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PRESS RELEASE

BIS, ECB AND IMF PUBLISH SECOND PART OF “HANDBOOK ON SECURITIES STATISTICS”

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today jointly released the second part of the “Handbook on Securities Statistics”, which covers debt securities holdings. The aim of the Handbook is to assist national and international agencies in the production of relevant, coherent and internationally comparable securities statistics for use in monetary policy formulation and financial stability analysis.

The Handbook is the first publication of its kind dealing exclusively with the conceptual framework for the compilation and presentation of securities statistics. As such, it directly addresses one of the recommendations endorsed by the Ministers of Finance and Central Bank Governors of the Group of Twenty Economies (G20) concerning the need to fill data gaps and to strengthen data collection. Recommendation 7 of the report The Financial Crisis and Information Gaps, prepared by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) Secretariat and IMF staff, called on central banks and, where relevant, statistical offices, particularly those of the G20 economies, to participate in BIS data collection on securities and to contribute to the further development of the Handbook.

Existing international statistical standards, such as the “System of National Accounts, 2008” and the “IMF Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual”, sixth edition, provided the foundations of the Handbook. It has also benefited from comments of experts from central banks, statistical institutions, and international organisations.

The first part of the Handbook, which covers debt securities issues, was released in May 2009. The Handbook can be downloaded from the IMF’s website at: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sta/wgsd/index.htm> and from the ECB’s website at: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/>

European Central Bank:

Directorate Communications, Press and Information Division

Kaiserstrasse 29, D-60311 Frankfurt am Main

Tel.: +49 69 1344 7455, Fax: +49 69 1344 7404

Internet: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu>

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