term ICR on Danske Bank to 'A+' from 'A' and revised the outlook to negative from stable (see "Denmark-Based Danske Bank Upgraded To 'A+'; Outlook Negative; Off UCO On Implementation Of Revised FI Criteria"). This upgrade led to one further unused notch of ratings uplift as the program now needs only two notches to reach the JRL of 'aaa' instead of the three previously.

On Dec. 16, 2022, we revised our outlook on Danske Bank to stable from negative and affirmed our 'A+/A-1' long- and short-term ratings (see "Danske Bank Outlook Revised To Stable As Estonia Money Laundering Case Resolved; 'A+/A-1' Ratings Affirmed").

Danske Bank is domiciled in Denmark, which is subject to the EU's Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD). We consider that mortgage covered bonds have a very strong systemic importance to Denmark. These factors increase the likelihood that the issuer would continue servicing its covered bonds without accessing the cover pool or receiving jurisdictional support, even following a bail-in of its senior unsecured obligations. Therefore, under our covered bonds criteria, we assess the RRL as the higher of (i) two notches above the long-term ICR; and (ii) the resolution counterparty rating (RCR). Given the RCR on Danske Banks is 'AA-', the RRL is 'aa', two notches above its ICR.

Our jurisdictional support analysis determines the jurisdiction-supported rating level (JRL) of the covered bonds as 'aaa'. We considered the likelihood of jurisdictional support for mortgage covered bonds in Denmark, which we assess

as very strong, resulting in a jurisdictional support uplift from the RRL of up to three notches. Danske Bank's covered bonds use two notches to achieve a JRL of 'aaa'.

Following the assessment of the RRL and JRL, we analyze the credit quality of the cover pool and the availability of liquidity support and committed overcollateralization to determine the maximum collateral-based uplift.

The 'AAA' ratings reflect our RRL of 'aa' and JRL of 'aaa', as well as the available OC of 7.5% as of June 30, 2022, exceeding the 'AAA' credit risk of 2.50%.

Lastly, the ratings on the cover pool and related issuances are not constrained by legal, operational, counterparty risks, or country risks.

Program Description

Danske Bank is the leading Danish financial services group. It operates primarily in Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

We currently rate categories C, D, and I covered bonds issued under the €30 billion global covered bond program.

Cover pool D comprises only Danish krone (DKK) denominated mortgage loans secured by residential properties in Denmark originated by Danske Bank and the liabilities are currently denominated in Euro and Norwegian krone (NOK).

The mortgage covered bonds are senior-secured unsubordinated obligations. They rank pari passu with other obligations in the same cover pool register. If the issuer were to become bankrupt, the C, D, and I cover pools would be separated and independent of each other.

Table 1

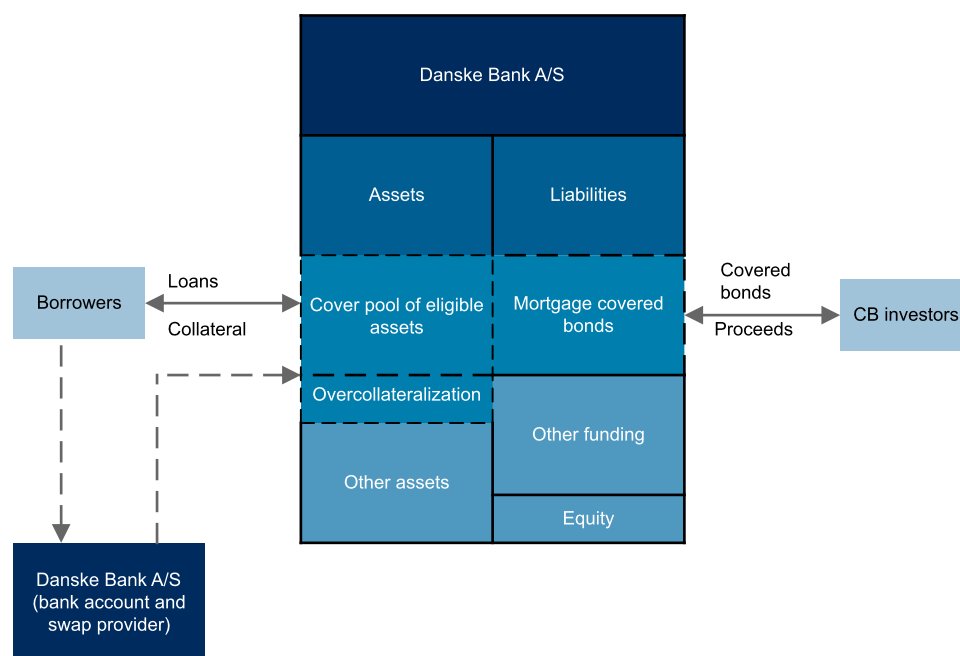
Program Overview*	
Jurisdiction	Denmark
Type of covered bonds	Legislation-enabled
Underlying assets	Residential mortgages
Outstanding covered bonds (bil. DKK)	23.6
Rating at closing/year	'AAA'/2007
Extendible maturities	Yes
Assigned jurisdictional support uplift	2
Unused notches for jurisdictional support	1
Target credit enhancement (%)	6.4
Credit enhancement for current rating	2.5
Available credit enhancement (%)	7.5
Collateral support uplift	3
Unused notches for collateral support	3
Total unused notches (considering S&P counterparty risk criteria)§	3

