

Life conference and exhibition 2010 Cormac Galvin & Richard Baddon

## **Contingent Capital** in a post Solvency II world

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## **Contingent capital**

#### Do you agree?

- Contingent capital structures are redundant under Solvency II
- FinRe is not regulatory arbitrage
- A longevity swap is contingent capital
- CP10/10 (and the subsequent changes to the Prudential sourcebook) is counterintuitive

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#### Part 1; Setting the scene

- Introduction to capital & contingent capital
- Contingent capital under Solvency I (incl. CP10/10)
- Solvency II

#### Part 2; Discussion

Contingent capital post Solvency II



Defining capital Defining contingent capital



#### What is capital?

- Assets available for use in the production of further assets
- Assets that are able to absorb losses

#### **Capital measures when considering contingent capital**

• Economic capital, regulatory capital, rating agency capital, ...

Capital & required capital – not to be confused!



#### A simple illustration

- What is required capital?
- How do different measures of capital interact?
  - Liabilities on each basis are not necessarily equal
  - Equally, the required capital on each are not necessarily equal
  - Surplus on economic basis
  - But it can't be put to use...

#### **Contingent capital can help!**

#### What is contingent capital?



- Contingent capital is debt that converts into equity when there is a crisis or when certain triggers are met
- Regulators have made no secret of their fondness for contingent capital - it keeps down the cost of capital in the short term, by classifying it as debt, but provides a buffer in case of emergencies that can be switched into loss-absorbing equity



#### What does contingent capital do?

- It can help to meet the regulatory requirement with minimal economic effect. It aims to align the economic and regulatory basis at a low cost
  - For example, if a bank or a reinsurer takes the risk that profits don't emerge, i.e. equity is provided when profits don't meet a pre-arranged limit
  - This has little effect on the economic basis but can reduce liabilities on the regulatory basis, (ignoring costs and transfer of tail risk on the economic basis)
  - It may also reduce the required capital

#### Of course things are not so simple!

 The typical structure used by UK insurers; contingent loans & FinRe



#### Are contingent capital structures redundant under Solvency II?

#### Why is contingent capital attractive to insurers?

- It keeps down the cost of capital in the short term;
  - The intention of the liquidity provider is that the instrument will not become equity
- Provides a buffer in case of emergencies;
  - Can be switched into loss-absorbing capital on a triggered event
- Meets an insurer's corporate objectives more economically
  - Improving solvency, (aligning regulatory & economic capital)
  - Raising financing & improving liquidity

#### **Sources of capital - QIS4 Tier 1 Own Funds**



- Diverse range of qualifying capital
- Contingent capital is not shown explicitly, but it is there

#### What is regulatory arbitrage?

• A transaction that improves the regulatory capital position without changing the economic capital position

#### Is contingent capital regulatory arbitrage?

- Insurers have entered into transactions that have changed the risk profile
- Sometimes the risk transferred is minimal
- Depends on your view!

#### Is a longevity swap is contingent capital?

- Contingent capital is debt that converts into equity when there is a crisis or when certain triggers are met
- QIS5 includes EPIFP as Tier 1 capital
- For you to decide!

## Solvency I & CP10/10

**Contingent capital in Solvency I** 

**CP10/10** 

**Pre Solvency II structures** 



## Solvency I & CP10/10



## Solvency I & CP10/10

What is contingent capital?



- Contingent capital is debt that converts into equity when there is a crisis or when certain triggers are met
- But it depends what is meant by equity?
- We have taken the widest definition of equity not restricting ourselves to paid up share capital

#### A quick history of contingent capital under Solvency I

- Financial Reinsurance widely used from early 1990s
  - Virtual Capital and surplus relief raised capital
  - Financing treaties raised cash and capital
- Small number of capital market transactions
  - Raised cash and capital but was the cash un-emcumbered?
  - Rating agency friendly, not financial leverage
- Wide use of hybrid securities in the last 10 years
  - Debt market boom provided cheap cash and capital

#### A quick history of contingent capital under Solvency I

- In the General Insurance world other instruments
  - LOC
  - Cat Bonds
  - Scor UBS
  - Soc Gen?

