

**REPORT ON CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE CODE
FOR THE YEAR 2014**

20 April 2015

Report on Corporate Governance

Part A

The establishment and adoption of corporate governance principles and the reinforcement of the supervisory role of the Board of Directors are aiming to the full transparency over the total administration of USB Bank Plc (the “Bank”), the continuous servicing of corporate interest and investors’ interest, the provision of timely information, as well as the guarantee that the Board of Directors is sufficiently independent in its decision making.

The Board of Directors recognizes the importance of implementing sound corporate governance policies as a basic precondition for the creation of value to the members of the Bank and the community.

The Bank declares that from 9 November 2004, the Board of Directors decided to fully adopt all the provisions of the Corporate Governance Code of the Cyprus Stock Exchange (“C.S.E.”).

In April 2014 the CSE published the 4th Edition of the Corporate Governance Code (“Code), in replacement of the Code issued in September 2012, following a relevant publication of the Regulatory Decision in the Gazette on 9 May, 2014. The Board of Directors of the Bank has taken the necessary actions to comply with the new requirements.

Following the successful Public Offer by BLC Bank SAL dated 22 December 2010, to the members of the Bank for the acquisition of up to 100% of the issued share capital of the Bank, the dispersion of the Bank has dropped below 10% and as a result of this and the non-compliance with the minimum dispersion criteria for the companies trading in the parallel market, the C.S.E Council had decided to transfer the titles of the Bank from the parallel market to the Special Characteristics Market.

Pursuant to the new C.S.E Regulatory Decision KDP 379/2014 which will come into force as from 20 April, 2015, the Regulated Markets of the C.S.E. will be composed of the Main Market and the Alternative Market while the Parallel Market in which the titles of the Bank have originally been traded and the Special Characteristics Market in which the Bank’s titles continue to be traded are abolished. The C.S.E. Council has decided to transfer the titles of the Bank in the Alternative Market with marking (Σ) regarding the non-compliance with the continuous obligation of minimum dispersion and the emphasis of matter in the Auditor’s Report on the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2013. The C.S.E. Council will re-examine its decision in the event that the Bank will comply with the relevant C.S.E. Law provisions.

Voting rights which correspond to 120.431.702 new shares acquired by BLC Bank SAL (“BLC Bank”) during the years 2011 to 2014, are suspended temporarily.

In February 2015, the Committee decided to decline the request by BLC Bank to grant an extension to the time period provided to BLC Bank to dispose such number of the Bank’s shares so that USB Bank complies with the minimum dispersion criteria required for at least one of the regulated markets of the C,S,E, a condition that was set by the Committee in April 2014, in relation to an exemption for BLC Bank to submit a Takeover Bid (“Public Offer”) to the shareholders of the Bank. For this reason, BLC Bank SAL announced on 3 March 2015 to the investing public the submission of a Mandatory Take Over Bid offered to the shareholders of USB Bank plc, for the acquisition of up to 100% of the Bank’s issued share capital, pursuant to the relative provisions of article 13 of the Takeover Bids Law of 2007, (as amended). The proposed consideration for the acquisition of the Bank’s titles is €0,30 per share, paid in cash to all the shareholders who will accept the Public Offer.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

Part B

The Board of Directors of the Bank confirms that during 2014 it has complied with the relative provisions of the Code, with the only deviation being the composition of the Risk Management Committee, reference of which is made in section 3.4 of the present Report.

Information relating to the application of the principles and provisions of the Code, is given below:

1. Board of Directors

1.1 Role of the Board of Directors

The Bank is governed and controlled by the Board of Directors as per the provisions of its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Board of Directors has mainly the role of setting the strategic objectives and ensuring that these objectives are achieved, through the application of adequate internal administration and internal control system. The Board of Directors is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the actions and output of the Executive Management as well as to its conformity with the policies issued.

1.2 Operation of the Board of Directors

Pursuant to the Bank's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the number of Board members shall not be less than 5 and no more than 15.

Pursuant to the Articles of Association of the Bank, at the first annual general meeting of the Bank, all directors shall retire and at the annual general meeting of each consecutive year, one third of the directors or a multiple of three or if their number is not three or a number multiplied by three, then the number nearest to the one third (rounded up), shall retire from their position but they have the right of re-election at the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Bank.

The Directors to retire in every year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election. The Board of Directors has power at any time to appoint any person to be a Director either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing Directors but so that the total number of Directors shall not at any time exceed the number fixed in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Bank. Any Director so appointed shall hold office only until the next Annual General Meeting and shall then be eligible for re-election but shall not be taken into account in determining the Directors who are to retire by rotation at such meeting.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

1.3 Board of Directors Main Responsibilities

- Target setting and strategic policy of the Bank.
- Approval of the annual budget and the operational plan of the Bank.
- Setting the framework for capital investments and expenditure, mergers, acquisitions, and sale of Bank's assets.
- Adoption and application of amendments to the International Financial Reporting Standards.
- Monitoring of the substantial transactions of the Bank of any nature, in which the Chairman, the Executive Directors, the members of the Board of Directors, the Executive Management, the Secretary, the Auditors, or major shareholder of the Bank as well as their related parties who hold directly or indirectly more than 5% of the issued share capital of the Bank or voting rights, have a direct or indirect substantial interest.
- Selection, appointment and termination of the services of the Bank's Managing Director.
- Smooth succession of the Bank's Top Management.
- Directors' retirement policy.
- Selection and appointment of Bank's Secretary.

