

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE NOTES

The following (disregarding any sentences in italics) is the text of the terms and conditions applicable to the Notes, which, as supplemented or varied in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Final Terms(s), will be incorporated by reference into each Global Note and which will be endorsed on the Notes in definitive form (if any) issued in exchange for Global Notes representing each Tranche, details of the relevant Tranche being as set out in the relevant Final Terms. The Final Terms in relation to any Tranche may specify other terms and conditions which shall, to the extent so specified or to the extent inconsistent with such terms and conditions, replace or modify the following terms and conditions for the purpose of such Tranche.

This Note is one of a Series of Notes (the "Notes") issued pursuant to the debt issuance programme (the "Programme") established by HSBC Bank Middle East Limited (the "Bank" or the "Issuer") and is constituted by a Trust Deed dated 16 November 2004 (such Trust Deed as last modified and restated by a second supplemental trust deed dated 17 January 2008 and as further modified and/or supplemented and/or restated from time to time, the "Trust Deed") made between the Issuer and The Law Debenture Trust Corporation p.l.c. (the "Trustee" which expression shall wherever the context so admits include its successors) and has the benefit of an Agency Agreement dated 16 November 2004 (such Agency Agreement as modified and restated on 17 January 2008 and as further modified and/or supplemented and/or restated from time to time, the "Agency Agreement") made between, amongst others, the Issuer, the Principal Paying Agent (the "Principal Paying Agent" which expression shall wherever the context so admits include its successors as such, and, together with any successor or additional paying agent appointed in respect of the Notes, the "Paying Agents", which expression shall wherever the context so admits include any additional and/or successor paying agents), the Registrar (the "Registrar" which expression shall wherever the context so admits include any successor or additional person appointed as such in respect of the Notes), the Transfer Agent (the "Transfer Agent", which expression shall wherever the context so admits include any successor or additional person appointed as such in respect of the Notes), the Agent Bank (the "Agent Bank" which expression shall wherever the context so admits include any successor or additional person appointed as such in respect of the Notes) each named therein and the Trustee. The initial Principal Paying Agent, the initial Registrar and the initial Agent Bank are named below. The Trustee shall exercise the duties, power, trusts, authorities and discretions vested in it by the Trust Deed separately in relation to each Series of Notes in accordance with the provisions of the Trust Deed. Copies of the Trust Deed and the Agency Agreement are available for inspection during normal business hours at the principal office for the time being of the Trustee and at the specified office of each of the Principal Paying Agent, the other Paying Agents (if any), the Registrar and the Transfer Agents appointed from time to time pursuant to the terms of the Agency Agreement. The Holders (as defined below) for the time being of Notes (the "Noteholders") and of any coupons ("Coupons") or talons ("Talons") (the "Couponholders") are entitled to the benefit of, are bound by, and are deemed to have notice of, all the provisions of the Trust Deed and the Agency Agreement applicable to them.

References in these terms and conditions (the "Conditions") to "Notes" shall, where the context so requires include the temporary global Notes, the permanent global Notes, subordinated Notes ("Subordinated Notes"), Notes which are not subordinated and such other Notes as may from time to time be issued under the Programme, as the case may be, and the term "Notes" includes debt instruments, by whatever name called, issued under the Programme. References to the "Bank" or the "Issuer" means the Bank in its capacity as issuer of Notes under the Programme. All Notes will be issued in series (each, a "Series") and each Series may comprise one or more tranches (each, a "Tranche") of Notes. Each Tranche will be the subject of a Final Terms (the "Final Terms"), a copy of which will be attached to or incorporated by reference in each Note of such Tranche. Subject as set out in the relevant Final Terms, all Notes issued pursuant to the Programme on the same date, denominated in the same currency, having the same maturity date, bearing interest, if any, on the same basis and issued on identical terms will constitute one Tranche of Notes.

1. FORM, DENOMINATION AND TITLE

(a) Form

Notes are issued in bearer form ("Bearer Notes") or in registered form ("Registered Notes") as set out in the relevant Final Terms.

(b) *Form of Bearer Notes*

Bearer Notes will be in substantially the relevant form (subject to amendment and completion) scheduled to the Trust Deed or in such other form as from time to time may be agreed. Interest-bearing Bearer Notes will, if so specified in the relevant Final Terms, have attached at the time of their initial delivery Coupons, presentation of which will be a prerequisite to the payment of interest in certain circumstances specified below. Interest-bearing Bearer Notes will also, if so specified in the relevant Final Terms, have attached at the time of their initial delivery a Talon exchangeable for further Coupons and the expression "Coupons" shall, where the context so requires, include Talons.

(c) *Form of Registered Notes*

Registered Notes will be in substantially the relevant form (subject to amendment and completion) scheduled to the Trust Deed or in such other form as may from time to time be agreed.

(d) *Instalment Notes*

Notes the principal amount of which is repayable by instalments ("Instalment Notes") which are Definitive Notes will have endorsed thereon a grid for recording the repayment of principal or will, if so specified in the relevant Final Terms, have attached thereto at the time of their initial delivery, payment receipts ("Receipts") in respect of the instalments of principal.

(e) *Partly Paid Notes*

Notes may be issued on a partly paid basis ("Partly Paid Notes") if so specified in the relevant Final Terms and any further or alternative terms applicable thereto shall be as set out in the relevant Final Terms.

(f) *Denomination*

Subject to Condition 9, Bearer Notes will be in the denomination(s) set out in the relevant Final Terms. Bearer Notes of one denomination will not be exchangeable after their initial delivery for Notes of any other denomination. Registered Notes will be in the denomination(s) and multiples set out in the relevant Final Terms.

(g) *Title*

Title to Bearer Notes, Coupons and Talons will pass by delivery. Title to Registered Notes passes by registration in the register which is kept by the Registrar. References herein to the "Holders" of Bearer Notes or of Coupons are to the bearers of such Bearer Notes or such Coupons and references herein to the "Holders" of Registered Notes are to the persons in whose names such Registered Notes are so registered in the register.

To the extent permitted by law and subject to the provisions of the fourth paragraph of Condition 14(a) while the Notes of any Series are represented by a Note or Notes in global form, the Issuer, the Principal Paying Agent, any other Paying Agents, the Transfer Agents, the Agent Bank and the Registrar may deem and treat the Holder of any Bearer Note or of any Coupon and the Holder of any Registered Note (and, if more than one, the first named thereof) as the absolute owner thereof (whether or not such Note shall be overdue and notwithstanding any notice of ownership or writing thereon or notice of any previous loss or theft thereof) for the purpose of receiving payment on account thereof and for all other purposes.

(h) *Transfer of Registered Notes*

Subject as provided in the final sentence of this Condition 1(h), a Registered Note may, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Agency Agreement, be transferred in whole or in part only (provided that each of such part transferred and the balance not transferred is, or is an integral multiple of, the minimum denomination specified in the relevant Final Terms) upon the surrender of the Registered Note to be transferred, together with the form of transfer (including, without limitation, any certification as to compliance with restrictions on transfer included in such form of transfer) endorsed on it duly completed and executed, at the specified office of the Registrar or any of the Transfer Agents together with such evidence as the Registrar, or as the case may be, the relevant Transfer Agent may reasonably require to prove the title of the transferor and the authority of the persons who have executed the form of transfer. A new Registered Note will be issued to the transferee and, in the case of a transfer of part only of a Registered Note, a new Registered Note in respect of the balance not transferred will be issued to the transferor. No Holder may require the transfer of a

Registered Note to be registered during the period of 15 calendar days ending on the due date for any payment (whether of principal, redemption amount, interest or otherwise) in respect of such Note.

(i) *Delivery*

Each new Registered Note to be issued upon the transfer of a Registered Note will, within five Relevant Banking Days (as defined in Condition 13) of the Transfer Date (as defined in Condition 13), be available for delivery at the specified office of the Registrar or, as the case may be, the relevant Transfer Agent or (at the request and risk of the Holder of such Registered Note) be mailed by uninsured post to such address as may be specified by such Holder. For these purposes, a form of transfer received by the Registrar or any of the Transfer Agents after the Record Date (as defined in Condition 8(b)) in respect of any payment due in respect of Registered Notes shall be deemed not to be effectively received by the Registrar or such Transfer Agent until the day following the due date for such payment.

(j) *No charge*

The issue of new Registered Notes on transfer will be effected without charge to the Holder or the transferee by or on behalf of the Issuer, the Registrar or the relevant Transfer Agent, but upon payment by the applicant of (or the giving by the applicant of such indemnity as the Registrar or, as the case may be, the relevant Transfer Agent may require in respect of) any tax or other duty of whatsoever nature which may be levied or imposed in connection with such transfers or exchanges.

