



## **Announcement: Moody's Disclosures on Credit Ratings of Denmark, Government of**

---

Global Credit Research - 22 Dec 2011

New York, December 22, 2011 -- The following release represents Moody's Investors Service's summary credit opinion on Denmark and includes certain regulatory disclosures regarding its ratings. This release does not constitute any change in Moody's ratings or rating rationale for Denmark.

Moody's maintains the following ratings on Denmark, Government of

Long Term Issuer Rating (domestic and foreign currency) ratings of Aaa

Senior Unsecured ratings of P-1

Senior Unsecured (domestic and foreign currency) ratings of Aaa

Commercial Paper ratings of P-1

Other Short Term (domestic currency) ratings of P-1

BACKED Senior Unsecured (domestic currency) ratings of Aaa

### **RATINGS RATIONALE**

The government's top-notch ratings reflect Denmark's stable macroeconomic and political environment and relatively healthy government balance sheet. Danes' average incomes are high, at roughly \$39,400 on a purchasing power parity (PPP) basis in 2010. The economy is also large, at more than \$300 billion last year, and the economic base is diversified, with meaningful contributions from agriculture, energy (oil/gas) and trade and services as well as manufacturing. The country's long-term economic strength is less impressive, however, given the weak growth performance in the past decade, although incomes did benefit from favorable trends in the terms of trade. Going forward, an ageing population and a decline in North Sea oil and gas revenues will further constrain growth unless structural adjustments are undertaken to address productivity and competitiveness challenges. The generous social welfare system is becoming less affordable following the global economic crisis, as debt to GDP ratios have climbed sharply. Currently the cost of debt service is easily manageable, given the low level of European interest rates, but with policy rates headed higher, interest payments on the increased debt burden will climb as well. The ratings' susceptibility to event risk is somewhat also higher than most other Aaa ratings due to the extremely large scale of the financial system relative to the size of either the government or GDP.

### **RATING OUTLOOK**

The rating outlook is stable. An agreement on a strategy aimed at addressing the economy's structural weaknesses (the "Agreement on Later Retirement and Making Ends Meet") was reached several months ago between the Conservatives who led the former government, the Danish Peoples Party and the Social Liberals. The main goals are to return the structural fiscal position to balance and to address the longer-term challenge of the economy's reduced growth potential by increasing the labor supply through additional measures, such as accelerating the effective date of the 2006 pension system reforms. Whereas the 2012 budget put forward by the new government does not address these issues directly, the coalition's policy doctrine commits to that deeper structural reforms will begin to be implemented early in 2012. Concerns about eroding international competitiveness have been partly assuaged, as a pickup in productivity and favourable terms of trade have led to a rising net external assets position.

The broader euro area debt crisis complicates the government's fiscal consolidation efforts. The longer the sovereign and bank funding markets remain volatile, the more likely it is that further credit pressures will develop for most European countries, including Aaa-rated countries. In the absence of policy measures in the near future that significantly stabilise credit markets, we have indicated we will need to revisit the overall architecture of Moody's sovereign ratings, which could lead us to reposition a large number of EU sovereign ratings.

#### WHAT COULD CHANGE THE RATING DOWN

The ratings could come under downward pressure should the authorities fail to deal with structural fiscal sustainability problems, which have already resulted in a marked deterioration in public finances. Other downside risk factors relate to the large financial system, which had required support from the government during the global crisis and remains a concern due to the high leverage of Danish households.

#### METHODOLOGIES

The principal methodology used in this rating was Sovereign Bond Ratings published in September 2008. Please see the Credit Policy page on [www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com) for a copy of this methodology.

#### REGULATORY

Although this credit rating has been issued in a non-EU country which has not been recognized as endorsable at this date, this credit rating is deemed "EU qualified by extension" and may still be used by financial institutions for regulatory purposes until 31 January 2012. ESMA may extend the use of credit ratings for regulatory purposes in the European Community for three additional months, until 30 April 2012, if ESMA decides that exceptional circumstances arise that may imply potential market disruption or financial instability. Further information on the EU endorsement status and on the Moody's office that has issued a particular Credit Rating is available on [www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com).

