

# ESMA registers Beyond Ratings SAS as credit rating agency

Beyond Ratings SAS is based in Paris, France, and intends to issue sovereign and public finance ratings. The registration takes effect from today, 18 March 2019.

The CRA Regulation seeks to ensure that credit ratings issued in the EU meet minimum standards of quality, transparency and independence by providing that only companies registered by ESMA as CRAs may lawfully issue credit ratings which can be used for regulatory purposes by credit institutions, investment firms, insurance and reinsurance undertakings, institutions for occupational retirement provision, management companies, investment companies, alternative investment fund managers and central counterparties.

To be registered as a CRA, a company must be able to demonstrate to ESMA that it complies with the requirements of the CRA Regulation, which covers inter alia:

- the governance of CRAs and the management of conflicts of interest;
- the development and application of methodologies for assessing credit risk; and
- the disclosure of information to ESMA and to market participants.

Once registered, CRAs are subject to on-going monitoring and supervision by ESMA to ensure that they continue to meet the conditions for registration. ESMA will impose sanctions and/or penalties where it finds that a CRA has failed to meet its obligations under the CRA Regulation.

The total number of CRAs registered in the EU is 28 CRAs. Amongst the [28 registered CRAs](#), four operate under a group structure, totalling 19 legal entities in the EU, which means that the total number of CRA entities registered in the EU is 43.