

Financial Regulation: Weekly Update

Matias Cabrera and Salvador Portillo

February 20, 2026

Highlights

1. BCBS publishes analysis of systemic risk transfers
2. FSB initiates strategic review of its crisis preparedness activities
3. ECB, EBA, ESMA and EIOPA issue opinion on simplified ESRS standards
4. EBA publishes final guidelines on proportionate retail diversification methods
5. PRA issues consultation on the reforms to securitisation requirements

Global

BCBS publishes analysis of systemic risk transfers

It highlights the surging SRT market needs enhanced oversight due to risks like banks' growing reliance on NBFIs. SRT investors are a key source of capital relief for corporate credit risk.

FSB initiates strategic review of its crisis preparedness activities

It aims to strengthen coordination and ensure the FSB's approach to prepare for potential crises adapts to emerging vulnerabilities and structural changes in the financial system.

European Union

ECB issue staff opinion on simplified ESRS standards

The proposed changes streamline the internal structure and facilitate application, though three critical areas for improvement remain. The EC will incorporate feedback into the ESRS by summer.

EBA, ESMA and EIOPA issue opinion on simplified ESRS standards

EBA, ESMA and EIOPA support the simplification efforts, express some concerns and propose targeted amendments. The EC will weigh their feedback to adopt revised ESRS by summer 2026.

EBA publishes final guidelines on proportionate retail diversification methods

They provide a harmonised framework to assess whether retail portfolios are sufficiently diversified, while ensuring a proportionate application for smaller institutions.

EBA publishes its ESG dashboard

It reflects the latest changes in banks' exposures to climate risks and aims to provide background information to support institutions and authorities in managing these risks.

EIOPA updates guidelines on SREP and on market counterparty credit risk exposure

It adaptates the guidelines in view of the Solvency II review by clarifying existing rules and capturing new risks. Entry into force: Jan 30, 2027 and 2 months after the translations, respectively.

EIOPA publishes guidelines and draft standards on IRRD

First batch that sets RTS and GL on recovery plans, resolution plans, resolvability, critical functions and impediments removal under IRRD. Aims 2027 readiness and EU convergence.

ESMA issues statement on the smooth implementation of the Listing Act

It includes practical guidance to NCAs, issuers, and their advisors on the application of the revised prospectus framework introduced by the Listing Act.

ESMA issues statement on the upcoming changes to the Euribor panel

It concerns the announcement by EMMI that Barclays Bank, based in the UK, will withdraw from the Euribor panel. The withdrawal will take effect on Feb 27, 2026.

United Kingdom

PRA issues consultation on the reforms to securitisation requirements

The aim is to make securitisation requirements more proportionate and less prescriptive. It addresses general (conduct) requirements, though some relate to CRR capital requirements. Deadline: May 18, 2026

United States

OCC consults on proposed rulemaking on the bank appeals process

Proposal updates appeals for supervised banks. Creates independent board, expands Ombudsman role, applies *de novo* review, strengthens anti retaliation safeguards. Deadline: 60 days post Federal Register notice.

US Treasury announces initiative to strengthen cybersecurity and risk management for AI

Public private plan issues 6 tools to strengthen AI governance, cyber risk controls, data security, fraud mitigation across US financial institutions. Supports secure AI deployment.

SEC consults amendments on reporting of fund portfolio holdings

Proposal revises Form N-PORT/N-CEN to ease filing timing, reduce public frequency, and streamline items. Deadline: 60 days post Federal Register notice.

Recent publications of interest (in English and Spanish):

- [Press Article](#). *Von der Leyen's 'Omnibus': a year of sustainable simplification as it approaches the final stage*". November 2025
- [Press Article](#). *Simplifying European financial regulation: a path to competitiveness*. November 2025
- [Press Article](#). *Proposed reforms to reinvigorate securitization in the EU*. September 2025
- [Press Article](#). *EU financial sector: competitiveness, simplicity, deregulation?* September 2025

Previous edition of our Weekly Financial Regulation Update in [English](#).

DISCLAIMER

The present document does not constitute an "Investment Recommendation", as defined in Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on market abuse ("MAR"). In particular, this document does not constitute "Investment Research" nor "Marketing Material", for the purposes of article 36 of the Regulation (EU) 2017/565 of 25 April 2016 supplementing Directive 2014/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards organisational requirements and operating conditions for investment firms and defined terms for the purposes of that Directive (MiFID II).

Readers should be aware that under no circumstances should they base their investment decisions on the information contained in this document. Those persons or entities offering investment products to these potential investors are legally required to provide the information needed for them to take an appropriate investment decision.

This document has been prepared by BBVA Research Department. It is provided for information purposes only and expresses data or opinions regarding the date of issue of the report, prepared by BBVA or obtained from or based on sources we consider to be reliable, and have not been independently verified by BBVA. Therefore, BBVA offers no warranty, either express or implicit, regarding its accuracy, integrity or correctness.

This document and its contents are subject to changes without prior notice depending on variables such as the economic context or market fluctuations. BBVA is not responsible for updating these contents or for giving notice of such changes.

BBVA accepts no liability for any loss, direct or indirect, that may result from the use of this document or its contents.

This document and its contents do not constitute an offer, invitation or solicitation to purchase, divest or enter into any interest in financial assets or instruments. Neither shall this document nor its contents form the basis of any contract, commitment or decision of any kind.

The content of this document is protected by intellectual property laws. Reproduction, transformation, distribution, public communication, making available, extraction, reuse, forwarding or use of any nature by any means or process is prohibited, except in cases where it is legally permitted or expressly authorised by BBVA on its website www.bbvaresearch.com.