The members of the Board of Directors are appropriately informed by the Bank about their responsibilities as well as the responsibilities of their related parties in accordance to the Cyprus Stock Exchange Laws and Regulations, and the laws, regulations and guidelines of the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission. They are also informed about the responsibilities of the Bank in accordance to the Cyprus Companies Law Chapt.113, the Cyprus Stock Exchange, the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission and the Central Bank of Cyprus.

For the best implementation of the responsibilities of the members of the Board of Directors, all the members, after approval by the Board of Directors, can take independent professional advice with all expenses covered by the Bank.

All Board members may receive advice and other services by the Bank's Secretary.

The Bank's Board of Directors operates in accordance with the principles of collective responsibility and no differentiation exists between groups of Directors with regards to their responsibility.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

1.3 Board of Directors Main Responsibilities (continued)

The Chairman of the Board of Directors is a non Executive member. There is a division of responsibilities between the Chairman and the Executive Management.

The Secretary ensures the application of the Board of Directors procedures and its compliance with the applicable regulations.

The Bank's Directors hold positions in other companies' Boards of Directors. The members of the Board of Directors notify to the Bank the companies in which they take part and also their role in these companies (executive or non executive). Their participation in other Boards of Directors does not prevent them from dedicating the required time and attention in carrying out their duties as part of their role in the Bank's Board of Directors.

1.4 Meetings of the Board of Directors

During 2014, the Board of Directors has convened six times.

The Directors receive prompt written notice together with all essential documentation before any Board of Directors meeting, so that they are appropriately prepared during the meeting.

1.5 Composition of the Board of Directors

On 31 December 2014 the Bank's Board of Directors comprised of fifteen members as follows:

Chairman:

Mr. Maurice Sehnaoui

Members:

Fransabank SAL represented by Mr. Adel Kassar	Non Independent,	Non Executive
Mr. Nadim Kassar	Non Independent,	Non Executive
Mr. Nabil Kassar	Non Independent,	Non Executive
Mr. Walid Daouk	Non Independent,	Non Executive
Fransa Invest Bank SAL represented by Mr.Mansour Bteish	Non Independent,	Non Executive
Mr. Raoul Nehme	Non Independent,	Non Executive
BLC Bank SAL represented by Mr. Youssef Eid	Non Independent,	Non Executive
Mrs Tania Moussallem	Non Independent,	Non Executive
Mr. Agis Taramides	Independent,	Non Executive
Mr. George Galatariotis	Independent,	Non Executive
Mr. George Stylianou	Independent,	Non Executive
Mr. Philippos Philis	Independent,	Non Executive
Mr. Andreas Theodorides	Non Independent,	Executive
Mrs Despo Polycarpou	Non Independent,	Executive

Secretary:

Andreas Theodorides

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

Changes in the composition during 2014

During the year 2014 no new member's appointment has taken place.

Pursuant to the Articles of Association of the Bank, at the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Bank which was held on July 24 2014, Messrs Philippos Philis, George Stylianou, Raoul Nehme, Mrs Tania Moussallem and Mrs Despo Polycarpou retired but they were re-elected by the members of the Bank.

Structure of the Board of Directors as at 31.12.2014

Total Board Members, fifteen out of which:

Executive/Non-Independent Members: two

Non-Executive and Independent Members: four

Non-Executive and Non-Independent Members: nine

1.6 Senior Independent Director

With a Board of Directors decision, dated 12 December 2008, Mr. George Stylianou was appointed as Senior Independent Director.

The Senior Independent Director is available to listen to the concerns of the members of the Bank, that have not been resolved through the normal communication channels.

1.7 Non executive Directors

The number of non-executive Directors, (thirteen out fifteen) is adequate and it is in line with the provisions of the Corporate Governance Code of C.S.E., that requires that the non-executive Directors should not be less than one third of the Board of Directors with regards to Companies which are listed on markets other than the C.S.E's Main Market or the Major Projects Market or the Shipping Companies Market.

1.8 Classification criteria for determining Independent Directors

The Bank has adopted classification criteria for the Independent Directors, which were determined in accordance to the Code of the Cyprus Stock Exchange and the Directive¹ of the Central Bank of Cyprus entitled "Directive to Credit Institutions on Governance and Management Arrangements of 2014".

¹ The Directive was issued in accordance with the provisions of articles 19 and 41 (1) and (2) of the Business of Credit Institutions Laws of 1997 (as amended).

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

1.8 Classification criteria for determining Independent Directors (continued)

Based on an internal policy, the Bank, has drawn up the “Director’s Declaration of Independence”, which is completed and submitted to the Bank by the Members of the Board of Directors. This Declaration is submitted to the C.S.E. in compliance with the provisions of the Code.

The Bank has proceeded with the revision of the criteria for determining Independent Directors, based on the amendment of the Business of Credit Institutions Law (Amending No.3 of 2013) published in the Gazette no.4404, on 9 September 2013 under article 11, the Directive of the Central Bank of Cyprus entitled “Directive on the Assessment on the Fitness and Probity of the Members of the Management Body and Managers of Authorised Credit Institutions of 2014” and also on the provisions of the Corporate Governance Code (4th edition April 2014 of C.S.E.) , incorporating any new requirements.

