



ASIC

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

REPORT 146

**Market assessment report:
Eurex Frankfurt AG
ARBN 100 999 764**

December 2008

About this report

This report summarises ASIC's fourth annual assessment of Eurex Frankfurt AG (EFAG) under s794C of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (Corporations Act).

About ASIC regulatory documents

In administering legislation ASIC issues the following types of regulatory documents.

Consultation papers: seek feedback from stakeholders on matters ASIC is considering, such as proposed relief or proposed regulatory guidance.

Regulatory guides: give guidance to regulated entities by:

- explaining when and how ASIC will exercise specific powers under legislation (primarily the Corporations Act)
- explaining how ASIC interprets the law
- describing the principles underlying ASIC's approach
- giving practical guidance (e.g. describing the steps of a process such as applying for a licence or giving practical examples of how regulated entities may decide to meet their obligations).

Information sheets: provide concise guidance on a specific process or compliance issue or an overview of detailed guidance.

Reports: describe ASIC compliance or relief activity or the results of a research project.

Previous reports on EFAG

EFAG was granted an Australian market licence for overseas market to operate Eurex Deutschland (Eurex) on 10 March 2004.

Report number	Date released
REP 48	July 2005
REP 74	May 2006
REP 96	June 2007

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Key findings and recommendations

Key findings

- 1 ASIC is satisfied that EFAG has adequate arrangements for the supervision of its market in accordance with its obligations under s792A(c) of the Corporations Act.

Recommendations

- 2 ASIC does not have any recommendations to make about EFAG's current supervisory arrangements.

A The assessment

Key points

ASIC conducts annual assessments of market licensees, such as EFAG, because it is required to do so under s794C of the Corporations Act.

The scope of our assessment must always include the obligations in s792A(c) of the Corporations Act but can also include other Chapter 7 obligations.

ASIC uses the licensee's self-assessment reports, information from our previous assessments, ASIC's observation of the licensee's performance, market intelligence and other things to form a view of how well the licensee has operated its market.

Purpose and scope

- 3 We are required to assess how well a market licensee complies with its obligations in s792A(c) at least once a year: s794C(2).
- 4 A market licensee is required to have adequate arrangements for supervising the market (under s792A) including for:
 - handling conflicts between the commercial interests of the licensee and the need for the licensee to ensure that the market is fair, orderly and transparent;
 - monitoring the conduct of participants on or in relation to the market; and
 - enforcing compliance with the market's operating rules.
- 5 In addition, we are permitted to extend the scope of our assessment to review how well a market licensee complies with any or all of its obligations under Chapter 7 of the Corporations Act: s794C(1).

Background

- 6 EFAG was granted an Australian market licence for an overseas market operator on 10 March 2004. The market licence permits EFAG to operate its financial market, Eurex Deutschland (Eurex), in Australia. Eurex provides an electronic trading platform that facilitates trading in futures and options on futures contracts.
- 7 EFAG requires all Australian participants to hold an Australian financial services (AFS) licence permitting them to trade in products of the same kind as those that can be dealt with on the market, unless the participant is exempt

under Australian law from the requirement to hold an AFS licence to participate in the market.

- 8 EFAG is authorised to operate Eurex as an exchange under the German federal Exchange Act (Exchange Act) pursuant to a decision of the Exchange Supervisory Authority (ESA) of the State of Hesse on 2 December 1998.
- 9 Eurex is a public law entity approved in the State of Hesse, Germany, as a public exchange under the Exchange Act. Eurex is supervised by the ESA under the Exchange Act.
- 10 A copy of EFAG's market licence is available on our website at www.asic.gov.au.

Our methodology

Our assessment process

- 11 A market licensee's obligations are ongoing. Whether it is likely to comply with its obligations in the future cannot be judged merely by reference to its past compliance.
- 12 We therefore use the assessment process to:
- reach conclusions about the adequacy of the arrangements a market licensee has in place for supervising its market in accordance with its obligations under the Corporations Act at the time of the assessment; and
 - identify issues that in our view need, or may need, to be addressed to ensure ongoing compliance.

What we considered

- 13 In conducting our assessment we:
- analysed information we received from and about EFAG in the ordinary course of our dealings with the licensee, including EFAG's annual regulatory report required under s792F;
 - reviewed information from the media, EFAG's website and other sources;
 - reviewed EFAG's six-monthly reports to ASIC;
 - sought additional information from EFAG for the purpose of this assessment; and
 - considered information from the ESA.

