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**COMUNICATO
STAMPA**

S&P rivede rating Generali ad A- da A a seguito del downgrade dell'Italia

Trieste – L'agenzia di rating Standard & Poor's ha rivisto il rating di Generali portandolo ad A- da A, come conseguenza del downgrade sull'Italia del 9 luglio. L'outlook è negativo. S&P continua a ritenere "molto solido il profilo di rischio del business di Generali basato sulla diversificazione internazionale".

"Mentre la nostra view fondamentale su Generali (a livello 'a') rimane invariata, il suo rating è limitato, secondo i nostri criteri, a due *notch* al di sopra dell'Italia", afferma S&P. L'agenzia di rating continua ad "assegnare a Generali due *notch* sopra il rating dell'Italia per il fatto che le sue attività si estendono nell'Unione Economica Monetaria Europea (EMU) ed è leader in termini di quote di mercato in paesi ad elevato rating come Austria, Repubblica Ceca, Francia e Germania. Questa diversificazione – scrive l'agenzia - riduce il legame diretto di Generali al rischio sovrano domestico".

In allegato il comunicato stampa originale di S&P.

Assicurazioni Generali And Core Subsidiaries Lowered To 'A-' After Sovereign Downgrade, Outlook Negative

Overview

- On July 9, 2013, Standard & Poor's lowered its unsolicited sovereign credit ratings on Italy to 'BBB-/A-2' from 'BBB+/A-2', with a negative outlook.
- Although Italy-based Assicurazioni Generali has a very strong business risk profile based on international diversification, we consider that this only partially insulates Generali from Italian sovereign risk.
- Consequently, we are lowering our long-term ratings on Generali and its core subsidiaries to 'A-' from 'A'; while our view of the 'a' anchor is unchanged, the rating is limited to two notches above that on Italy.
- The outlook is negative, both because of the negative outlook on the sovereign rating on Italy and the negative trend regarding operating and financial conditions in Generali's key Italian market.

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Rating Action

On July 12, 2013, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services lowered to 'A-' from 'A' its long-term counterparty credit and insurer financial strength ratings on Italy-based global multiline insurer Assicurazioni Generali SpA and its coresubsidiaries (Generali). We also lowered the senior, subordinated, and junior subordinated debt ratings by one notch. The outlook on Generali and its coresubsidiaries is negative.

In addition, we revised the outlook to negative from stable on the counterparty credit and insurer financial strength ratings on Ceska Pojistovna AS ('A-') and Generali Pan Europe (GPE; 'BBB+') and on the counterparty credit rating on Deutsche Bausparkasse Badenia AG (Badenia; 'BBB+') and affirmed their respective ratings.

Rationale

The rating actions follow the lowering to 'BBB' from 'BBB+' of the unsolicited long-term sovereign credit rating on Italy, with a negative outlook (see "Long-Term Ratings On Italy Lowered To 'BBB'; Outlook Negative," published on July 9, 2013, on RatingsDirect).

While our view of Generali's 'a' anchor is unchanged, the rating is limited under our criteria to two notches above that on Italy (the maximum available would be three notches as Italian policyholder liabilities represent about 30% of total group liabilities). We limit the rating because, in our view, although Generali has a very strong business risk profile with wide international diversification, we consider Generali's capitalization to be a relative weakness. Potential volatility in capitalization exposes Generali to deterioration in operating and financial conditions in Italy.

We continue to rate Generali two notches above our rating on Italy as its operations span the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), and it has leading market shares in the highly rated countries of Austria, the Czech Republic, France, and Germany. This diversification reduces Generali's direct link to domestic sovereign risk (see "Nonsovereign Ratings That Exceed EMU Sovereign Ratings: Methodology And Assumptions," published on June 14, 2011).

We consider Generali's financial risk profile a relative weakness for the rating. Our assessment of its moderately strong capital and earnings rests on our expectation that profitability will see a strong recovery and that Generali will complete a number of asset sales. These expectations are sensitive to change in Italian operating and financial conditions. In addition, Generali is reliant on forms of capital such as value in force (VIF) and unrealized gains. In our opinion, these form a weaker buffer against deterioration in sovereign risk than common equity because they are less liquid and more sensitive to market conditions.