On an annual basis, an Assessment Report concerning the non-executive and independent members is submitted to the Board of Directors in order to evaluate their compliance with the criteria of independence. Based on the structure of the Board of Directors, the Bank confirms that during the year 2014, it has complied at the minimum grade, with the Provision A.2.3 of the Code, by the participation of four Independent members in the Board of Directors. However, the Board of Directors of the Bank acknowledging the “principle” and importance of the provision A.2 of the Code concerning the balance of the Board of Directors, as well as the provisions of article 19(B) of the Business of Credit Institutions Law of 1997 (as amended), confirms that it takes all necessary measures so that no individual Director or small group of Directors can dominate the Board’s decision-making and examines systematically the composition of the Board of Directors as far as the effectiveness and unbiased judgement during the decision making process is concerned.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Business of Credit Institutions Law and pursuant to the Directive of the Central Bank of Cyprus entitled “Directive to Credit Institutions on Governance and Management Arrangements of 2014”, new criteria have been set for the independence of the Board of Directors and the independence of the Chairman, where it is clearly defined that the majority of the members of the Board of Directors of the Bank and the Chairman should be independent as well as the majority of the members of the Committees of the Board of Directors should be independent. The independency criteria of the members of the Board are defined in the Directive of the Central Bank of Cyprus entitled “Directive on the Assessment on the Fitness and Probity of the Members of the Management Body and Managers of Authorised Credit Institutions of 2014”. The Bank is evaluating the new provisions incorporated in the new Directives issued by the Central Bank of Cyprus and makes every possible action in order to comply with the new provisions which require compliance within 2015, pursuant to the Laws and Regulations of the Central Bank of Cyprus.

1.9 Definition and Division of Responsibilities of the Chairman and Managing Director

The Chairman responsibilities are performed by Mr. Maurice Sehnaoui and the responsibilities of the Managing Director by Mr. Andreas Theodorides – Chief Executive Officer. The Chairman is responsible for the proper running of the Board of Directors meetings and the General Meetings of the Bank, guides the Board of Directors and deals with strategic issues of the Bank. The Chief Executive Officer has the responsibility for the daily operations of the Bank and deals with the management and the effective monitoring of the activities and operations of the Bank. The division of the Chairman position and the Chief Executive Officer position satisfies the relative provision A.2.6 of the Code.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

1.10 Re-election of Directors

At the next Annual General Meeting of the members of the Bank, and according to the Articles of Association of the Bank, Fransabank SAL represented by Mr. Adel Kassar, M. Nadim Kassar, Mr. Nabil Kassar, Mr. Walid Daouk and Mr. George Galatariotis will retire but are offered for re-election.

The names of the Directors who are submitted for election or re-election are accompanied by their biographical details, so that the members of the Bank can make an informed decision on their election.

Biographical Details of the Members of the Board of Directors

Short biographical details of the members of the Bank's Board of Directors as at the date of this report are set out below: -

H.E. Mr. Maurice Sehnaoui (Chairman of the Board of Directors)

He was born in 1943. Mr. Maurice Sehnaoui is the Chairman of the Board of Directors and General Manager of BLC Bank since 2008. He holds a degree in Economics (June 1967) from Saint Joseph University of Beirut. He was a former Minister of Energy and Water from 2004 to 2005. Mr. Sehnaoui was the Chairman–General Manager of Société Générale de Banque au Liban from 1984 to 2007, the Chairman of Societe General Cyprus Ltd from 1990 to 2008 and the Vice Chairman of Societe Generale Jordan from 2000 and until 2008. He is a Board member and holds participations in a number of companies and owns a large real estate portfolio including prestigious buildings in the Beirut city center. He is Chevalier of the French “Légion d’Honneur” and Officer of the French “Ordre National du Mérite”.

Mr. Adel Kassar representing Fransabank SAL

He was born in Beirut in 1932. He holds a degree in Lebanese and French Law from Saint Joseph University, Beirut. He is the Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Fransabank SAL. He is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Fransabank France SA and Fransabank Syria SA, member of the Board of Directors of BLC BANK SAL and member of the Supervisory Board of Fransabank OJSC in Belarus. He is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors and General Manager of Bankassurance SAL and Lebanese Leasing Company SAL. He is a former Chairman of the Association of Banks in Lebanon and is the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Hungary in Lebanon.

Mr. Nadim Kassar

He was born in 1964. He has a degree in Business Administration from the American University of Beirut. He is a Board member of the Association of Banks in Lebanon since 2001. He is the General Manager of Fransabank SAL, Founder and Board member of Fransa Invest Bank SAL "FIB", Founder and Chairman of Fransabank Al Djazair SPA, Vice-Chairman and General Manager of BLC Bank SAL, Board Member of the Lebanese International Finance Executives (LIFE), Co-Manager of A.A. Kassar (France) SARL and General Manager of A.A. Kassar SAL, Founder and Board member of the American-Lebanese Chamber of Commerce, Deputy Chairman of the Societe Financiere du Liban. He is also a Board member of a number of various other institutions worldwide.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

Biographical Details of the Members of the Board of Directors (continued)

Mr. Nabil Kassar

He was born in 1970. He holds a bachelor degree in Law from the St. Joseph University, Beirut, Lebanon. Currently he is the Secretary General at Fransabank SAL, Chairman of Fransa Invest Bank (FIB), Chairman of Fransa Land SAL, Chairman of A.A. Kassar SAL (Holding) and Chairman of the Blue Horizon Realty SAL. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of BLC Bank SAL and of a number of other overseas companies.