(k) *Regulations concerning transfer and registration of Registered Notes*

All transfers of Registered Notes and entries on the Register will be made subject to the detailed regulations (the "Regulations") concerning exchange and transfer of Registered Notes scheduled to the Agency Agreement. The Regulations may be amended, supplemented or replaced by the Issuer with the prior written approval of the Registrar but without the consent of the Holders of any Notes. A copy of the current Regulations are available for inspection during usual business hours at the specified office of the Registrar and the Transfer Agents.

2. **STATUS**

The Notes of each Series (other than Subordinated Notes) constitute direct, unsecured obligations of the Issuer, ranking *pari passu* without any preference among themselves and, at their date of issue, ranking *pari passu* with all other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of the Issuer other than any such obligations preferred by law.

The Notes of each Series of Subordinated Notes constitute direct, unsecured obligations of the Issuer ranking *pari passu* without any preference among themselves. The rights of Holders of Subordinated Notes will, in the event of the winding up of the Issuer or a declaration of the property of the Issuer "en désastre", be subordinated in right of payment to the claims of depositors and all other creditors of the Issuer other than claimants in respect of Subordinated Indebtedness (as defined in the Trust Deed) in the manner provided in the Trust Deed.

Claims in respect of any Notes or Coupons may not be set off, or be the subject of a counterclaim, by the Holder against or in respect of any obligations of his to the Issuer, the Trustee or any other person, and every Holder waives, and shall be treated for all purposes as if he had waived, any right that he might otherwise have to set off, or to raise by way of counterclaim any claim of his in respect of any Notes or Coupons, against or in respect of any obligations of his to the Issuer, the Trustee or any other person. If, notwithstanding the preceding sentence, any Holder receives or recovers any sum or the benefit of any sum in respect of any Note or Coupon by virtue of any such set off or counterclaim, he shall hold the same on trust for the Issuer and shall pay the amount thereof to the Issuer or, in the event of the winding up of the Issuer, to the liquidator of the Issuer.

3. **INTEREST ON FIXED RATE NOTES**

Notes bearing interest at a fixed rate (each a "Fixed Rate Note") will bear interest on the principal amount (or, in the case of Partly Paid Notes, the principal amount paid up in respect thereof) of each Note as at its date of issue (less, in the case of any Instalment Note, any principal amount on which interest shall have ceased to accrue in accordance with the following paragraph) at the applicable fixed rate or rates per annum specified in the relevant Final Terms as the rates of interest (each a "Rate of Interest") from the date specified in the relevant Final

Terms as the interest commencement date (the "Interest Commencement Date"). Interest will be payable in arrear on the date or dates in each year specified in the relevant Final Terms (each a "Fixed Interest Payment Date") and on the date specified in the relevant Final Terms as the date on which such Notes are to be redeemed (the "Maturity Date"). The first payment of interest will be made on the first Fixed Interest Payment Date following the Interest Commencement Date.

Interest will cease to accrue on each Fixed Rate Note on the due date for redemption thereof (or, in the case of an Instalment Note, in respect of each instalment of principal, on the due date for payment of the relevant Instalment Amount, as defined in Condition 6) unless, upon due presentation thereof or, in the case of a Registered Note, upon such due date, payment of principal is improperly withheld or refused. In such event, interest will continue to accrue (as well after as before any judgment) up to and including the date on which, in the case of a Bearer Note, upon further presentation thereof, payment in full of the principal amount due in respect of such Fixed Rate Note is made or (if earlier) the date upon which notice is duly given to the Holder of such Fixed Rate Note that sufficient funds for payment of the principal amount due in respect of it, together with accrued interest, have been received by the Principal Paying Agent or the Trustee or, in the case of a Registered Note, the date on which payment in full is made.

In respect of Fixed Rate Notes, the basis on which interest is calculated is as set out in the relevant Final Terms. If no such basis is specified, the amount of interest payable in respect of such Fixed Rate Note should be calculated by applying the Rate of Interest to the Calculation Amount (as defined in Condition 4(c)(iii) below), multiplying the product by the relevant Day Count Fraction (as defined in Condition 4(c)(iii) below) and rounding the resulting figure to the nearest applicable sub-unit of the currency in which such Note is denominated or, as the case may be, in which such interest is payable (one half of any sub-unit being rounded upwards).

4. INTEREST ON FLOATING RATE NOTES

(a) *Accrual of Interest*

Notes bearing interest at a floating rate (each a "Floating Rate Note") bear interest on the principal amount (or, in the case of Partly Paid Notes, the principal amount paid up in respect thereof) of each Note as at its date of issue (less, in the case of any Instalment Note, any principal amount on which interest shall have ceased to accrue in accordance with the following paragraph) from the Interest Commencement Date specified in the relevant Final Terms.

Interest will cease to accrue on each Floating Rate Note on the due date for redemption thereof (or, in the case of an Instalment Note, in respect of each instalment of principal, on the due date for payment of the relevant Instalment Amount) unless, upon due presentation thereof or, in the case of a Registered Note, upon such due date, payment of principal is improperly withheld or refused. In such event, interest will continue to accrue (as well after as before any judgment) up to and including the date on which, in the case of a Bearer Note, upon further presentation thereof, payment in full of the principal amount due in respect of such Note is made or (if earlier) the date upon which notice is duly given to the Holder of such Note that sufficient funds for payment of the principal amount due in respect of it, together with accrued interest, have been received by the Principal Paying Agent or the Trustee or, in the case of a Registered Note, the date on which payment in full is made.

In respect of Floating Rate Notes, the basis on which interest is calculated is as set out in the relevant Final Terms.

(b) *Interest Payment Dates and Interest Periods*

Interest on each Floating Rate Note will be payable in arrear on such dates as are specified in the relevant Final Terms for such purpose and on the due date for redemption of such Note (each, an "Interest Payment Date") provided that, unless otherwise set out in the relevant Final Terms, if any Interest Payment Date would otherwise fall on a day which is not a Business Day, it shall be postponed to the next Business Day unless it would thereby fall in the next calendar month, in which event the Interest Payment Date shall be the immediately preceding Business Day. The first payment of interest will be made on the first Interest Payment Date following the Interest Commencement Date.

The period from (and including) the Interest Commencement Date up to (but excluding) the first Interest Payment Date and each period thereafter from (and including) an Interest Payment Date to (but excluding) the next Interest Payment Date is referred to herein as an "Interest Period" and the expression "Business Day", as used in this Condition 4(b), shall mean a day on which commercial banks and foreign exchange markets settle payments and are open for general business (including dealings in foreign exchange and foreign currency deposits) in the place(s) specified for this purpose in the relevant Final Terms.

(c) *Rate of Interest*

The rate at which Floating Rate Notes will bear interest (the "Rate of Interest") shall be determined by the Agent Bank on the basis of the following provisions:

- (i) the Rate of Interest in respect of an Interest Period shall, subject as provided below, be the Relevant Rate of the Benchmark (where such Relevant Rate is a composite quotation or interest rate per annum or is customarily supplied by one entity) or the arithmetic mean rounded upwards, if necessary, to the nearest 0.00001 per cent of the Relevant Rates of the Benchmark for the Interest Period which appear on the appropriate page of the Reuters Screen (as defined below) or such other information vending service as may be set out in the relevant Final Terms as at 11.00 a.m. (London time) or such other time as may be specified in the relevant Final Terms on the Interest Determination Date (as defined below) plus or minus (as appropriate) the percentage rate per annum (if any) over or under the Relevant Rate or, as the case may be, arithmetic mean of the Relevant Rates of the Benchmark by which the Rate of Interest is to be determined as set out in the relevant Final Terms (the "Margin"), all as determined by the Agent Bank;
- (ii) if the Reuters Screen or such other information vending service as may be set out in the relevant Final Terms does not contain an appropriate page in respect of the specified currency, or if fewer than two of the Relevant Rates appear at such time (other than where such Relevant Rate is a composite quotation or rate or is customarily supplied by one entity), or if the rates which appear as at such time do not apply to a period of a duration equal to the relevant Interest Period, the Rate of Interest for such Interest Period shall be calculated as set out in the relevant Final Terms (the "Fallback Rate");
- (iii) for the purposes of this Condition 4(c), Condition 4(d) below and Condition 3 above only:
 - (a) the "Benchmark" means LIBOR or such other benchmark as may be set out in the relevant Final Terms;
 - (b) "Calculation Amount" means the calculation amount as set out in the relevant Final Terms;
 - (c) "Day Count Fraction" means, in respect of the calculation of an amount for any period of time (the "Calculation Period"), such day count fraction as may be specified in the relevant Final Terms and:
 - (1) if "1/1" is specified, 1;
 - (2) if "Actual/Actual (ICMA)" is so specified, means a fraction equal to "number of days accrued/number of days in year", as such terms are used in Rule 251 of the statutes, by-laws, rules and recommendations of the International Capital Market Association (the "ICMA Rule Book"), calculated in accordance with Rule 251 of the ICMA Rule Book as applied to non US dollar denominated straight and convertible bonds issued after December 31, 1998, as though the interest coupon on a bond were being calculated for a coupon period corresponding to the Calculation Period or Compounding Period in respect of which payment is being made;
 - (3) if "Actual/Actual" or "Actual/Actual(ISDA)" is so specified, means the actual number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 365 (or, if any portion of the Calculation Period falls in a leap year, the sum of (i) the actual number of days in that portion of the Calculation Period falling in a leap year divided by 366 and (ii) the actual number of days in that portion of the Calculation Period falling in a non-leap year divided by 365);
 - (4) if "Actual/365 (Fixed)" is so specified, means the actual number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 365;