We revised the outlooks on GPE and Badenia because our group rating methodology caps the potential uplift for extraordinary support from Generali at one notch below the group ratings for these entities. The outlook on GPE and Badenia is now aligned with

that on Generali. We have revised the outlook on Ceska Pojistovna to negative as the ratings on this subsidiary cannot exceed those on its parent.

The ratings on Generali are now constrained by the sovereign ratings on Italy. Our view of Generali's very strong business risk profile and upper adequate financial risk profile still leads us to derive an anchor of 'a'. Our assessment of Generali's business risk profile is based on our view of its very strong competitive position and intermediate insurance industry and country risk. The financial risk profile is based on our opinion of Generali's moderately strong capital and earnings, combined with a moderate risk position and adequate financial flexibility. We consider enterprise risk management (ERM) and management and governance to be neutral rating factors.

The base-case assumptions that underpin our moderately strong assessment of capital and earnings are that Generali will likely:

- Generate average net income of about €1.7 billion per year over 2013-2015;
- Improve its non-life combined (loss and expense) ratio to about 95% by end-2014. (Lower combined ratios indicate better profitability. A combined ratio of greater than 100% signifies an underwriting loss.);
- Record much lower impairments compared with 2011 (€800 million) or 2012 (€1.3 billion); and
- Complete the asset sales it has announced--those of Generali USA Life Reassurance and BSI Bank.

Our assessment of capital and earnings also takes into account the commitment to buy out the remaining minority stakes in its Central and Eastern European subsidiary--Generali PPF Holding (GPH)--by the end of 2014 and to increase the dividend payout to 40%.

Our view of Generali's moderate risk position results from the volatility and market risk generated by its very large exposure to Italian sovereign debt securities of €57 billion at end-March 2013--equivalent to more than 2x the regulatory capital level of €25 billion at the same date. This exposure increases volatility of capital as the Italian sovereign yields significantly affect the value of VIF and shareholders' equity as the value of the bond portfolio is marked to market.

In addition, weak Italian growth prospects elevate the risk of further impairments on the domestic investment portfolio, including unlisted stakes such as Telco SpA. We also recognize the potential volatility that could arise from the group's exposure to interest rate risk in European markets, particularly Germany.

Outlook

The outlook is negative, primarily reflecting that on Italy. In addition, the negative trend of the operating and financial conditions in Generali's key Italian market could delay capital rebuilding and reduce Generali's ability to successfully execute its strategy.

We could lower the ratings if we lowered the rating on Italy, given Generali's material domestic exposures. We could also lower the ratings if Generali's capitalization and financial flexibility both materially deteriorate from current levels because of weakening operating and financial conditions in Italy. We could revise the outlook to stable if we revised the outlook on Italy to stable or if we anticipated that Generali would sustainably meet or exceed our base-case assumptions.

Ratings Score Snapshot

Financial Strength Rating A-/Negative
Anchor a
Business Risk Profile Very Strong
IICRA Intermediate Risk
Competitive Position Very Strong
Financial Risk Profile Upper Adequate
Capital and Earnings Moderately Strong
Risk Position Moderate Risk
Financial Flexibility Adequate
Modifiers 0
ERM and Management 0
Enterprise Risk Management Adequate With Strong Risk Controls
Management and Governance Satisfactory
Holistic Analysis 0
Liquidity Exceptional
Sovereign Risk -1
Support 0
Group Support 0
Government Support 0
IICRA--Insurance Industry And Country Risk Assessment.

Related Criteria And Research

Related research

- Long-Term Ratings On Italy Lowered To 'BBB'; Outlook Negative, July 9, 2013
- Assicurazioni Generali And Core Subsidiaries Ratings Affirmed At 'A' After Insurance Criteria Change; Outlook Negative, May 22, 2013
- Standard & Poor's Assigns Insurance Industry And Country Risk Assessments, May 7, 2013

Related criteria

- Insurers: Rating Methodology, May 7, 2013
- Group Rating Methodology, May 7, 2013
- Enterprise Risk Management, May 7, 2013
- Management And Governance Credit Factors For Corporate Entities And Insurers, Nov. 13, 2012
- Principles Of Credit Ratings, Feb. 16, 2011
- Refined Methodology And Assumptions For Analyzing Insurer Capital Adequacy Using The Risk-Based Insurance Capital Model, June 7, 2010
- Hybrid Capital Handbook: September 2008 Edition, Sept. 15, 2008
- General Criteria: Nonsovereign Ratings That Exceed EMU Sovereign Ratings:

Methodology And Assumptions, June 14, 2011).

