

## INDEPENDENT ON-DEMAND GUARANTEE

The **KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**, for 53%, and

the **FRENCH REPUBLIC**, for 47%, (the “**States**”)

hereby unconditionally and irrevocably, severally but not jointly, each to the extent of its percentage share indicated above and in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in this guarantee (the “**Guarantee**”), guarantee the performance by Dexia Crédit Local SA (acting through its head office or any of its branches, “**DCL**”) of its payment obligations, in principal, interest and incidental amounts, under the Guaranteed Obligations referred to below.

### 1. **Definitions**

In this Guarantee:

“**Aggregate Commitment**” has the meaning defined in Clause 3(b);

“**Business Day**” means a day, other than a Saturday or Sunday, on which banks are open in France and in Belgium, provided that:

- (a) if it is a day on which a payment of Guaranteed Obligations denominated in a Foreign Currency is to be made, that day is also a day on which banks are open in the main financial centre of the state of such currency; or
- (b) if it is a day on which a payment of Guaranteed Obligations denominated in euro is to be made, that day is also a day on which the Trans-European Automated Real-Time Gross Settlement Express Transfer payment system is open for the settlement of payments in euro;

“**Contracts**” means the loans, advances and deposits referred to in paragraph (b) of the definition of “Guaranteed Obligations”;

“**Foreign Currencies**” means US dollar (USD), Canadian dollar (CAD), pound sterling (GBP), yen (JPY) and Swiss franc (CHF);

“**Guaranteed Obligations**” means:

- (a) the securities and financial instruments issued by DCL, initially subscribed by Third-Party Beneficiaries, which meet the criteria set out in Schedule B (*Guaranteed Obligations*), excluding (i) the securities and financial instruments the terms of which expressly provide that they are excluded from the benefit of this Guarantee, and (ii) the securities and financial instruments which benefit from the guarantee of either State up to 100% of their amount pursuant to a specific and distinct guarantee, or which benefit from a specific and several but not joint guarantee from the two States; and

- (b) the loans, advances and deposits granted to DCL, which are not represented by a security or financial instrument, which meet the criteria set out in Schedule B (*Guaranteed Obligations*), and the creditor of which is a Third-Party Beneficiary other than a credit institution as referred to in item (d) of Schedule A (*Third-Party Beneficiaries*).

“**Securities and Financial Instruments**” and/or “**Security(ies) or Financial Instrument(s)**”, as appropriate, means the securities and financial instruments referred to in paragraph (a) of the definition of “Guaranteed Obligation”;

“**Security Holders**” means the holders of Securities and Financial Instruments other than Third-Party Beneficiaries; and

“**Third-Party Beneficiary**” has the meaning set forth in Schedule A (*Third-Party Beneficiaries*).

## 2. **Nature of the Guarantee**

- (a) This Guarantee is an independent guarantee and is payable on first demand. In the event of a Guarantee call being made in accordance with Clauses 4 and 5, the States waive the right (without prejudice to their rights against DCL) to raise any defence or any exception relating to the Guaranteed Obligations or the non-compliance by DCL with its obligations towards the States as well as any other defence or exception whatsoever that DCL could assert against the Third-Party Beneficiaries or Security Holders to refuse payment, and the States shall be liable towards the Third-Party Beneficiaries or Security Holders as if they were the primary debtors of the Guaranteed Obligations in accordance with the terms thereof, each to the extent of its percentage share. In particular, the States’ obligations under this Guarantee shall not be terminated or affected by:
- (i) the cessation of payments (whether within the meaning of the French Commercial Code or the French Monetary and Financial Code), insolvency, dissolution, deregistration or any other change in the status of DCL;
  - (ii) the illegality of the Guaranteed Obligations;
  - (iii) the illegality of the obligations of the other State under this Guarantee, or the non-compliance by the other State with such obligations;
  - (iv) any grace period, conciliation agreement or other similar concession granted to DCL by the holders of the Guaranteed Obligations or imposed by a judicial authority or a judicial assistant (*auxiliaire de justice*);
  - (v) the occurrence of any collective proceedings (safeguard, accelerated safeguard, accelerated financial safeguard, judicial redress, judicial liquidation or other similar proceedings), the write-down or conversion of Guaranteed Obligations pursuant to the application of the bail-in tool in the context of a resolution process, the appointment of a provisional

administrator or any other measure adopted by the Autorité de contrôle prudentiel et de résolution or any other regulatory authority with jurisdiction in respect of DCL; or

