
MERRILL LYNCH B.V.

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**



PricewaterhouseCoopers
Accountants N.V.
For identification
purposes only

COMPANY INFORMATION

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Directors | A.E. Okobia E.J. Brouwer S. Lilly |
| Company Secretary | Merrill Lynch Corporate Services Limited |
| Registered number | 56457103 |
| Registered office | Amstelplein 1, Rembrandt Tower, 27 Floor, 1096HA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands |
| Independent Auditor | PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V. Fascinatio Boulevard 350 3065 WB Rotterdam The Netherlands |

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DIRECTORS' REPORT
For the year ended 31 December 2017

The directors present their report and the financial statements of Merrill Lynch B.V. ("MLBV", or the "Company") for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The directors confirm that to the best of our knowledge:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its profit and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the directors' report gives a true and fair view of the Company's situation as at the reporting date, the events that occurred during 2017 and the risks to which the Company is exposed.

The Dutch Civil Code requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union ("IFRS as adopted by the EU").

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable IFRSs as adopted by the EU have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with IFRS as adopted by the EU. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Electronic Distribution

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company's financial statements are provided for inclusion on the website of the Company's ultimate parent undertaking, Bank of America Corporation ("BAC"). The work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.

Business review

The Company was incorporated on November 12, 2012 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The statutory address of the Company is Amstelplein 1, Rembrandt Tower, 27 Floor, 1096 HA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The parent of the Company is Merrill Lynch International, LLC ("MLID") and the ultimate parent of the Company is BAC.

Principal activities and future developments

The principal activities of the Company are the issuance of structured notes and economically hedging these instruments through derivatives and fully-funded total return swaps. In addition the Company grants intercompany loans to affiliated entities and places deposits with BAC and Merrill Lynch International ("MLI"), a BAC affiliate.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

Business review (continued)

Principal activities and future developments (continued)

The directors expect the principal activities to continue during 2018.

Financial performance

The directors are satisfied with the Company's performance for the financial year ended 31 December 2017 and the financial position at the end of the year. The profit for the financial year, after taxation, amounted to \$3,399,000 (2016: profit of \$17,833,000).

Dividends

During the 12 month period, the Company declared an amount of \$15,847,000 (2016: \$15,890,000) be paid as a dividend to its parent, MLID, relating to the accrued payments on the \$750,000,000 of other equity capital. See note 15.

Risk management

BAC has established a risk governance framework (the "Risk Framework") which serves as the foundation for consistent and effective management of risks facing BAC and its subsidiaries (including the Company). It provides an understanding of the Company's approach to risk management and each employee's responsibilities for managing risk. All employees must take ownership for managing risk well and are accountable for identifying, escalating and debating risks facing the Company.

The risk management approach has five components:

- Culture of managing risk well;
- Risk appetite and risk limits;
- Risk management process;
- Risk data management, aggregation and reporting; and
- Risk governance.

The seven key types of risk faced by BAC Businesses as defined in the Risk Framework are Strategic, Credit, Market, Liquidity, Operational, Compliance and Reputational risks.

The Company's approach to each of the risk types are further described in the notes to the financial statements (see note 20).

Composition of the board

The size and composition of the Board of Directors and the combined experience reflects the best fit for the profile and strategy of the Company. On 16 January 2017, R. De Groot resigned and E.J Brouwer was appointed as Board Director. Also on 31 October 2017, A.C. Jones resigned and S. Lilly was appointed as Board Director on 28 November 2017. Currently three members of the Board of Directors are male. The Company is aware of the gender diversity goals as set out in the Dutch Civil Code and the Company will pay close attention to gender diversity in the process of recruiting and appointing new Board of Directors.

There are no employees in the Company for the year ended 2017 (2016: none).

DIRECTORS' REPORT (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

Board of Directors

Managing Directors
(together authorised to represent the Company)

A.E. Okobia

E.J. Brouwer (appointed 16 January 2017)

S. Lilly (appointed 28 November 2017)

R. De Groot (resigned 16 January 2017)

A.C. Jones (resigned 31 October 2017)

This report was approved by the Board on 25 April 2018 and signed on its behalf.

A.E. Okobia
Director

E.J. Brouwer
Director

S. Lilly
Director

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the year ended 31 December 2017

| | Note | 2017 \$'000 | 2016 \$'000 |
|---|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments held for trading | 3 | 68,576 | (10,053) |
| Net loss on financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss | 4 | (108,573) | (7,403) |
| Interest income | 5 | 39,661 | 35,867 |
| Operating (loss)/income | 6 | (14) | 455 |
| Net (loss)/income | | (350) | 18,866 |
| Administrative expenses | | (488) | (320) |
| Total (loss)/profit before tax | | (838) | 18,546 |
| Tax credit/(charge) | 7 | 4,237 | (713) |
| Profit for the year | | 3,399 | 17,833 |
| Other comprehensive income | | - | - |
| Total comprehensive income | | 3,399 | 17,833 |

The notes on pages 8 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 31 December 2017

| | Note | 2017 \$'000 | 2016 \$'000 |
|---|------|------------------|------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Non-current assets | | | |
| Amounts owed by affiliated undertakings | 8 | 1,685,276 | 1,386,318 |
| Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss | 9 | 113,732 | 77,426 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | 10 | 147,906 | 92,451 |
| Total non-current assets | | 1,946,914 | 1,556,195 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Amounts owed by affiliated undertakings | 8 | 215,247 | 873,882 |
| Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss | 9 | 66,352 | 327,178 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | 10 | 39 | 10,215 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 12 | 21,147 | 21,236 |
| Accrued interest receivable and other assets | | 23 | - |
| Total current assets | | 302,808 | 1,232,511 |
| Total assets | | 2,249,722 | 2,788,706 |
| EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | | | |
| Equity | | | |
| Other reserves | 17 | 3,651 | 3,651 |
| Other equity capital | 17 | 750,000 | 750,000 |
| Retained earnings | | 55,396 | 67,844 |
| Total equity attributable to the owners of the Company | | 809,047 | 821,495 |
| Non-current liabilities | | | |
| Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss | 13 | 1,163,042 | 1,043,118 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | 10 | 21,191 | 14,844 |
| Deferred tax liability | 11 | 480 | 5,508 |
| Total non-current liabilities | | 1,184,713 | 1,063,470 |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Amounts owed to affiliated undertakings | 14 | 123,602 | 95,029 |
| Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss | 13 | 80,449 | 761,073 |
| Dividend payable | | 51,579 | 35,732 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | 10 | - | 11,353 |
| Income tax payable | 11 | 316 | 495 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | 16 | 16 | 59 |
| Total current liabilities | | 255,962 | 903,741 |
| Total liabilities | | 1,440,675 | 1,967,211 |
| Total equity and liabilities | | 2,249,722 | 2,788,706 |

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors and were signed on its behalf on 25 April 2018.

A.E. Okobia
Director

E.J. Brouwer
Director

S. Lilly
Director

The notes on pages 8 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended 31 December 2017

| | Note | 2017 \$000 | 2016 \$000 |
|--|------|---------------|---------------|
| Cash flow generated from operating activities | | | |
| (Loss)/Profit before tax | | (838) | 18,546 |
| <i>Adjustments for non-cash items:</i> | | | |
| Net (gain)/loss on financial instruments held for trading | 3 | (68,576) | 10,053 |
| Net loss on financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss | 4 | 108,573 | 7,403 |
| Interest income | 5 | (39,661) | (35,867) |
| Foreign exchange gain on translation of tax liability | | (153) | (2) |
| Cash used in operations | | (655) | 133 |
| Placement of intercompany loans and deposits | 8 | (280,451) | (428,619) |
| Repayment of intercompany loans and deposits | 8 | 694,099 | 588,584 |
| Placement of fully-funded total return swaps | 9 | (104,184) | (258,670) |
| Repayment of fully-funded total return swaps | 9 | 328,706 | 102,865 |
| Net movement of financial instruments held for trading | 10 | 18,290 | 46,973 |
| Proceeds from issuance of structured notes | 13 | 331,051 | 437,125 |
| Redemption of structured notes | 13 | (1,010,390) | (509,770) |
| Income tax paid | | (817) | (1,082) |
| Increase in intercompany payables | | 68,066 | 71,208 |
| Decrease in intercompany payables | | (43,804) | (48,082) |
| Net cash generated from operating activities | | (89) | 665 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | 21,236 | 20,571 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of year | 12 | 21,147 | 21,236 |

The notes on page 8 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
For the year ended 31 December 2017

Movements in shareholders' equity during the year ended 31 December 2017 are as follows:

| | Note | Issued share capital \$000 | Other reserves \$000 | Other equity capital \$000 | Retained earnings \$000 | Total Equity \$000 |
|---|------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| At 1 January 2017 | | - | 3,651 | 750,000 | 67,844 | 821,495 |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | | - | - | - | 3,399 | 3,399 |
| Dividends declared | 15 | - | - | - | (15,847) | (15,847) |
| At 31 December 2017 | | - | 3,651 | 750,000 | 55,396 | 809,047 |

Movements in shareholders' equity during the year ended 31 December 2016 are as follows:

| | Note | Issued share capital \$000 | Other reserves \$000 | Other equity capital \$000 | Retained earnings \$000 | Total Equity \$000 |
|---|------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| At 1 January 2016 | | - | 3,651 | 750,000 | 65,902 | 819,553 |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | | - | - | - | 17,832 | 17,832 |
| Dividends declared | 15 | - | - | - | (15,890) | (15,890) |
| At 31 December 2016 | | - | 3,651 | 750,000 | 67,844 | 821,495 |

The notes on pages 8 to 34 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 December 2017

1. General information

The Company is a private company with limited liability (Besloten Vennootschap met Beperkte Aansprakelijkheid) incorporated under the laws of The Netherlands on 12 November 2012 with registration number 56457103.

