



## **Rating Action: Moody's upgrades 5 notes in 3 Rural Hipotecario Spanish RMBS Transactions**

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Global Credit Research - 21 Oct 2014

London, 21 October 2014 -- Moody's Investors Service has today upgraded the ratings of 5 notes and affirmed the ratings of 3 notes in 3 Spanish residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) transactions: Rural Hipotecario Global I, FTA, Rural Hipotecario III, FTH and Rural Hipotecario IV, FTH.

Today's rating action concludes the review of 4 notes placed on review on 17 March 2014, following the upgrade of the Spanish sovereign rating to Baa2 from Baa3 and the resulting increase of the local-currency country ceiling to A1 from A3 ([http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PR\\_292078](http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PR_292078)). The sovereign rating upgrade reflected improvements in institutional strength and reduced susceptibility to event risk associated with lower government liquidity and banking sector risks.

Please refer to the end of the Ratings Rationale section for a list of affected ratings.

### RATINGS RATIONALE

Today's rating actions reflect (1) the increase in the Spanish local-currency country ceiling to A1 and (2) sufficiency of credit enhancement in the affected transactions.

#### -- Reduced Sovereign Risk

The Spanish sovereign rating was upgraded to Baa2 in February 2014, which resulted in an increase in the local-currency country ceiling to A1. The Spanish country ceiling, and therefore the maximum rating that Moody's will assign to a domestic Spanish issuer including structured finance transactions backed by Spanish receivables, is A1 (sf).

The increase of credit enhancement combined with stable performance and the reduction in sovereign risk has prompted the upgrade of the notes.

#### -- Key collateral assumptions

The key collateral assumptions have not been updated as part of this review. The performance of the underlying asset portfolios remain in line with Moody's assumptions. Moody's also has a stable outlook ([http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PBS\\_SF373727](http://www.moodys.com/viewresearchdoc.aspx?docid=PBS_SF373727)) for Spanish ABS and RMBS transactions.

#### -- Exposure to Counterparties

Moody's rating analysis also took into consideration the exposure to key transaction counterparties including the roles of servicer, account bank and swap provider.

Today's rating action takes into account commingling exposure to multiple Cajas Rurales for the three transactions.

Moody's also assessed the exposure to Banco Cooperativo Espanol, SA (Ba2/NP) as swap counterparty for Rural Hipotecario Global I, FTA.

### PRINCIPAL METHODOLOGY

The principal methodology used in these ratings was "Moody's Approach to Rating RMBS Using the MILAN Framework" published in March 2014. Please see the Credit Policy page on [www.moodys.com](http://www.moodys.com) for a copy of this methodology.

Factors that would lead to an upgrade or downgrade of the rating:

Factors or circumstances that could lead to an upgrade of the ratings include (1) further reduction in sovereign

risk, (2) performance of the underlying collateral that is better than Moody's expected, (3) deleveraging of the capital structure and (4) improvements in the credit quality of the transaction counterparties.

Factors or circumstances that could lead to a downgrade of the ratings include (1) an increase in sovereign risk, (2) performance of the underlying collateral that is worse than Moody's expects, (3) deterioration in the notes' available credit enhancement and (4) deterioration in the credit quality of the transaction counterparties.

#### LIST OF AFFECTED RATINGS:

Issuer: RURAL HIPOTECARIO GLOBAL I, FTA

....EUR1008.1M A Notes, Upgraded to A1 (sf); previously on Mar 17, 2014 A3 (sf) Placed Under Review for Possible Upgrade

....EUR36.3M B Notes, Upgraded to Ba1 (sf); previously on Mar 17, 2014 Ba3 (sf) Placed Under Review for Possible Upgrade

....EUR8M C Notes, Upgraded to B3 (sf); previously on May 30, 2013 Downgraded to Caa1 (sf)

....EUR12.8M D Notes, Affirmed Caa3 (sf); previously on May 30, 2013 Downgraded to Caa3 (sf)

Issuer: RURAL HIPOTECARIO III, FTH

....EUR312.3M A Notes, Affirmed A1 (sf); previously on Mar 17, 2014 Upgraded to A1 (sf)

....EUR12.7M B Notes, Upgraded to Baa1 (sf); previously on Mar 17, 2014 Baa3 (sf) Placed Under Review for Possible Upgrade

Issuer: RURAL HIPOTECARIO IV, FTH

....EUR498.7M A Notes, Affirmed A1 (sf); previously on Mar 17, 2014 Upgraded to A1 (sf)

....EUR21.3M B Notes, Upgraded to Baa2 (sf); previously on Mar 17, 2014 Baa3 (sf) Placed Under Review for Possible Upgrade

#### REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

For further specification of Moody's key rating assumptions and sensitivity analysis, see the sections Methodology Assumptions and Sensitivity to Assumptions of the disclosure form.

Moody's did not receive or take into account a third-party assessment on the due diligence performed regarding the underlying assets or financial instruments related to the monitoring of these transactions in the past six months.

The analysis relies on an assessment of collateral characteristics to determine the collateral loss distribution, that is, the function that correlates to an assumption about the likelihood of occurrence to each level of possible losses in the collateral. As a second step, Moody's evaluates each possible collateral loss scenario using a model that replicates the relevant structural features to derive payments and therefore the ultimate potential losses for each rated instrument. The loss a rated instrument incurs in each collateral loss scenario, weighted by assumptions about the likelihood of events in that scenario occurring, results in the expected loss of the rated instrument.

As the section on loss and cash flow analysis describes, Moody's quantitative analysis entails an evaluation of scenarios that stress factors contributing to sensitivity of ratings and take into account the likelihood of severe collateral losses or impaired cash flows. Moody's weights the impact on the rated instruments based on its assumptions of the likelihood of the events in such scenarios occurring.

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the transaction structure and terms have not changed prior to the assignment of the definitive rating in a manner that would have affected the rating. For further information please see the ratings tab on the issuer/entity page for the respective issuer on [www.moodys.com](http://www.moodys.com).

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