Mr. Youssef Eid representing BLC Bank SAL

He was born in 1959. He has a degree in Business Administration from the American University of Beirut and also a Master's degree in International Business Studies from the University of South Carolina. He is an Assistant General Manager and also the Head of Retail Banking Group of BLC Bank SAL, Lebanon. He has held the position of Vice President and Regional Manager of Wachovia Bank Cooperation, Dubai during the period 1998 – 2003 and of Vice President and Regional Manager of First Union National Bank, London during the period 1994 – 1998. He has held executive positions at First Fidelity Bank, U.S.A. and London, at Fidelity Bank, London as well as other organizations in other countries.

H.E. Mr. Walid Daouk, Esq.

He was born in 1958. He has a degree in Lebanese and French law from St. Joseph University Beirut. He is a practitioner lawyer, member of the Beirut Bar Association since 1982 and is a member of the Board of Directors of various companies, real estate, banks and financial institutions in Lebanon and abroad including Fransabank (France) SA, Fransabank El Djazair SPA, BLC Bank SAL, Bankassurance SAL and the Lebanese Leasing Company SAL. He is the Government Commissioner at the Beirut Stock Exchange and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Development and Reconstruction of Lebanon. Between June 2011 and February 2014, he was appointed as Minister of Information of the Republic of Lebanon and as per interim, Minister of Justice.

Mr. Mansour Bteish representing Fransa Invest Bank SAL

He was born in 1954. He has a degree in Business Administration of the St. Joseph University, Beirut and also a Master's degree in Money & Banking. Currently he holds the position of General Manager at Fransabank SAL. He is also Member of the Board of Directors of Fransa Invest Bank SAL (FIB), BLC Bank SAL, BLC Invest SAL, Lebanese Leasing Company, Fransabank SA (France), Fransabank Al Djazair and he is also a Member of the Board of Directors of a number of other overseas companies.

Mrs Tania Moussallem

She was born in 1972. Mrs Moussallem has about 19 years of banking experience and is currently Assistant General Manager heading the Support and Marketing Group at BLC Bank after having spent 6 years as Head of Strategic Development and Financial Management Group. She is a Vice Chair of the Global Banking Alliance for Women (GBA). She joined BLC Bank SAL in 2008 where she initiated, headed and implemented several strategic and innovative development projects involving external organic growth for the Bank. Areas covered include mergers, acquisitions, investment banking, insurance, factoring, finance, management control, technology, sme's and gender access to finance, corporate social responsibility, She sits on several committees in BLC Bank SAL. Mrs Moussallem had started her career at Société Générale de Banque au Liban where she held several managerial positions and headed among others Investment Banking, Specialized Financing and SME's Departments. In parallel, she acted as Deputy Head of the Corporate and Investment Banking Division. She developed as well an extensive experience in privatization of the energy, water and waste water sectors including a 6 months period as member of the Minister of Energy and Water Cabinet. She holds a Master's degree in Finance & Communication from Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Economiques et Commerciales ESSEC, France and a degree in Business Administration from the American University of Beirut.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)
Biographical Details of the Members of the Board of Directors (continued)

Mr. Raoul Nehme

He was born in 1956. Mr. Raoul Nehme is the General Manager and a Board member of BLC Bank SAL. He graduated from Ecole Polytechnique de Paris and Ecole des Mines de Paris (France). He was previously the Advisor to the Chairman and Head of Corporate and Investment Banking at Société Générale de Banque au Liban. He has been working in the banking sector since 2001.

Mr. George Stylianou (Senior Independent Director)

He was born in 1966. He has a BA (Honours) degree in Economics from Ealing College of United Kingdom. He is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and the Association of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus. From 1990 to 1993 he worked in London for Moore Stephens Chartered Accountants and from 1994 until today he works as a partner in Moore Stephens/Panayiotis Stylianou & Co. Accountants and Consultants in Cyprus. He is a member of the Board of Directors of a number of other companies.

Mr. Philippos Philis

He was born in 1961. Since 1996, he is the founder of Lemissoler Group which is active in the ship management, ship operations and ship owning and he has been its Managing Director since its establishment and its Chairman since 2009. In 1997 he founded IMCL Inter Marine Container Lines, one of the most successful container feeder operators in the Baltic Sea. He has graduated from RWTH Aachen with the title of Dipl. Ing. in Mechanical Engineering. He is specialized in Expert Systems applications in Logistics and completed the Executive Leadership Program (ELP) at the Cyprus International Institute of Management (CIIM). He has also completed the Private Equity and Venture Capital (PEVC) executive course at the Harvard Business School (HBS). He has been appointed as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Shipping Chamber (CSC). He acts as Chairman of the Chamber's Marine Committee and represents the Chamber at the European Community Ship Owners Association (ECSA). He is a member of the Expert Group of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). He is a member of the Cyprus Professional Engineers Association (CPEA), the Scientific and Technical Chamber of Cyprus (ETEK) and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST). He is a member of the Board of Directors of a number of other companies.

Mr. George Galatariotis

He was born in 1948. He has a B.Sc Economics degree of the University of London and also an MBA of City University. Since 1986 he is the Managing Director of Galatariotis Technical Ltd.

Mr. Agis Taramides

He was born in 1971. He has a Bachelors degree in Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research and also a Masters Degree in Statistics. He is a Chartered Accountant, member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus. He started his career in 1997 with Hallidays (Chartered Accountants) Limited in the United Kingdom. As from July 2014 he is the Managing Director of WTS Cyprus Limited.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

Biographical Details of the Members of the Board of Directors (continued)

Mr. Andreas Theodorides

He was born in 1970. He has a BA Economics with specialization in Accounting and Finance of the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. He is a Chartered Accountant, member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, the Association of Certified Public Accountants of Cyprus and the Association of Internal Auditors Cyprus. He started his career in 1992 in the audit firm of Arthur Andersen Manchester and then in Lombard Natwest Bank Ltd. He has been employed by USB BANK PLC since 1998 where he held various managerial positions. In 2009 he was appointed as Chief Financial Officer, as from 1 July 2010 he was appointed as the Deputy Managing Director and as from 29 April, 2014 he holds the position of the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank.