- (5) if "Actual/360" is so specified, means the actual number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 360;
- (6) if "30/360", "360/360" or "Bond Basis" is specified, the number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 360, calculated on a formula basis as follows:

$$\text{Day Count Fraction} = \frac{[360 \times (Y_2 - Y_1)] + [30 \times (M_2 - M_1)] + (D_2 - D_1)}{360}$$

where:

"Y₁" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"Y₂" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

"M₁" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"M₂" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

"D₁" is the first calendar day, expressed as a number, of the Calculation Period, unless such number would be 31, in which case D₁ will be 30; and

"D₂" is the calendar day, expressed as a number, immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period, unless such number would be 31 and D₁ is greater than 29, in which case D₂ will be 30;

- (7) if "30E/360" or "Eurobond Basis" is specified, the number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 360, calculated on a formula basis as follow:

$$\text{Day Count Fraction} = \frac{[360 \times (Y_2 - Y_1)] + [30 \times (M_2 - M_1)] + (D_2 - D_1)}{360}$$

where:

"Y₁" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"Y₂" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

"M₁" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"M₂" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

"D₁" is the first calendar day, expressed as a number, of the Calculation Period, unless such number would be 31, in which case D₁ will be 30; and

"D₂" is the calendar day, expressed as a number, immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period, unless such number would be 31, in which case D₂ will be 30; and

- (8) if "30E/360(ISDA)" is specified, the number of days in the Calculation Period divided by 360, calculated on a formula basis as follows:

$$\text{Day Count Fraction} = \frac{[360 \times (Y_2 - Y_1)] + [30 \times (M_2 - M_1)] + (D_2 - D_1)}{360}$$

where:

"Y₁" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"Y₂" is the year, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

"M₁" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the first day of the Calculation Period falls;

"M₂" is the calendar month, expressed as a number, in which the day immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period falls;

"D₁" is the first calendar day, expressed as a number, of the Calculation Period, unless (i) that day is the last day of February or (ii) such number would be 31, in which case D₁ will be 30; and

"D₂" is the calendar day, expressed as a number, immediately following the last day included in the Calculation Period, unless (i) that day is the last day of February but not the Determination Date or (ii) such number would be 31, in which case D₂ will be 30; and

(d) "Relevant Rate" means:

- (A) an offered rate in the case of a Note the Benchmark for which relates to an offered rate; or
- (B) a bid rate in the case of a Note the Benchmark for which relates to a bid rate; or
- (C) the mean of an offered and bid rate in the case of a Note the Benchmark for which relates to the mean of an offered and bid rate,

as set out in the relevant Final Terms;

(e) the expression "Interest Determination Date" means the day determined by the Agent Bank to be customary for fixing the Benchmark rate applicable to deposits in the relevant currency for the relevant Interest Period; and

(f) the expression "the appropriate page of the Reuters Screen" means such page, whatever its designation, on which the Benchmark rates for deposits in the relevant currency of prime banks are for the time being displayed on the Reuters Monitor Money Rates Services.

(d) *Determination of Rate of Interest and Calculation of Interest Amount*

The Agent Bank will, as soon as practicable after 11.00 a.m. (London time) or such other time as may be set out in the relevant Final Terms on each Interest Determination Date, determine the Rate of Interest and calculate the amount of interest payable in respect of each denomination of the relevant Floating Rate Notes (the "Interest Amount") for the relevant Interest Period.

The Interest Amount will be calculated by applying the Rate of Interest for such Interest Period to the Calculation Amount, multiplying the product by the Day Count Fraction and rounding the resulting figure to the nearest applicable sub-unit of the currency in which such Note is denominated or, as the case may be, in which such interest is payable (one half of any such sub-unit being rounded upwards).

(e) *Notification of Rate of Interest and Interest Amount*

The Agent Bank will cause the Rate of Interest, the Interest Amount for each Interest Period and the relevant Interest Payment Date to be notified to the Issuer, the Principal Paying Agent, (in the case of Listed Notes) each listing authority, stock exchange and/or quotation system (if any) by which such Notes have for the time being been admitted to listing, trading and/or quotation and, for as long as such Notes are represented by Global Notes, Euroclear and/or Clearstream, Luxembourg and/or such other clearing system or depository as may be set out in the relevant Final Terms as soon as possible after the determination thereof but in any event no later than the fourth business day thereafter. In respect of Floating Rate Notes which are Definitive Notes, the Agent Bank will give notice to the Noteholders of the Rate of Interest, the Interest Amount and the relevant Interest Payment Date in accordance with the provisions of Condition 14. The Interest Amount and the Interest Payment Date so notified in respect of any Notes may subsequently be amended (or appropriate alternative arrangements made by way of adjustment) without prior notice in the event of an extension or shortening of the Interest Period. Any such amendment will be promptly notified to each stock exchange on which such Notes are for the time being listed.

(f) *Determination or Calculation by the Trustee*

If the Agent Bank does not at any time for any reason determine the Rate of Interest or calculate the Interest Amount, the Trustee shall do so and such determination or calculation shall be deemed to have been made by the Agent Bank. In doing so, the Trustee shall apply the foregoing provisions of this Condition 4, with any necessary consequential amendments, to the extent that, in its opinion, it can do so, and in all other respects it shall do so in such manner as it shall deem fair and reasonable in all the circumstances.

(g) *Certificates, etc. to be Final*

All certificates, communications, opinions, determinations, calculations, quotations and decisions given, expressed, made or obtained for the purpose of the provisions of this Condition 4 whether by the Agent Bank or the Trustee shall (in the absence of manifest error) be binding on the Issuer, the Trustee, the Paying Agents, (where appropriate) the Registrar and the Holders of Notes and of the Coupons appertaining thereto. No Holder of Notes or of the Coupons appertaining thereto shall be entitled to proceed against the Agent Bank, the Trustee, the Paying Agents, the Registrar or any of them in connection with the exercise or non-exercise by them of their powers, duties and discretions hereunder.

5. **VARIABLE COUPON AMOUNT NOTES AND ZERO COUPON NOTES**

In the case of Notes which bear interest at a variable rate or rates ("Variable Coupon Amount Notes"), the dates on which interest shall be payable and the method of calculation of the interest payable on each such date shall be as set out in the relevant Final Terms.

If any amount in respect of any Note which is non-interest bearing (a "Zero Coupon Note") is not paid when due, interest shall accrue on the overdue amount at a rate determined in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Final Terms.

6. **REDEMPTION AND PURCHASE**

(a) *Final Redemption*

Unless previously redeemed or purchased and cancelled and subject as otherwise set out in the relevant Final Terms, Notes will be redeemed at their principal amount or such other redemption amount as may be set out in or determined in accordance with the relevant Final Terms on the Maturity Date specified in the relevant Final Terms (or, in the case of Instalment Notes, in such number of instalments and in such amounts ("Instalment Amounts") as may be specified in, or determined in accordance with the provisions of, the relevant Final Terms).