*Based on data as of June 30, 2022. §See section "Counterparty Risk"

Table 2

Program Participants			
Role	Name	Rating	Rating dependency
Issuer	Danske Bank A/S	A+/Stable/A-1	Yes
Originator	Danske Bank A/S	A+/Stable/A-1	No
Bank account provider	Danske Bank A/S	A+/Stable/A-1	No
Swap provider	Danske Bank A/S	A+/Stable/A-1	Yes

Program Structure



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Rating Analysis

Legal and regulatory risks

The Danish Covered Bond Act provides the legal framework for the issuance of the Danish covered bonds. It also outlines eligibility criteria for the inclusion of assets in the cover pool. The issuer needs to obtain a general covered bond issuing license from the Danish financial authority.

In our view, the Danish covered bond framework sufficiently addresses the relevant legal aspects of our covered bonds framework criteria and our legal criteria (see "Structured Finance: Asset Isolation And Special-Purpose Entity Methodology," published on March 29, 2017). This enables us to rate the covered bonds above the long-term rating on the issuer.

Danske Bank adheres to the general balance principle--in contrast to the specific balance principle--in order to manage market risk exposure. The issuer can issue covered bonds that are delinked from the mortgage assets, and the mortgage collateral acts as overcollateralization.

Danske Bank's cover pool D covered bond investors have a primary secured claim against all assets in the cover pool. The ratings on the covered bonds issued from cover pool D rely on the issuer's active management of the overcollateralization to support the current ratings.

To become eligible as collateral, mortgage loans must be entered in the Danish land register. The registration is legally binding and will form the basis of any bankruptcy proceedings. If bankruptcy proceedings have been initiated, a trustee appointed by the bankruptcy court will administer the cover pool assets. The trustee is ordered by law to meet all payment obligations as they fall due.

The issuer must maintain an overcollateralization of at least 2% of covered bonds outstanding on a nominal basis and 8% of risk-weighted assets. Banking supervision is carried out by the Danish Financial Supervisory Authority (DFSA, or "Finanstilsynet"). The DFSA has the authority to issue an order with which the issuer must comply. In case of severe or multiple breaches, the DFSA may revoke the license.

All Danish covered bonds, which match the maturity of the mortgage, may be extended in the instance of a failed refinancing. The issuer or administrator must attempt to refinance such extended bonds in yearly intervals. For covered bonds without a maturity match (as this is the case in Danske Bank D's cover pool), the administrator may extend the maturities of the covered bonds.

The legislation to transpose the EU Covered Bond Directive in the Danish legal framework was passed in May 2021 and became effective on July 8, 2022. The amendments introduced a nominal statutory OC requirement of 2%. This does not include the cost of managing a cover pool that is winding down. They also introduced a formal requirement for coverage of 180 days of liquidity needs. Most Danish covered bond programs are matched-funded and are exempt from this requirement. The amendments are essentially refinements and, given that the Danish legislation was already well aligned to the requirements of the directive, the new legislation does not affect our analysis of the Danish legal framework.

Under Danish law, collateral added to a cover pool less than three months before the bankruptcy of the issuer may be "clawed back" or challenged by other creditors on the basis that the covered bondholders received preferential treatment at the expense of the issuer's ordinary creditors. If such a challenge were to succeed, fewer assets would be available for covered bondholders from the relevant cover pool. We continuously monitor the transfer of collateral and consider the credit rating on the issuer in determining the size of a potential clawback, if Danske Bank becomes insolvent. As Danske Bank has shown a pattern of providing sufficient OC to maintain a 'AAA' rating, any increase in the asset pool to maintain this rating would likely be considered "ordinary," and therefore not subject to clawback, in our view.