The principal activities of the Company are the issuance of structured notes and economically hedging these instruments through derivatives and fully-funded total return swaps. In addition the Company grants intercompany loans and places deposits with BAC and MLI. The directors expect the principal activities to continue during 2018.

The directive 2004/109/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 December 2004 on the harmonisation of transparency requirements in relation to information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market has been implemented in the Netherlands. In this regard the Company had to choose its Home Member State.

The Company has chosen The Netherlands as Home Member State in connection with Transparency Directive, the Netherlands being the country of the Company.

As a consequence of this choice the Company files its annual and semi-annual financial statements with the Autoriteit Financiële Markten (AFM).

The Company makes use of the exemption to the requirement to establish its own Audit Committee based on Article 3a of the Royal Decree of 26 July 2008 implementing article 41 of the EU Directive 2006/43EG, as the Audit Committee of BAC that is compliant with the requirements will fulfil the role of the Company's Audit Committee. BAC operates an Audit Committee, which covers the BAC group, including the Company. Details of the Charter, Membership, Duties, and Responsibilities can be found on the BAC group website.

The Company has its registered address at Amstelplein 1, Rembrandt Tower, 27 Floor, 1096HA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. MLID is the Company's immediate parent; BAC is the Company's ultimate parent, see note 19.

2. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

2.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the Company have been prepared in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU and the additional requirements of Title 9 Book 2 of the Netherlands Civil Code in accordance with article 362 section 8 and 9 of the Netherlands Civil Code for entities which prepare their financial statements in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the EU.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified to include certain assets and liabilities at fair value. The Company does not maintain historical cost information on items at fair value as this is not relevant to the operation of the business.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise their judgement in the process of applying the Company's accounting policies, for example, determining the fair value of financial instruments. The financial statements were prepared using the going concern assumption and the directors expect the principal activities to continue in 2018.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

2. Accounting Policies (continued)**Basis of preparation (continued)*****New standards, amendments and interpretations***

There are no standards, amendments or interpretations that are effective for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 January 2017 that have had a material impact on the Company.

New standards, amendments and interpretations not yet adopted

A number of new standards and amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 January 2017, and have not been applied in preparing these financial statements. None of these are expected to have a significant effect on the financial statements of the Company, except for the following set out below. The Company has provided information regarding IFRS 9 – Financial Instruments (“IFRS 9”) and IFRS 15 – Revenue from Contracts with Customers (“IFRS 15”) which are effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018. The Company has adopted IFRS 9 and IFRS 15 from 1 January 2018.

IFRS 9 addresses the classification, measurement and recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities. It replaces the guidance in IAS 39 - Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement that relates to the classification and measurement of financial instruments. IFRS 9 retains but simplifies the mixed measurement model and establishes three primary measurement categories for financial assets: amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income (“FVOCI”) and fair value through profit or loss (“FVPL”). The basis of classification depends on the entity’s business model and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset. Investments in equity instruments are required to be measured at fair value through profit or loss with the irrevocable option at inception to present changes in fair value in OCI not recycling. There is now a new expected credit losses model that replaces the incurred loss impairment model used in IAS 39.

A global project team was established for the implementation of IFRS 9, including senior management from the business, Risk, Finance and other functions as necessary to review the impact of the changes and revise accounting processes and internal controls.

IFRS 9 implements an expected credit loss model that replaces the incurred loss impairment model used in IAS 39. Expected credit losses are recorded on a 12-month or lifetime basis depending on whether there has been a significant increase in the credit risk of the financial instrument. The Company will incorporate forward-looking information into both its assessment of whether the credit risk of an instrument has increased significantly since its initial recognition and its measurement of expected credit losses using a variety of economic scenarios aligned to those used for other purposes such as strategic planning and budgeting. The Company’s assets in the scope of the expected credit loss model primarily relate to loans and deposits with affiliated entities of the BAC group, and the impact on adoption is expected to be immaterial.

For liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss, IFRS 9 requires the recognition of changes in own credit risk in other comprehensive income. To more appropriately align with this new requirement under IFRS9, approximately \$154 million trading liabilities will be reclassified as FVPL and presented within creditors. Classification and measurement of financial liabilities are otherwise unchanged.

IFRS 15 establishes a comprehensive framework for determining whether, how much and when revenue is recognised. The new standard does not impact the timing or measurement of the Company’s revenue recognition as it is consistent with the Company’s existing accounting for contracts within the scope of the new standard. Overall the Company does not expect the new accounting standard to have a material impact on its income statement or statement of financial position

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

2.2 Translation of foreign currencies

The financial statements have been presented in US dollars which is also the functional currency of the Company.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into US dollars at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into US dollars at rates of exchange ruling at the reporting date. Exchange gains and losses are recognised as net gain/(loss) on financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss.

Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated into the functional currency using the rate of exchange at the date of the initial transaction.

2.3 Financial instruments

a) Classification

(i) Financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss.

All structured notes issued and fully-funded total return swaps are classified as financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss upon initial recognition. Designation of any financial asset or financial liability at fair value through profit or loss is made upon initial recognition at the Company's discretion provided that certain conditions are met. These investments are managed and their performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, in accordance with the Company's structured notes program. Assets and liabilities in this category are classified as current if expected to be settled within 12 months, otherwise they are classified as non-current.

(ii) Financial instruments held for trading

All derivative financial instruments are classified as financial instruments held for trading. Assets and liabilities in this category are classified as current if expected to be settled within 12 months, otherwise they are classified as non-current.

(iii) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or floating payments that are not quoted in an active market other than fully-funded return swaps classified as financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss. Loans and receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less an allowance for any impairment. Assets and liabilities in this category are classified as current if expected to be settled within 12 months, otherwise they are classified as non-current.

b) Recognition

The Company recognises a financial instrument on its statement of financial position when it becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

c) Measurement

Financial instruments are measured initially at fair value (transaction price) plus, in the case of financial instruments not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of these financial instruments.

After initial recognition, financial instruments held for trading or designated fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value, with changes in their fair value recognised as gains or losses in the statement of comprehensive income.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

2. Accounting Policies (continued)**Financial instruments (continued)**

Transaction costs on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss are expensed immediately, while on other financial instruments they are amortised as part of the effective interest rate.

Loans and receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less an allowance for any impairment. Interest calculated using the effective interest rate method is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Management assesses at the end of each reporting period whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired.

A financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired and impairment losses are incurred only if there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (a 'loss event') and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated.

The amount of the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate. The loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised (such as an improvement in the debtor's credit rating), the reversal of the previously recognised impairment loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

d) Fair value measurement principles

For financial instruments where there is no quoted market price (unlisted financial instruments), appropriate valuation techniques are used including recent market transactions, discounted cash flow models, option pricing models and other methods consistent with accepted economic methodologies for pricing financial assets.

e) Derecognition

The Company derecognises a financial asset only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or it transfers substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset to another entity. If the Company neither transfers nor retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership and continues to control the transferred asset, the Company recognises its retained interest in the asset and an associated liability for amounts it may have to pay.

If the Company retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of a transferred financial asset, the Company continues to recognise the financial asset and also recognises a collateralised borrowing for the proceeds received.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when they are extinguished, that is to say when the obligation is discharged or cancelled or expires.

2.4 Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

2.5 Segmental reporting

The Company's results are wholly derived from a single class of business, being the Global Markets segment. It is not possible to allocate net operating income or net assets to any particular geographical source as one transaction may involve parties situated in a number of different geographical areas.

2.6 Shareholders' equity

All issued ordinary shares are classified as equity. The perpetual borrowing from MLID has no maturity date and is classified as equity. Any dividend on the borrowing is subject to prior declaration by the Board of Directors.

2.7 Income and expense recognition

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method. When a loan and receivable is impaired, the Company reduces the carrying amount to its recoverable amount, being the estimated future cash flow discounted at the original effective interest rate of the instrument, and continues unwinding the discount as interest income. Interest income on impaired loan and receivables is recognised using the original effective interest rate.

Interest arising from financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss is included in the change in fair value of financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss.

Charges made to affiliated companies to reimburse the Company for expenditure incurred, are recorded within operating income.

2.8 Current and deferred income tax

Current tax is measured at the amount expected to be paid to taxation authorities. The tax rates and tax laws used to compute the amount are those that are enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period.

