

To Our Investors

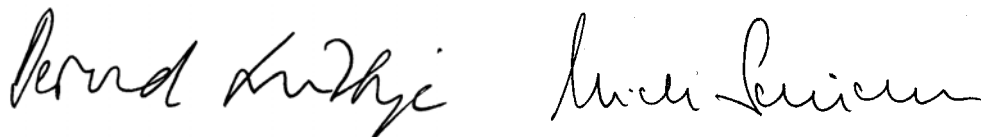
We hereby confirm that the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht, BaFin) has recognised that all bonds, Pfandbriefe and other funding tools issued by the Bank in Germany need not be backed by liable capital. This applies to all issues in circulation before and after March 31, 2004.

This status is expected to apply in other European states; the necessary preparations are currently being made.

The fact that the Bank no longer has to back claims with liable capital is due to the explicit guarantee granted by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, which came into effect on March 31, 2004 with the coming into force of the "Act on the Reorganisation of Landesbank Nordrhein-Westfalen into the Development Bank of North Rhine-Westphalia". Section 4 sub-section 3 of this Act states that

*"...the Guarantors are directly and jointly liable for the loans taken up and bonds issued by the Bank, forward exchange transactions which are firm deals, option rights and other loans to Landesbank Nordrhein-Westfalen and for loans, to the extent that they are expressly guaranteed by the Bank."*

The Managing Board

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is "Bernd Lühje" and the second is "Ulrich Schröder".