

February 6, 2014

17 C.F.R. §40.2

Ms. Melissa Jurgens Secretary of the Commission Office of the Secretariat Commodity Futures Trading Commission Three Lafayette Centre 1155 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC 20581

RE: Notice of Listing under Self Certification Euro Flex Tenor Spot and Forward Starting Cash Interest Rate Swaps Cleared by CME Clearing("CME").

Dear Ms. Jurgens:

Pursuant to Section 5c(c)(1) of the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended, and Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission") Regulation 40.2, ELX Futures, L.P. ("ELX") hereby notifies the Commission of ELX's certification that ELX will list for trading its Euro Flex Tenor Spot and Forward Starting Cash Interest Rate Swaps Cleared by CME Clearing ("CME") ("EUR IRS"). ELX intends to list the EUR IRS for trading February 11, 2014.

The terms and conditions of the EUR IRS are consistent with the swaps accepted for clearing by CME Clearing ("CME"). The new contracts are being introduced to expand on the existing product list at ELX and to provide an opportunity for its customers to trade interest rate swaps on a designated contract market ("DCM").

The new contracts follow commonly accepted terms in the existing cash market with respect to contract size and listing cycle. All EUR IRS have a notional value of at least  $\notin$ 1,000,000 and may be priced in increments of  $\notin$ 1. ELX EUR IRS are cleared by CME Clearing, will be listed on the ELX electronic trading system and will be available for trading from 6PM ET Sunday to 7PM ET Friday. Trading hours are adjusted from time to time to accommodate holiday schedules.

The terms and conditions for the new contracts are contained in new rules IX-1051 and include provisions for position accountability that apply on the basis of volumetric levels. The new rule language including the terms and conditions are provided in this submission as Appendix A.

*Explanation and analysis of the Contracts' Compliance with Applicable Core Principles and Commission Regulations.* ELX has reviewed the designated contract market core principles as set forth in the Commodity Exchange Act and has determined that listing of EUR IRS complies with relevant provisions including, but not limited to the following:

- Prevention of Market Disruption, Compliance with Rules and Protection of Market Participants: Trading in the EUR IRS will be subject to all ELX Rules including ELX Rule Chapter IV Trading Standards, Chapter V Obligations of Exchange Users, and Chapter VI Business Conduct. These chapters include necessary rules and procedures to ensure the effectiveness of ELX's audit trail and compliance programs and prohibitions on market manipulation, disruptions, fraudulent acts and other abuse and disruptive practices. Activity in the EUR IRS will be subject to extensive monitoring and surveillance. The Compliance Department has the authority to exercise investigatory and enforcement power in the event that potential rule violations are identified.
- Contracts not Readily Subject to Manipulation: The new ELX contracts are not readily subject to manipulation due to the liquidity and robustness in the underlying cash markets and the ready arbitrage of such instruments.
- Availability of General Information and Daily Publication of Trading Information: ELX publishes information on the contract's specification on its website, and will provide daily trading volume and price information.
- Financial Integrity of Contracts: All contracts traded on the Exchange will be cleared by CME which is a registered derivatives clearing organization with the Commission and is subject to all Commission regulations related thereto.
- Execution of Transactions: The new contract will be listed for electronic trading on the ELX system which provides for competitive and open execution of transactions.
- Trade Information: All required trade information is included in the audit trail and is sufficient for the Compliance Department to monitor for rule violations.
- Disciplinary Procedures: Chapter VII of the ELX rulebook contains provisions that allow ELX to discipline, suspend or expel members or market participants that violate the rules. Trading in the EUR IRS will be subject to the rules in Chapter VII which give ELX the authority to enforce its rules.
- Dispute Resolution: Disputes with respect to trading in this contract will be subject to the arbitration provisions set forth in Chapter VIII of the ELX rulebook.

ELX Futures has received no opposing views regarding introduction of the EUR IRS.

ELX hereby certifies to the CFTC, that the EUR IRS contracts comply with the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended, and the regulations promulgated thereunder and that a notice of the filing of this submission and a public copy of this submission has been posted on ELX's website.

Finally, please note that ELX made a submission under Commission Rule 38.8 with its first certification of a swap contract on September 30, 2013.

If you have any questions on this matter, please call me at (212) 610-3639.

Sincerely,

Richard Jaycobs Chief Executive Officer ELX Futures, L.P.