Deferred income tax is recognised on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period date and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised.

Deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised only to the extent that it is probable the temporary difference will reverse in the future and there is sufficient taxable profit available against which the temporary difference can be utilised.

2.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, demand deposits with banks and other financial institutions, short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash; which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and which have a maturity of three months or less at acquisition. In the statement of financial position, bank overdrafts are shown within current liabilities.

2.10 Statement of cash flows

The Statement of cash flows is prepared according to the indirect method. The Statement of cash flows shows the Company's cash flows for the period divided into cash flows from operating and financing activities and how the cash flows have affected the Company's cash balances. Transactions related to the issuance of structured notes are classified as operating activities.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
2. Accounting Policies (continued)
2.11 Dividend distribution

Dividend distributions in respect of the perpetual borrowing are recognised as a liability in the financial statements in the period in which the dividends are approved by the Board of Directors.

2.12 Critical accounting estimates and judgment in applying accounting policies

Application of the accounting policies in the preparation of the financial statements requires the Board of Directors to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The following significant judgements are made to determine fair values that require complex estimates:

Financial instruments measured at fair value

The fair values of financial instruments that are not quoted in financial markets are determined by using valuation techniques based on models such as discounted cash flow models, option pricing models and other methods consistent with accepted economic methodologies for pricing financial instruments. These models incorporate observable, and in some cases unobservable inputs including security prices, interest rate yield curves, option volatility, currency, commodity or equity rates and correlations between these inputs.

Where models are used to determine fair values, they are periodically reviewed by qualified personnel independent of the area that created them. All models are certified before they are used, and models are calibrated to ensure that output reflects actual data and comparative market prices. These estimation techniques are necessarily subjective in nature and involve several assumptions, refer to note 21 for further details.

3. Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments held for trading

| | 2017 \$000 | 2016 \$000 |
|--|---------------|-----------------|
| Gain on financial instruments held for trading | 80,251 | 40,297 |
| Loss on financial instruments held for trading | (11,675) | (50,350) |
| | <u>68,576</u> | <u>(10,053)</u> |

4. Net loss on financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss

| | 2017 \$000 | 2016 \$000 |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Change in fair value of structured notes | (107,795) | (28,143) |
| Change in fair value of fully funded swaps | (778) | 20,740 |
| | <u>(108,573)</u> | <u>(7,403)</u> |

The change in fair value of instruments designated at fair value include a loss of \$9,317,000 (2016: gain of \$9,874,000) which is attributable to changes in the credit spread of BAC.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
5. Interest income

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| | \$000 | \$000 |
| Finance income | <u>39,661</u> | <u>35,867</u> |

Finance income represents interest income on deposits and intercompany loans.

6. Operating expense

Operating expense of \$14,000, relates to service fee expense from Bank of America Merrill Lynch International Ltd ("BAMLI"), an affiliate. Prior year credit of \$455,000 relates to service income with MLI.

7. Tax (credit)/charge

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|
| | \$000 | \$000 |
| Current tax | | |
| Current tax on profit for the year | 834 | 710 |
| Adjustments in respect of prior periods | <u>(43)</u> | <u>232</u> |
| Total current tax charge (Note 11) | <u>791</u> | <u>942</u> |
| Deferred tax | | |
| Origination and reversal of temporary differences (Note 11) | <u>(5,028)</u> | <u>(229)</u> |
| Total deferred tax credit | <u>(5,028)</u> | <u>(229)</u> |
| Total tax (credit)/charge | <u>(4,237)</u> | <u>713</u> |

The tax for the period is reconciled to the standard rate of corporation tax in The Netherlands (2017: <€200k at 20% and >€200k at 25%, 2016: <€200k at 20% and >€200k at 25%).

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|-----------------------|------------|
| | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| (Loss)/Profit before tax | (838) | 18,546 |
| Tax calculated at standard rate of corporation tax 25% (2016: 25%) | (209) | 4,637 |
| Tax effects of: | | |
| Net credit not subject to tax | (3,985) | (3,964) |
| Adjustments in respect of prior periods | <u>(43)</u> | <u>40</u> |
| Total tax (credit)/charge | <u>(4,237)</u> | <u>713</u> |

Temporary differences arise on the recognition of gains or losses as BAC credit spreads change.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
8. Amounts owed by affiliated undertakings

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|
| | \$000 | \$000 |
| Non-current assets | | |
| Investment in Merrill Lynch & Co. Canada Ltd | 7,027 | 7,027 |
| Intercompany loan | 750,000 | 750,000 |
| Money market deposit | 928,249 | 629,291 |
| | <u>1,685,276</u> | <u>1,386,318</u> |
| Current assets | | |
| Intercompany loans | 215,247 | 171,341 |
| Money market deposit | - | 702,541 |
| | <u>215,247</u> | <u>873,882</u> |

The investment in Merrill Lynch & Co. Canada Ltd is in non-voting preference shares of which the Company holds 44.45%. The investment is measured at cost and the carrying value approximates to the fair value.

Money market deposits and intercompany loans mainly consist of funds raised through the issuance of structured notes and are carried at amortised cost. The balances are predominantly denominated in USD, EUR and GBP and are not past due or impaired.

Money market deposits are uncollateralised and placed with BAC and MLI (refer to note 20 for credit ratings).

Non-current money market deposits at amortised cost have a fair value of \$1,002,831,000 (2016: \$801,236,000). Current money market deposits at amortised cost have a fair value of \$nil (2016: \$672,528,000).

Non-current intercompany loans represent a fixed rate placement with BAC. The intercompany loan has a fair value of \$767,000,000 (2016: \$754,688,000). Current intercompany loans are extended on a short term basis and as a result the carrying value approximates to the fair values of the loans.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
9. Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss

The below table presents the aggregated amounts of the Company's financial assets designated at fair value through profit and loss, categorised by maturity dates:

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | Notional \$000 | Fair Value \$000 | Notional \$000 | Fair Value \$000 As restated |
| Fully-funded total return swaps | | | | |
| Non-current assets | | | | |
| From 12 months to 5 years | 109,551 | 111,492 | 74,027 | 75,236 |
| Over 5 years | 2,000 | 2,307 | 2,000 | 2,084 |
| Credit spread adjustment | | (67) | | 107 |
| | | 113,732 | | 77,427 |
| Current assets | | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 68,350 | 66,284 | 305,178 | 327,226 |
| Credit spread adjustment | | 68 | | (48) |
| | | 66,352 | | 327,178 |
| Total assets | | 180,084 | | 404,605 |

The financial assets designated at fair value represent fully-funded total return swaps held with MLI. The carrying and fair value amounts are denominated in the following currencies:

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | Notional \$000 | Fair Value \$000 | Notional \$000 | Fair Value \$000 As restated |
| Fully-funded total return swaps | | | | |
| EUR | 15,124 | 17,138 | 229,806 | 250,016 |
| USD | 163,424 | 160,826 | 140,636 | 143,688 |
| GBP | 1,353 | 2,119 | 1,236 | 1,554 |
| AUD | - | - | 9,970 | 9,288 |
| Credit spread adjustment | - | 1 | | 59 |
| | | 180,084 | | 404,605 |

All fully-funded total return swaps are linked to the performance of various market indices. A fully-funded total return swap is defined as a total return swap where the cash from the related issuance is placed with the swap counterparty as a single transaction.

The indexed linked amounts are calculated based on the movement of the underlying indices of each fully-funded total return swap.

The credit spread adjustment represents a credit valuation adjustment which is linked to BAC credit spreads, for more information refer to note 21.

The fair value of the fully-funded total return swaps are determined by using valuation techniques based on valuation models, for more information refer to accounting policy note 2.12.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

10. Financial instruments held for trading

| | 2017 Fair Value \$000 | 2016 Fair Value \$000 |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Non-current assets | 147,906 | 92,451 |
| Current assets | 39 | 10,215 |
| Total assets held for trading | 147,945 | 102,666 |
| Non-current liabilities | 21,191 | 14,844 |
| Current liabilities | - | 11,353 |
| Total liabilities held for trading | 21,191 | 26,197 |

Financial instruments held for trading are subject to offsetting and related arrangements.

The following tables analyse the offsetting of the Company's financial assets and liabilities as presented in the statement of financial position:

Financial assets subject to offsetting and related arrangements

| | Gross amounts of recognise d financial assets \$000 | Gross amounts of recognised financial liabilities set off in the statement of financial position \$000 | Net amounts of financial assets presented in the statement of financial position \$000 | Cash collateral \$000 | Net amount \$000 |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| As at 31 December 2017 | | | | | |
| Total assets | 196,273 | (48,328) | 147,945 | (123,650) | 24,295 |
| As at 31 December 2016 | | | | | |
| Total assets | 183,018 | (80,353) | 102,665 | (71,109) | 31,556 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
10. Financial instruments held for trading (continued)**Financial liabilities subject to offsetting and related arrangements**

| | Gross amounts of recognised financial liabilities | Gross amounts of recognised financial assets set off in the statement of financial position | Net amounts of recognised financial liabilities set off in the statement of financial position | Cash collateral | Net amount |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------|-------------------|
| | \$000 | \$000 | \$000 | \$000 | \$000 |
| As at 31 December 2017 | | | | | |
| Total liabilities | 69,519 | (48,328) | 21,191 | (214) | 20,977 |
| As at 31 December 2016 | | | | | |
| Total Liabilities | 26,197 | - | 26,197 | - | 26,197 |

Financial instruments held for trading consist of total return swaps and cross currency swaps that are mainly transacted with MLI and are predominantly denominated in USD, EUR and GBP.

