

# **ISSUER COMMENT**

27 April 2020



#### RATINGS

### Banque Federative du Credit Mutuel

BCA	a3
Bank deposit	Aa3
Senior unsecured debt	Aa3
Outlook	Stable

Source: Moody's Investors Service.

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# Credit Mutuel Alliance Federale

Credit Mutuel Alliance Federale will compensate insured professionals for pandemic risk not contractually covered

On 22 April, Credit Mutuel Alliance Federale<sup>1</sup>, the largest regional subgroup of French mutualist Groupe Credit Mutuel, announced that it will make immediate lump sum payments to the professional and corporate clients of its insurance subsidiary, Assurances du Credit Mutuel (ACM), whose businesses are disrupted by restrictions to quell the coronavirus pandemic.

ACM is making payments to subscribers of "multi risk professional" policies ex gratia (i.e., voluntarily and without obligation) since the contracts exclude pandemic-related risks. The measure's roughly €200 million cost will affect 2020 earnings, but creates goodwill towards not only its own professional and enterprise clients but also potential customers in keeping with the group's intention to develop this insurance segment.

The decision follows intensifying political pressure on the insurance sector to shoulder a share of the coronavirus costs, particularly in light of the significant reduction in claims in some insurance lines including motor insurance. On 13 April, French President Emmanuel Macron said in a TV address that he would make sure insurers contribute to allaying the consequences of the crisis. Insurers were put in the spotlight because property and casualty (P&C) commercial insurance contracts provided limited coverage for business interruptions because pandemic-related risks are specifically excluded. French insurers have since agreed to several support actions, including deferring certain premium payments without cancelling policyholder coverage and contributing to a National Solidarity Fund in support of small and midsize enterprises.

The one-off payments' negative financial effect will be easily absorbable by ACM, especially since it will likely report exceptionally high profits on motor and home insurance during the lockdown period. ACM reported revenues of €12.2 billion and a contribution to group earnings before tax of €873 million (19%) in 2019, as well as shareholders' equity of €11.1 billion at year-end 2019. The one-off payments between €1,500 and €20,000 will bring significant relief to its beneficiaries, who will get €7,000 on average, a sum calibrated against the loss of revenue during the business shutdown. The payment by ACM will support numerous professionals and enterprises, many of which are also clients of the bank.

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The compensation payment illustrates Credit Mutuel Alliance Federale's willingness to put forth its "raison d'être" as a mutualist organisation. The initiative also fits with the group's strategic plan to expand its footprint in the insurance market to professionals and entreprises. The ACM's revenues from this market represented around 8% (€948 million) of total revenues.

The multi risk professional insurance contracts subject to compensation comprised only 1.6% (€33 million) of P&C insurance revenue (€2.1 billion) in 2018. Revenue of multi risk professional insurance increased by 16% in 2019, largely above the average revenue growth of 5.2% for ACM's P&C insurance. Given its business objectives and the small size of its portfolio of multi risk professional insurance, ACM is able to grant significant amounts of money to single professionals and entreprises to alleviate pandemic-related damage, which will not be possible for bigger insurers in this segment (Exhibits 1 and 2). Shortly after Credit Mutuel Alliance Federale, Credit Agricole S.A. (Aa3/Aa3 stable, a3³) launched a comparable operation and earmarked €200 million, the same amount of money. Societe Generale (A1/A1 stable, baa2) also announced €11 million for insured professionals with multi risk contracts covering business interruption.

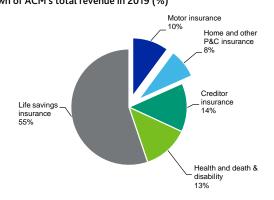
Exhibit 1

ACM's targeted insurance contracts for compensation equates to around 1.6% of P&C insurance revenue of €2.2 billion in 2019 Breakdown of ACM's property insurance revenue\* (%)



Note: \*Breakdown based on 2018 data. 2019 breakdown not available. Source: Assurances du Credit Mutuel

# Exhibit 2 ACM's P&C insurance (motor, home and other multi risk) was around 18% of total revenue of €12.2 billion in 2019 Breakdown of ACM's total revenue in 2019 (%)



Source: Assurances du Credit Mutuel

# Moody's related publications

### **Sector Comment**

» Pressure to contribute to pandemic costs, new long term challenges arise, 22 April 2020

### **Outlook**

» Insurance - Europe - 2020 Outlook update, 31 March 2020

## **Endnotes**

- 1 Credit Mutuel Alliance Federale issues debt through its subsidiary <u>Banque Federative du Credit Mutuel</u> (Aa3/Aa3 stable, a3: the ratings shown are Banque Federative's du Credit Mutuel's deposit rating, senior unsecured debt rating and Baseline Credit Assessment), which is also the holding company of Credit Mutuel Alliance Federale's operating subsidiaries.
- 2 The "raison d'être" is now part of a company's by-laws under French corporate legislation.
- 3 The bank ratings shown are the bank's deposit rating, senior unsecured debt rating and adjusted Baseline Credit Assessment.

This publication does not announce a credit rating action. For any credit ratings referenced in this publication, please see the ratings tab on the issuer/entity page on www.moodys.com for the most updated credit rating action information and rating history.

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