- (vi) any other ground for termination of the Guaranteed Obligations, save for their payment in full.
- (b) The benefit of this Guarantee shall be maintained if a payment received by a Third-Party Beneficiary or a Security Holder and applied towards satisfaction of the Guaranteed Obligations is subsequently voided or declared invalid vis-à-vis the creditors of the maker of such payment, becomes repayable by such Third-Party Beneficiary or Security Holder to DCL or a third party, or proves not to have been effectively received by such Third-Party Beneficiary or Security Holder.
- (c) The Third-Party Beneficiaries or Security Holders will not be required, in order to exercise their rights under this Guarantee, to make any demand against DCL, to take any action against DCL or to file claims in any insolvency proceedings relating to DCL.
- (d) No ground for acceleration of payment of the Guaranteed Obligations, whether statutory (for example in the case of judicial liquidation proceedings with respect to DCL) or contractual (for example in the case of an event of default, event of termination or cross-default), will be enforceable against the States. Consequently, Guarantee calls shall lead to payment obligations of the States only in accordance with the normal payment schedule of the Guaranteed Obligations (it being understood that (i) the effects of any early termination clause which is not related to the occurrence of an event of default, such as the exercise by a Third-Party Beneficiary or Security Holder of certain contractual put options, are deemed part of the normal payment schedule of the Guaranteed Obligations, and that (ii) Guarantee calls will need to be renewed on all subsequent maturity dates of the Guaranteed Obligations). Further, in order to be entitled to call on this Guarantee, a Third-Party Beneficiary or a Security Holder may not have raised or raise any ground for acceleration against DCL (except, if applicable, those grounds for acceleration which would have occurred by operation of law without any action from the relevant Third-Party Beneficiary or Security Holder, for example upon the opening of judicial liquidation proceedings with respect to DCL).

### **3. Percentage share contribution of the States and overall limit of the Guarantee**

- (a) Each of the States shall guarantee the Guaranteed Obligations up to the percentage share indicated on the first page of this Guarantee. Such percentage share shall apply per Guaranteed Obligation and per Guarantee call within the meaning of Clauses 4(b) or 5(c) of this Guarantee.
- (b) The Aggregate Commitment of the States may not at any time exceed the following limits, it being understood that the interest and incidental amounts due on the principal amounts so limited are guaranteed beyond these limits:

- (i) €72 billion for the two States and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in aggregate;
- (ii) €38.16 billion for the Kingdom of Belgium; and
- (iii) €33.84 billion for the French Republic.

“**Aggregate Commitment**” means the aggregate principal amount (being, in respect of zero-coupon bonds, the principal amount payable at maturity and, in respect of bonds the terms of which provide for the compounding of interest, the principal amount including compounded interest) of the outstanding obligations guaranteed by each of the States or by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg under this Guarantee or any other guarantee granted pursuant to the independent guarantee agreement dated 16 December 2011, the agreement for the issuance of guarantees dated 24 January 2013 or the agreement for the issuance of guarantees dated 6 December 2021, each as amended from time to time (the obligations guaranteed pursuant to the independent guarantee agreement dated 9 December 2008 and the interbank overdrafts guaranteed pursuant to the agreement for the issuance of guarantees dated 6 December 2021, however, shall not be taken into account for the calculation of the Aggregate Commitment).

Compliance with the above-mentioned limits will be assessed at the time of each new issuance, or entry into, of Guaranteed Obligations, taking into account such new issuance or entry into. Therefore, the financings issued or entered into by DCL that meet the criteria set out in Schedule B (*Guaranteed Obligations*) of this Guarantee (and the terms of which do not expressly provide that they are excluded from the benefit of this Guarantee) shall benefit from the States’ guarantee if and to the extent that the Aggregate Commitment does not exceed, at the time of their issuance or at the time they are entered into, any of these limits, taking into account the principal amount of all Guaranteed Obligations (*ie* the obligations guaranteed by each of the States or by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg under this Guarantee or any other guarantee granted pursuant to the independent guarantee agreement dated 16 December 2011, the agreement for the issuance of guarantees dated 24 January 2013 or the agreement for the issuance of guarantees dated 6 December 2021 that were issued or entered into prior to such time, as well as such new Guaranteed Obligations) and, in respect of Guaranteed Obligations denominated in Foreign Currencies, the euro equivalent of their outstanding principal amount converted at the reference rate of the day of such new issuance, or entry into, of Guaranteed Obligations as published on that day by the European Central Bank.