The Company does not intend to net settle all swap positions despite having legally enforceable master netting agreements in place. Only where the total return swaps and cross-currency swaps relate to a single structured note, the Company net settles those swaps upon maturity or buyback of the note and as a result offsetting has been applied to those positions.

Cash collateral relates to collateral received and pledged under legally enforceable master netting agreements.

11. Tax liability

| | 2017 Deferred tax \$000 | 2016 Deferred tax \$000 |
|---|--|--|
| Deferred tax at beginning of period | 5,508 | 5,737 |
| Credited to the statement of comprehensive income | (5,028) | (229) |
| Deferred tax liability at end of period | 480 | 5,508 |
| The deferred tax liability is non-current. | | |
| | Current tax \$000 | Current tax \$000 |
| Current tax liability at beginning of period | 495 | 637 |
| Charged to the statement of comprehensive income | 791 | 942 |
| Impact of foreign tax exchange | (153) | (2) |
| Tax paid | (817) | (1,082) |
| Current tax at end of period | 316 | 495 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
12. Cash and cash equivalents

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------|
| | \$000 | \$000 |
| Cash at bank and on hand | 2,491 | 2,790 |
| Short-term demand deposits | 18,656 | 18,446 |
| | 21,147 | 21,236 |

The short-term demand deposits are held with Bank of America, N.A. and are interest bearing at 1.37% average rate. The credit rating is A-1 (S&P) (2016:A-1 (S&P)).

13. Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss

The below table presents the aggregated amounts of the Company's financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit and loss, categorised by maturity dates:

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | Notional \$000 | Fair Value \$000 | Notional \$000 | Fair Value \$000 |
| Structured notes | | | | |
| Current liabilities | | | | |
| Less than 1 year | 75,946 | 80,365 | 749,373 | 762,876 |
| Credit spread adjustment | | 84 | | (1,803) |
| | | 80,449 | | 761,073 |
| Non-current liabilities | | | | |
| From 12 months to 5 years | 601,285 | 748,037 | 797,377 | 972,563 |
| From 5 years to 10 years | 108,212 | 137,459 | 13,550 | 12,402 |
| Over 10 years | 270,160 | 268,313 | 68,906 | 66,225 |
| Credit spread adjustment | | 9,233 | | (8,072) |
| | | 1,163,042 | | 1,043,118 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
13. Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss (continued)

The financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss represents structured notes issued to investors. The structured notes are not collateralised. The carrying and fair value amounts of the structured notes are denominated in the following currencies:

| | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Notional \$000 | Fair Value \$000 | Notional \$000 | Fair Value \$000 |
| Structured notes | | | | |
| EUR | 306,974 | 467,667 | 892,672 | 1,050,092 |
| USD | 592,985 | 611,195 | 647,055 | 672,270 |
| SEK | 21,220 | 24,453 | 33,903 | 36,394 |
| JPY | 127,780 | 119,683 | 35,383 | 33,645 |
| CHF | - | - | 12,161 | 9,084 |
| GBP | 2,396 | 3,187 | 2,190 | 2,543 |
| CLP | 4,247 | 7,989 | 3,900 | 8,113 |
| MXN | - | - | 1,942 | 1,924 |
| Credit spread adjustment | | 9,317 | | (9,874) |
| | | <u>1,243,491</u> | | <u>1,804,191</u> |

The structured notes program does not include an early repayment option by the holder, hence the Company is not legally obliged to redeem the notes until they mature.

All structured notes are hybrid instruments with a structured component linked to the performance of various market indices. The ultimate return on the notes is dependent on the performance of the underlying indices. The indexed linked amounts are calculated based on the movement of the underlying indices of each structured note.

The credit spread adjustment represents a debit valuation adjustment which is linked to BAC credit spreads. The fair value of the structured notes, is determined by using valuation techniques based on valuation models, for more information refer to accounting policy note 2.12.

14. Amounts owed to affiliated undertakings

| | 2017 \$000 | 2016 \$000 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Other amounts payable | <u>123,602</u> | <u>95,029</u> |

Other accounts payable relate to collateral received under legally enforceable master netting agreements, denominated in USD which are due and payable on demand. Due to the short term nature there is no material difference between the fair value and the carrying values.

15. Dividend payable

During the year the Company declared an amount of \$15,847,000 (2016: \$15,890,000) as a dividend to MLID, representing payments declared by the Board of Directors on the \$750,000,000 other equity capital, please refer to note 17.

The directors do not recommend the payment of a further dividend in respect of the year ended 31 December 2017.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
16. Accrued expenses and other liabilities

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| | \$000 | \$000 |
| Accrued professional fees | <u>16</u> | <u>59</u> |

Payments will be made to PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V. in relation to the statutory audit. Payments will be made by an affiliate entity and recharged to the Company.

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| | \$000 | \$000 |
| Audit fees | 120 | 120 |
| Non-audit fees | 24 | 93 |
| | <u>144</u> | <u>213</u> |

The fees listed above relate to the procedures applied to the Company by accounting firms and external auditors as referred to in Section 1, subsection 1 of the Audit Firms Supervision Act ("Wet toezicht accountants organisaties – Wta") as well as by Dutch and foreign-based accounting firms, including their tax services and advisory groups.

Total audit fees charged by PwC NL amounts to \$120,000 (2016:\$120,000). The audit fees relate to the statutory audit of the Company. These fees relate to the audit of the 2017 financial statements, regardless of whether the work was performed during the financial year. The non-audit services relate to services performed in relation to the comfort letters for the issuance of structured notes.

17. Share capital

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | \$000 | \$000 |
| Issued share capital | - | - |
| Other reserves | 3,651 | 3,651 |
| Other equity capital | <u>750,000</u> | <u>750,000</u> |
| | <u>753,651</u> | <u>753,651</u> |

Issued share capital in 2017 comprises 12,998 Ordinary shares of equal voting rights at \$0.01 each. (2016: 12,998 ordinary shares at \$0.01 each).

Other reserves include adjustments which relates to the mergers in prior years.

Other equity capital comprises a perpetual borrowing from MLID issued on 1 January 2013 which carries no voting rights. The borrowing carries a rate of 2.08% per annum and payments are accrued subject to prior declaration by the Board of Directors. See Note 15.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
18. Financial instruments by category

The following table analyses the carrying amount of the Company's financial assets and liabilities by category and by statement of financial position heading:

Summary of financial instruments at 31 December 2017

| | | Loans and receivables | Financial instruments held for trading | Financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss |
|---|-------|--------------------------|---|---|
| | Notes | \$000 | \$000 | \$000 |
| Assets | | | | |
| Amounts owed by affiliated undertakings | 8 | 1,900,523 | - | - |
| Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss | 9 | - | - | 180,083 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | 10 | - | 147,945 | - |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 12 | 21,147 | - | - |
| | | <u>1,921,670</u> | <u>147,945</u> | <u>180,083</u> |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss | 13 | - | - | 1,243,491 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | 10 | - | 21,191 | - |
| Amounts owed to affiliated undertakings | 14 | 123,435 | - | - |
| | | <u>123,435</u> | <u>21,191</u> | <u>1,243,491</u> |

Summary of financial instruments at 31 December 2016

| | | Loans and receivables | Financial instruments held for trading | Financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss |
|---|-------|--------------------------|---|--|
| | Notes | \$000 | \$000 | \$000 |
| Assets | | | | |
| Amounts owed by affiliated undertakings | 8 | 2,260,201 | - | - |
| Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss | 9 | - | - | 404,605 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | 10 | - | 102,665 | - |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 12 | 21,236 | - | - |
| | | <u>2,281,437</u> | <u>102,665</u> | <u>404,605</u> |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss | 13 | - | - | 1,804,191 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | 10 | - | 26,197 | - |
| Amounts owed to affiliated undertakings | 14 | 95,029 | - | - |
| | | <u>95,029</u> | <u>26,197</u> | <u>1,804,191</u> |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

19. Related party transactions

Related party transactions are transfers of resources, services or obligations between related parties and the Company, regardless of whether a price has been charged. Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial or operational decisions or is part of key management of the Company.

The following parties are considered related parties:

MLID, the Company's immediate parent is the holder of all 12,998 ordinary shares (\$129.98).

MLID is the holder of Other equity capital of \$750,000,000 which carries a rate of 2.08% per annum and payments are accrued subject to prior declaration by the Board of Directors.

The Company has deposits placed with BAC, which at 31 December 2017 amounted to \$360,364,000 (2016: \$1,000,742,000) which are interest bearing, generating interest income during 2017 of \$8,425,000 (2016: \$6,054,000).