Mrs Despo Polycarpou

She was born in 1957. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (FCIB) and holds the ACIB degree. She is the Secretary General of the Cyprus Institute of Financial Services. She started her career in 1976 in Hellenic Bank. She has been employed by USB BANK PLC since 1999 where she held various positions including Manager Banking Operations and Trade Services, Nicosia Regional Manager, Manager Banking Services Development, Manager Retail Sector and currently holds the position of the Assistant General Manager, Manager of Compliance & Projects and also the position of the Manager of Human Resources.

2. Confirmations by the Board of Directors

2.1 Going Concern

The Board of Directors confirms that it is satisfied that the Bank has adequate resources to continue in business as a going concern for the next twelve months.

The Board of Directors of the Bank, at its meeting held on 24 February 2014, decided to increase the issued share capital of the Bank by €20 million in order to strengthen the capital base of the Bank, based on an irrevocable commitment of the parent company BLC Bank SAL before the end of 2013, to fully cover any required increase of capital with the deposit of €20 million in an escrow account.

At an Extraordinary General meeting held on 27 March 2014, a resolution was approved for the reduction of the nominal value of the Bank's shares in order to facilitate and provide greater flexibility to the Bank for the issue of new ordinary shares. Subject to ratification by the District Court of Nicosia of the above resolution, a second resolution was approved whereby the existing members waived their pre-emption rights so that the Board of Directors of the Bank was authorised to issue and allot 66.666.667 new ordinary shares of nominal value of €0,10 each at the total issue price of €0,30 each, exclusively to BLC Bank SAL. The issue and allotment of 66.666.667 new ordinary shares at the consideration of €0,30 per share was made on 27 May, 2014.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

2. Confirmations by the Board of Directors

2.1 Going Concern (continued)

With the successful approval of the reduction and the re-increase of the share capital by the Court and the subsequent issue and allotment of 66.666.667 new ordinary shares, the authorised share capital of the Bank at the time of issue of the present Report amounts to €85.500.000 divided into 855.000.000 ordinary shares of a nominal value of €0,10 each and the issued share capital of the Bank amounts to €16.593.733 divided into 165.937.330 ordinary shares of a nominal value of €0,10 each.

In December 2014, the parent company BLC Bank SAL placed in an escrow account €10,2 million as an irrevocable commitment for the capital strengthening of the Bank, demonstrating its continuous support to the Bank.

2.2 Internal Control Systems

The Board of Directors confirms that the Bank maintains an effective internal control system, designed to manage and minimize risks which is annually reviewed and assessed for its effectiveness from both the Directors as well as the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors. In this way the procedures for the accuracy and validity of the information provided to investors are reviewed.

The Bank maintains an Internal Audit Department headed by the Manager of Internal Audit Mrs Tasoula Mouzouri, Chartered Accountant. The Department currently employs four people.

Pursuant to the provision C.2.1. of the Code, the Board of Directors confirms that it has conducted a review of the effectiveness of the Bank's internal control systems and the procedures for verifying the correctness and completeness of the information which are provided to the investors and states its satisfaction. The review covers all the systems of controls, including the financial and operational systems as well as the risk management systems. The Bank has assigned to the parent company BLC Bank SAL, the provision of services for the audit of the Information Technology of the Bank.

Additionally the Board of Directors confirms that, to its knowledge, no violation of the Cyprus Stock Exchange Legislation and Regulations has occurred.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

3. Board of Directors Committees

Pursuant to the Code of the Cyprus Stock Exchange but also in accordance to the Central Bank of Cyprus Directive, the following Board of Directors Committees have been set up:

3.1 Audit Committee

Role of the Committee

The role of the Audit Committee is to establish specific and transparent procedures relating to the implementation of the Banks' internal control audit system, the preparation of its financial statements, the implementation of the Corporate Governance principles and the maintenance of appropriate relationship with the External Auditors of the Bank.

Composition and terms of reference of the Committee

- The Board of Directors appoints the members of the Committee.
- The Committee Chairman is appointed by the Board of Directors and either him or any other member of the Committee should have experience in the area of Accounting or Audit.
- The majority of the Audit Committee should have experience and knowledge in the wider operations of the Bank and to the information technology systems.
- The Chairman position and the members of the Committee are selected taking into account the need for member rotation and ensuring that no dependency is created on a single member of the Committee.
- The Committee should have at least three non executive Directors, with the majority being independent.
- Three members of the Committee comprise a quorum.
- The Committee meets regularly and at least once every three months.
- The Committee keeps minutes for all its decisions.
- The Committee has the approval of the Board of Directors to obtain independent professional advice whenever it deems this necessary.
- The Board of Directors is authorized to replace any member or the Chairman of the Committee during their service and to fill any vacant position.
- The Chairman of the Committee is available to answer any questions, which are submitted at the Annual General Meeting, or any other informative meeting held for the members of the Bank.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

