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Insurance

Current market Upward

We are seeing

- Strategic M&A deals
- Significant consolidation as soft market and higher capital requirements are driving potential for consolidation in general/ reinsurance sectors
- □ Intra-group reorganisations

Key drivers

- Appetite to replicate UK backbook consolidation around Europe
- Asset availability as EU banks offload non-core assets
- Market participants searching for growth outside primary markets
- Financial sponsor interest in insurance assets
- Heightened US/China inbound interest in insurance assets
- Global Systemically Important Insurers reducing Solvency II/ regulatory capital requirements by shedding capital-intensive business lines

Trends to watch

- Solvency II and Senior Insurance Managers Regime require a full list of those in key functions to be set out in a governance map showing clear lines of reporting and organisational responsibility. This is driving intra-group reogranisations aimed at optimising regulatory capital efficiencies, in lieu of the new risk-based Solvency II requirements, and improving corporate governance structures
- Searching for growth and higher profit margins outside primary markets
- Ongoing consolidation in the life sector
- Investment in fintech

Our M&A forecast

Sustained levels of M&A across Europe driven by continued pressure on the Global Systemically Important Insurers to exit legacy and non-core portfolios and focus on capital redeployment to escape additional operational and regulatory burden of the 'SIFI' designation. "

Favourable environment for insurance M&A including ongoing consolidation in the life insurance sector

Publicly reported examples

Strategic M&A deals	 Vienna Insurance Group's acquisition of AXA's life and savings insurance operations in Romania (April 2017) Rand Merchant Investment Holdings' acquisition of 29.9 per cent of Hastings Insurance (December 2016) Marsh & McLennan's acquisition of Bluefin Insurance Group (November 2016) Assured Guaranty's acquisition of MBIA UK Insurance (January 2017)
Significant consolidation in general/ reinsurance sectors	 Towergate's merger with Autonet, Chase Templeton Holdings, Ryan Direct Group and Price Forbes (May 2017) Aviva's acquisition of the remaining 5 per cent stake in VietinBank Aviva Life Insurance from (April 2017) Global Bankers Insurance Group's acquisition of NN Life Luxembourg (April 2017) Allianz's acquisition of the remaining 33.5 per cent stake in Allianz-Irish Life Holdings (February 2017) Phoenix Group's acquisition of Abbey Life's UK insurance business (December 2016) Chesnara's acquisition of Legal & General's Dutch life operations (November 2016) Mirae Asset Life's acquisition of PCA Life Insurance (November 2016)
Asset availability	 National Bank of Greece's proposed sale of Ethniki Hellenic General Insurance (June 2017) Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society's proposed sale of its general insurance division (May 2017) Generali's proposed sale of its divisions in Belgium, Portugal and the Netherlands (March 2017)
Market participants searching for growth outside primary markets	 Zurich Insurance Group's acquisition of Australia's Cover-More Group (April 2017) Lloyd's of London set up an Indian reinsurance branch (April 2017) Cobalt Insurance received approval from Lloyd's of London to launch the first fully Shari'ah-compliant syndicate (October 2016)
Financial sponsor interest in insurance assets	 JC Flowers' acquisition of UK General Insurance (May 2017) Cinven's acquisition of Eurovita (April 2017) Apollo-backed Athene is seeking insurance/reinsurance acquisition opportunities in Germany and the UK (March 2017)
Systemically important institutions shedding capital-intensive business lines	 Aviva's sale of its interests in Unicorp Vida and Aviva Vida y Pensiones (May 2017) Old Mutual's disposal of its 26 per cent interest in Kotak Mahindra Old Mutual Life Insurance to joint venture partner Kotak Mahindra Bank (April 2017) Barclays' sale of its Spanish non-strategic insurance business (March 2017) AlG's sale of its Latin American and CEE businesses (October 2016)