Any subsequent non-compliance with such limits by DCL will not affect the rights of the Third-Party Beneficiaries and Security Holders under the Guarantee with respect to the Guaranteed Obligations issued or entered into before a limit was exceeded.

#### 4. **Guarantee of Securities and Financial Instruments**

- (a) Without the need for any formality, the Guarantee shall cover all Securities or Financial Instruments initially issued to Third-Party Beneficiaries, and shall remain attached to such Securities or Financial Instruments notwithstanding their sale or transfer to any other Third-Party Beneficiary or Security Holder. Consequently, Security Holders may also call on the Guarantee subject to the conditions set forth in this Guarantee.
- (b) Any Third-Party Beneficiary or Security Holder, or any proxy holder, agent, settlement institution or trustee acting for the account of the former, may call on the Guarantee by simple notice delivered to each of the States within the time limit provided for in Clause 8(b). The notice shall include the identification of the relevant Securities or Financial Instruments as well as the unpaid amounts, and evidence of the rights of the party calling on the Guarantee to such Securities or Financial Instruments.

#### 5. **Guarantee of Contracts**

- (a) Without the need for any formality, the Guarantee shall cover all Contracts entered into with Third-Party Beneficiaries, and shall remain attached to those Contracts notwithstanding their sale or transfer to any other Third-Party Beneficiary. The benefit of the Contracts Guarantee shall not be available to assignees or transferees that do not qualify as Third-Party Beneficiaries.
- (b) The Contracts Guarantee can only be called by DCL, subject to the conditions agreed upon between DCL and the States.
- (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), if judicial liquidation proceedings are commenced with respect to DCL, any Third-Party Beneficiary holding a Contract, or any proxy holder, agent, settlement institution or trustee acting for the account of the former, may nevertheless call on the Guarantee by simple notice delivered to each of the States within the time limit provided for in Clause 8(b). The notice shall include the identification of the relevant Contracts as well as the unpaid amounts, and evidence of the rights of the party calling on the Guarantee to such Contracts. For the avoidance of doubt, no ground for acceleration of payment resulting from these judicial liquidation proceedings will be enforceable against the States, and the Guarantee call shall lead to payment obligations of the States only in accordance with the normal payment schedule of such Contracts (it being understood that the effects of any early termination clause which is not related to the occurrence of an event of default, such as the exercise by the relevant Third-Party Beneficiary of certain contractual put options, are deemed part of the normal payment schedule of the Contracts).
- (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) and without prejudice to paragraph (c), the States may, upon request from DCL and at their sole discretion, authorise certain Third-Party Beneficiaries identified by name, certain categories of Third-Party Beneficiaries or the Third-Party Beneficiaries holding certain

categories of Contracts, to call on the Guarantee of the Contracts they hold. The States may subject their authorisation to such arrangements as they deem desirable regarding in particular the delivery by DCL of information relating to the Contracts held by such Third-Party Beneficiaries, and may provide that any guarantee call of the Contracts by such Third-Party Beneficiaries must be accompanied by such supporting documentation as the States deem appropriate.

**6. Performance of the Guarantee**

- (a) Each of the States shall pay to the Third-Party Beneficiaries or Security Holders, up to its percentage share and in the currency of the Guaranteed Obligation, the amount due pursuant to any call on this Guarantee in accordance with the provisions of this Guarantee. Payments shall be made within five Business Days (or, in the case of Guaranteed Obligations denominated in U.S. dollar with an initial maturity not exceeding one year, within three Business Days) following receipt of the Guarantee call, and shall include late payment interest accrued in accordance with the terms of the relevant Guaranteed Obligation until the payment date.
- (b) Payments shall be made in directly available funds via any appropriate clearing system or institutional service mechanism or, failing which, directly.
- (c) Each State shall immediately and automatically be subrogated in all rights of the Third-Party Beneficiaries or Security Holders against DCL pursuant to the relevant Guaranteed Obligation, up to the amount paid by it.

