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| 10 March 2020 |

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| Reply form for the Consultation Paper on MiFID II/ MiFIR review report on the transparency regime for non-equity and the trading obligations for derivatives |
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| Date: 10 March 2020 |

Responding to this paper

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) invites responses to the specific questions listed in the Consultation Paper on the transparency regime for non-equity instruments and the trading obligations for derivatives MiFID II/ MiFIR review report published on the ESMA website.

*Instructions*

Please note that, in order to facilitate the analysis of the large number of responses expected, you are requested to use this file to send your response to ESMA so as to allow us to process it properly. Therefore, ESMA will only be able to consider responses which follow the instructions described below:

* use this form and send your responses in Word format (pdf documents will not be considered except for annexes);
* do not remove the tags of type <ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_1> - i.e. the response to one question has to be framed by the 2 tags corresponding to the question; and
* if you do not have a response to a question, do not delete it and leave the text “TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE” between the tags.

Responses are most helpful:

* if they respond to the question stated;
* indicate the specific question to which the comment relates;
* contain a clear rationale; and
* describe any alternatives ESMA should consider.

**Naming protocol**

In order to facilitate the handling of stakeholders’ responses please save your document using the following format:

ESMA\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_NAMEOFCOMPANY\_NAMEOFDOCUMENT.

e.g. if the respondent were ESMA, the name of the reply form would be:

ESMA\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_ESMA\_REPLYFORM or

ESMA\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_ANNEX1

***Deadline***

Responses must reach us by **19 April 2020.**

All contributions should be submitted online at [www.esma.europa.eu](http://www.esma.europa.eu) under the heading ‘Your input - Consultations’.

***Publication of responses***

All contributions received will be published following the end of the consultation period, unless otherwise requested. **Please clearly indicate by ticking the appropriate checkbox in the website submission form if you do not wish your contribution to be publicly disclosed. A standard confidentiality statement in an email message will not be treated as a request for non-disclosure.** Note also that a confidential response may be requested from us in accordance with ESMA’s rules on access to documents. We may consult you if we receive such a request. Any decision we make is reviewable by ESMA’s Board of Appeal and the European Ombudsman.

***Data protection***

Information on data protection can be found at [www.esma.europa.eu](http://www.esma.europa.eu) under the headings ‘Legal notice’ and ‘Data protection’.

# General information about respondent

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| Name of the company / organisation | Associazione Intermediari Mercati Finanziari - ASSOSIM |
| Activity | Investment Services |
| Are you representing an association? |[x]
| Country/Region | Italy |

# Introduction

Please make your introductory comments below, if any:

<ESMA\_COMMENT\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_1>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_COMMENT\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_1>

1. What benefits or impacts would you see in increased pre-trade transparency in the different non-equity markets? How could the benefits/impacts of such pre-trade transparency be achieved/be mitigated via changes of the Level 1 text?.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_1>

We believe that the current pre-trade transparency rules are in the right direction although their implementation has not reached the intended result yet. In particular, the overall picture shows few non-equity financial instruments subject to pre-trade transparency and a high level of data fragmentation. In such a scenario, low data quality is currently acknowledged by the stakeholders. Therefore, before assessing any possible amendments aimed at increasing pre-trade transparency, we would suggest ESMA to adopt actions in order to significantly improve the quality of available data.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_1>

1. What proposals do you have for improving the level of pre-trade transparency available? Do you believe that the simplification of the regime for pre-trade transparency waivers would contribute to the improvement of the level of pre-trade transparency available?

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_2>

We share ESMA’s view about the need of simplifying the pre-trade transparency regime.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_2>

1. Are you supportive of ESMA’s proposal to delete the pre-trade SSTI-waiver? Would you compensate for this by lowering the pre-trade LIS-thresholds across all asset classes or only for selected asset classes? What would be the appropriate level for such adjusted LIS-thresholds? If you do not support ESMA’s proposal to delete the pre-trade SSTI-waiver, what should be the way forward on the SSTI-waiver in your view?

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_3>

We support ESMA’s proposal to delete the pre-trade SSTI waiver. We also agree with the proposal of lowering the pre-trade LIS thresholds across asset classes and calibrating the new threshold levels in accordance with the liquidity status of the relevant financial instrument/asset class. For example, lowering the LIS threshold with respect to government bonds more than for other financial instruments would not have a significant impact on transparency since they are generally very liquid.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_3>

1. What are your views on the use of the SSTI for the SI-quoting obligations. Should it remain (Option 1) or be replaced by linking the quoting obligation to another threshold (e.g. a certain percentage of the LIS-threshold) (Option 2)? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_4>

We agree with Option 1 as we believe that SIs should not bear additional costs due to the envisaged replacement of the SSTI with another threshold. Furthermore, we believe that the use of the SSTI for the SI quoting obligations is still to be properly assessed given the short time period since the entry into force of MiFID II/R and the data quality issues experienced so far..

