

17 October 2012

Hon. Gary Gensler
Chairman
US Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Three Lafayette Centre
1155 21st Street
NW Washington
DC 20581

Dear Chairman Gensler

US cross border swaps rules

We, the undersigned, would like to share our concerns with you about the implementation of the current phase of post-crisis regulatory reform, as you reflect on the final shape of the CFTC cross border rules for swaps.

Faithfully implementing the reforms adopted by the G20 in 2009 in Pittsburgh on the clearing and electronic trading of standardised OTC derivatives in a non-discriminatory way remains of the utmost importance. As you know, Europe has adopted legislation on clearing and is in the final stages of negotiation on the trading aspect of the G20 Pittsburgh reforms. In Japan, clearing requirements will be effective in November and legislation on trading platforms was recently approved by the Diet. While there may be differences in some areas of detail, we believe the US, the Member States of the EU and Japan are now set to implement these historic reforms in a broadly consistent way in our respective jurisdictions.

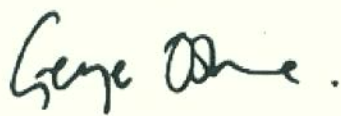
This is a significant achievement, capturing the large majority of the global swaps market. But as has been continuously stressed by G20 leaders since 2009, domestic legislation alone does not fulfil the political aim that was agreed in Pittsburgh and reaffirmed in Toronto in 2010. Regulation across the G20 needs to be carefully implemented in a harmonised way that does not risk fragmenting vital global financial markets.

For all its past faults, the derivatives market has allowed financial counterparties across the globe to come together to conduct more effective risk management and, as a result, support economic development. Done properly this should be of benefit to all. At a time of highly fragile economic growth, we believe that it is critical to avoid taking steps that risk a withdrawal from global financial markets into inevitably less efficient regional or national markets.

We of course recognise and understand the need for US and other regulators to satisfy themselves on the adequacy of regulation in other jurisdictions. But we would urge you before finalising any rules, or enforcing any deadlines, to take the time to ensure that US rulemaking works not just domestically but also globally. We should collectively adopt cross border rules consistent with the principle that equivalence or substituted compliance with respect to partner jurisdictions, and consequential reliance on the regulation and supervision within those jurisdictions, should be used as far as possible to avoid fragmentation of global markets. Specifically, this principle needs to be enshrined in CFTC cross border rules, so that all US persons wherever they are located can transact with non-US entities using a proportionate substituted compliance regime.

We assure you our regulatory authorities stand ready to work closely with you to ensure an effective cross border regime is implemented at the earliest possible opportunity and provide you with the necessary information and reassurance regarding our respective regulatory frameworks.

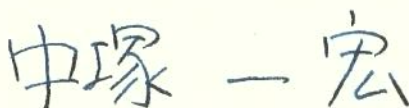
Yours sincerely,



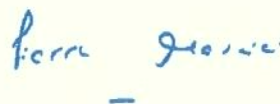
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Chancellor of the Exchequer
UK Government



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Commissioner for Internal Market and Services
European Commission



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Minister of State for Financial Services
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