## IX-1051 Euro Flex Tenor Spot and Forward Starting Cash Interest Rate Swaps Cleared at CME Clearing ("CME")

(a) <u>Scope of Chapter.</u>

(i) <u>Contract. This section is limited in application solely to</u> trading in USD Interest Rate Swaps Cleared by CME. The procedures for any matter not specifically discussed herein shall be governed by the Rules of the Exchange.

(ii) <u>Application of Rules</u>. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary therein, the Rules of the Exchange that apply to futures and options on futures contracts in Chapters 1 through-X of these Rules (except for Rules IX-100 to IX-1001) shall apply to the EUR Interest Rate Swaps Cleared by CME; and that for purposes of this section IX-1051 the term "Contract" shall include within its meaning Swaps.

(iii) <u>Rules Relating Specifically to EUR Interest Rate</u> <u>Swaps For purposes of this section.</u>

- (A) Rule X-5 shall not apply where the relevant Clearinghouse rules or procedures provide for a procedure that is other than provided for in Rule X-5
- (B) In no event shall an action taken by or on behalf of the Exchange under Rule IV-10(a) with respect to a swap the terms and conditions of which are specified in this section, result in such swap being cancelled or otherwise deemed void ab initio until after receipt of a clearing rejection notice from the relevant Clearinghouse.
- (C) Notwithstanding anything else in Rule IV-15, the transfer of positions in respect of a swap the terms and conditions of which are specified in this section that has been accepted for clearing by a Clearinghouse shall be governed by the rules, procedures and practices of such Clearinghouse which shall, for such purpose, prevail over the procedures provided in Rule IV-15.
- (D) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Rule IV-24, a Participant or its Authorized Trader may not enter an Order into the ELX System for EUR Interest Rate Swaps:

(1) for itself, unless such Participant has demonstrated in a manner acceptable to the Exchange that the Participant is itself a CME Clearing Member or has established a clearing relationship with an FCM Clearing Member of CME that will clear such swaps; or

(2) for a Customer, unless, such Participant, or its Customer, has demonstrated in a manner acceptable to the Exchange that such Customer is itself a CME Clearing Member or has established a clearing relationship with an FCM Clearing Member of CME that will clear such swaps.

(E) Notwithstanding any contrary provision in the Rules of the Exchange, all swaps, the terms and conditions of which are specified in this section, including such swaps made by Participants upon behalf of non-Participants, shall be cleared through a Clearinghouse and, the rules, procedures and practices of such Clearinghouse shall govern and shall prevail over the rules, policies and procedures of the Exchange in respect of such swap that have been accepted for clearing."

(b) <u>Contract Overview Euro Fixed for Floating Interest</u> <u>Rate Swaps of periodic fixed interest payments and periodic floating</u> <u>interest payments based on an interest rate benchmark over a term to</u> <u>maturity. The interest rate payments are exchanged for a specified</u> <u>period based on a notional amount. There is no optionality or</u> <u>conditional notional amounts. Additionally:</u>

(i) <u>Start Date/Effective Date.</u> The first date from which fixed and floating interest amounts accrue is:

- 1. <u>Spot starting, that is, two business days from trade</u> <u>date, using the modified following convention and</u> <u>respecting the TARGET Holiday calendar.</u>
- 2. Forward starting, that is any date further from spot starting date

(ii) <u>End Date/Maturity Date.</u> The final date until which Fixed and Floating amounts accrue is start date plus tenor, modified following and respecting the TARGET Holiday calendars. (iii) <u>Tenor. Start Date to End Date, a contract can have a</u> tenor from 7 days to 50 years where accepted by CME (EONIA to <u>30 Years).</u>

(iv) <u>Seller/Receiver.</u> Receives fixed leg interest rate and pays floating leg interest rate.