(b) *Redemption for Taxation Reasons*

If the Issuer satisfies the Trustee immediately prior to the giving of the notice referred to below that:

- (i) on a subsequent date for the payment of interest on any Series of Notes the Issuer would be required to pay any additional amounts in accordance with the provisions of Condition 7; or
- (ii) if the Issuer were to seek to redeem the Notes (for which purpose no regard shall be had as to whether or not the Issuer would otherwise be entitled to redeem such Notes), the Issuer would (notwithstanding its having made such endeavours as the Trustee shall consider reasonable) be required to pay any additional amounts in accordance with the provisions of Condition 7,

the Issuer may, having given not less than 30 nor more than 45 days' notice (ending, in the case of Floating Rate Notes, on an Interest Payment Date) to the Noteholders in respect of such Series of Notes, redeem all, but not some only, of the Notes, at their principal amount or such other redemption amount as may be set out in the relevant Final Terms together with interest accrued and unpaid, if any, to the date fixed for redemption provided that no such notice of redemption shall be given earlier than 90 days (or in the case of Floating Rate Notes or Variable Coupon Amount Notes a number of days which is equal to the aggregate of the number of days in the then current Interest Period plus 60 days provided that such aggregate number of days shall not be greater than 90 days) prior to the earliest date on which the Issuer would be obliged to pay such additional amounts were a payment in respect of the Notes then due.

The Issuer may exercise such option in respect of any Note notwithstanding the prior exercise by the Holder thereof of its option to require the redemption of such Note under paragraph (d) below, if the due date for redemption under this paragraph (b) would occur prior to that under paragraph (d) but not otherwise and, in such circumstances, the exercise of the option under paragraph (d) shall be rendered ineffective.

Subject only to the obligation of the Issuer to use such endeavours as aforesaid, it shall be sufficient, to establish the circumstances required to be established pursuant to this Condition 6(b), if the Issuer shall deliver to the Trustee a certificate of an independent legal adviser or accountant satisfactory to the Trustee to the effect either that such circumstances do exist or that, upon a change in or amendment to the laws (including any regulations pursuant thereto), or in the interpretation or administration thereof, of Jersey or the United Arab Emirates (as the case may be), which at the date of such certificate is proposed and in the opinion of such legal adviser or accountant is reasonably expected to become effective on or prior to the date on which the relevant payment of principal or interest in respect of the Notes would otherwise be made, becoming so effective, such circumstances would exist.

(c) *Redemption at the Option of the Issuer*

Where so set out in the relevant Final Terms, Notes shall be redeemable at the option of the Issuer. In such case, the Issuer may at any time (in the case of Fixed Rate Notes or Zero Coupon Notes), on any Interest Payment Date (in the case of Floating Rate Notes or Variable Coupon Amount Notes) or otherwise as set out in the relevant Final Terms, on giving (in accordance with Condition 14) not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice (or such other period as set out in the relevant Final Terms) to the Noteholders (such notice being irrevocable) specifying the date fixed for such redemption, on the date so fixed, redeem all of such Notes (or, if so specified in the relevant Final Terms and subject as therein specified, some only of the Notes) at their principal amount or such other amount as set out in the relevant Final Terms together with interest accrued thereon to the date fixed for redemption.

If the Notes of a Series are to be redeemed in part only on any date in accordance with this paragraph (c):

- in the case of Bearer Notes (other than a temporary global Note or permanent global Note), the Notes to be redeemed shall be drawn by lot in such European city as the Principal Paying Agent may specify, or identified in such other manner or in such other place as the Principal Paying Agent and the Trustee may approve and deem appropriate and fair; and
- in the case of Registered Notes, the Notes shall be redeemed (so far as may be practicable) *pro rata* to their principal amounts, provided always that the amount redeemed in respect of each Note shall be equal to the minimum denomination thereof or an appropriate multiple thereof,

subject always to compliance with all applicable laws and the requirements of each listing authority, stock exchange and/or quotation system (if any) by which the relevant Notes may have been admitted to listing, trading and/or quotation.

In the case of the redemption of part only of a Registered Note, a new Registered Note in respect of the unredeemed balance shall be issued in accordance with Condition 13 which shall apply as in the case of a transfer of Registered Notes as if such new Registered Note were in respect of the untransferred balance.

(d) *Redemption at the Option of the Noteholders*

Where so set out in the relevant Final Terms, Notes shall be redeemable at the option of the Noteholders. In such case, upon any Noteholder giving to the Issuer notice of redemption (such notice being irrevocable) the Issuer will, in accordance with the provisions set out in the relevant Final Terms, redeem in whole (but not in part) the Note(s) specified in such notice at their principal amount or such other amount as may be set out in or determined in accordance with the relevant Final Terms together with interest accrued thereon to the date fixed for redemption.

In order to give such notice, the Holder must, not less than 45 days before the date for redemption as set out in the relevant Final Terms (or such other period as may be set out in the Final Terms), deposit the relevant Note (together, in the case of an interest-bearing Definitive Note, with any unmatured Coupons appertaining thereto) with, in the case of a Bearer Note, any Paying Agent, or, in the case of a Registered Note, the Registrar or any

Transfer Agent together with a duly completed redemption notice in the form which is available from the specified office of any of the Paying Agents or, as the case may be, the Registrar or any Transfer Agent. The Holder of a Note may not exercise such option in respect of any Note which is the subject of an exercise by the Issuer of its option to redeem such Note under Condition 6(b) or (c).

(e) *Purchases*

The Issuer or any holding or subsidiary company of it or any subsidiary of any such holding company may at any time purchase Notes at any price in the open market or otherwise and may resell the same.

(f) *Cancellation*

All Notes redeemed pursuant to paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this Condition 6 shall, and all Notes purchased pursuant to paragraph (e) of this Condition 6 may, at the option of the Issuer, be cancelled forthwith (together with, in the case of Definitive Bearer Notes, all unmatured Coupons and unexchanged Talons attached thereto or surrendered therewith) by the Paying Agent through which they are redeemed or by the Principal Paying Agent to which they are surrendered. All Notes redeemed or purchased and cancelled as aforesaid may not be re-issued or resold.

(g) *Zero Coupon Notes*

Where Zero Coupon Notes are redeemed by the Issuer prior to the Maturity Date set out in the relevant Final Terms, they shall be redeemed at a redemption amount determined in accordance with the provisions set out in the relevant Final Terms.

(h) *Other Redemption Provisions*

The relevant Final Terms may provide for other circumstances in which Notes may or shall be redeemed, the amount payable on such redemption in respect of principal only, principal and interest or interest only and whether or not Notes so redeemed shall or may be cancelled pursuant to paragraph (f) of this Condition 6.

7. **TAXATION**

Except as otherwise set out in the relevant Final Terms, all payments by the Issuer of principal and interest in respect of the Notes will be made without withholding or deduction for or on account of any taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature, present or future, as are imposed or levied by or on behalf of Jersey or the United Arab Emirates (or any authority or political subdivision therein or thereof having power to tax) unless the Issuer is required by law to withhold or deduct any such taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges.

- In that event, the Issuer will pay such additional amounts as may be necessary in order that the net amounts received by the Noteholders or Couponholders, as the case may be, after such withholding or deduction shall equal the respective amounts of principal and interest which would have been received in respect of the Notes and/or, as the case may be, Coupons in the absence of such withholding or deduction; except that no such additional amounts shall be payable with respect to any Note or Coupon:

- (a) to, or to a third party on behalf of, a Holder of a Note or Coupon who is liable to such taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges in respect of such Note or Coupon by reason of his having some connection with Jersey or the United Arab Emirates other than the mere holding of such Note or Coupon; or
- (b) unless it is proved, in the case of Bearer Notes, to the satisfaction of the Principal Paying Agent or the Paying Agent to whom the same is presented, or, in the case of Registered Notes, to the satisfaction of the Registrar, that the Holder is unable to avoid such withholding or deduction by satisfying any statutory requirement or by making a declaration of non-residence or other similar claim for exemption to a Paying Agent or the relevant tax authorities (as applicable) or by notifying (and/or presenting evidence of such notification) any tax authorities of such payment of principal or interest or by presenting the relevant Note or Coupon at the specified office of another Paying Agent (whether within or outside the European Union); or

- (c) more than 30 days after the Relevant Date (defined below) except, in the case of Bearer Notes, to the extent that the Holder thereof would have been entitled to such additional amounts on presenting the same for payment on the last day of such period of 30 days; or
- (d) in the case of Registered Notes, unless the Holder, immediately upon becoming the Holder, is otherwise entitled to a complete exemption from withholding taxes on payments under the Notes; or
- (e) to, or to a third party on behalf of, a Holder who is not the sole beneficial owner of the Note or any Coupon, or a portion of either, or that is a fiduciary or partnership, but only to the extent that a beneficiary or settlor with respect to the fiduciary, a beneficial owner or member of the partnership would not have been entitled to the payment of an additional amount had the beneficiary, settlor, beneficial owner or member received directly its beneficial or distributive share of the payment; or
- (f) where such withholding or deduction is imposed on a payment to an individual and is required to be made pursuant to European Council Directive 2003/48/EC or any other Directive implementing the conclusions of the ECOFIN Council meeting of 26th - 27th November 2000 on the taxation of savings income or any law implementing or complying with, or introduced in order to conform to, such Directive.