3. Board of Directors Committees (continued)

3.1 Audit Committee (continued)

Duties and responsibilities of the Committee

- The safeguarding of the functioning of the Internal Audit Department in accordance with the International Accounting Standards for the professional application of the Internal Control of the International Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA).
- The definition and examination of the rules of the Internal Audit Department of the Bank and its supervision and proper operation.
- The safeguarding of the independence of the internal audit department and proposals to the Board of Directors for the appointment or termination of the Head of the Internal Audit.
- The supervision of the procedures for the selection of accounting policies and accounting estimates for the Bank's financial statements and the assurance that there is a mechanism to safeguard the assets of the Bank, including the prevention and detection of fraud.
- The evaluation of the Head of the Internal Audit Department who should have adequate and relevant academic and/or professional qualifications as well as work experience.
- Recommendations to the Board of Directors with regards to the appointment, termination and remuneration of the Bank's external auditors, the continuous supervision of the extent and effectiveness of the external audit and the independence and objectivity of the auditors. Review in cooperation with the Risk Management Committee the implementation of the Directive 2013/36/EU on access to the activity of credit institutions and the prudential supervision of credit institutions.
- Review and evaluation on an annual basis of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Internal Control System as per the relative information provided by the Internal Audit Department, the findings and observations of the External Auditors, the Central Bank of Cyprus and the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission. On the basis of this examination, it recommends the corrective actions to be taken by the Bank's Board of Directors.
- Review of the six monthly, interim statements and the final financial statements before submission to the Board of Directors for approval.
- Ensures that the Bank appoints every three years external auditors for the evaluation of the Internal Control System according to the Central Bank of Cyprus Directive.
- Review of any significant events or risks that affect the Bank's operations.
- Review the material transactions of the Bank which the Chairman, the Executive Directors, the members of the Board of Directors, the Executive Management, the Secretary, the Auditors or major shareholder of the Bank as well as their related parties who hold directly or indirectly more than 5% of the issued share capital or the voting rights of the Company, have a direct or indirect substantial interest, in order to ensure that these transactions are carried out in the normal course of business and at arm's length.
- Drafting with the assistance of the Corporate Governance Compliance Officer, of a report on Corporate Governance on behalf of the Board of Directors.
- The performance of any other related duties, which may be assigned by the Board.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)
3. Board of Directors Committees (continued)
3.1 Audit Committee (continued)

Composition and service of the members of the Committee during 2014 until today

Current composition

Chairman	George Stylianou	from 7/7/2008	Non Executive, Independent
Members:	Philippos Philis	from 21/1/2009	Non Executive, Independent
	Walid Daouk	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Non Independent
	BLC Bank SAL (represented by Mr. Youssef Eid)	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Non Independent
	Agis Taramides	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Independent

During the year 2014, the Audit Committee met six times.

3.2 Nominations /Internal Governance Committee

Role of the Committee

The Committee has the responsibility to ensure the application by the Bank of corporate governance principles. It also has the responsibility of overseeing the selection and appointment process to ensure that competent and suitable individuals participate in the Bank's Board of Directors.

Composition and terms of reference of the Committee

- The Board of Directors appoints the members of the Committee.
- The Board of Directors appoints the Chairman of the Committee.
- The Chairman of the Committee may be either the Chairman of the Board of Directors (non executive), or a non executive member.
- The majority of the members of the Committee should be non executive Directors.
- The Chairman position and the members of the Committee are selected taking into account the need for member rotation and ensuring that no dependency is created on a single member of the Committee.
- The Committee should consist of at least three or more members.
- Three members of the Committee comprise a quorum.
- The Committee meets when required.
- The Committee keeps minutes for all its decisions.
- The Committee has the approval of the Board of Directors to obtain independent professional advice whenever it deems this necessary.
- The Board of Directors is authorized to replace any member or the Chairman of the Committee during their service and to fill any vacant position.
- The Chairman of the Committee is available to answer any questions, which are submitted at the Annual General Meeting, or any other informative meeting held for the Bank's members.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)
3. Board of Directors Committees (continued)
3.2 Nominations/Internal Governance Committee (continued)

Duties and responsibilities of the Committee

- Determining the selection criteria for the members of the Board of Directors. The minimum criteria set by the Committee are:
 1. The specific qualifications that are required as per the Central Bank Directive entitled “Directive on the Assessment of the Fitness and Probity of the Members of the Management Body and Managers of Authorised Credit Institutions of 2014” for the effective operation of the Board of Directors.
 2. Availability of time to perform the duties of a Board member at the Bank.
 3. Appropriate knowledge, experience and abilities.
 4. Integrity and objective judgement.
 5. The ability to perform independently the duties, without undue influence from other persons.
 6. Criteria for the assessment of the member’s potential conflicts of interest.
- Submission to the Board of Directors of recommendations for the appointment of new Directors based on their academic and professional qualifications, as well as their personalities.
- Evaluation and recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding the composition and structure of the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Code.
- Planning the succession of the resigned members in cooperation with the Secretary of the Board of Directors.
- The evaluation of the effectiveness of the Board of Directors, members’ knowledge and experience.
- The performance of any other related duties, which may be assigned by the Board.

Composition and service of the members of the Committee during 2014 until today

Current composition

Chairman	Philippos Philis	from 25/2/2010	Non Executive, Independent
Members:	Raoul Nehme	from 21/10/2010	Non Executive, Non Independent
	Nadim Kassar	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Non Independent
	Nabil Kassar	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Non Independent
	BLC Bank SAL (represented by Mr. Youssef Eid)	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Non Independent
	Andreas Theodorides	from 21/3/2011	Executive, Non Independent

During the year 2014, the Committee met three times.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)
3. Board of Directors Committees (continued)

3.3 Remuneration Committee

Role of the Committee

The Committee reviews the remuneration of the Executive and Non Executive Directors as well as Senior Management and ensures that these are in line with the culture, the strategic plans and objectives and the regulatory environment of the Bank.