Ratings List

Downgraded

To From

Assicurazioni GeneraliGenerali Vie

Generali Versicherung AG

Generali Versicherung AG

Generali Lebensversicherung AG

Generali Italia SpA

Generali IARD

Generali Deutschland Pensionskasse AG

Envivas Krankenversicherung AG

Cosmos Versicherung AG

Cosmos Lebensversicherungs AG

Central Krankenversicherung AG

Alleanza Toro S.p.A

Advocard Rechtsschutzversicherung AG

AachenMuenchener Versicherung AG

AachenMuenchener Lebensversicherung AG

Counterparty Credit Rating

Local Currency A-/Negative/-- A/Negative/--

Assicurazioni Generali SpA

Generali Vie

Generali Versicherung AG

Generali Versicherung AG

Generali Lebensversicherung AG

Generali Italia SpA

Generali IARD

Generali Deutschland Pensionskasse AG

Generali (U.S. branch)

Envivas Krankenversicherung AG

Cosmos Versicherung AG

Cosmos Lebensversicherungs AG

Central Krankenversicherung AG

Alleanza Toro S.p.A

Advocard Rechtsschutzversicherung AG

AachenMuenchener Versicherung AG

AachenMuenchener Lebensversicherung AG

Financial Strength Rating

Local Currency A-/Negative/-- A/Negative/--

Generali Holding Vienna AG

Generali Rueckversicherung AG

Counterparty Credit Rating

Local Currency BBB/Negative/-- BBB+/Negative/--

Financial Strength Rating

Local Currency BBB/Negative/-- BBB+/Negative/--

Assicurazioni Generali SpA

Senior Unsecured BBB+ ASubordinated

BBB BBB+

Junior Subordinated BBB- BBB

Generali Finance B.V.

Senior Unsecured* BBB+ AJunior

Subordinated* BBB- BBB

Ratings Affirmed; CreditWatch/Outlook Action

To From

Ceska pojistovna a.s.

Counterparty Credit Rating

Local Currency A-/Negative/-- A-/Stable/--
Financial Strength Rating
Local Currency A-/Negative/-- A-/Stable/--
Senior Unsecured BBB+
Generali PanEurope Ltd.
Counterparty Credit Rating
Local Currency BBB+/Negative/-- BBB+/Stable/--
Financial Strength Rating
Local Currency BBB+/Negative/-- BBB+/Stable/--
Deutsche Bausparkasse Badenia AG
Counterparty Credit Rating BBB+/Negative/A-2 BBB+/Stable/A-2
*Guaranteed by Assicurazioni Generali SpA.
Complete ratings information is available to subscribers of
RatingsDirect at www.globalcreditportal.com and at
spcapitaliq.com. All ratings affected by this rating action can be
found on Standard & Poor's public Web site
at www.standardandpoors.com. Use the Ratings search box located in
the left column. Alternatively, call one of the following Standard
& Poor's numbers:
Client Support Europe (44) 20-7176-7176; London Press Office (44)
20-7176-3605; Paris (33) 1-4420-6708; Frankfurt (49) 69-33-999-
225; Stockholm (46) 8-440-5914; or Moscow 7 (495) 783-4009.

IL GRUPPO GENERALI

Il Gruppo Generali è uno tra i maggiori assicuratori europei, primo nel segmento vita in Europa, con una raccolta premi complessiva di € 70 miliardi nel 2012.
Con 80.000 collaboratori nel mondo al servizio di 65 milioni di clienti in oltre 60 Paesi, il Gruppo occupa una posizione di leadership nei Paesi dell'Europa Occidentale ed una presenza sempre più significativa nei mercati dell'Europa centro-orientale ed in quelli asiatici.