As used herein the "Relevant Date" means the date on which such payment first becomes due but, in the case of Bearer Notes, if the full amount of the money payable has not been received by the Principal Paying Agent or the Trustee on or prior to such due date, it means the date on which, the full amount of such money having been so received, notice to that effect shall have been duly given to the relevant Noteholders in accordance with Condition 14.

Any reference in these Conditions to principal or interest or both in respect of the relevant Notes shall be deemed to include, as applicable:

- (i) any additional amounts which may be payable under this Condition 7 or pursuant to any undertakings given in addition thereto or in substitution therefor pursuant to the Trust Deed;
- (ii) the principal amount payable on the relevant Notes on the Maturity Date specified in the relevant Final Terms;
- (iii) the principal amount payable on redemption of the relevant Notes prior to such Maturity Date; and
- (iv) any premium and any other amounts which may be payable under or in respect of the relevant Notes.

8. PAYMENTS

(a) *Bearer Notes*

Payments of principal and interest (if any) in respect of Bearer Notes will (subject as provided below) be made against presentation and (save in the case of partial payment or payment of an Instalment Amount (other than the final Instalment Amount)) surrender of the relevant Note or, in the case of payments of interest, surrender of the relevant Coupon at the specified office of any Paying Agent outside the United States (subject to the next paragraph).

Payments of amounts due in respect of interest on Bearer Notes and exchanges of Talons for Coupon sheets will not be made at the specified office of any Paying Agent in the United States (as defined in the United States Internal Revenue Code and Regulations thereunder) unless (a) payment in full of amounts due in respect of interest on such Notes when due or, as the case may be, the exchange of Talons at all the specified offices of the Paying Agents outside the United States is illegal or effectively precluded by exchange controls or other similar restrictions and (b) such payment or exchange is permitted by applicable United States law, in which case the Issuer shall forthwith appoint a further Paying Agent with a specified office in New York City.

If the due date for payment of any amount due in respect of any Bearer Note is not both a Relevant Financial Centre Day and a Local Banking Day (each as defined below), then the Holder thereof will not be entitled to payment thereof until the next day which is such a day and no further payment on account of interest or otherwise shall be due in respect of such

postponed payment unless there is a subsequent failure to pay in accordance with these Conditions in which event interest shall continue to accrue as provided in Condition 3, 4 or 5, as appropriate.

Payment of Instalment Amounts (other than the final Instalment Amount) in respect of an Instalment Note which is a Definitive Note with Receipts will be made against presentation of the Note together with the relevant Receipt and surrender of such Receipt.

The Receipts are not and shall not in any circumstances be deemed to be documents of title and if separated from the Note to which they appertain will not represent any obligation of the Issuer. Accordingly, the presentation of a Note without the relative Receipt or the presentation of a Receipt without the Note to which it appertains shall not entitle the Holder to any payment in respect of the relevant Instalment Amount.

Upon the due date for redemption of any Definitive Bearer Note other than a Fixed Rate Note all unmatured Coupons and Talons (if any) relating to such Definitive Bearer Note (whether or not attached) shall become void and no payment shall be made in respect of them. Definitive Bearer Notes which are Fixed Rate Notes should be presented for payment with all unmatured Coupons appertaining thereto, failing which the face value of any missing unmatured Coupon (or, in the case of payment not being made in full, that portion of the amount of such missing unmatured Coupon which the sum of principal so paid bears to the total amount of principal due) will be deducted from the sum due for payment. Any amount of principal so deducted will be paid in the manner mentioned above against surrender of the relevant missing Coupon within a period of ten years from the Relevant Date (as defined in Condition 7) for the payment of such principal, whether or not such Coupon has become void pursuant to Condition 11 or, if later, five years from the date on which such Coupon would have become due.

Notwithstanding the above, if any Definitive Bearer Notes should be issued with a Maturity Date and an interest rate or rates such that, on the presentation for payment of any such Definitive Bearer Note without any unmatured Coupons attached thereto or surrendered therewith, the amount required to be deducted would be greater than the amount otherwise due for payment, then, upon the due date for redemption, such unmatured Coupons (whether or not attached) shall become void (and no payment shall be made in respect thereof) as shall be required so that the amount required to be deducted would not be greater than the amount otherwise due for payment. Where the application of the foregoing sentence requires some but not all of the unmatured Coupons relating to a Definitive Bearer Note to become void, the relevant Paying Agent shall determine which unmatured Coupons are to become void, and shall select for such purpose Coupons maturing on later dates in preference to Coupons maturing on earlier dates. Upon any Definitive Bearer Notes becoming due and repayable prior to their Maturity Date, all unmatured Talons (if any) appertaining thereto will become void and no further Coupons will be issued in respect thereof.

In relation to Definitive Bearer Notes initially delivered with Talons attached thereto, on or after the due date for the payment of interest on which the final Coupon comprised in any Coupon sheet matures, the Talon comprised in the Coupon sheet may be surrendered at the specified office of any Paying Agent outside the United States (save as provided above) in exchange for a further Coupon sheet (including any appropriate further Talon), subject to the provisions of Condition 11. Each Talon shall, for the purpose of these Conditions, be deemed to mature on the due date for the payment of interest on which the final Coupon comprised in the relative Coupon sheet matures.

If (otherwise than by reason of the application of the above) the due date for redemption of any Definitive Bearer Note is not the due date for the payment of a Coupon appertaining thereto, interest accrued in respect of such Note from (and including) the last preceding due date for the payment of a Coupon (or from the Issue Date or the Interest Commencement Date, as the case may be) will be paid only against surrender of such Bearer Note and all unmatured Coupons appertaining thereto.

(b) *Registered Notes*

Payment of the amount due on final redemption (the "Redemption Amount") in respect of Registered Notes will be made against presentation and, save in the case of partial payment of the Redemption Amount, surrender of the relevant Registered Notes at the specified office of the Registrar. If the due date for payment of the Redemption Amount of any Registered Note is not both a Relevant Financial Centre Day and a Local Banking Day (each as defined below),

then the Holder thereof will not be entitled to payment thereof until the next day which is such a day and no further payment on account of interest or otherwise shall be due in respect of such postponed payment unless there is a subsequent failure to pay in accordance with these Conditions in which event interest shall continue to accrue as provided in Condition 3, 4 or 5, as appropriate.

Payment of amounts (whether principal, interest or otherwise) due (other than the Redemption Amount) in respect of Registered Notes will be paid to the Holder thereof (or, in the case of joint Holders, the first-named) as appearing in the register kept by the Registrar at the close of business (local time in the place of the specified office of the Registrar) on the fifteenth day prior to the due date for such payment (the "Record Date").

Payment will be made in the currency in which such amount is due either by cheque posted to the Noteholder's registered address (or, in the case of joint Holders, the first-named) not later than the relevant due date for payment unless prior to the relevant Record Date the Holder thereof (or, in the case of joint Holders, the first named) has applied to the Registrar and the Registrar has acknowledged such application for payment to be made to a designated account denominated in the relevant currency, in each case as specified in paragraph 8(c) below.

(c) *General Provisions*

The following provisions apply to both Bearer Notes and Registered Notes. Payments of amounts due (whether principal, interest or otherwise) in respect of Notes will be made in the currency in which such amount is due either (a) by cheque, or (b) at the option of the payee, by transfer to an account denominated in the relevant currency specified by the payee.

Payments of principal, interest and other amounts (if any) in respect of Notes are subject in all cases to any fiscal or other laws and regulations applicable in the place of payment but without prejudice to the provisions of Condition 7.

For the purposes of these Conditions:

- (i) "Relevant Financial Centre Day" means a day on which commercial banks and foreign exchange markets settle payments and are open for general business (including dealings in foreign exchange and foreign currency deposits) in the principal financial centre or centres for the currency in which payment falls to be made (or, in the case of payments which fall to be made in euro, a Euro Business Day or, where such currency is a National Currency Unit (as defined in Condition 9) and the Notes have been redenominated into euro pursuant to Condition 9, the former principal financial centre or centres) and in any other place set out in the Final Terms;
- (ii) "Local Banking Day" means a day (other than a Saturday or Sunday) on which commercial banks are open for general business (including dealings in foreign exchange and foreign currency deposits) in the city in which the Paying Agent to which the relevant Note or Coupon is presented for payment, or the Registrar is located; and
- (iii) "ISDA Definitions" means the 2000 ISDA Definitions (as amended and supplemented as at the date of issue of the first Tranche of the Notes of the relevant Series) as published by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. (formerly the International Swap Dealers Association, Inc.).