Discussions with the foreign regulator

- 14 In assessing an overseas licensee's compliance with its obligations under s792A(c) of the Corporations Act, we place significant reliance on statements by the licensee's home regulator in regard to the standing of the licensee. We have received confirmation from the ESA that Eurex remains in good standing as an exchange.

Consultation

- 15 EFAG has had the opportunity to view and comment on the findings contained in a draft version of this report. Where appropriate, this final report reflects EFAG's responses.

What we focused on for this assessment

- 16 Our focus in this assessment was to review how well EFAG complied with its ongoing supervisory and reporting obligations under its market licence and the Corporations Act.

B Our observations

Key points

As part of this assessment, we have considered that the adequacy of EFAG's arrangements and resources for supervising its market including:

- handling conflicts between the commercial interests of the licensee and the need for the licensee to ensure that the market is fair, orderly and transparent;
- monitoring the conduct of participants on or in relation to the market; and
- enforcing compliance with the market's operating rules.

ASIC has also considered EFAG's compliance with its reporting obligations under the Corporations Act.

Supervisory arrangements

- 17 We conclude that EFAG has adequate arrangements and resources for the supervision of its market in accordance with its obligations under s792A(c).
- 18 This conclusion is based on the following observations drawn from information gathered during the assessment process and our ongoing correspondence with EFAG, and the present operating conditions (including trading volumes and financial products traded on the market):
- EFAG confirmed that the arrangements for supervising the market have not changed during the previous reporting period;
 - the ESA confirmed that Eurex remains in good standing as an exchange, and that there were no disciplinary actions taken against EFAG; and
 - during our assessment nothing came to our attention to suggest that EFAG's supervisory arrangements are not operating properly.

Conflicts of interest

- 19 A description of EFAG's supervisory arrangements for handling conflicts of interest is set out at section 2.1 of our report on our first annual assessment of EFAG (REP 48), issued in July 2005.
- 20 Based on our review of all information at hand and information provided by EFAG and the ESA, we are not aware of any significant conflicts of interest events occurring during the assessment period. Further, it appears that EFAG continues to have adequate arrangements for handling conflicts of interest.

Monitoring the conduct of participants

- 21 A description of EFAG's supervisory arrangements for monitoring the conduct of participants on or in relation to the market is set out at section 2.1 of our report on our first annual assessment of EFAG (REP 48), issued in July 2005.
- 22 Based on our review of all information at hand and information provided by EFAG and the ESA, EFAG appears to have adequate arrangements for monitoring the conduct of participants, taking into account the nature of the market it operates. We note that EFAG's methods for monitoring market conduct have not changed since our last annual assessment (reported in REP 96, issued June 2007).

Compliance with market operating rules

- 23 A description of EFAG's supervisory arrangements for enforcing compliance with the market's operating rules is set out at section 2.1 of our report on our first annual assessment of EFAG (REP 48), issued in July 2005.
- 24 We note that EFAG's arrangements for enforcing compliance with the operating rules have not changed since our last annual assessment (reported in REP 96, issued June 2007).
- 25 EFAG has told us that it has no reason to suspect that an Australian participant has committed, is committing, or is about to commit, a significant contravention of the market's operating rules. EFAG has not taken any disciplinary action against any Australian participants in the market.
- 26 Based on our review of all information at hand and information provided by EFAG and the ESA, EFAG appears to have adequate arrangements for enforcing compliance with its operating rules.

Regulation of EFAG in Germany

- 27 We received information from the ESA about the regulation of Eurex during the assessment period.
- 28 The ESA has told us that Eurex remains in good standing as an exchange. It has told us that there were no reviews or on-site risk assessments of EFAG and no surveillance or disciplinary action taken against EFAG.

Reporting obligations

Annual regulatory report

- 29 We note that EFAG lodged its annual regulatory report with us on time and it contained the information required.

Reports required by market licence

- 30 We note that EFAG lodged its six-monthly reports with us on time and they contained the information required.

Rule amendments

- 31 EFAG has provided notices on rule changes in a timely manner and with sufficient information to satisfy s793D(3) of the Corporations Act.

Conclusion

- 32 Based on this assessment, we do not have any recommendations to make about EFAG's current supervisory arrangements.

Key terms

Term	Meaning in this document
AFS licence	Australian financial services licence under s911A
AML	Australian market licence under s791A
ASIC	Australian Securities and Investments Commission
Corporations Act	<i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth)
EFAG	Eurex Frankfurt AG
ESA	Exchange Supervisory Authority of the State of Hesse
Eurex	Eurex Deutschland, a financial market providing an electronic trading platform that facilitates trading in futures and options on futures contracts
s794C	A section of the Corporations Act (in this example numbered 794C)