FMSB 2024 Workstreams March 2024

Committee	Working Group	Description
Market Practices	Pre-hedging	 There remains market uncertainty around where pre-hedging takes place, the rationale and client benefits deriving from the activity as well as the distinction between inventory management, pre-hedging and front running. Developing guidelines with a set of practical case studies which aim to address current areas of uncertainty and provide greater clarity as to what is considered acceptable and unacceptable market practice in different contexts.
	Carbon markets	 Whilst the carbon markets have been expanding at pace, there remain frictions and challenges that are hindering these markets from achieving the scale necessary to achieve their aims of fighting climate change. These range from difficulties in the theoretical valuation of carbon credits, to knowledge and trust gaps in individual projects and regulatory uncertainty. Development of a continuation of the September 2022 publication on Voluntary Carbon Markets to illuminate current issues in the wider carbon markets.
	Price discovery in illiquid securities / BWICs & OWICs	 Price discovery in illiquid securities - topics include the process of establishing price or depth of liquidity in a product and the distinction between genuine price discovery and potential illegitimate behaviours. The issues related to BWICs/OWICs is considered to be a subset of those related to price discovery in illiquid securities and illiquidity more generally. FMSB may wish to group the topics together or address them individually.
	Dealer polls	 Dealer polls were once a useful tool but have since decreased in popularity due to uncertainty and conduct risks associated with their management as well as lack of incentives to counterbalance these risks. Currently using a dealer poll as a fallback is typically ineffective given the reluctance in providing quotes, therefore clearer guidance around expected practices would benefit market effectiveness. FMSB is pursuing work that could establish workable solutions, delivered through industry standards.
	Trading in the grey	 FMSB is pursuing work to set clearer expectations / guidance regarding good practices for navigating conflicts of interest (and their management) in the context of trading in the grey. Issues include potential conflicts of interest where a firm participates in the syndicate and the market making desk also engages in grey market trading, reporting obligations for grey market trades, and assumptions made in relation to a security to be traded.

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Conduct & Ethics	Front office supervision	 FMSB is revisiting its 2017 publication 'Front Office Supervision Statement of Good Practice for FICC Market Participants', expanding and revising it to reflect current practices. Public disquiet and sharper regulatory oversight has followed recent misbehaviour including bank failures. Industry responses include implementation of costly programmes to address control weaknesses and extension of ever deeper, wider and timely surveillance, reporting and oversight frameworks. There are now concerns about possible over-emphasis on low value-add supervision and control efforts.
	Trade surveillance	 Surveillance emerged from horizon scanning as a significant topic that may evolve into a Statement of Good Practice. Inadequate surveillance of trading activity can lead to unidentified market abuse or trader misbehaviour leading to loss or detriment to clients, markets and the firm's reputation. Firms are struggling daily with high volumes of alerts (false positives) and technical inefficiencies. Discussions on how best to proceed are exploratory.
Electronic Trading & Technology	Algo model risk	 FMSB published a Transparency Draft of the 'Statement of Good Practice for the application of a model risk management framework to electronic trading algorithms'. The publication intends to support firms in applying model risk management frameworks in a proportionate manner to models deployed in their electronic trading algorithms taking into account the nature, scale and complexity of such models as well as existing systems and risk controls intended to mitigate associated market, conduct, credit and operational risks.
	AI applications in wholesale markets	 Model and conduct risks associated with the deployment of AI and ML applications in pricing, hedging and execution in electronic markets. Development / augmentation of robust control frameworks to govern such applications.

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ESG	Governance of sustainability- linked products	 Concerns about the robustness of sustainability-linked products (SLPs) are giving rise to greenwashing risks, undermining investor appetite for such products and creating reputational risks across different market segments. Issues identified associated with SLPs include conflicts of interest and product appropriateness, product characteristics and the materiality of targets, governance and approval processes and corporate incentives/investor considerations. FMSB is developing asset class agnostic guidance to complement existing product-specific principles, setting out guiding principles for good governance to help identify and mitigate risks inherent in SLPs.
Post-Trade	Client onboarding	 Significant inefficiencies exist in the client onboarding processes, with firms having different interpretations of regulations and guidelines and different asks when gathering information from a client. FMSB is developing a Standard to codify best practice when onboarding or refreshing clients' KYC and harmonise the documentary asks from clients.
	Non-economic trade data	 FMSB is creating a Standard for Sharing of Standard Settlement Instructions (SSIs) which aims to codify best practice in use of pre-authenticated industry platforms for sharing of own SSIs and recommend the use of pre-authenticated industry platforms for clients' SSIs, where managing those SSIs is part of the commercial relationship. The publication will include a model template for manual sharing of SSIs (based on ISITC 2023 taxonomy). FMSB is undertaking exploratory work on technology and/or processes which could reduce the frequency and/or time taken for call-backs.
	Uncleared margin	 FMSB is working to define metrics for automation of margin call issuance and response (by incoming/outgoing and IM/VM). FMSB is also creating a Spotlight Review on industry frictions to critically evaluate whether issuance can and should be solved by the industry. The paper intends to identify issues at each point of the trade lifecycle, existing and potential solutions, and the barriers to adoptions. It may also cover the scale of the issue and solvability.