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Issuer reserves the right to require any person receiving payment of principal, interest and/or other sums with respect to any Note or Coupon to provide a Paying Agent with such certification or information as may be required to enable the Issuer to comply with the requirements of the United States Federal Income Tax laws or such other laws as the Issuer may be required to comply with.

9. REDENOMINATION

(a) *General*

Where redenomination is specified in the relevant Final Terms as being applicable, and in respect of Notes denominated in a National Currency Unit (as defined below) (the "Relevant Currency") the Issuer may, without the consent of the Trustee or the Noteholders, on giving at least 30 days' prior notice to the Noteholders in accordance with Condition 14, designate a Redenomination Date in respect of such Notes.

With effect from the Redenomination Date:

- (i) each Note shall (unless already so provided by mandatory provisions of applicable law) be deemed to be redenominated into an amount of euro in the denomination of euro 0.01 with a principal amount for each Note equal to the principal amount of that Note in the Relevant Currency converted into euro at the rate for the conversion of the Relevant Currency into euro established by the Council of the European Union pursuant to the Treaty (including compliance with rules relating to roundings in accordance with EC regulations); Provided, however, that, if the Issuer determines, with the prior approval of the Trustee, that the market practice in respect of the redenomination into euro 0.01 of internationally offered securities is different from that specified above, such provisions shall be deemed to be amended so as to comply with such market practice and the Issuer shall promptly notify the Noteholders, each listing authority, stock exchange and/or quotation system (if any) by which the Notes have then been admitted to listing, trading and/or quotation and the Paying Agents of such deemed amendments;
- (ii) if Notes are in definitive form:
 - (A) all unmatured Coupons denominated in the Relevant Currency (whether or not attached to the Notes) will become void with effect from the date (the "Euro Exchange Date") on which the Issuer gives notice (the "Euro Exchange Notice") to the Noteholders that replacement Notes and Coupons denominated in euro are available for exchange (provided that such Notes and Coupons are available) and no payments will be made in respect thereof;
 - (B) the payment obligations contained in all Notes denominated in the Relevant Currency will become void on the Euro Exchange Date but all other obligations of the Issuer thereunder (including the obligation to exchange such Notes in accordance with this Condition 9(a)(ii)) shall remain in full force and effect; and
 - (C) new Notes and Coupons denominated in euro will be issued in exchange for Notes and Coupons denominated in the Relevant Currency in such manner as the Principal Paying Agent may specify and as shall be notified to the Noteholders in the Euro Exchange Notice;
- (iii) all payments in respect of the Notes (other than, unless the Redenomination Date is on or after such date as the Relevant Currency ceases to be a sub-division of the euro, payments of interest in respect of periods commencing before the Redenomination Date) will be made solely in euro, as though references in the Notes to the Relevant Currency were to euro. Such payments will be made in euro by credit or transfer to a euro account (or any other account to which euro may be credited or transferred) maintained by the payee with a bank in the principal financial centre of any member state of the European Communities; and
- (iv) such other changes will be made to the Programme as the Issuer may decide, with the prior written approval of the Trustee, to conform such Notes to conventions then applicable to instruments denominated in euro. Any such other changes will not take effect until after they have been notified to the Noteholders in accordance with Condition 14.

None of the Issuer, the Trustee, or any Paying Agent will be liable to any Noteholder or other person for any commissions, costs, losses or expenses in relation to or resulting from any credit or transfer of euro or any currency conversion or rounding effected in connection therewith.

(b) *Interest*

Following redenomination of the Notes pursuant to Condition 9(a) above:

- (i) where Notes are in definitive form, the amount of interest due in respect of the Notes will be calculated by reference to the aggregate principal amount of the Notes presented (or, as the case may be, in respect of which Coupons are presented) for payment by the relevant holder and the amount of such payment shall be rounded down to the nearest euro 0.01;
- (ii) in respect of Fixed Rate Notes where interest is payable annually, any interest required to be calculated for a period of less than one year in respect of the Notes shall be calculated on the basis of the actual number of days elapsed from (and including) the most recent Fixed Interest Payment Date (or, the Interest Commencement Date) to (but excluding) the relevant payment date (the "Accrual Period"), divided by the actual number of days in the Fixed Interest Period in which such Accrual Period falls; Provided, however, that, if the

Issuer determines, with the prior agreement of the Trustee, that the market practice in respect of internationally offered euro denominated securities is different from that specified above, the above shall be deemed to be amended so as to comply with such market practice and the Issuer shall promptly notify the Noteholders, each stock exchange (if any) on which the Notes are then listed and the Paying Agents of such deemed amendment;

- (iii) in respect of Fixed Rate Notes where interest is payable quarterly or semi-annually, the amount of interest payable in respect of each Note on any Fixed Interest Payment Date shall be calculated by applying the Rate of Interest to the principal amount of such Note, dividing the product by four or two (as the case may be) and rounding the figure down to the nearest euro 0.01. If interest is required to be calculated for any other period, it shall be calculated on the basis of the actual number of days elapsed from (and including) the most recent Fixed Interest Payment Date (or, the Interest Commencement Date) to (but excluding) the relevant payment date (the "Accrual Period"), divided by the actual number of days in the Fixed Interest Period in which such Accrual Period falls; Provided, however, that, if the Issuer determines, with the prior agreement of the Trustee, that the market practice in respect of such internationally offered euro denominated securities is different from that specified above, the above shall be deemed to be amended so as to comply with such market practice and the Issuer shall promptly notify the Noteholders, each listing authority, stock exchange and/or quotation system (if any) by which the Notes have then been admitted to listing, trading and/or quotation and the Paying Agents of such deemed amendment;
- (iv) in respect of Floating Rate Notes, the Interest Amount payable in respect of the Notes for each Interest Period will be calculated by applying the Rate of Interest for such Interest Period to the principal amount of such Note multiplying the product by the actual number of days in such Interest Period divided by 360 and rounding the resulting figure down to the nearest euro 0.01; and
- (v) in respect of Floating Rate Notes, the Rate of Interest for any subsequent Interest Period shall be determined by the Agent Bank on the basis of provisions which it determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, reflect the market practice in respect of such internationally offered euro denominated securities.

(c) *Definitions*

As used in these Conditions:

"euro" and "EUR" means the lawful currency of the member states of the European Union that have adopted or adopt the single currency in accordance with the Treaty;

"Euro Business Day" means a day on which the Trans-European Automated Real-Time Gross Settlement Express Transfer (TARGET) System is open;

"Fixed Interest Period" means the period from (and including) a Fixed Interest Payment Date (as defined in the relevant Final Terms) to (but excluding) the next succeeding Fixed Interest Payment Date;

"National Currency Unit" means the national currency unit of any Participating Member State that becomes a denomination of the euro by reason of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1103/97, Council Regulation (EC) No. 974/98 or any other applicable laws;

"Participating Member State" means any member state of the European Union that has adopted or adopts the single currency in accordance with the Treaty;

"Redenomination Date" means a date which:

- (i) in relation to interest-bearing Notes, shall be a date on which interest in respect of such Notes is payable;
- (ii) is specified by the Issuer in the notice given to the Noteholders pursuant to Condition 9(a);
- (iii) falls on or after such date as the country of the Relevant Currency becomes a Participating Member State; and

"Treaty" means the Treaty establishing the European Community, as amended.

10. ENFORCEMENT

- (a) In the case of any Series of Notes other than Subordinated Notes, if default is made for a period of 14 days or more in the repayment of any principal due on the Notes of such Series or any of them or in the payment of any interest due in respect of the Notes of such Series or any of them, then the Trustee may at its discretion, and if so requested by the Holders of at least one-fifth in principal amount of such Notes then outstanding or if so directed by an Extraordinary Resolution of the Holders of such Notes (subject in each case to being indemnified to its satisfaction) shall, give written notice to the Issuer that the Notes of such Series are immediately due and repayable, whereupon the principal amount of such Notes or such other amount as set out in the relevant Final Terms shall become immediately due and repayable together with interest accrued to (but excluding) the date of actual repayment;

Provided that it shall not be such a default to withhold or refuse any such payment (1) in order to comply with any fiscal or other law or regulation or with the order of any court of competent jurisdiction, in each case applicable to such payment or (2) in cases of doubt as to the validity or applicability of any such law, regulation or order, in accordance with advice given at any time during the said period of 14 days by independent legal advisers acceptable to the Trustee as to such validity or applicability.

