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Roublization of Russia's external debt

Our take: The new presidential order of 22 June 2022 that establishes temporary procedures aimed at fulfilling Russia's foreign debt obligations marks the start of the first ever "roublization" of payments to resident and non-resident holders of Russia's offshore bonds and thereby further deoffshorization of the Russian debt market. We believe that this measure lowers uncertainty of holding Eurobonds purchased primarily through Euroclear and should lead to a material drop in the two-fold premium of NSD-services bonds over bonds serviced by Euroclear, especially if they are held by residents of "friendly" jurisdictions. Russian companies and banks are likely to use a similar template to service external debts, as we previously anticipated. We rule out a formal sovereign default since there wouldn't be enough creditors from "unfriendly" countries left short to declare a default in case of non-payments (required threshold is usually holders of 25% of the outstanding bonds).

What happened?

On the eve of the next coupon payment date on sovereign Eurobonds (Russia 27 and Russia 47 are to be paid on June 23), the Russian president "The Executive Order On the Temporary Procedure for Meeting State Debt Obligations in the Form of Government Securities with Nominal Value Denominated in Foreign Currency to Residents and Foreign Lenders by the Russian Federation". The document is fully in line with the government's previously announced plans, namely that payments on sovereign debt will be made in roubles at the exchange rate to accounts at the National Settlement Depository (NSD).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR HOLDERS OF RUSSIA'S EXTERNAL DEBT?

Local investors will receive payments through their custody accounts. Holders serviced by foreign entities (Euroclear) will be entitled to reach out to the NSD to open an "I" account , which will also be credited with Russian roubles. The Bank of Russia will set the mode of operation of "I" accounts.

Unlike "C" accounts (for payments by companies), the funds received can be used without restrictions. The funds are expected to be sent to a non-designated bank and converted into required currency - such funds may be sent abroad without restrictions (other transactions are capped at \$150,000 per month). Vladimir Putin also instructed the monetary authorities to pick banks for a new scheme within 10 days.

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PAYMENTS ON RUSSIA'S EXTERNAL SOVEREIGN BONDS

		Outstanding amount,		Coupon	Grace		Coupon payment,		
Issue	Currency	mln	Date of issue	payment date	period	Coupon, %	mln		Status
RUSSIA 2 7/8 12/04/25	EUR	1 750	04.12.2018	04.12.2022	30 days	2.875	i	50	Upcoming
RUSSIA 1 1/8 11/20/27	EUR	1 250	20.11.2020	20.11.2022	30 days	1.125	i	14	Upcoming
RUSSIA 1.85 11/20/32	EUR	1 250	20.11.2020	20.11.2022	30 days	1.85	i	23	Upcoming
RUSSIA 2.65 05/27/36	EUR	1 000	27.05.2021	27.05.2022	30 days	2.65	i	27	Payment blocked
RUSSIA 4 7/8 09/16/23	USD	3 000	16.09.2013	16.09.2022	30 days	4.875	i	73	Payment in hard currency made to Euroclear in March
RUSSIA 4 3/4 05/27/26	USD	3 000	27.05.2016	27.05.2022	30 days	4.75	i	71	Payment blocked
RUSSIA 4 1/4 06/23/27	USD	2 405	23.06.2017	23.06.2022	30 days	4.25	i	51	Upcoming, terms provide for payment in roubles
RUSSIA 12 3/4 06/24/28	USD	2 500	24.06.1998	24.06.2022	15 days	12.75	i	159	Upcoming
RUSSIA 4 3/8 03/21/29	USD	3 000	21.03.2018	21.09.2022	30 days	4.375	i	66	Payment in hard currency made to Euroclear in March
RUSSIA 7 1/2 03/31/30	USD	2 334	25.08.2000	30.09.2022	15 days	7.5	i	88	Payment in hard currency made to Euroclear in March
RUSSIA 5.1 03/28/35	USD	4 000	28.03.2019	28.09.2022	30 days	5.1		102	Payment in hard currency made to Euroclear in March
RUSSIA 5 5/8 04/04/42	USD	3 000	04.04.2012	04.10.2022	30 days	5.625	i	84	Payment in hard currency made to Euroclear in April
RUSSIA 5 7/8 09/16/43	USD	1 500	16.09.2013	16.09.2022	30 days	5.875	i	44	Payment in hard currency made to Euroclear in March
RUSSIA 5 1/4 06/23/47	USD	7 000	23.06.2017	23.06.2022	30 days	5.25	i	184	Upcoming, provide for payment in roubles
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Source: ITI Capital



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