**7. Withholding tax**

- (a) All payments referred to in Clause 6(a) shall be made by the States free and clear of any withholding unless such withholding is required by law. If a withholding must be made on behalf of a State in respect of payments referred to in Clause 6(a), no additional amount shall be due by such State by reason of such withholding.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, if DCL makes any payment of a Guaranteed Obligation subject to a withholding in circumstances where such withholding is required by law and does not give rise, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the relevant Guaranteed Obligation, to an obligation for DCL to pay any additional amount, such withholding shall not constitute a default by DCL justifying a call on this Guarantee.

**8. Effective date of the Guarantee, duration and amendments**

- (a) The Guarantee only covers Guaranteed Obligations which are issued or entered into on or after 1 January 2022.
- (b) The right to call on the Guarantee with respect to any amount due and unpaid in relation to a Guaranteed Obligation shall expire at the end of the 90<sup>th</sup> day following the date on which such amount became due or, in the circumstances

mentioned in Clause 2(b), at the end of the 90<sup>th</sup> day following the date of the event mentioned in such Clause 2(b).

- (c) The States may at any time, by mutual consent and without prejudice to their obligations to DCL, terminate or amend the terms of this Guarantee. This Guarantee shall automatically terminate in the event of a transfer by Dexia SA to a third party of the direct or indirect control over DCL. Any termination or amendment will be communicated to the market in accordance with the applicable regulations. The termination or amendment will have no effect with regard to the Guaranteed Obligations issued or entered into before such termination or amendment is communicated to the market.
- (d) For the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b), demand deposits and other demand Contracts or Contracts with an undefined maturity are deemed to be entered into on a rolling daily basis, so that such deposits and other Contracts may benefit from the Guarantee if they exist on 1 January 2022, and will be affected by a termination of, or amendment to, the Guarantee as from the day following the communication thereof to the market in accordance with paragraph (c).

## 9. Notifications

Any Guarantee call or other notification to the States shall be delivered to each of the States at the following addresses and numbers:

- Kingdom of Belgium:** FPS Finance  
To the attention of the General Administrator of the Treasury  
Avenue des Arts, 30  
1040 Brussels  
Email: [garantie.waarborg@minfin.fed.be](mailto:garantie.waarborg@minfin.fed.be)
- with a copy to:** National Bank of Belgium  
To the attention of the Governor  
Boulevard de Berlaimont, 14  
1000 Brussels
- French Republic:** Minister of Economy and Finance  
To the attention of the General Director of the Treasury  
139, rue de Bercy  
75572 Paris Cedex 12  
Email: [emmanuel.moulin@dgtresor.gouv.fr](mailto:emmanuel.moulin@dgtresor.gouv.fr);  
[sec-dgtresor@dgtresor.gouv.fr](mailto:sec-dgtresor@dgtresor.gouv.fr)
- with a copy to:** Banque de France  
To the attention of the Governor  
31, rue Croix-des-Petits-Champs  
75001 Paris  
Email: [secretariat.gouv@banque-france.fr](mailto:secretariat.gouv@banque-france.fr)

**10. Language, applicable law and jurisdiction**

- (a) This Guarantee has been drawn up in French and in English, both languages being equally binding.
- (b) This Guarantee shall be governed by Belgian law. Any dispute shall be within the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Brussels.

Done on 6 December 2021.

**THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

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Vincent Van Peteghem  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

**THE FRENCH REPUBLIC**

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Bruno Le Maire  
Minister of Economy, Finance and the Recovery



**SCHEDULE A**  
**THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES**

**“Third-Party Beneficiaries”** means:

- (a) all “qualified investors” within the meaning of article 2(e) of Regulation 2017/1129 of 14 June 2017 on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading on a regulated market, as amended,
- (b) all Qualified Institutional Buyers as defined under the US Securities Act of 1933, and all Accredited Investors as defined by Rule 501 of Regulation D implementing the US Securities Act of 1933,
- (c) the European Central Bank as well as any other central bank (whether or not it is established in a country of the European Union),
- (d) all credit institutions as defined by Regulation 575/2013 of 26 June 2013 on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms, namely: “an undertaking the business of which is to take deposits or other repayable funds from the public and to grant credits for its own account”, whether or not established in the European Economic Area,
- (e) social security and assimilated organisations, state-owned enterprises, public or para-public authorities and entities in charge of a mission of general interest, supranational and international institutions, and
- (f) other institutional or professional investors; **“institutional or professional investors”** means financial holding companies, investment firms, other approved or regulated financial institutions, insurance companies, undertakings for collective investment and their management companies, professional retirement institutions and their management companies, and intermediaries in commodity derivatives,