Operational and administrative risks

In June 2022, we conducted a review of Danske Bank's origination, underwriting, collection, and default management procedures for the cover pool assets. We also reviewed the cover pool management and administration. We consider

that Danske Bank actively manages the cover pool and has adequate underwriting and loan management policies in place. We have not identified any operational or administrative risks that would affect our assessment of the program.

We consider the servicing and origination procedures to be in line with those of other European covered bond issuers, which we have reflected in our originator adjustment.

We believe that a replacement cover pool manager would be available if the issuer were to become insolvent. We consider Denmark to be an established covered bond market and believe that the mortgage assets in the cover pool do not comprise product features that would materially limit the range of available replacement cover pool managers.

Our analysis of operational and administrative risks follows the principles laid out in our covered bond ratings framework.

Resolution regime analysis

As part of our covered bonds criteria, our analysis considers the resolution regime in place in Denmark to determine the RRL. The RRL on the issuer, which is the starting point for any further uplift in our analysis, is 'aa'. We consider the following factors:

- The issuer is domiciled in Denmark, which is subject to the EU's BRRD.
- Our very strong assessment of the systemic importance of Danish mortgage covered bonds, which allows for two notches of uplift from the ICR on Danske.

These factors recognize that resolution regimes like the BRRD increase the probability that an issuer could service its covered bonds even following a default on its senior unsecured obligations, because the law exempts covered bonds from bail-in. We consider this an internal form of support, because the bail-in of certain creditors does not require direct government support.

Jurisdictional support analysis

The JRL on Danske Bank's covered bonds is 'aaa'. Under our analysis of jurisdictional support in our covered bonds criteria, we determine a JRL--which is our assessment of the creditworthiness of a covered bond program--once we have considered the level of jurisdictional support, but before giving credit to the amount of collateral.

In our jurisdictional support analysis, we assess the likelihood that a covered bond program facing stress would receive support from a government-sponsored initiative, instead of from the liquidation of collateral assets in the open market. Our assessment of the expected jurisdictional support for Danish mortgage covered bond programs is very strong. Under our covered bonds criteria, this means that the program can receive up to three notches of jurisdictional uplift from the RRL. Two notches are used to achieve a 'AAA' rating, resulting in one unused notch for jurisdictional support.

Collateral support analysis

We base our analysis on the loan-level data and asset and liability cash flow projections provided by the issuer as of June 30, 2022. The cover pool comprises only residential mortgages in Denmark.

Table 3

Cover Pool Composition					
Asset type	June 30, 2022		June 30, 2021		
	Value (DKK)	Percentage of cover pool	Value (DKK)	Percentage of cover pool	
Residential assets	25,341,923,785	100.00	25,828,161,690	100.00	
Total	25,341,923,785	100.00	25,828,161,690	100.00	

Table 4

Key Credit Metrics			
	As of June 30, 2022	As of June 30, 2021	
Weighted-average original LTV (%)	N/A	N/A	
Weighted-average effective LTV (%)	51.39	53.32	
Weighted-average loan seasoning (months)*	102.12	102.52	
Balance of loans in arrears (%)	0.00	0.00	
Weighted-average LTV ratio (%)	47.08	51.38	
Credit analysis results			
Weighted-average foreclosure frequency (%)	7.36	7.51	
Weighted-average loss severity (%)	33.05	33.52	
AAA credit risk (%)	2.50	2.50	

*Seasoning refers to the elapsed loan term. LTV--Loan to value. N/A--Not applicable.

Table 5

Seasoning			
Seasoning (months)	As of June 30, 2022		As of June 30, 2021
	Percentage of portfolio (%)		
0-24	15.64		17.63
24-48	23.99		18.57
48-60	4.39		1.31
60-72	1.16		1.47
72-84	1.33		2.81
84-96	2.65		3.17
96-108	3.04		2.79
108-120	2.43		5
More than 120	45.38		47.24
Weighted-average loan seasoning (months)	102.12		102.52

*Seasoning refers to the elapsed loan term.

Table 6

Current Loan-To-Value Distribution			
	As of June 30, 2022		As of June 30, 2021
	Percentage of cover pool		
0-40	38.60		31.07
40-50	19.21		16.44
50-60	17.27		18.70

Table 6

Current Loan-To-Value Distribution (cont.)		
	As of June 30, 2022	As of June 30, 2021
60-70	13.12	15.17
70-80	7.26	12.73
80-90	1.98	2.94
90-100	0.94	1.14
>100	1.62	1.81
Weighted-average loan-to-value (%)	47.08	51.38

Table 7

Geographical Distribution		
	As of June 30, 2022	As of June 30, 2021
	Percentage of cover pool	
Hovedstaden*	8.65	8.17
Midtjylland	21.02	21.54
Nordjylland	5.19	5.23
Sjælland§	47	46.31
Southern Denmark	18.15	18.75
Total	100	100

*Central Copenhagen. §Sjælland (excluding Central Copenhagen) and Bornholm.