- (b) In the case of any Series of Subordinated Notes:

- (i) if default is made for a period of 7 days or more in the repayment of any principal due on the Notes of such Series or any of them or for a period of 14 days or more in the payment of any interest due in respect of the Notes of such Series or any of them, then the Trustee may, in order to enforce payment, at its discretion and without further notice, in the case of a Series of Subordinated Notes, institute proceedings for the declaration of the property of the Issuer "en désastre" in Jersey,

Provided that it shall not be such a default to withhold or refuse any such payment (1) in order to comply with any fiscal or other law or regulation or with the order of any court of competent jurisdiction, in each case applicable to such payment or (2) in cases of doubt as to the validity or applicability of any such law, regulation or order, in accordance with advice given at any time during the said period of 7 or 14 days, as the case may be, by independent legal advisers acceptable to the Trustee as to such validity or applicability;

- (ii) the Trustee may at its discretion and without further notice institute such proceedings against the Issuer as it may think fit and may, subject as hereinafter provided, institute proceedings for the declaration of the property of the Issuer "en désastre" in Jersey to enforce any obligation, condition or provision binding on the Issuer under the Trust Deed in relation to such Series of Subordinated Notes or under such Notes or the Coupons appertaining thereto (other than any obligation for the payment of any principal or interest in respect of such Notes or Coupons or any other payment obligation in respect thereof) provided that the Issuer shall not by virtue of the institution of any such proceedings other than proceedings for the declaration of the property of the Issuer "en désastre" be obliged to pay any sum or sums (whether in respect of principal or interest or other sums in respect of the relevant Notes or the Coupons appertaining thereto or by way of damages in respect of any breach of any such obligation, condition or provision or otherwise howsoever). The Trustee may only institute proceedings for the declaration of the property of the Issuer "en désastre" to enforce the obligations above referred to in this paragraph if a default by the Issuer thereunder is not remedied to the satisfaction of the Trustee within 60 days (or such longer period as the Trustee may permit) after notice of such default has been given to the Issuer by the Trustee requiring such default to be remedied.

NB: The restriction on the payment of damages would have the effect of limiting the remedies available to the Trustee in the event of a breach of certain covenants by the Issuer.

- (c) In the case of any Series of Notes, in the event of an order being made or an effective resolution being passed for the winding up of the Issuer in Jersey or the declaration of the property of the Issuer "en désastre" in Jersey (otherwise than in connection with a scheme of reconstruction or amalgamation the terms of which shall previously have been approved in writing by the Trustee or by an Extraordinary Resolution of the Holders of the relevant Series of Notes) the Trustee may declare the Notes of the relevant Series to be due and redeemable immediately (and such Notes shall thereby become so due and redeemable) at their principal

amount together with accrued interest as provided in the Trust Deed and the relevant Final Terms or at such other amount, or at such amount calculated in accordance with such other formula, as is set out in the relevant Final Terms.

- (d) The Trustee shall not in any event be bound to take any of the actions referred to in Condition 10(b)(i) or (ii) or Condition 10(c) above in respect of any Series of Notes unless (i) it shall have been so requested in writing by the Holders of at least one-fifth of the principal amount of the Notes of the relevant Series then outstanding or it shall have been so directed by an Extraordinary Resolution of the Holders of the Notes of the relevant Series and (ii) it shall have been indemnified to its satisfaction.
- (e) No remedy against the Issuer other than as specifically provided by this Condition 10 or the Trust Deed shall be available to the Trustee, the Noteholders or Couponholders in respect of any Series of Notes whether for the recovery of amounts owing in respect of such Notes or the Coupons appertaining thereto or under the Trust Deed or in respect of any breach by the Issuer of any obligation, condition or provision under the Trust Deed or such Notes or Coupons or otherwise, and no Noteholder or Couponholder shall be entitled to proceed directly against the Issuer unless the Trustee, having become bound to proceed, fails to do so within a reasonable period and such failure shall be continuing in which case any such Holder may, upon giving an indemnity satisfactory to the Trustee, in the name of the Trustee (but not otherwise), himself institute proceedings against the Issuer for the relevant remedy to the same extent (but not further or otherwise) that the Trustee would have been entitled to do so.

11. PRESCRIPTION

Notes and Coupons will become void unless presented for payment within a period of ten (10) years and five (5) years, respectively, from the Relevant Date (as defined in Condition 7) in respect thereof. Any monies paid by the Issuer to the Principal Paying Agent or the Trustee for the payment of the principal or interest in respect of any Notes or Coupons and remaining unclaimed when such Notes or Coupons become void will then revert to the Issuer and all liability of the Principal Paying Agent or the Trustee with respect thereto will thereupon cease.

There shall not be included in any Coupon sheet issued in exchange for a Talon any Coupon the claim for payment in respect of which would be void pursuant to this Condition 11 or Condition 8.

12. PAYING AGENTS, TRANSFER AGENTS, AGENT BANK AND REGISTRAR

The Agency Agreement contains provisions indemnifying the Principal Paying Agent, the Paying Agents and Transfer Agents (if any), the Agent Bank and the Registrar and absolving them from responsibility in connection with certain matters. The Agency Agreement may be amended by the parties thereto in relation to any Series of Notes if, in the opinion of the Issuer and the Trustee, the amendment will not materially adversely affect the interests of the relevant Holders.

The Issuer reserves the right at any time to vary or terminate the appointment of the Principal Paying Agent, any Paying Agent or Transfer Agent, the Agent Bank or the Registrar and to appoint additional or other Paying Agents and/or Transfer Agents or a substitute Agent Bank or a substitute Registrar, provided that it will, so long as any Notes are outstanding, maintain (i) an Agent Bank, (ii) a Paying Agent which for so long as any Notes are admitted to listing on the Official List of the UK Listing Authority and to trading on the London Stock Exchange and so required by the UK Listing Authority shall be in London, (iii) in the case of any Registered Notes, a Registrar with a specified office in England or such City as may be specified in the relevant Final Terms and (iv) if European Council Directive 2003/48/EC or any other directive implementing the conclusions of the ECOFIN Council meeting of 26-27 November 2000 on the taxation of savings income or any law implementing or complying with, or introduced in order to conform to such Directive is introduced, then, unless there is a paying agent in an EU Member State that is not obliged to withhold or deduct tax pursuant to such directive or law, there will at all times be a Paying Agent with a specified office outside the European Union. Notice of all changes in the identities or specified offices of any Paying Agent, Agent Bank or Registrar will be given by the Issuer to Noteholders in accordance with Condition 14.

13. REPLACEMENT, EXCHANGE AND TRANSFER

Should any Note or Coupon be lost, stolen, mutilated, defaced or destroyed it may be replaced at the specified office (in the case of a Bearer Note or Coupon) of the Principal Paying Agent or such other Paying Agent or office as the Trustee may approve or (in the case of Registered Notes) of the Registrar upon payment by the claimant of the expenses incurred in connection therewith and on such terms as to evidence and indemnity as the Issuer may reasonably require. Mutilated or defaced Notes or Coupons must be surrendered before replacements will be issued.

Upon the terms and subject to the conditions set out in the Agency Agreement and the relevant Final Terms, a Registered Note may be exchanged for a Registered Note or Notes of equal aggregate principal amount in such different authorised denominations as may be requested by the Noteholder by surrender of such Registered Note at the specified office of the Registrar, together with a written request for the exchange.

Upon the terms and subject to the conditions set out in the Agency Agreement, a Registered Note may be transferred in whole or in part only (provided that such part is, or is an appropriate multiple of, the minimum denomination set out in the Final Terms) by the Holder or Holders surrendering the Registered Note for registration of transfer at the office of the Registrar, duly endorsed by, or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer in form satisfactory to the Issuer and the Registrar, duly executed by the Holder or Holders thereof or his or their attorney duly authorised in writing. A new Registered Note will be issued to the transferee and, in the case of a transfer of part only of a Registered Note, a new Registered Note in respect of the balance not transferred will be issued to the transferor.

If so set out in the relevant Final Terms, the Holder of Bearer Notes may exchange the same for the same aggregate principal amount of Registered Notes upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Agency Agreement. In order to exchange a Bearer Note for a Registered Note, the Holder thereof shall surrender such Bearer Note at the specified office outside the United States of the Principal Paying Agent or of the Registrar together with a written request for the exchange. Each Bearer Note so surrendered must be accompanied by all unmatured Coupons appertaining thereto other than the Coupon in respect of the next payment of interest falling due after the Exchange Date (as defined below) where the Exchange Date would, but for the provisions of this paragraph, occur between the Record Date (as defined in Condition 8(b)) for such payment of interest and the date on which such payment of interest falls due.