The Company has deposits placed with MLI, which at 31 December 2017 amounted to \$567,886,000 (2016: \$331,091,000) which are interest bearing, generating interest income during 2017 of \$11,330,000 (2016: \$102,000).

The Company has total return swaps and cross currency swaps transacted with MLI, which at 31 December 2017 amounted to \$126,754,000 (2016: \$76,468,000).

The Company has entered into loan contracts with MLI and ML&Co. Canada Ltd, as set out in notes 8 and 9.

BAC as the ultimate controlling party has the power to govern the Company.

There are no employees in the Company for the year ended 2017 (2016: none).

Included in administrative expenses are Directors' fees and remuneration for the one director, two directors do not receive any remuneration. Disbursements for travel and other expenses incurred in relation to matters concerning the Company are charged to the Company separately. The Company entered into a cost sharing agreement with Investments 2234 Overseas Holdings B.V., an affiliated company with which costs relating to one of the directors' are shared, through their mutual ultimate parent company, BAC, which is based in North Tryon Street, Charlotte, North Carolina, 28202, U.S.A.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

20. Financial risk management**Legal Entity Governance**

BAC has established a risk governance framework (the “Risk Framework”) which serves as the foundation for consistent and effective management of risks facing BAC and its subsidiaries (including MLBV). The Risk Framework applies to all the employees. It provides an understanding of MLBV’s approach to risk management and each employee’s responsibilities for managing risk. All employees must take ownership for managing risk well and are accountable for identifying, escalating and debating risks facing the Company.

The risk management approach has five components:

- Culture of managing risk well;
- Risk appetite and risk limits;
- Risk management process;
- Risk data management, aggregation and reporting; and
- Risk governance.

The seven key types of risk faced by BAC Businesses as defined in the Risk Framework are Strategic, Credit, Market, Liquidity, Operational, Compliance and Reputational risks.

Set out below is a summary of the Company’s approach to each of the risk types.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market conditions may adversely impact the values of assets and liabilities or otherwise negatively impact earnings.

The Company seeks to mitigate market risk associated with structured notes by employing economic hedging strategies that correlate rate, price and spread movements of these financial instruments with related financing and hedging activities. The Company uses total return swaps to economically hedge its market exposures.

a) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk to current or projected financial condition and resilience arising from movements in interest rates. The Company has economically hedged its interest rate risk on the structured notes by entering into total return swaps. Interest price risk is economically hedged using a total return swap.

b) Foreign exchange risk

Foreign exchange risk represents exposures to changes in the values of current holdings and future cash flows denominated in currencies other than the U.S. Dollar. The Company’s trading assets and liabilities include both cash instruments denominated in and derivatives linked to U.S Dollar and Euro amongst others. Currency price risk is economically hedged using a total return swap.

c) Equity market risk

Equity market risk represents exposures to securities that represent an ownership interest in a corporation in the form of domestic and foreign common stock or other equity-linked instruments. Equity price risk is economically hedged using a total return swap.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

20. Financial risk management (continued)**Market risk (continued)**d) *Credit spread risk*

Credit spread risk is the potential for loss due to changes in credit spreads. Credit spreads represent the credit risk premiums required by market participants for a given credit level. Credit spread risk is economically hedged using a total return swap.

Credit Risk

The company defines credit risk as the loss arising from the inability or failure of a borrower or counterparty to meet its obligations.

The Company defines credit exposure to a borrower or counterparty as the loss potential arising from loans, leases, derivatives and other extensions of credit.

Credit risk to a borrower or counterparty is managed based on their risk profile, which includes assessing repayment sources, underlying collateral (if any), and the expected impacts of the current and forward-looking economic environment on its borrowers or counterparties. Underwriting, credit management and credit risk limits are proactively reassessed as a borrower's or counterparty's risk profile changes.

Credit risk management includes the following processes:

- Credit origination
- Portfolio management
- Loss mitigation activities

These processes create a comprehensive and consolidated view of companywide credit risks, thus providing executive management with the information required to guide or redirect front line units.

BAC has established policies and procedures for mitigating credit risk on principal transactions, including establishing and reviewing limits for credit exposure, maintaining collateral, purchasing credit protection and continually assessing the creditworthiness of counterparties. These limits were not exceeded during the year ended 31 December 2017.

The credit risks of the Company arise from its affiliate hedging of structured note issuance via derivatives as well as its intercompany loans and deposits. The Company restricts its exposure to credit losses on derivative instruments by entering into master netting arrangements with affiliate counterparties. The credit risk associated with favourable contracts is reduced by the master netting arrangement to the extent that if an event of default occurs, all amounts with the affiliate are terminated and settled on a net basis.

Additionally, the Company grants intercompany loans and places deposits with affiliates. None of the loans to affiliate companies is past due or impaired. The carrying amounts of financial assets best represent the maximum credit risk exposure at the end of the reporting year.

The Company is exposed to a significant concentration of credit risk related to money market deposits totalling \$928,249,000 (2016: \$1,331,833,000), all with affiliated undertakings, please refer to note 8. Financial assets held for trading and financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss are predominantly taken out with MLI. At the end of the reporting year, the credit rating for outstanding long term debt of the affiliated undertakings is A+ (S&P) for both BAC and MLI (2016: Baa1 and A for BAC and MLI).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

20. Financial risk management (continued)

Operational risk

Operational risk is the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events. Operational risk includes legal risk, which is the risk of loss (including litigation costs, settlements, and regulatory fines) resulting from the failure of the Company to comply with laws, regulations, prudent ethical standards, and contractual obligations in any aspect of the Company's business. Although operational risk excludes strategic and reputational risks, operational risk may impact or be impacted by these risks.

Operational risk exists in all business activities conducted by the Company. The Company is committed to maintaining strong operational risk management practices across all front line units and control functions.

Front line units and control functions are first and foremost responsible for managing all aspects of their businesses, including their operational risk. Therefore, front line units and control functions must understand their business processes and related risks and controls, including the related regulatory requirements, and monitor and report on the effectiveness of the control environment. In order to actively monitor and assess the performance of their processes and controls, they must conduct comprehensive quality assurance activities and identify issues and risks to remediate control gaps and weaknesses. Front line units and control functions must also adhere to operational risk appetite limits to meet strategic, capital and financial planning objectives.

Reputational risk

Reputational Risk is the potential risk that negative perceptions of BAC's conduct or business practices will adversely affect its profitability or operations through an inability to establish new or maintain existing customer / client relationships or otherwise impact relationships with key stakeholders, such as investors, regulators, employees, and the community.

Reputational Risk can stem from many of BAC's activities, including those related to the management of the strategic, operational or other risks, as well as the overall financial position. As a result, BAC evaluates the potential impact to its reputation within all risk categories and throughout the risk management process.

BAC manages reputational risk through established policies and controls in the business and risk management processes to mitigate reputational risks in a timely manner and through proactive monitoring and identification of potential reputational risk events.

For the EMEA region there is a dedicated committee, the EMEA Reputational Risk Committee, whose mandate includes consideration of Reputational Risk issues and to provide guidance and approvals for activities that represent specific Reputational Risks which have been referred for discussion by other current control frameworks or lines of business. Reputational Risk items relating to MLBV are considered as part of the EMEA Reputational Risk Committee.

Ultimately, to ensure that Reputational Risk is mitigated through regular business activity, awareness of Reputational Risk is integrated into the overall governance process, as well as incorporated into the roles and responsibilities for employees.

Given the nature of Reputational Risk, BAC does not set quantitative limits for the level of acceptable risk. Through proactive risk management, BAC seeks to minimise both the frequency and impact of reputational events.

Through the EMEA Regional Risk Committee and the EMEA Reputational Risk Committee, BAC has an appropriate organisational and governance structure in place to ensure strong oversight at the entity business level.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

20. Financial risk management (continued)

Reputational risk (continued)

The EMEA Reputational Risk Committee is a sub-committee of both the EMEA Regional Risk Committee and the Global Reputational Risk Committee and is applicable to all key legal operating entities in the region.

Items requiring increased attention may be escalated from EMEA Reputational Risk Committee to the Global Reputational Risk Committee as appropriate.

Reporting of reputational risk issues is captured as part of management routines for EMEA Reputational Risk Committee. Items presented to the EMEA Reputational Risk Committee are maintained through reporting which includes description of the reputational risk issue, geographical jurisdiction, reason for escalation and decision reached. A summary report of issues discussed at the EMEA Reputational Risk Committee is provided to the EMEA Regional Risk Committee on a quarterly basis.

Strategic risk

Strategic Risk is the risk that results from incorrect assumptions about external and/or internal factors, inappropriate business plans, ineffective business strategy execution, or failure to respond in a timely manner to changes in the regulatory, macroeconomic and competitive environments.

Strategic Risk is managed through the assessment of effective delivery of strategy and business performance is monitored by the executive management team to assess strategic risk and find early warning signals so that risks can be proactively managed.