#### **But Banking Wins....**

- CLOCS (committed long-term capital solution) RBC and Swiss Re 2001
- Lloyds CoCo program 2009

#### **Contingent Capital in Solvency I**

Structures aim to align regulatory capital with economic capital

- Improved solvency or raised financing & possibly improved liquidity
- Typically minimal economic capital benefits
- Some P&L drag
- Some tax benefits

#### The state of play prior to CP10/10....

- Increasing sophistication and increase in capital providers
- No just reinsurers, but credible banks and private equity have capital to use in the sector
- The cost of liquidity led to a preference for capital only trades, with no liquidity
- Cheaper capital, but this means counterparty risk

#### Why do we have CP10/10 – Abridged from the CP

- ... significant counterparty risk ... where transactions are unfunded.
- Similar risks ... when these arrangements are connected ... could result in undermining the contingent nature of the cash outflows
- ... no rules corresponding to INSPRU 1.2.79R(2) ... expected under Solvency II
- ... difficult to see how unfunded arrangements, ...
   satisfy the loss absorbency characteristics of Tier 1 capital

#### The key to most deals - INSPRU 1.2.79R(2)

- Allows insurers to disregard reinsurance cash outflows that are unambiguously linked to the emergence of surplus
- GENPRU 2.2.104 creates core tier 1 capital

#### What is the change?

- INSPRU 1.2.79R(2) will only apply provided:
  - The credit taken for the arrangement does not exceed the accumulated value of net cash inflows received
  - There are no connected transactions that provide support for the arrangement

#### Post CP10/10 structures - I

- Use contingent loan or quota share reinsurance structure
- Must be funded
  - Leads to a significant change in the economics
  - What to do if the insurer only needs capital not liquidity?



#### Post CP10/10 structures - II

- Funded deals means banks may partner with reinsurers
- Higher absolute costs because of the more complex structure
- Clear difference between Fin Re and traditional reinsurance



#### **Contingent loans or reinsurance – how do they measure up?**

- Very similar concepts with similar cashflows
- Main differences around legal documentation
- FSA allows regulatory benefit for a funded contingent loan
- Reinsurance provides an additional benefit due to reduction in technical reserves meaning lower Solvency capital requirements
- Broadly tax neutral



**Capital under Solvency II** 

#### **Re-writing the Rules**



# Regulatory capital (or is that economic capital?) under QIS4 & beyond

# Total Own Funds under SI and QIS4 All Undertakings



- Estimated decline in headline solvency ratio for the listed European Insurers from c.200% to c.135%<sup>1</sup>
- Implies the need for a recalibration of appropriate capitalisation under SII

<sup>1</sup> Oliver Wyman / Morgan Stanley, September 2010

Expected Profits Included in Future Premiums ..... .....Does what it says on the tin!

- QIS5 includes Expected Profits Included in Future Premiums ("EPIFR") as Tier 1 Own Funds
- In simple terms we already include VIF so.....
- ....there will be little need for SI style contingent structure e.g. FinRe or contingent loan
- Does this mean there will be no contingent structures?



#### **Contingent capital under Solvency II**

Will still aim to align regulatory capital with economic capital but....

- SII is based on a market consistent framework which gives a greater alignmen between regulatory and economic capital
- Structures may aim to manage economic capital rather than regulatory arbitrage



- Especially important if using internal models



#### Managing the balance sheet

- Structures
  - Greater focus on risk management
  - Real risk transfer not just regulatory arbitrage
  - Target rules that are not truly economic/market consistent

#### Managing the balance sheet

- Structures will aim to:
  - Manage the value of liabilities
  - Manage the SCR
  - Manage Risk Margin
  - Manage Own Funds
  - Manage Group balance sheets



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#### Not to forget the rating agencies & investors.....

- Likely to take a different view from SII
- Central to capital raising
- Will continue to develop their thinking prior to SII

#### **Discussion**

**Concocting Some Potential trades....** 

Do you agree?



## **Discussion**

#### **Concocting Some Potential trades**

- a) Reducing the value of market consistent liabilities
- b) Reducing the SCR or Risk Margin
- c) Increasing Own Funds or managing their classification?
- d) Groups dealing with fungibility?



#### **Examples of transactions**

Liabilities	<ul> <li>Liquidity premium - reinsure to a well rated reinsurer outside SII?</li> </ul>	
SCR	<ul> <li>Managing the correlation matrix - maximise diversification benefit? Reinsure or swap risks?</li> <li>Solvency II stresses - are these truly economic?</li> </ul>	
Own Funds	<ul> <li>EPIFP - where will this end up?</li> <li>Contingent security - trigger event which on occurrence converts to capital</li> </ul>	
Groups	<ul> <li>Fungibility - triggers which prove liquidity</li> </ul>	

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## **Contingent Capital**

## Thank you for your attention