Table 8

Collateral Uplift Metrics		
	As of June 30, 2022	As of June 30, 2021
Asset WAM (years)	11.02	11.19
Liability WAM (years)	4.63	5.61
Available credit enhancement (%)	7.49	9.20
AAA credit risk (%)	2.50	2.50
Coverage of 'AAA' credit risk and 25% of refinancing costs (%)	2.50	2.50
Coverage of 'AAA' credit risk and 50% of refinancing costs (%)	2.50	2.50
Coverage of 'AAA' credit risk and 75% of refinancing costs (%)	4.31	2.50
Target credit enhancement for maximum uplift (%)	6.37	2.50
Potential collateral-based uplift (notches)	4	4
Adjustment for liquidity (Y/N)	N	N
Adjustment for committed overcollateralization (Y/N)	Y	Y
Collateral support uplift (notches)	3	3

WAM--Weighted-average maturity.

For the loans in the pool, our analysis estimated the foreclosure frequency and the loss severity and--by multiplying the foreclosure frequency by the loss severity--the potential loss associated with each loan. To quantify the potential losses associated with the entire pool, we calculated a weighted-average foreclosure frequency (WAFF) and a weighted-average loss severity (WALS) assuming 'AAA' credit stresses. The product of these two variables estimates the required loss protection, in the absence of additional factors. We assume that the probability of foreclosure is a

function of both borrower and loan characteristics and will become more likely--and the realized loss on a loan more severe--as the economic environment deteriorates.

As of June 30, 2022, our WAFF and WALs remained stable compared to our previous review in September 2021. The WAFF resulted in 7.4% compared to 7.5% previously, and the WALs is 33.1% compared to 33.5%.

By applying our credit and cash flow stresses, we calculate a target credit enhancement of 6.4% (2.5% as of June 2021) and a 'AAA' credit risk of 2.5%. While the 'AAA' credit risk remained unchanged, the target credit enhancement increased mainly due to an increase in the asset-liability maturity mismatch.

Our global RMBS criteria identifies basis risk in relation to standard variable rate (SVR) mortgage loans, given that the lender may change the SVR at any time and for a variety of reasons (for example, changes in the cost of funding or to retain borrowers). In our view, as current SVR rates in Danske's cover pool D reflect a very competitive environment, with spreads at lower levels, we have not reduced the SVR rates in our analysis. However, we may apply a stress in the future as rates change.

As the available credit enhancement (7.5%) exceeds the target credit enhancement (6.4%), the maximum potential collateral-based uplift above the JRL is four notches. We reduce these four notches by one because there is no commitment to maintain overcollateralization at the current rating level. We make no deductions for the lack of 180 days of liquid assets because the covered bonds soft-bullet maturities satisfy the liquidity coverage requirement under our criteria. Therefore, the maximum collateral uplift above the JRL is three notches. None are currently needed to achieve a 'AAA' rating.

Given the JRL of 'aaa', under our covered bonds criteria, coverage of the 'AAA' credit risk or 2.5% of credit enhancement is required to achieve the current 'AAA' rating, solely based on jurisdictional support.

Resulting from the application of our counterparty risk criteria, the total unused notches of rating uplift is three (see 'Counterparty risk').

Counterparty risk

We have identified several counterparty risks to which the covered bonds are exposed. However, these are either structurally addressed in line with our current counterparty criteria or taken into account in our cash flow modeling (see "Counterparty Risk Framework: Methodology And Assumptions," published March 8, 2019). Therefore, we believe that they do not constrain the ratings from a counterparty risk perspective.

Bank account provider

Collections from the borrowers are held in an account with Danske Bank, which exposes investors to commingling risk. However, we consider this risk in our cash flow modeling and therefore believe that it does not constrain the ratings.

We understand that pre-insolvency, principal proceeds are either reinvested or immediately used to repay the bondholders. Post-insolvency, proceeds from the borrowers are identified and promptly segregated for the benefit of the bondholders. We size a small amount to account for the potential disruption that might affect payments in a post-insolvency scenario.

Swaps

Danske Bank is the sole swap counterparty for this program. Hedging addresses interest rate and currency mismatches between the pool's mortgage loans and the payments due to covered bondholders. To derive the maximum potential rating on the covered bonds under our counterparty criteria, we consider various factors, including whether the counterparties are related to the issuer, the seniority of termination payments, the replacement commitment, and the collateral posting framework.