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_4>

1. Would you support turning the hedging exemption into a limited negotiated trade waiver? If so, would you support Option 1 or Option 2? If not, please explain why.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_5>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_5>

1. Do you agree with ESMA’s observations on the emergence of new trading systems and the proposed way forward requiring a Level 1 change and ESMA to issue an Opinion for each new trading system defining its characteristics and the transparency requirements? Would you have suggestions for the timeline and process of such Opinions? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_6>

We agree with the amendment proposal of Level 1 in order to allow ESMA to issue an opinion for each new trading system defining the relevant characteristics and the transparency requirements. We believe that is very important to promptly detect any new trading system and to define the relating requirements in order to provide transparency to the maximum extent and to avoid dark trading.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_6>

1. Do you agree with the proposal for the definition of hybrid system? Are there in your view trading systems currently not or not appropriately covered in RTS 2 on which ESMA should provide further guidance? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_7>

We agree with the proposal to better clarify the definition of a hybrid system.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_7>

1. Do you agree with ESMA’s proposal to require SIs to make available data free of charge 15 minutes after publication? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_8>

We believe that trading venues and systematic internalisers have different characteristics (mainly, the fact that SIs operate bearing own risks while trading venues do not) which do not require them to be regulated by the same set of rules. Therefore, we do not consider it necessary to extend the obligation to make data available free of charge 15 minutes after publication to SIs (thus levelling – as ESMA stated - the field between SIs and trading venues).

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_8>

1. Would you see value in further standardising the pre-trade transparency information to increase the usability and comparability of the information? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_9>

We support any initiatives aimed at standardising pre-trade transparency information in order to allow all stakeholders to better understand and compare information.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_9>

1. Do you agree with ESMA’s assessment of the level of post-trade transparency and with the need of a more streamlined and uniform post-trade regime which does not include options at the discretion of the different jurisdictions? If not, please explain why and, where available, support your assessment with data.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_10>

We do agree with ESMA’s assessment and with the opportunity to make the post-trade regime more uniform. We already pointed out in previous recent consultations regarding MiFiDII/R review that deferral regimes for transparency obligations detailed at national level (Italy included) are not well harmonized and this may also cause unlevel playing field issues. In particular, our members have made a very limited use of deferrals because, in their opinion, under the Italian implementing regime the timeframe to be granted with a deferral and the relevant procedure in front of the Italian CA are quite burdensome and substantially inapplicable. Therefore, we would welcome a more simplified and fully harmonised regime for post-trade transparency and deferrals which should provide no national discretions.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_10>

1. Do you agree with this proposal? What would be the appropriate level of such a revised LIS-threshold in your view?

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_11>

We agree with the proposal of deleting the SSTI under the deferral regime and of lowering the LIS threshold across asset classes (on the basis of liquidity status as suggested in the answer to Q3 above for pre-trade transparency). In line with the view expressed in the answer to Question 4, we would propose that no changes to the SSTI regime are made with respect to the provisions governing SIs’ activity. The different regime between trading venues and systematic internalisers is legitimate according to different nature and scope between the former and the latter: systematic internalisers (under MiFID II regime qualified as “execution venues”) serve their clients putting their own capital at risks marking. In this regard, it is desirable to maintain a different regime from the one applicable to trading venues (that bring together buyers and sellers without bearing any risk).

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_11>

1. In your view, should the real time publication of volume masking transactions apply to transactions in illiquid instruments and above LIS waiver (Option 1) or to transactions above LIS only (Option 2 and Option 3). Please elaborate. If you support another alternative, please explain which one and why.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_12>

We agree with ESMA’s view expressed in paragraph 158 of the CP about the creation of a single regime. However, we believe that the current regime could still fit transparency purposes once the rules are uniform and the supplementary 4-week delay is deleted. Furthermore, the adoption of any of the alternatives proposed by ESMA entails further implementation costs to be borne by the industry.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_12>

1. Do you agree with the publication of the price and volume of all transactions after a certain period of time, such as two calendar weeks (Option 1 and 2) or do you support the two-steps approach for LIS transactions (Option 3)? Please explain why and provide any alternative you would support. Which is the optimal option in case a consolidated tape would emerge in the future?

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_13>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_13>

1. Do you agree with ESMA’s proposed way forward to issue further guidance and put a stronger focus on enforcement to improve the quality of post-trade data? Are there any other measures necessary at the legislative level to improve the quality of post-trade data? What changes to the transparency regime in Level 1 could lead to a substantial improvement of data quality?

