La Région wallonne – 5Y EUR 1bn & 20Y EUR 1bn Social Bond dual tranche

On Thursday, 28 May 2020, la Région wallonne successfully launched and priced a 5yr benchmark bond and a 20yr inaugural social bond. Following a positive market sentiment for sub sovereign issuers, la Région wallonne jumped on the issuance bandwagon and announced the mandate on Wednesday 27 May 2020, taking IOIs at OLO+45bps area for the 5yr tranche and OLO high 50s area for the 20yr social tranche.

La Région wallonne officially opened books of both tranches on Thursday at 9:09am CET with a guidance of OLO +45bp area for the 5yr benchmark transaction. At 10:11am CET, the first update was published showing solid momentum with combined books above EUR 2.2bn – slightly skewed to the 5yr – while the guidance for both tranches were kept at the opening levels.

Continuously growing books (combined > 3.1bn) generated another strong impulse and allowed the issuer to tighten the guidance to OLO +43bp area for the 5yr benchmark bond. At the same time, investors were given extra time to firm up their orders until 11:45am CET. The high quality order book led the issuer to fix the spread for the 5yr benchmark bond at OLO +40bp while the size was set to EUR 1bn. Books closed in excess of EUR 1.85bn for the 5yr as announced in the final terms at 11:44am CET.

In total, La Région wallonne’s 5yr transaction was well received within the institutional investor base accounting to more than 90 investor orders. The distribution by region was dominated by BeNeLux (28%), followed by the German speaking area (26%), France (23%), Nordics (9%), UK (6%), Other (5%) and Asia (3%). In terms of investor type, Banks took a dominant share of 47%, while Funds were allocated 30%, CB & OI (15%), Hedge Funds (6%) and INS/PF 2%.
On Thursday, 28 May 2020, the Région Wallonne successfully launched and priced a 5yr benchmark bond and a 20yr inaugural social bond. Following France successful 20yr OAT transaction on Wednesday, la Région wallone jumped on the issuance bandwagon as well as the positive market backdrop and announced the mandate taking IOIs at OLO + high 50s area for the 20yr social tranche. Proceeds of the social bond will be used to finance Covid-19 directly related expenses as communicated in connection with the mandate announcement on Wednesday.

La Région wallonne officially opened books of both tranches on Thursday at 9:09am CET with a guidance of OLO +58bp area for the social bond. At 10:11am CET, the first update was published showing solid momentum with combined books above EUR 2.2bn – slightly skewed to the 5yr – while the guidance for both tranches were kept at the opening levels.

Continuously growing books (combined > 3.1bn) generated another strong impulse and allowed the issuer to tighten the guidance to OLO +56bp (+/-1 WPIR for the 20yr social bond. At the same time, investors were reassured about the final spread and were given extra time to firm up their orders until 11:45am CET. The high quality order book led the issuer to fix the spread for the 20yr social bond at OLO +55bp while size was set to 1bn. Books closed in excess of EUR 1.6bn for the 20yr as announced in the final terms at 11:44am CET.

La Région wallonne’s social bond transaction attracted high demand of ESG investors which was counted >25 green/sustainable accounts that took around 76% of the allocated amount. The distribution by region was dominated by the German speaking area (57%), followed by France (22%), BeNeLux (8%), Other (5%), Nordics (4%), Asia (2%) and UK (2%). In terms of investor type, Funds took a dominant share of 58%, while Ins/PF were allocated 26%, Banks (9%), CB & OI (5%) and Hedge Funds (2%).
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