MLBV strategic execution and risk management processes are aligned to the overall BAC strategic plans through a formal planning and approval process and are set within the context of overall risk appetite. During the planning process, the BAC Board provides credible challenge to management's assumptions and recommendations, and approves the strategic plans after a comprehensive assessment of the risks.

The BAC Board is responsible for overseeing the strategic planning process and management's implementation of the resulting strategic plan. BAC's strategic plan is reviewed and approved annually by the BAC Board.

Strategic planning at BAC level is representative of more detailed planning undertaken at the business unit, regional and MLBV level. Any strategic decisions relating to MLBV are presented and discussed at MLBV Board.

The executive management team provides the BAC Board with progress reports on the strategic plan, including timelines and objectives and recommendation of any additional or alternative actions to be implemented.

Front line units provide updates to MLBV Board on their business performance and management of strategic risk. Updates take into account analyses of performance relative to the strategic plan, financial operating plan, risk appetite and performance relative to peers.

Compliance risk

Compliance risk is the risk of legal or regulatory sanctions, material financial loss or damage to the reputation of BAC arising from the failure of BAC to comply with requirements of applicable laws, rules and regulations and related self-regulatory organizations' standards and codes of conduct.

Front line units are responsible for the proactive identification, management and escalation of compliance risks across BAC. Global Compliance is responsible for setting BAC-wide policies and standards and provides independent challenge and oversight to the front line units. BAC's approach to the management of compliance risk is further described in the Global Compliance Policy, which outlines the requirements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
20. Financial risk management (continued)
Compliance risk (continued)

of BAC's global compliance program and defines roles and responsibilities related to the implementation, execution and management of the global compliance risk management program by Global Compliance.

Global Compliance is a separate function with governance routines and executive reporting distinct from those of the front line units and other control functions. Global Compliance also collaborates with other control functions to provide additional support for specific remediation efforts and shares responsibility with the front line units, Global Risk Management and other control functions for mitigating reputational risk.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the inability to meet expected or unexpected cash flow and collateral needs while continuing to support the businesses and customers under a range of economic conditions.

The MLBV Board is ultimately responsible for the Company's liquidity risk management, delegating additional oversight to the lines of business. The businesses are the first lines of defence in liquidity risk management, partnering with Global Liquidity Management ("GLM") and Global Funding, functions within Corporate Treasury, to achieve liquidity risk management objectives.

The approach to managing the Company's liquidity risk has been established by the MLBV Board, aligned to BAC processes, but tailored to meet the Company's business mix, strategy, activity profile, and regulatory requirements.

The tables below represent the undiscounted cash flows of the Company's financial liabilities as at 31 December 2017 and 31 December 2016, with the exception of those held for trading or designated at fair value through profit and loss.

The fair values of financial liabilities held for trading and financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit and loss have been disclosed as this is consistent with the values used in the liquidity risk management of these instruments. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit and loss is presented in note 13.

| | Less than 3 months | Between 3 months and 1 year | Between 1 and 2 years | Between 2 and 5 years | Over 5 years | Total |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2017 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit and loss | 36,446 | 45,120 | 294,902 | 418,958 | 386,198 | 1,181,624 |
| Financial liabilities held for trading | - | - | 809 | 7,512 | 12,870 | 21,191 |
| Amounts owed to affiliated undertakings | - | 123,435 | - | - | - | 123,435 |
| Dividend payable | 51,579 | - | - | - | - | 51,579 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | 16 | - | - | - | - | 16 |
| Total liabilities | 88,041 | 168,555 | 295,711 | 426,470 | 399,068 | 1,377,845 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
20. Financial risk management (continued)**Liquidity risk (continued)**

| | Less than 3 months | Between 3 months and 1 year | Between 1 and 2 years | Between 2 and 5 years | Over 5 years | Total |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 2016 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit and loss | 36,764 | 725,945 | 475,251 | 352,566 | 78,550 | 1,669,076 |
| Financial liabilities held for trading | 9,292 | 2,061 | 1,076 | 8,594 | 5,174 | 26,197 |
| Amounts owed to affiliated undertakings | - | 95,029 | - | - | - | 95,029 |
| Dividend payable | - | 35,732 | - | - | - | 35,732 |
| Accrued expenses and other liabilities | - | 57 | - | - | - | 57 |
| Total liabilities | 46,056 | 858,824 | 476,327 | 361,160 | 83,724 | 1,826,091 |

Capital risk management

The Company's objectives when managing capital are to safeguard the Company's ability to continue as a going concern in order to provide returns for its immediate parent and benefits for other stakeholders and to maintain an optimal capital structure to reduce the cost of capital. In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Company may pay dividends to its immediate parent, return capital to its immediate parent, or issue new shares. The Company monitors capital on the basis of the capitalisation ratio which is calculated as equity divided by issued debt.

The capitalisation ratio of 65.10% allows sufficient headroom for future issuances of structured notes.

| | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|
| Capitalisation ratio: | 2017 | 2016 |
| | \$000 | \$000 |
| Equity (including other equity capital) | 809,047 | 821,495 |
| Issued debt | 1,243,491 | 1,804,191 |
| Capitalisation ratio | 65.10% | 45.50% |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
21. Fair value measurement

Financial instruments carried at fair value have been categorised into levels based on the observability of pricing information.

Financial instruments are considered Level 1 when valuation is based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. Level 2 financial instruments are valued using quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or models using inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities. Financial instruments are considered Level 3 when their values are determined using pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies or similar techniques and at least one significant model assumption or input is unobservable.

The table below presents the carrying value of financial instruments held at fair value across the three levels of the fair value hierarchy at 31 December 2017:

As at 31 December 2017

| | Level 1 \$'000 | Level 2 \$'000 | Level 3 \$'000 | Total \$'000 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Assets | | | | |
| Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss | - | 147,583 | 32,501 | 180,084 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | - | 32,640 | 115,305 | 147,945 |
| Total assets | - | 180,223 | 147,806 | 328,029 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit and loss | - | 785,453 | 458,038 | 1,243,491 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | - | 15,090 | 6,101 | 21,191 |
| Total liabilities | - | 800,543 | 464,139 | 1,264,682 |

As at 31 December 2016

| | Level 1 \$'000 | Level 2 \$'000 | Level 3 \$'000 | TOTAL \$'000 |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Assets | | | | |
| Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss | - | 308,244 | 96,360 | 404,604 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | - | 29,819 | 72,847 | 102,666 |
| Total assets | - | 338,063 | 169,207 | 507,270 |
| Liabilities | | | | |
| Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit and loss | - | 1,345,454 | 458,737 | 1,804,191 |
| Financial instruments held for trading | - | 17,394 | 8,803 | 26,197 |
| Total liabilities | - | 1,362,848 | 467,540 | 1,830,388 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
21. Fair value measurement (continued)**Fair values of level 3 assets**

Financial assets and liabilities whose values are based on prices or valuation techniques that require inputs that are both unobservable and are significant to the overall fair value measurement are classified as Level 3 under the fair value hierarchy. The Level 3 financial instruments include derivatives and valuation inputs for which there are few transactions and there is little or no observable market data to corroborate inputs to valuation models.

Where the value of financial instruments is dependent on unobservable inputs, the precise level for these parameters at the reporting date might be drawn from a spectrum of reasonably possible alternatives. Appropriate levels for these inputs are chosen so that they are consistent with prevailing market evidence and in line with the valuation control policies applicable across the BAC group. However, as the Company hedges all its market risk with affiliated undertakings, the impact to comprehensive income from the valuation of level 3 financial instruments using the range of possible inputs is zero.

The most significant unobservable input into the pricing of financial instruments of the Company is correlation. Correlation is a measure of the relationship between the movements of two variables (e.g. how the change in one variable influences the change in the other). Correlation inputs are related to the type of derivative due to the nature of the underlying risks. When parameters are positively correlated, an increase in one parameter will result in an increase in the other parameter. When parameters are negatively correlated, an increase in one parameter will result in a decrease in the other parameter. An increase in correlation can result in an increase or a decrease in a fair value measurement. Given a short correlation position, an increase in correlation, in isolation, would generally result in a decrease in a fair value measurement.