Composition and terms of reference of the Committee

- The Board of Directors appoints the members of the Remuneration Committee.
- Only non executive Directors comprise the Committee with the majority being independent.
- The Chairman position and the members of the Committee are selected taking into account the need for member rotation and ensuring that no dependency is created on a single member of the Committee.
- The Committee should consist of minimum three or more members.
- Three members of the Committee comprise a quorum.
- The Committee should include at least one member with knowledge and experience in remuneration policy.
- The Committee meets when required.
- The Committee keeps minutes for all its decisions.
- The Committee has the approval of the Board of Directors to obtain independent professional advice whenever it deems this necessary.
- The Board of Directors is authorized to replace any member or the Chairman of the Committee during their service and to fill any vacant position.
- The Chairman of the Committee is available to answer any questions, which are submitted at the Annual General Meeting, or any other informative meeting held for the Bank's members.

Duties and responsibilities of the Committee

- Submission to the Board of Directors of recommendations concerning the framework and level of remuneration of the Executive Directors. The remuneration must be sufficient so as to attract and maintain the Directors at the Bank's service.
- Review of employment contracts of the Executive Directors.
- Periodic review of the Remuneration Policy for the Executive Directors or the Managing Directors, including the policy regarding remuneration, based on shares and its application.
- Submission of the Directors' remuneration Policy to the members of the Bank for approval at an Annual General Meeting.
- Evaluation and approval of the Annual Directors' Remuneration Statement in accordance with Annex 2 of the Code, to be included in the Annual Report.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

3. Board of Directors Committees (continued)

3.3 Remuneration Committee (continued)

Duties and responsibilities of the Committee (continued)

- The Remuneration Committee recommends the Remuneration Policy Report in accordance with Annex 1 of the Code. The Remuneration Policy Report is included in the Bank's Annual Report and is presented to the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Bank for approval.
- The Remuneration Committee shall, when using the services of a consultant to obtain information on market standards for remuneration systems, ensure that this consultant is not also giving advice to the human resources department or the Executive or Managing Directors of the Bank.
- The performance of any other related duties, which may be assigned by the Board.

Composition and service of the members of the Committee during 2014 until today

Current composition

Chairman	George Galatariotis	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Independent
Members:	Philippos Philis	from 21/10/2010	Non Executive, Independent
	Maurice Sehnaoui	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Non Independent

All the members of the Remuneration Committee have sufficient knowledge and experience in the remuneration policy sector.

During the year 2014, the Committee met once.

3.4 Risk Management Committee

Role of the Committee

The main role of the Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in the process of establishing a policy for handling risks and managing of funds that reflect the business goals of the Bank.

Composition and terms of reference of the Committee

- The Board of Directors appoints the members of the Committee.
- The Board of Directors appoints the Chairman of the Committee.
- The Committee shall be composed of Directors with sufficient knowledge and experience in the field of risk management.
- The Chairman position and the members of the Committee are selected taking into account the need for member rotation and ensuring that no dependency is created on a single member of the Committee.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)
Board of Directors Committees (continued)
3.4 Risk Management Committee (continued)

Composition and terms of reference of the Committee (continued)

- The Committee should consist of minimum three or more members.
- Three members of the Committee comprise a quorum.
- The Committee meets regularly and at least once every three months.
- The Committee keeps minutes for all its decisions.
- The Committee has the approval of the Board of Directors to obtain independent professional advice whenever it deems this necessary.
- The Board of Directors is authorized to replace any member or the Chairman of the Committee during their service and to fill any vacant position.
- The Chairman of the Committee is available to answer any questions, which are submitted at the Annual General Meeting, or any other informative meeting held for the Bank's members.

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraphs C.3.8 and C.3.9 of the 4th Edition of the Code of April 2014, the Risk Management Committee which shall be composed by only non-Executive Directors, is mandatory to the Companies which are listed in the Main Market, the Shipping Companies Market and the Large Projects Market of the C.S.E. and consequently is not mandatory for the market in which the titles of the Bank are traded. Nevertheless, the Bank has set up such a Committee which is composed of six Non-Executive Directors and one Executive Director.

Duties and responsibilities of the Committee

- Formation of strategy for handling all kinds of risks and the management of funds relating to the business goals of the Bank on an individual but also group basis.
- Development of an internal risk management system of managing risks and integration of this in the decision-making process for all the activities / Departments of the Bank.
- Annual assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management policy.
- Assessment of the issues that are raised by the Risk Management Department and inform the Board of Directors regarding the most important risks that the Bank has assumed.
- Performance of annual stress test and other scenarios to assess market risk, credit risk, liquidity risk, and operational risk.
- Overall review in cooperation with the Audit Committee of the implementation of the Directive 2013/36/EU on access to the activity of credit institutions and the prudential supervision of credit institutions.
- Review and assessment of the relevant reports relating to management of risk and submission of proposals for corrective measures to the Board of Directors.
- The assessment of the various risks involved in the participation of the Bank in new markets, new companies or new operations and submission of a proposal to the Board of Directors.
- The performance of any other related duties, which may be assigned by the Board.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)
3. Board of Directors Committees (continued)
3.4 Risk Management Committee (continued)

Composition and service of the members of the Committee during 2014 until today

Current composition

Chairman	Walid Daouk	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Non Independent
Members:	Andreas Theodorides	from 12/7/2010	Executive, Non Independent
	Nabil Kassar	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Non Independent
	BLC Bank SAL (represented by Mr.Youssef Eid)	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Non Independent
	George Galatariotis	from 21/3/2011	Non Executive, Independent
	Raoul Nehme	from 4/11//2011	Non Executive, Non Independent
	Fransa Invest Bank SAL (represented by Mr. Mansour Bteish)	from 4/11/2011	Non Executive, Non Independent

During the year 2014, the Committee met four times.