Danske Bank is a related swap counterparty, and derivative termination costs are not subordinated to payments due to covered bond holders. Because Danske Bank is a related counterparty, we consider the RRL (currently 'aa') as the applicable counterparty rating when assessing counterparty risk. According to the swap documentation, Danske Bank has committed to post collateral and to replace itself within 90 calendar days if their RRL falls below 'A'. We categorize the current collateral-posting framework in the derivative contracts as adequate.

The collateral framework assessment, combined with the current RRL on the issuer ('aa') and the replacement trigger, support a maximum potential rating of 'AAA' under our counterparty risk assessment.

Danske Bank cover pool D's mortgage covered bonds benefit from three unused notches of uplift under our counterparty risk criteria. This means that the ratings on the covered bonds would be unaffected if we were to lower our long-term ICR on Danske Bank (and consequently its RRL) up by three notches, all else being equal.

Setoff risk

There is a risk that borrowers of certain loans contained in the cover pool retain a residual right under the relevant local legislation to set off claims against the outstanding amount of their loans. We understand from the issuer that all borrowers have contractually agreed that they have no right to set off against the relevant loans.

Sovereign risk

We analyze sovereign risk using our structured finance ratings above the sovereign criteria (see "Incorporating Sovereign Risk In Rating Structured Finance Securities: Methodology And Assumptions," published on Jan. 30, 2019). Given Denmark's 'AAA' rating (unsolicited), sovereign risk does not constrain the rating on the covered bonds.

Environmental, Social, And Governance (ESG)

ESG Credit Indicators

E-1	E-2	E-3	E-4	E-5	S-1	S-2	S-3	S-4	S-5	G-1	G-2	G-3	G-4	G-5
- N/A					- N/A					- Risk management, culture, and oversight				

N/A--Not applicable. ESG credit indicators provide additional disclosure and transparency at the entity level and reflect S&P Global Ratings' opinion of the influence that environmental, social, and governance factors have on our credit rating analysis. They are not a sustainability rating or an S&P Global Ratings ESG Evaluation. The extent of the influence of these factors is reflected on an alphanumeric 1-5 scale where 1 = positive, 2 = neutral, 3 = moderately negative, 4 = negative, and 5 = very negative. For more information, see our commentary "ESG Credit Indicator Definitions And Applications," published Oct. 13, 2021.

Environmental and social credit factors influence the credit profile of Danske Bank's cover pool D covered bond program in a broadly similar way to most other Danish covered bond issuers that we rate. In cover pool D, Danske Bank issues covered bonds under the Danish SDO framework backed solely by Danish residential properties. SDO programs must ensure continuous LTV compliance on an individual loan basis and not just at origination, meaning that if collateral values drop the issuer must pledge additional assets to the cover pool. Governance factors are a negative consideration in our ICR analysis of Danske Bank (the issuer). Moreover, the issuer does not commit to maintain a minimum level of overcollateralization in the program that is commensurate with a 'AAA' rating, which reduces by one the unused notches of uplift. We consider liquidity coverage to be addressed as all outstanding issues are soft-bullet bonds with a one-year maturity extension.

Related Criteria

- Sector And Industry Variables | Criteria | Structured Finance | Covered Bonds, Nov. 23, 2022
- Environmental, Social, And Governance Principles In Credit Ratings, Oct. 10, 2021
- Criteria | Structured Finance | General: Global Framework For Payment Structure And Cash Flow Analysis Of Structured Finance Securities, Dec. 22, 2020
- Global Methodology And Assumptions: Assessing Pools Of Residential Loans, Jan. 25, 2019
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- General Criteria: Principles Of Credit Ratings, Feb. 16, 2011

Related Research

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- Danske Bank Outlook Revised To Stable As Estonia Money Laundering Case Resolved; 'A+/A-1' Ratings Affirmed, Dec. 16, 2022
- Covered Bonds Outlook 2023, Dec. 6, 2022
- Danish Covered Bond Market Insights 2022, Nov. 22, 2022
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- European Covered Bonds Reach Harmonization Milestone As The Journey Continues, July 12, 2022

- ESG Credit Indicator Report Card: Covered Bonds, April 7, 2022
- Denmark-Based Danske Bank Upgraded To 'A+'; Outlook Negative; Off UCO On Implementation Of Revised FI Criteria, Dec. 16, 2021
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- Glossary Of Covered Bond Terms, April 27, 2018

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