- (v) <u>Fixed Leg.</u>
  - 1. <u>Annual payment frequency, 30/360 "bond" day count,</u> <u>following TARGET holiday calendars, modified</u> <u>following with adjustment to period end dates.</u>
  - 2. <u>Annual payment frequency Actual/360 "money" day</u> <u>count, following TARGET holiday calendars, modified</u> <u>following with adjustment to period end dates.</u>
  - 3. <u>Semi-annual payment frequency</u>, 30/360 "bond" day count, following TARGET holiday calendars, modified following with adjustment to period end dates.
  - 4. <u>Semi-annual payment frequency Actual/360 "money"</u> <u>day count, following TARGET holiday calendars,</u> <u>modified following with adjustment to period end dates.</u>
  - 5. <u>Quarterly payment frequency, 30/360 "bond" day count,</u> <u>following TARGET holiday calendars, modified</u> <u>following with adjustment to period end dates.</u>
  - 6. Quarterly payment frequency Actual/360 "money" day count, following TARGET holiday calendars, modified following with adjustment to period end dates.
- (vi) Floating Leg.
  - 1. <u>Semi-annual payment Frequency, 6 month Euribor,</u> <u>Actual/360 day count, following TARGET holiday</u> <u>calendars, modified following with adjustment to period</u> <u>end dates.</u>
  - 2. <u>Quarterly payment Frequency, 3 month Euribor,</u> <u>Actual/360 day count, following TARGET holiday</u> <u>calendars, modified following with adjustment to period</u> <u>end dates.</u>
  - 3. <u>Monthly payment Frequency, 1 month Euribor,</u> <u>Actual/360 day count, following TARGET holiday</u>

calendars, modified following with adjustment to period end dates.

- Compounded daily and paid on an annual payment Frequency, 1 day European Overnight Index Average (EONIA) Actual/360 day count, following TARGET holiday calendars, modified following with adjustment to period end dates.
- (vii) Roll Date Convention.
  - 1. The date used for determining fixed and floating payment dates for Spot and Forward starting swaps of fixed payment frequency 30/360 day count is the same date of the month as the Start Date, except where the start date is the 31st day of the month whereby the Roll Date is then the end of each month where a payment is due. Roll Date marks the start of a new interest accrual period, and is the date on which a Reset Rate takes effect.
  - 2. The date used for determining fixed and floating payment dates for Spot and Forward starting swaps of fixed payment frequency Actual/360 day count is as above in (vii) 1., except for spot and forward starting swaps of an end date of up to and including 2 years from Spot date where the start date is the last business day of the month (and 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>), whereby the Roll Date is then the end of each month where a payment is due.
  - 3. The date used for determining fixed and floating payment dates for floating rate Overnight Index (EONIA) Spot and Forward starting swaps is the same date of the month as the Start Date, except where the start date is *the last business day* of the month whereby the Roll Date is then the end of each month where a payment is due.
  - <u>The date used for determining fixed and floating</u> payment dates for Forward starting IMM (International Money Market) dated swaps is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the quarterly months of March, June, September and December, following convention.

(viii) <u>Floating Reset Dates.</u> Date utilized to determine the Floating Rate amounts for each interest accrual period during the

<u>Tenor of the contract is two business days prior to the Roll Date for that interest accrual period.</u>

(ix) <u>First Period Fixing Date. The Interest Rate for the first</u> interest period is fixed on the Trade Date or Forward start date, for both Floating and Fixed Rates.

(x) <u>Contract Size. Minimum notional size of €1,000,000,</u> and minimum notional increment of €1 thereafter.

(xi) <u>Quote Convention. The traded fixed interest rate in</u> percent on Trade Date. For example, a rate of 1.2505 percent would be quoted as 1.2505.

(xii) <u>Minimum Price Increment</u>. Varies by tenor as posted on the ELX website.

(xiii) <u>Trading Symbol. Key economic terms for each</u> contract are specified in each Trading Symbol including base currency, clearinghouse, start date (spot or Forward), term and fixed/floating parameters. Each contract symbol will specify the (1) swap clearinghouse for delivery (C=CME); (2) the term of the swap (W=Weeks, M=Months, Y=Years); (3) the swap fixed/floating parameters (e.g. EUR Fixed annual bond basis 30/360 vs. floating 6M Euribor Act/360.) For example, "C-2Yab\_v6M\_EUR" represents CME cleared, two year, annual bond basis (30/360) vs. six month EURIBOR.

(xiv) <u>Last Trading Day.</u> The last trading day for each start date and end date combination prescribed by tenor is the close of business on Trade Date. For contracts prescribed by specific start date and end date combinations (including IMM dated swaps), the last trading day is two business days before start date.

(xv) <u>Trading and Delivery Eligibility</u>. Limited to Eligible Contract Participants (ECPs) per Section 1a(18) of the Commodity Exchange Act and registered with CME Clearing as, or via, a CME Clearing Member.

(xvi) <u>Position Accountability</u>. Aggregate net long or net short trade volume of €20 billion contracts in all tenors.

(xvii) <u>Large Trader Reporting Level.</u> Daily net long or net short trade volume of €1.5 billion contracts in all tenors.