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_14>

We do share ESMA’s analysis highlighting significant difficulties in finding/accessing post-trade information, a high level of fragmentation of the reporting environment as well as data quality issues. Therefore, we do agree with ESMA’s proposal to issue supervisory guidance and to increase enforcement actions in this area.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_14>

1. What would be the optimal transparency regime to help with the potential creation of a CTP?

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_15>

We strongly support standardisation, simplification, harmonisation and higher data quality as pre-conditions to create a CTP. The latter could be of potential added value for the industry, helping to overcome the current fragmentated reporting environment. However, as already proposed in the EU Commission’s public consultation regarding MiFID II/R review, in our opinion the data consolidation should be put in place according to a phase-in approach to be assessed/implemented very carefully. In particular, phase 1 should entail post-trade data only. Once phase 1 is well implemented and performs smoothly and on the assumption that no impediments to the start of consolidated pre-trade data provision arise (mainly in terms of readiness of the system), then phase 2 can be initiated. Phase 2 would include pre-trade data disclosed through a batch process. However, we would suggest that all operational/technical aspects of CT implementation regime (such as, for instance, financial instruments/venue in scope) are further assessed and investigated also by means of ad-hoc public consultation processes.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_15>

1. Do you agree with ESMA’s above assessment? If not, please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_16>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_16>

1. Are you of the view that the interpretation of TOTV should remained aligned for both transparency and transaction reporting? If not, please explain why.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_17>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_17>

1. Which of the three options proposed, would you recommend (Option 1, Option 2 or Option 3)? In case you recommend an alternative way forward, please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_18>

We are in favour of maintaining the status quo (e.g. Option 1). Should this approach be not viable, then Option 2 could be assessed upon condition that, inter alia, the number/type of common key characteristics to be shared between on-venue and OTC derivatives are detailed by ESMA in the context of a public consultation process.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_18>

1. What is your view on the proposal to delete the possibility for temporarily suspending the transparency provisions? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_19>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_19>

1. Do you have any remarks on the assessment of Article 28 of MiFIR? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_20>

We believe that the implementation of article 28(2) MiFIR should be carefully monitored in order to avoid that its application to EU branches operating in non-EU countries undermine their competitiveness in favour of local intermediaries.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_20>

1. Do you have any views on the above-mentioned criteria and whether the criteria are sufficient and appropriate for assessing the liquidity of derivatives? Do you consider it necessary to include further criteria (e.g. currency)? Do you consider that ESMA should make use of the provision in Article 32(4) for asset classes currently not subject to the trading obligations? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_21>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_21>

1. Do you agree that a procedure for the swift suspension of the trading obligation for derivatives is needed? Do you agree with the proposed procedure? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_22>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_22>

1. Do you have a view on this or any other issues related to the application of the DTO?

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_23>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_23>

1. Do you have any views on the functioning of the register? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_24>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_24>

1. Do you agree that the current quarterly liquidity calculation for bonds is appropriate or would you be of the view that the liquidity determination of bonds should be simplified and provide for more stable results? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_25>

We believe that any change to the current liquidity determination should be postponed due to the following circumstances:

1. the quality of data available to ESMA still not sufficiently high to represent a basis for the adoption of regulatory measures that would increase the scope of transparency obligations for firms

2. the impact of the COVID-19 on market liquidity

3. the persisting uncertainties related to the final outcome of EU-UK negotiations in the context of Brexit.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_25>

1. Do you agree with ESMA proposal to move to stage 2 for the determination of the liquidity assessment of bonds? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_26>

Moving to stage 2 for the determination of the liquidity assessment of bonds could slightly increase the transparency level; nevertheless, it has also to be considered that such move would take place in a context of high market volatility due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Furthermore, the effectiveness of Brexit could have a significant impact on the transparency assessment. Therefore, we would suggest ESMA to evaluate such factors before implementing stage 2.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_26>

1. Do you agree with ESMA proposal not to move to stage 2 for the determination of the pre-trade SSTI thresholds for all non-equity instruments except bonds? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_27>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_27>

1. Do you agree with ESMA proposal to move to stage 2 for the determination of the pre-trade SSTI thresholds for bonds (except ETCs and ETNs)? Please explain.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_28>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_28>

1. What is your view on the current calibration of the ADNA and ADNT for commodity derivatives? Are there specific sub-asset classes for which the current calibration is problematic? Please justify your views and proposals with quantitative elements where available.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_29>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_29>

1. In relation to the segmentation criteria used for commodity derivatives: what is your view on the segmentation criteria currently used? Do you have suggestions to amend them? What is your view on ESMA’s proposals SC1 to SC3? In your view, for which sub-asset classes the “delivery/cash settlement location” parameter is relevant.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_30>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_30>

1. What is your view on the analysis and proposals related to the pre-trade LIS thresholds for commodity derivatives? Which proposal to mitigate the counterintuitive effect of the current percentile approach do you prefer (i.e. keep the current methodology but modify its parameters, or change the methodology e.g. using a different metric for the liquidity criteria)? Please justify your views and proposals with quantitative elements where available.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_31>

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<ESMA\_QUESTION\_CP\_MIFID\_NQT\_31>