|  |
| --- |
| 29 March 2021 |

|  |
| --- |
| Response form for the Consultation Paper on the EU Money Market Fund Regulation – legislative review |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| Date: 29 March 2021 |

**Responding to this paper**

ESMA invites responses to the questions set out throughout this Consultation Paper and summarised in Annex 3. Responses are most helpful if they:

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

ESMA will consider all comments received by **Wednesday 30th June 2021.**

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

**Instructions**

In order to facilitate analysis of responses to the Consultation Paper, respondents are requested to follow the steps below when preparing and submitting their response:

* Insert your responses to the consultation questions in this form.
* Please do not remove tags of the type <ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_1>. Your response to each question has to be framed by the two tags corresponding to the question.
* If you do not wish to respond to a given question, please do not delete it but simply leave the text “TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE” between the tags.
* When you have drafted your response, name your response form according to the following convention: ESMA\_MMFR\_nameofrespondent\_RESPONSEFORM. For example, for a respondent named ABCD, the response form would be entitled ESMA\_MMFR\_ABCD\_RESPONSEFORM.
* Upload the form containing your responses, in Word format, to ESMA’s website ([www.esma.europa.eu](http://www.esma.europa.eu) under the heading ‘Your input – Open consultations’ → ‘Consultation on EU Money Market Fund Regulation – legislative review’).

**Publication of responses**

All contributions received will be published following the close of the consultation, unless you request otherwise. If you do not wish for your response to be publicly disclosed, please clearly indicate this by ticking the appropriate box on the website submission page. A standard confidentiality statement in an email message will not be treated as a request for non-disclosure. 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 not to disclose the response 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 heading ‘[Data protection](https://www.esma.europa.eu/about-esma/data-protection)’.

**Who should read this paper?**

This document will be of interest to (i) MMF managers and their trade associations, as well as (ii) institutional and retail investors (and associations of such investors) investing in MMF.

# General information about respondent

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of the company / organisation | AFTI |
| Activity | Other |
| Are you representing an association? |  |
| Country/Region | France |

# Introduction

Please make your introductory comments below, if any:

<ESMA\_COMMENT\_MMFR\_1>

AFTI, “Association Française des Professionnels des Titres”, is the leading association representing the post-trade businesses in France and Europe. AFTI represents through its 70 members a wide range of activities: market infrastructures, custodians, account-keepers and depositaries, issuer services, reporting and data management services with staff 28,000 people in Europe of which 16,000 in France. Our members account for 26 % of the European custody activity with 55,600 billion € in safekeeping and 25 to 30% of the European fund asset servicing sector (namely depositaries and fund administrators). The French market infrastructures main figures are 29 millions of settlements ( CSD) and 186 millions of operations cleared in 2020 (CCP).

<ESMA\_COMMENT\_MMFR\_1>

1. i) Do you agree with the above assessment of the difficulties faced by MMFs during the COVID-19 March crisis? Do you agree with the identification of vulnerabilities? ii) What are your views in particular on the use of MMF ratings by investors? Are you of the view that the use of such ratings has affected the behaviors of investors during the March crisis?

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_1>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_1>

1. i) Do you agree with the above assessment on the potential MMF reforms related to the review of the MMF Regulation? ii) What are your views on the abovementioned assessment of the interaction between potential MMF reforms and the behaviour of investors during the MMF March 2020 crisis?

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_2>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_2>

1. Do you agree with the above assessment of the i) potential need to decouple regulatory thresholds from suspensions/gates and the corresponding proposals of amendment of the MMF Regulation ii) potential reforms of the conditions for the use of redemption gates? When you answer this question, please also take into account the grid of criteria listed in paragraphs 76 to 80.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_3>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_3>

1. i) Do you agree with the above assessment of the potential need to require MMFs to use swing pricing and / or ADL / liquidity fees and the corresponding proposal of amendment of the MMF Regulation (including the above list of corresponding potential benefits and drawbacks)? ii) If you are of the view that swing pricing might not be workable for certain types of MMFs, which instruments would you suggest as an alternative for these types of MMFs going forward? When you answer this question, please also take into account the grid of criteria listed in paragraphs 76 to 80.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_4>

We agree that Anti-Dilution Levey (ADL) and swing pricing can be efficient liquidity management tools.