4. Report on Remuneration of Board of Directors

The Bank applies the provisions regarding the Remuneration of the Directors that are included in the Cyprus Stock Exchange Corporate Governance Code as well as the High-level Guidelines for Remuneration Policies issued by the Central Bank of Cyprus.

The Remuneration Committee proposes to the Board of Directors, the Remuneration policy that is prepared in accordance with the above. The Directors' Remuneration Report is submitted for approval at the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Bank.

The remuneration of the members of the Board of Directors is analysed between remuneration as members of the Board of Directors and remuneration for their executive services. The analysis of the remuneration of the Board of Directors is presented in Note 31 of the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

Furthermore, the Remuneration of the members of the Board of Directors is analyzed as follows:

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)
4. Report on Remuneration of Board of Directors

4.1 Remuneration of the Non-Executive Members of the Board

Remuneration of the Non-Executive members of the Board

	2014	2013
	€	€
Maurice Sehnaoui	31.098	31.098
Fransabank SAL represented by Mr. Adel Kassar	7.171	7.256
Nadim Kassar	8.013	7.927
Nabil Kassar	10.183	10.269
Walid Daouk	15.281	15.196
Fransa Invest Bank SAL represented by Mr. Mansour Bteish	9.513	9.683
Raoul Nehme	10.354	10.269
BLC Bank SAL represented by Mr. Youssef Eid (appointed on 27.2.2013)	12.696	9.839
BLC Bank SAL represented by Mr.. Walid Ziade (retired on 27.2.2013)	-	2.259
Tania Moussallem	7.342	7.171
Agis Taramides	9.769	9.427
George Galatariotis	10.812	10.812
George Stylianou	12.982	12.854
Philippos Philis	11.576	11.568
	156.790	155.628

The Remuneration of the Non Executive Members of the Board includes fees for their participation as Members in the Board of Directors of the Bank and also as Members in the Committees of the Board of Directors.

Based on the existing policy of the Bank, the remuneration of the non executive Directors is based on their responsibilities, time spent on meetings and their participation to the various Committees of the Board of Directors and is not connected with the profitability of the Bank. The last time the remuneration of the Non-Executive Directors was revised, was at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of the Bank at 21 January 2009, taking into account the above and also the respective remuneration of Directors in other comparable organisations.

Also, as per the Articles of Association of the Bank, the members of the Board of Directors can claim the travelling expenses incurred for attendance in meetings.

The revision of the remuneration of the non executive Directors is authorised by the members of the Bank at the General Meeting of the Bank.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

4. Report on Remuneration of Board of Directors

4.2 Remuneration of Executive Members of the Board

The salaries and other short-term benefits of the Executive Members of the Board totalling €243K (2013 €248K) concern €138K (2013:128K) for Mr. Andreas Theodorides and €105K (2013:120K) for Mrs. Despo Polycarpou.

The employment and remuneration of the Executive Directors are governed by the collective agreements as applied to all other staff members of the Bank.

The Executive members of the Board of Directors are also entitled to any other benefits that are offered to the management and personnel of the Bank as part of its overall employment policy and collective agreements.

As far as the remuneration of the Executive Directors is concerned, no remuneration policy is provided, under which variable remuneration components are included, nor were any schemes adopted under which share options are granted.

All Executive Members of the Board of Directors are participating in the Staff Retirement Plan with the same terms applicable to the personnel of the Bank. The main characteristics of the Scheme are described in Note 6 of the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2014.

5. Loans and other transactions of the members of the Board of Directors

Details of the loans and other transactions of the members of the Board of Directors and their related parties for the year ended 31 December 2014 are set out in Note 31 of the audited financial statements. It is certified that all the transactions are conducted in the normal course of the Bank's business, on an arms length basis and with transparency.

6. Investor Relations

All members of the Bank are treated on an equal basis. The Bank, within the framework of providing the members with timely information, announces its financial results. Besides the Annual General Meeting of the members, the Bank organises from time to time Company Presentations where the audited financial results of the prior year and its short-term strategic plans are presented.

The Board of Directors provide the opportunity to the members of the Bank who represent at least 5% of the Bank's share capital to place items on the agenda of the General Meetings of the members, in accordance with the procedures provided for by the Companies Act.

Any amendments or additions to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Bank are considered valid only by a special resolution at meeting of the members.

Report on Corporate Governance (continued)

6. Investor Relations (continued)

The Bank, has appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank Mr. Andreas Theodorides, as the Investor Relations Officer.

The Senior Independent Director Mr. George Stylianos is available to the members of the Bank if they have concerns that have not been resolved through the normal communication channels.

7. Corporate Governance Compliance Officer

The Bank, has appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank Mr. Andreas Theodorides, as the Corporate Governance Compliance Officer of the Bank.

8. Compliance Officer of Stock Market Issues

The Bank, has appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the Bank Mr. Andreas Theodorides, as the Compliance Officer of Stock Market Issues of the Bank.

Board of Directors
USB BANK PLC

Nicosia 20 April 2015