including the subsidiaries of the Dexia group, and in particular DCL itself, that meet the criteria set out in paragraphs (a), (b), (d) or (f) above, but only to the extent that the Securities and Financial Instruments (excluding the Contracts in all circumstances) which have been subscribed to by such subsidiaries are intended to be transferred (in any manner whatsoever, including by way of repos or securities lending) to Third-Party Beneficiaries that are not controlled (directly or indirectly) by Dexia SA or DCL (including the European Central Bank, a national central bank which is a member of the European System of Central Banks, or a depositary acting for the account of any of those) in consideration for financings raised by such subsidiaries from such Third-Party Beneficiaries between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2031, these Securities and Financial Instruments being only entitled to the benefit of the Guarantee from the date of their transfer to, and as long as they are held by, such Third-Party Beneficiaries.

Furthermore, where an intermediary is involved as an underwriter, a manager or in a similar function in the context of the issuance of Securities or Financial Instruments, and in this context acquires or subscribes to these Securities or Financial Instruments with a view to immediately

reselling them to final investors, both the intermediary and the final investors must qualify as Third-Party Beneficiaries.

For the purposes of the interpretation of the provisions under paragraphs (a) to (f) above, notwithstanding Clause 10 of the Guarantee, consideration shall be given to the articles of association, deeds and incorporation treaties, as the case may be, of the relevant Third-Party Beneficiaries.

**SCHEDULE B**  
**GUARANTEED OBLIGATIONS**

The Guarantee covers all unsecured and unsubordinated financings with a maturity not exceeding ten years initially raised from Third-Party Beneficiaries, either in the form of Contracts entered into by DCL or in the form of Securities or Financial Instruments issued by DCL, the subscription of which is restricted to Third-Party Beneficiaries, and the currency of which is euro or a Foreign Currency, provided that these financings are entered into or issued by DCL between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2031, and provided further that demand deposits and other demand Contracts or Contracts with an undefined maturity are deemed to be entered into on a rolling daily basis so that such deposits and other Contracts may benefit from the Guarantee if they exist on 1 January 2022 and will in any event cease from having the benefit of the Guarantee the day after 31 December 2031.

Subject to the conditions set forth in the above paragraph, the Guaranteed Obligations include:

- (a) the following Contracts: non-interbank loans, deposits and advances with a fixed term or an undefined maturity in euro or in Foreign Currencies (including demand deposits, non-banking institutional deposits, fiduciary deposits and deposits granted by institutional investors in their name but in their capacity as agent for their clients, including within the framework of services commonly referred to as “sweep deposit services” in the United States, provided that such clients qualify as Third-Party Beneficiaries other than a credit institution as referred to in item (d) of Schedule A (*Third-Party Beneficiaries*)), and central bank deposits in euro or in Foreign Currencies;
- (a) the following Securities and Financial Instruments: commercial paper, certificates of deposit, negotiable debt instruments and assimilated securities (in particular *Namensschuldverschreibungen* under German law), bonds and Medium Term Notes, denominated in euro or in Foreign Currencies;

excluding:

- (i) mortgage bonds and securities or other borrowings secured by a statutory lien or a contractual arrangement to the same effect (for example, covered bonds and bilateral and tripartite repos);
- (ii) subordinated loans, deposits, securities and financial instruments;
- (iii) equity and hybrid equity securities and financial instruments;
- (iv) any derivative instruments (including interest rate or foreign exchange derivatives), and any securities or financial instruments linked to a derivative; and
- (v) interbank loans, deposits, advances and overdrafts in euro or in Foreign Currencies.

For the avoidance of doubt, Securities and Financial Instruments subscribed to by subsidiaries of the Dexia group in accordance with the terms set out in Schedule A (*Third-Party Beneficiaries*) may qualify as Guaranteed Obligations irrespective of the fact that the financings raised by these subsidiaries through the monetisation thereof with third parties outside the Dexia group do not constitute Guaranteed Obligations.