The table below presents a reconciliation for all Level 3 financial instruments measured at fair value. Level 3 assets were \$147,806,000 as of 31 December 2017 (2016: \$169,207,000) and represent approximately thirty three percent of assets measured at fair value and approximately six percent of total assets. Level 3 liabilities were \$464,139,000 as of 31 December 2017 (2016: \$467,540,000) and represent approximately twenty five percent of liabilities measured at fair value and twenty four percent of total liabilities.

| | Financial assets designated at fair value through profit and loss | Financial assets held for trading | Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss |
|--|--|--|--|
| | \$000 | \$000 | \$000 |
| Balance at 1 January 2017 | 96,360 | 64,044 | (458,737) |
| Gains/(losses) recognised in the statement of comprehensive income | 1,873 | 45,462 | (19,022) |
| Settlements | (68,288) | (718) | 51,743 |
| New issuances | 2,556 | 416 | - |
| Transfers in | - | - | (32,022) |
| Transfers out | - | - | - |
| Balance at 31 December 2017 | 32,501 | 109,204 | (458,038) |
| Change in unrealised gains or losses for level 3 assets and liabilities held at year end and included in net changes on financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss and held for trading | 1,873 | 45,462 | 19,022 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
21. Fair value measurement (continued)

Transfers in and out of level 3 are primarily due to changes in the impact of unobservable inputs on the value of financial instruments at fair value. Where previously unobservable inputs become more observable, for example due to the passage of time or more independent price quotes received, the transfer is made from level 3 to level 2. For financial assets and financial liabilities designated at fair value, where the impact of the embedded level 3 derivative becomes material to the overall value the fully funded swap or financial liability from one year to the next, the transfer is made from level 2 to level 3.

| | Financial assets designated at fair value through profit and loss \$000 | Financial instruments held for trading \$000 | Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss \$000 |
|--|---|--|---|
| Balance at 1 January 2016 | 33,082 | 158,558 | (509,869) |
| Gains/(losses) recognised in the statement of comprehensive income | 474 | (86,007) | 16,167 |
| Settlements | (32,015) | 841 | 48,917 |
| New issuances | 14,828 | (9,350) | - |
| Transfers in | 79,992 | - | (20,527) |
| Transfers out | - | 1 | 6,575 |
| Balance at 31 December 2016 | <u>96,361</u> | <u>64,043</u> | <u>(458,737)</u> |
| Change in unrealised gains or losses for level 3 assets and liabilities held at year end and included in net changes on financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss and held for trading | <u>474</u> | <u>(86,007)</u> | <u>16,167</u> |

The table below provides information on the valuation techniques, significant unobservable inputs and their ranges and averages for each major category of assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis with a significant Level 3 balance.

The level of aggregation and breadth of products cause the range of inputs to be wide and not evenly distributed across the inventory. Further, the range of unobservable inputs may differ across firms in the financial services industry because of the diversity in the types of products included in each firm's inventory.

| 2017 | Valuation technique | Significant unobservable inputs | Ranges of input |
|--|---|--|---|
| Financial assets and liabilities held for trading | | | |
| Equity derivatives | Industry standard derivative pricing | Equity Correlation Long dated equity volatilities | 15% to 100% 4.25% to 83.72% |
| Financial assets and liabilities designated at fair value | | | |
| Structured notes and Fully-funded total return swaps | Discounted cash flow, Market comparable, Industry standard derivative pricing | Equity correlation Long dated equity volatilities Yield Price Duration | 15% to 100% 4.25% to 83.72% 6% to 37% \$12 to \$87 0 to 5 years |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017
21. Fair value measurement (continued)

| 2016 | Valuation technique | Significant unobservable inputs | Ranges of input |
|---|---|--|--|
| Financial assets and liabilities held for trading | | | |
| Equity derivatives | Industry standard derivative pricing | Equity Correlation Long dated equity volatilities | 13.55% to 100% 4.49% to 75.69% |
| Financial assets and liabilities designated at fair value | | | |
| Structured notes and Fully-funded total return swaps | Discounted cash flow, Market comparable, Industry standard derivative pricing | Equity correlation Long dated equity volatilities Yield Price Duration | 13.55% to 100% 4.79% to 79.69% 6% to 37% \$12 to \$87 0 to 5 years |

Sensitivity analysis of unobservable inputs

Where the value of financial instruments is dependent on unobservable inputs, the precise level for these parameters at the reporting date might be drawn from a spectrum of reasonably possible alternatives. Appropriate levels for these inputs are chosen so that they are consistent with prevailing market evidence and in line with the Company's valuation control policies. Were the Company have valued the financial instruments concerned using input values drawn from the extremes of the ranges of reasonable possible alternatives then at the year end, it could have increased fair value by as much as \$963,000 (2016: \$869,000) or decreased fair value by as much as \$963,000 (2016: \$869,000) with the potential effect impacting profit and loss rather than reserves.

This disclosure is intended to illustrate the potential impact of the relative uncertainty in the fair value of financial instruments for which valuation is dependent on unobservable inputs and is not predictive or indicative of future movements in fair value. Furthermore, it is unlikely in practice that all unobservable parameters would be simultaneously at the extremes of their ranges of reasonable possible alternatives.

Financial assets and liabilities carried at amortised cost

The below summarises the fair value of the company's financial assets and liabilities which are carried at amortised cost.

The fair value of amounts owed by affiliated undertakings is determined by reference to quoted market prices of similar instruments. Money market deposits are classified as level 2 and are valued at \$1,002,831,000 (2016: \$1,473,764,000). Non-current intercompany loans representing a fixed rate placements with BAC are classified as level 2 and are valued at \$767,000,000 (2016: \$754,688,000).

All other debtors and creditors carried at amortised cost in the statement of financial position are classified as level 2. The carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of their fair value, due to short term nature of these instruments.

22. Events after the reporting period

The directors are of the opinion that there are no significant events that have occurred since 31 December 2017 to the date of this report.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
For the year ended 31 December 2017

23. Profit appropriation

Article 19 of the Company's Articles of Association is as follows:

- a) The profits of the Company, according to the annual financial statements adopted by the general meeting, are – insofar as they are not to be preserved for the formation or maintenance of reserves prescribed by law – at the disposal of the general meeting which decides about reservations or payments of profits.
- b) Dividends may be paid up only to the amount above the sum of the balances between net assets and paid in capital, increased with reserves which must be maintained by virtue of law.

Based on the net result over the year ended 31 December 2017, the Board of Directors do not recommend the payment of a further dividend in respect of the year ended 31 December 2017.

Distributions to shareholders are subject to two tests, namely, the equity test and the distribution or liquidity test. The Board of Directors must approve a proposed distribution and may only refuse if they know (or ought to reasonably foresee) that the Company after the distribution would no longer be able to repay its debts as and when they fall due.

The financial statements were approved by the Board and authorised for issue on 25th April 2018. They were signed on its behalf by:

A.E. Okobia

E.J. Brouwer (appointed 16 January 2017)

S. Lilly (appointed 28 November 2017)

Amsterdam
25th April 2018

OTHER INFORMATION

For the year ended 31 December 2017

Independent auditors' report

The independent auditors' report is included on the following page.



Independent auditor's report

To: the general meeting of Merrill Lynch B.V.

Report on the financial statements 2017

Our opinion

In our opinion, Merrill Lynch B.V.'s financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2017, and of its result and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union (EU-IFRS) and with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

What we have audited

We have audited the accompanying financial statements 2017 of Merrill Lynch B.V., Amsterdam ('the Company').

The financial statements comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017;
- the following statements for 2017: the statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows; and
- the notes, comprising a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the financial statements is EU-IFRS and the relevant provisions of Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

The basis for our opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the section 'Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements' of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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Independence

We are independent of Merrill Lynch B.V. in accordance with the European Regulation on specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public-interest entities, the 'Wet toezicht accountants-organisaties' (Wta, Audit firms supervision act), the 'Verordening inzake de onafhankelijkheid van accountants bij assuranceopdrachten' (ViO – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to independence) and other relevant independence requirements in the Netherlands. Furthermore, we have complied with the 'Verordening gedrags- en beroepsregels accountants' (VGBA – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, a regulation with respect to rules of professional conduct).

Our audit approach

Overview and context

Merrill Lynch B.V.'s main activity is the issuance of structured notes and economically hedging these instruments through derivatives and fully-funded total return swaps with other Bank of America Corporation companies. We paid specific attention to the areas of focus driven by the operations of the Company, as set out below.

As part of designing our audit, we determined materiality and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements. In particular, we considered where the board of directors made important judgements; for example, in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. As in all of our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the board of directors that may represent a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

We ensured that the audit teams included the appropriate skills and competences that are needed for the audit of a securitisation company. We therefore included specialists in the area of tax in our team.

The outline of our audit approach was as follows:

Materiality

- Overall materiality: USD 22 million.

Audit scope

- We conducted audit work in three locations: the Netherlands, United States and the United Kingdom.
- Site visit was conducted at Chester, United Kingdom.
- We paid particular attention to the audit of fair value of the financial assets and liabilities held for trading and financial assets and liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss.

Key audit matters

- Valuation of total return swaps and cross-currency swaps.
 - Valuation of structured notes.
-



Materiality

The scope of our audit is influenced by the application of materiality, which is further explained in the section ‘Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements’.

Based on our professional judgement, we determined certain quantitative thresholds for materiality, including the overall materiality for the financial statements as a whole as set out in the table below. These, together with qualitative considerations, helped us to determine the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures on the individual financial statement line items and disclosures and to evaluate the effect of identified misstatements, both individually and in aggregate, on the financial statements as a whole and on our opinion.

| | |
|--|---|
| Overall materiality | USD 22 million (2016: USD 26 million). |
| Basis for determining materiality | We used our professional judgement to determine overall materiality. As a basis for our judgement we used 1% of total assets. |
| Rationale for benchmark applied | We used total assets as the primary benchmark, a generally accepted auditing practice, based on our analysis of the common information needs of users of the financial statements. The main activities of the Company are the selling, offering, issuing, repurchasing, reselling and/or retirement of secured securities and they are structured in such a way that the Company should be profitable (it earns a fixed spread on each individual structured note issued). On this basis we believe that profits are not the main indicator of financial performance of the Company, and that total assets is a relevant benchmark. |

We also take misstatements and/or possible misstatements into account that, in our judgement, are material for qualitative reasons.



