

# ESMA publishes an opinion on MAR accepted market practices on liquidity contracts

## **Background**

MAR's purpose is to guarantee the integrity of European financial markets and promote investor confidence. The concept of market abuse typically consists of insider dealing, unlawful disclosure of inside information, and market manipulation.

However, some exceptions apply. The prohibition of insider dealing and market manipulation does not apply to trading in own shares in buy-back programs or trading in securities for the stabilisation of securities when some conditions laid down in MAR are met. Moreover, MAR does not apply to public authorities in pursuit of monetary, exchange rate or public debt management policy. Other specific exceptions apply in the framework of the EU's climate policy or the EU's Agricultural Policy for instance. MAR also provides a defence against market manipulation if the transaction was legitimate and carried out in accordance with an AMP and MAR describes the non-exhaustive factors that a competent authority should take into account before deciding whether or not to accept a market practice.

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## Joint Statement by Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos and Prime Minister of Kosovo Isa Mustafa

Today European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship Dimitris **Avramopoulos** and Prime Minister of Kosovo Isa Mustafa met in Brussels to discuss the final steps needed to fulfil the remaining requirements of the visa liberalisation dialogue with Kosovo.

Commissioner Avramopoulos commended the progress made by the government of Kosovo so far, including on the track record of high-level organised crime and corruption cases. Both sides agreed that this progress needs to be sustained, and in particular that the number of actual convictions is increased.

Commissioner Avramopoulos also recognised the efforts Kosovo has made to ratify the border demarcation agreement with Montenegro, and encouraged Prime Minister Mustafa, his government and the political parties to proceed with

the vote in the Assembly soon. Commissioner Avramopoulos expressed his support to Kosovo in the last stages towards visa liberalisation, and offered to visit Kosovo before the summer.

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## [It is clear the Tories want the rest of us to pay for their mistakes – McDonnell](#)

**John McDonnell MP, Labour's Shadow Chancellor**, responding to the ONS Public Sector Finances figures which show that the national debt has gone up by £123.5 billion since March 2016 under the Tories, said:

"After seven wasted years of Tory economic failure, supported by both Philip Hammond and Theresa May, the deficit has not been cleared as they promised, and the national debt continues to rise.

"The Tories promised when they were first elected that they would have balanced the books by 2015, but now they cannot promise to do it by 2020, and instead the past year has seen both borrowing and debt has increased.

"Today's figures reveal that the national debt has gone up by £123 billion since March last year, and with a Tory Chancellor who won't rule out raising taxes on low and middle earners, and has no plan to deal with inflation rising ahead of earnings, it is clear the Tories want the rest of us to pay for their mistakes.

"Yet despite their broken promises on the public finances they continue to hand out tens of billions in tax giveaways to the super-rich and big corporations, while enforcing spending cuts on everyone else; underfunding our NHS and leaving our care system in crisis for the most vulnerable.

"Only a Labour government will have a serious plan for the public finances with strategic investment underpinned by our Fiscal Credibility Rule, so that we stand up for the many, not the few."

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## [Postings to this site](#)

Some people are sending in far too many posts each day, and some are still sending in very long posts. This is an exceptionally busy time with Parliament trying to complete necessary business and people preparing for the

election to come, so my time for moderating is reduced. I will have to delete more.

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## [Lamont announces resignation from Scottish Parliament to fight General Election](#)

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- Lamont announces resignation from Scottish Parliament to fight General Election

25 Apr 2017



John Lamont, the MSP for Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire, has announced his intention to resign from the Scottish Parliament.

The move will allow him to focus on the campaign to win Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk from the SNP at the forthcoming General Election.

John Lamont notified the Presiding Officer today that he will step down from Holyrood, with effect from May 4.

The Presiding Officer will set the date for the by-election shortly.

### **John Lamont said:**

“It has been a great privilege to serve the people of the Borders in the Scottish Parliament for the last 10 years.

“During that time, I have worked as hard as I could to represent every community, no matter how small.

“I have held over 1000 local advice surgeries and assisted tens of thousands of local residents with problems and cases. I have always put local people before party politics.

“I want to continue that service to the Borders as a Member of Parliament and my approach to this important job will be exactly the same as it has been.

“This is one of the most important General Elections Scotland has ever had.

“In the Borders, it will be straight fight between myself and the SNP.

"I have decided to stand down as an MSP to allow me to focus all of my energy on this important contest and to ensure that the electorate have a clear choice between the two contenders.

"I've taken this decision because I believe that I am best placed to help increase the number of Scottish Conservative and Unionist MPs at Westminster so we can stop the SNP bandwagon in its tracks.

"With this decision, no one can doubt my commitment to representing the Borders to the best of my ability."

**Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson said:**

"During his 10 years in the Scottish Parliament, John has built up a formidable reputation as a dedicated community campaigner for the Borders and someone who will always put his constituents first.

"Voters in the Borders can either pick John Lamont, one of Scotland's hardest working local campaigners, who will put the Borders first and who will oppose Nicola Sturgeon's damaging plans for a second referendum or they can pick another nationalist who will continue to pursue the obsession with taking Scotland out of the United Kingdom."

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