Each new Registered Note to be issued upon the transfer of a Registered Note or the exchange of a Bearer Note for a Registered Note will, within three Relevant Banking Days of the Transfer Date or, as the case may be, the Exchange Date be available for delivery at the specified office of the Registrar or, at the option of the Holder requesting such exchange or transfer be mailed (by uninsured post at the risk of the Holder(s) entitled thereto) to such address(es) as may be specified by such Holder. As used herein:

- (i) "Relevant Banking Day" means a day on which commercial banks are open for business (including dealings in foreign exchange and foreign currency deposits) in the place where the specified office of the Registrar is located and, in the case only of an exchange of a Bearer Note for a Registered Note where such request for exchange is made to the Principal Paying Agent, in the place where the specified office of the Principal Paying Agent is located;
- (ii) the "Exchange Date" shall be the Relevant Banking Day following the day on which the relevant Bearer Note shall have been surrendered for exchange in accordance with the foregoing provision; and
- (iii) the "Transfer Date" shall be the Relevant Banking Day following the day on which the relevant Registered Note shall have been surrendered for transfer in accordance with the foregoing provisions.

The costs and expenses of effecting any exchange or registration of transfer pursuant to the foregoing provisions, except for the expenses of delivery by other than regular mail or insurance charges that may be imposed in relation thereto, shall be borne by the Issuer.

The Registrar shall not be required to register the transfer of or exchange Registered Notes for a period of 15 days preceding the due date for any payment of principal of or interest in respect of such Notes.

14. NOTICES

- (a) All notices to the Holders of Notes or the Coupons appertaining thereto will be valid if published in one leading daily newspaper with general circulation in London (which is expected to be the Financial Times) or if such publication is not practicable, if published in a leading English language daily newspaper having general circulation in Europe. Any such notice shall be deemed to have been given on the date of such publication or, if published more than once, on the date of the first such publication (or, if required to be published in more than one newspaper, on the first date on which publication shall have been made in all the required newspapers).

Holders of any Coupons appertaining to Bearer Notes will be deemed for all purposes to have notice of the contents of any notice given to the Holders of such Bearer Notes in accordance herewith.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any notices to Holders of Registered Notes will be deemed to have been validly given if mailed to their registered addresses (as advised by the Registrar) or to that of the first named of them in the case of joint Holders.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, while the Notes of any Series are represented by a Note or Notes in global form ("Global Notes") and such Global Notes are deposited with, or with a depository for or on behalf of, Euroclear and/or Clearstream, Luxembourg and/or any other clearing system or depository, each person who has for the time being a particular principal amount of the Notes credited to his securities account in the records of Euroclear or Clearstream, Luxembourg or such other clearing system or depository shall be treated as the Holder in respect of that principal amount of the Notes for all purposes other than for the purposes of payment of principal and interest on such Notes, and in such case notices to the Holders may be given by delivery of the relevant notice to the relevant clearing system or depository and such notices shall be deemed to have been given to the Holders holding through the relevant clearing system or depository on the date of delivery to the relevant clearing system or depository.

- (b) Notices given by any Noteholder shall be in writing and given by lodging the same, together with the relative Note or Notes, with the Principal Paying Agent or other Paying Agent (if any) at its specified office.

15. MODIFICATION OF TERMS, WAIVER AND SUBSTITUTION

The Trust Deed contains provisions for convening meetings of the Holders of the Notes of any Series to consider any matter affecting their interests, including, subject to the agreement of the Issuer, the modification by Extraordinary Resolution of the terms and conditions of such Notes or the provisions of the Trust Deed with respect to such Notes except, *inter alia*, certain terms concerning the amount and currency and the postponement of the due date of payment of the Notes and the Coupons appertaining thereto or interest or other amount payable in respect thereof, the modification of which may only be effected if passed at a meeting the quorum at which is persons holding or representing not less than two thirds, or at any adjourned such meeting not less than one third, in principal amount of the Notes of such Series for the time being outstanding.

An Extraordinary Resolution passed at any meeting of the Holders of the Notes of any Series will be binding on all Holders of Notes of that Series, whether or not they are present at the meeting, and on the Holders of Coupons appertaining to the Notes of that Series.

Subject to certain exceptions, the Trustee may agree, without the consent of the Holders of Notes of any Series or the Holders of the Coupons appertaining thereto (if any) to:

- (i) any modification of any of the provisions of the Trust Deed which, in its opinion, is of a formal, minor or technical nature or to correct a manifest error; and
- (ii) any waiver or authorisation of any breach or proposed breach of any of the provisions of the Trust Deed,

which, in either case, is not in the opinion of the Trustee materially prejudicial to the interests of the Holders of Notes of that Series. Any such modification, waiver or authorisation shall be binding on the Holders of Notes of that Series and the Holders of the Coupons appertaining thereto and, unless the Trustee agrees otherwise, shall be notified to the Holders of Notes of that Series as soon as practicable thereafter.

Subject to such amendment of the Trust Deed and such other conditions as the Trustee may require, but without the consent of the Holders of Notes of any Series or the Holders of the Coupons appertaining thereto (if any), the Trustee may also agree, subject to such Notes and the Coupons appertaining thereto being irrevocably guaranteed by the Issuer (on a subordinated basis in the case of Subordinated Notes), to the substitution of a subsidiary or holding company of the Issuer or any subsidiary of any such holding company in place of the Issuer as principal debtor under such Notes and the Coupons appertaining thereto (if any) and the Trust Deed insofar as it relates to such Notes.

In connection with the exercise of its powers, trusts, authorities or discretions (including, but not limited to those in relation to any proposed modification, waiver, authorisation, or substitution as aforesaid) the Trustee shall have regard to the interests of the Holders of the Notes of the relevant Series as a class and in particular, but without limitation, shall not have regard to the consequences of such exercise for individual Noteholders or Couponholders resulting from the individual Noteholders or Couponholders being for any purpose domiciled or resident in, or otherwise connected with, or subject to the jurisdiction of, any particular territory and the Trustee shall not be entitled to require, nor shall any Noteholder or Couponholder be entitled to claim, from the Issuer any indemnification or payment in respect of any tax consequence of any such exercise upon individual Noteholders or Couponholders.

16. FURTHER ISSUES

The Issuer shall be at liberty from time to time without the consent of the Holders of Notes of any Series or Holders of the Coupons appertaining thereto (if any) to create and issue further notes ranking equally in all respects (or in all respects save as specified in the relevant Final Terms) with the Notes of such Series so that the same shall be consolidated and form a single series with such Notes for the time being outstanding.

17. LAW AND JURISDICTION

The Trust Deed, the Notes and the Coupons (if any) and all related matters are governed by, and shall be construed in accordance with, English law. The courts of England have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any dispute arising from or connected with the Notes.

The Issuer agrees that the documents which start any proceedings and any other documents required to be served in relation to those Proceedings may be served on it by being delivered to the Group Company Secretary, HSBC Holdings plc, 8 Canada Square, London E14 5HQ or, if different, its registered office for the time being or at any address of the Issuer in Great Britain at which process may be served on it in accordance with Part XXIII of the Companies Act 1985. If such person is not or ceases to be effectively appointed to accept service of process on behalf of the Issuer, the Issuer shall, on the written demand of the Trustee addressed and delivered to the Issuer or to the Specified Office of the Principal Paying Agent appoint a further person in England to accept service of process on its behalf and, failing such appointment within 15 days, the Trustee shall be entitled to appoint such a person by written notice addressed to the Issuer and delivered to the Issuer or to the Specified Office of the Principal Paying Agent. Nothing in this paragraph shall affect the right of the Trustee to serve process in any other manner permitted by law. This Condition applies to Proceedings in England and to Proceedings elsewhere.

In the case of a substitution under Condition 15, the Trustee may agree, without the consent of the Holders of the Notes of any Series or of the Coupons appertaining thereto, to a change of the law governing the Notes of any Series or the Coupons appertaining thereto and/or the Trust Deed insofar as it relates to such Series of Notes provided that such change would not in the opinion of the Trustee be materially prejudicial to the interests of the Holders of the Notes of such Series, but the Trustee shall, in giving such agreement, have regard to the interests of the Holders of the Notes of such Series as a class and in particular, but without limitation, shall not have regard to the consequences of such change for individual Noteholders or Couponholders resulting from their being for any purpose domiciled or resident in, or otherwise connected with, or subject to the jurisdiction of, any particular territory, and the Trustee shall not be entitled to require, nor shall any Holders of the Notes of any Series or of the Coupons appertaining thereto be entitled to claim, from the Issuer any indemnification or payment in respect of any tax consequences of any such substitution upon individual Holders of the Notes of any Series or of the Coupons appertaining thereto.

18. **THIRD PARTY RIGHTS**

No person shall have any right to enforce any term or condition of the Notes or the Trust Deed under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.