However the benefit of liquidity management tools (including gates)  is indeed dependent on the capacity of the fund administrator and of the post market chain to implement  them at least daily (and even real time). For example, the vast majority of French VNAV funds are settled at T+0, which is a pillar feature for investors .

While the implementation of swing pricing affects only the asset manager and the fund administrator, who is a provider of the asset manager,  this is not the case with the ADL (or with gates) .

Financial intermediaries who collect subscriptions/redemption orders may  have no contractual relationship with the asset manager and therefore cannot be considered as providers of the asset managers .

In order to avoid a breakdown of the collection of subscription/redemptions of orders due to cancellation of a great number of orders , the consequences of which could generate panic among investors, market standards must be defined  to take  into account   the capacity of all  involved financial intermediaries to process change in the collection of orders. As financial intermediaries may also be located in various countries transnational market standards  must be defined and adopted.

Moreover financial intermediaries must be informed sufficiently in advance by the asset manager to enable them to implement change ( e.g. change redemption fee in their system)  before the orders are collected by those financial intermediaries.

**To avoid adding operational difficulties to the implementation of liquidity management tools that affect financial intermediaries which are not providers of the asset managers it should be required that  definition and adoption of market standards  corresponding to  these  LMT  have been checked and tested  beforehand by the asset manager.**

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_4>

1. i) Do you agree with the above assessment of the potential need to increase liquidity buffers and/or make them usable/countercyclical and the corresponding potential proposal of amendment of the MMF Regulation? ii) With respect to option 1 above, views are sought in particular on the relevant threshold (on the size of redemptions) from which WLA would need to be automatically adjusted. When you answer this question, please also take into account the grid of criteria listed in paragraphs 76 to 80.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_5>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_5>

1. What are your views on the potential need to eliminate CNAV and LVNAV funds, in light of the recent market developments, and the corresponding potential proposal of amendment of the MMF Regulation? When you answer this question, please also take into account the grid of criteria listed in paragraphs 76 to 80.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_6>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_6>

1. What are your views on the extent to which Article 35 of the MMF Regulation should be i) clarified ii) amended? When you answer this question, please also take into account the grid of criteria listed in paragraphs 76 to 80.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_7>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_7>

1. i) Do you agree with the above assessment of the potential need to assess the role of MMF ratings in light of the difficulties faced by MMFs during the March crisis, and the potential need to introduce regulatory requirements for MMF ratings? ii) In your view, based on your experience, what are the benefits of MMF rating from investors’ perspective, having in mind that rules applying to MMFs are already very stringent? What would be the likely consequence on investors from the downgrade of one or several MMFs? When you answer this question, please also take into account the grid of criteria listed in paragraphs 76 to 80.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_8>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_8>

1. Do you agree with the above assessment of the potential need to amend the requirements on stress tests included in the article 28 of the MMF Regulation? When you answer this question, please also take into account the grid of criteria listed in paragraphs 76 to 80.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_9>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_9>

1. Do you agree with the above assessment on the potential need to review the reporting requirements under the MMF Regulation? When you answer this question, please also take into account the grid of criteria listed in paragraphs 76 to 80.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_10>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_10>

1. Do you agree with the above assessment of the potential need to include additional requirements in the MMF Regulation, and/or potentially in other types of EU piece of legislation on the disclosure of money market instruments (MMIs) and main categories of investors to regulatory authorities (e.g. detailed information on liabilities)? When you answer this question, please also take into account the grid of criteria listed in paragraphs 76 to 80.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_11>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_11>

1. i) Do you agree with the above assessment on the potential creation of a LEF? When you answer this question, please also take into account the grid of criteria listed in paragraphs 76 to 80. ii) Several open questions related to the creation of the LEF, on which ESMA would specifically welcome feedback from stakeholders, include:

* **What should be the appropriate size of such a pooling vehicle as the LEF?**
* **In terms of funding, how much MMF would have to pay each year to participate in the pool? How much of the funding would/should be provided by other sources?**
* **How long would it take to establish such a LEF?**
* **Under which conditions would the LEF be activated?**
* **Who would be responsible for activating the LEF**.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_12>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_12>

1. Do you agree with the above assessment on the potential need of further clarification of the requirements of articles 1 and 6 of the MMF Regulation? When you answer this question, please also take into account the grid of criteria listed in paragraphs 76 to 80.

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_13>

TYPE YOUR TEXT HERE

<ESMA\_QUESTION\_MMFR\_13>