We agreed with the board of directors that we would report to them misstatements identified during our audit above USD 1.1 million (2016: USD 1.4 million) as well as misstatements below that amount that, in our view, warranted reporting for qualitative reasons.

The scope of our audit

The Company is a subsidiary of Bank of America Corporation. The operations of the Company are embedded in the IT environment and process controls of the Bank of America Corporation Group ('the group') and are performed in the United Kingdom and the United States.

Considering our responsibility for the opinion on the Company's financial statements, we are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit of the Company. In this context, we used the work performed by a component auditor for assurance over the internal control environment. We sent instructions to the component auditor in the United Kingdom, which set out the work to be performed and the agreed scope of testing.

Where the work was performed by the component auditor, we determined the level of involvement we needed to have in the audit work to be able to conclude whether sufficient appropriate audit evidence had been obtained as a basis for our opinion on the financial statements as a whole. In this respect we performed the following procedures:

- We issued detailed audit instructions to the component auditor prescribing the scope of work to be performed, our risk assessment, the key audit areas, materiality to be applied and the reporting requirements to the group engagement team.
- The reports of the component auditor were assessed by the group engagement team and observations were discussed with the component auditor and with group management.
- The group engagement team met the United Kingdom component team and board of directors of the Company and performed a review of the United Kingdom component auditor team's file, which includes their review work of the component auditor in the United States.

With respect to the existence of amounts owed by affiliated undertakings, financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss and financial instruments held for trading, we also used the work performed by the component auditor. Intercompany balances are reconciled centrally by Bank of America Corporation and any differences are investigated by the board of directors. This control is tested centrally by the component auditor. In addition, we have tested any differences resulting from this reconciliation. We have also assessed the creditworthiness of these counterparties.

By performing the procedures above at component level, combined with additional procedures at group level, we have obtained sufficient and appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the Company as a whole to provide a basis for our opinion on the financial statements.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements. We have communicated the key audit matters to the board of directors. The key audit matters are not a comprehensive reflection of all matters that were identified by our audit and that we discussed. In this section, we described the key audit matters and included a summary of the audit procedures we performed on those matters.

Due to the nature of the Company's business, we recognise that key audit matters may be long-standing and therefore may not change significantly from one year to the next. As compared to last year, there have been no changes in key audit matters.



The key audit matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon. We do not provide separate opinions on these matters or on specific elements of the financial statements. Any comments or observations we make on the results of our procedures should be read in this context.

| Key audit matter | How our audit addressed the matter |
|---|---|
| <p>Valuation of total return swaps and cross-currency swaps <i>Refer to the accounting policies 'financial instruments held for trading', 'financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss', 'fair value measurement principles', 'critical accounting estimates and judgement in applying accounting policies', note 9 'financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss' and note 10 'financial instruments held for trading'.</i></p> <p>Financial assets held for trading amount to USD 148 million as at 31 December 2017. Financial liabilities held for trading amount to USD 21 million. Financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss amount to USD 180 million. Financial instruments held for trading and financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss consist of, respectively, unfunded and funded total return swaps and cross-currency swaps that are used to economically hedge the structured notes issued. The valuation of these swaps is determined by using valuation models. These valuation models and pricing inputs used are internally tested by Bank of America Corporation.</p> <p>We consider the valuation of the swaps to be a key audit matter, given the magnitude of these positions and the complexity of the valuation models applied.</p> | <p>We obtained an understanding of the valuation methodology and the processes and controls with respect to the valuation of the swaps. In addition, we assessed the appropriateness of the methodology and the models used by the board of directors.</p> <p>Furthermore, our audit included testing of the Company's internal controls with respect to the models used throughout the valuation process. This included test procedures on controls with respect to model validation around new or amended models and price testing (which includes independent revaluation).</p> <p>We also tested the inputs to the fair value calculation. With respect to the discount rates used and inputs for the valuation of the swaps, this included independently sourcing the external and internal data on a sample basis.</p> <p>We assessed the completeness and accuracy of the disclosures relating to the valuation of financial assets designated at fair value through profit or loss and financial assets held for trading to assess compliance with disclosure requirements included in EU-IFRS.</p> |
| <p>Valuation of structured notes <i>Refer to the accounting policies 'financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss', 'fair value measurement principles', 'critical accounting estimates and judgement in applying accounting policies', and note 13 'financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss'.</i></p> <p>Financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss amount to USD 1,243 million as at 31 December 2017. The financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss consist of structured notes. These structured notes are hybrid (debt)</p> | <p>We obtained an understanding of the valuation methodology and the processes and controls with respect to the valuation of the structured notes. In addition, we assessed the appropriateness of the methodology and the models used by the board of directors.</p> <p>Furthermore, our audit included testing of the Company's internal controls with respect to the models used throughout the valuation process. This included test procedures on controls with respect to model validation around new or amended models and price testing (which includes independent revaluation).</p> |



Key audit matter

instruments with a structured component (derivative element) linked to the performance of various market indices. The valuation is determined by using valuation models. These valuation models and pricing inputs used are internally tested by Bank of America Corporation.

We consider the valuation of the structured notes to be a key audit matter, given the magnitude of these positions and the complexity of the valuation models applied.

How our audit addressed the matter

We also tested the inputs to the fair value calculation. With respect to the discount rates used and inputs for the valuation of the derivative element, this included independently sourcing the external and internal data on a sample basis.

Furthermore, we have substantively tested the notional amount and maturity dates by tracing both the notional and the maturity date back to the respective prospectus and Bloomberg.

We assessed the completeness and accuracy of the disclosures relating to the valuation of financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss to assess compliance with disclosure requirements included in EU-IFRS.

Report on the other information included in the annual report

In addition to the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, the annual report contains other information that consists of:

- the directors' report;
- the other information pursuant to Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Based on the procedures performed as set out below, we conclude that the other information:

- is consistent with the financial statements and does not contain material misstatements;
- contains the information that is required by Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

We have read the other information. Based on our knowledge and understanding obtained in our audit of the financial statements or otherwise, we have considered whether the other information contains material misstatements.

By performing our procedures, we comply with the requirements of Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and the Dutch Standard 720. The scope of such procedures was substantially less than the scope of those performed in our audit of the financial statements.

The board of directors is responsible for the preparation of the other information, including the directors' report and the other information in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Our appointment

We were appointed as auditors of Merrill Lynch B.V. following the passing of a resolution by the shareholders at the annual meeting held in 2012 and the appointment has been renewed annually, representing a total period of uninterrupted engagement appointment of six years.

No prohibited non-audit services

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we have not provided prohibited non-audit services as referred to in Article 5(1) of the European Regulation on specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public-interest entities.

Services rendered

The services, in addition to the audit, that we have provided to the Company and its controlled entities, for the period to which our statutory audit relates, are disclosed in note 16 to the financial statements.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the board of directors

The board of directors is responsible for:

- the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with EU-IFRS and with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code; and for
- such internal control as the board of directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

As part of the preparation of the financial statements, the board of directors is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. Based on the financial reporting frameworks mentioned, the board of directors should prepare the financial statements using the going-concern basis of accounting unless the board of directors either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The board of directors should disclose events and circumstances that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern in the financial statements.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our responsibility is to plan and perform an audit engagement in a manner that allows us to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for our opinion. Our audit opinion aims to provide reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Reasonable assurance is a high but not absolute level of assurance which makes it possible that we may not detect all misstatements. Misstatements may arise due to fraud or error. They are considered to be material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

Materiality affects the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and the evaluation of the effect of identified misstatements on our opinion.

A more detailed description of our responsibilities is set out in the appendix to our report.

Rotterdam, 25 April 2018
PricewaterhouseCoopers Accountants N.V.

Original has been signed by M.P.A. Corver RA

Appendix to our auditor's report on the financial statements 2017 of Merrill Lynch B.V.

In addition to what is included in our auditor's report we have further set out in this appendix our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements and explained what an audit involves.

The auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have exercised professional judgement and have maintained professional scepticism throughout the audit in accordance with Dutch Standards on Auditing, ethical requirements and independence requirements. Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Our audit consisted, among other things of the following:

- Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designing and performing audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the intentional override of internal control.
- Obtaining an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board of directors.
- Concluding on the appropriateness of the board of directors' use of the going-concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, concluding whether a material uncertainty exists related to events and/or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report and are made in the context of our opinion on the financial statements as a whole. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and evaluating whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit. In this respect we also issue an additional report to the audit committee in accordance with Article 11 of the EU Regulation on specific requirements regarding statutory audit of public-interest entities. The information included in this additional report is consistent with our audit opinion in this auditor's report.

We provide the board of directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.



From the matters communicated with the board of directors, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, not communicating the matter is in the public interest.