For ratings issued on a program, series or category/class of debt, this announcement provides relevant regulatory disclosures in relation to each rating of a subsequently issued bond or note of the same series or category/class of debt or pursuant to a program for which the ratings are derived exclusively from existing ratings in accordance with Moody's rating practices. For ratings issued on a support provider, this announcement provides relevant regulatory disclosures in relation to the rating action on the support provider and in relation to each particular rating action for securities that derive their credit ratings from the support provider's credit rating. For provisional ratings, this announcement provides relevant regulatory disclosures in relation to the provisional rating assigned, and in relation to a definitive rating that may be assigned subsequent to the final issuance of the debt, in each case where the transaction structure and terms have not changed prior to the assignment of the definitive rating in a manner that would have affected the rating. For further information please see the ratings tab on the issuer/entity page for the respective issuer on [www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com).

Information sources used to prepare the rating are the following : parties involved in the ratings, parties not involved in the ratings, and public information.

Moody's considers the quality of information available on the rated entity, obligation or credit satisfactory for the purposes of issuing a rating.

Moody's adopts all necessary measures so that the information it uses in assigning a rating is of sufficient quality and from sources Moody's considers to be reliable including, when appropriate, independent third-party sources. However, Moody's is not an auditor and cannot in every instance independently verify or validate information received in the rating process.

Please see the ratings disclosure page on [www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com) for general disclosure on potential conflicts

of interests.

Please see the ratings disclosure page on [www.moody's.com](http://www.moody's.com) for information on (A) MCO's major shareholders (above 5%) and for (B) further information regarding certain affiliations that may exist between directors of MCO and rated entities as well as (C) the names of entities that hold ratings from MIS that have also publicly reported to the SEC an ownership interest in MCO of more than 5%. A member of the board of directors of this rated entity may also be a member of the board of directors of a shareholder of Moody's Corporation; however, Moody's has not independently verified this matter.

Please see Moody's Rating Symbols and Definitions on the Rating Process page on [www.moody's.com](http://www.moody's.com) for further information on the meaning of each rating category and the definition of default and recovery.

Please see ratings tab on the issuer/entity page on [www.moody's.com](http://www.moody's.com) for the last rating action and the rating history. The date on which some ratings were first released goes back to a time before Moody's ratings were fully digitized and accurate data may not be available. Consequently, Moody's provides a date that it believes is the most reliable and accurate based on the information that is available to it. Please see the ratings disclosure page on our website [www.moody's.com](http://www.moody's.com) for further information.

Please see [www.moody's.com](http://www.moody's.com) for any updates on changes to the lead rating analyst and to the Moody's legal entity that has issued the rating.

Kristin Lindow  
Senior Vice President  
Sovereign Risk Group  
Moody's Investors Service, Inc.  
250 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10007  
U.S.A.  
JOURNALISTS: 212-553-0376  
SUBSCRIBERS: 212-553-1653

Bart Oosterveld  
MD - Sovereign Risk  
Sovereign Risk Group  
JOURNALISTS: 212-553-0376  
SUBSCRIBERS: 212-553-1653

Releasing Office:  
Moody's Investors Service, Inc.  
250 Greenwich Street  
New York, NY 10007  
U.S.A.  
JOURNALISTS: 212-553-0376  
SUBSCRIBERS: 212-553-1653



© 2012 Moody's Investors Service, Inc. and/or its licensors and affiliates (collectively, "MOODY'S"). All rights reserved.

**CREDIT RATINGS ISSUED BY MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE, INC. ("MIS") AND ITS AFFILIATES ARE MOODY'S CURRENT OPINIONS OF THE RELATIVE FUTURE CREDIT**

**RISK OF ENTITIES, CREDIT COMMITMENTS, OR DEBT OR DEBT-LIKE SECURITIES, AND CREDIT RATINGS AND RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS PUBLISHED BY MOODY'S ("MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS") MAY INCLUDE MOODY'S CURRENT OPINIONS OF THE RELATIVE FUTURE CREDIT RISK OF ENTITIES, CREDIT COMMITMENTS, OR DEBT OR DEBT-LIKE SECURITIES. MOODY'S DEFINES CREDIT RISK AS THE RISK THAT AN ENTITY MAY NOT MEET ITS CONTRACTUAL, FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AS THEY COME DUE AND ANY ESTIMATED FINANCIAL LOSS IN THE EVENT OF DEFAULT. CREDIT RATINGS DO NOT ADDRESS ANY OTHER RISK, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: LIQUIDITY RISK, MARKET VALUE RISK, OR PRICE VOLATILITY. CREDIT RATINGS AND MOODY'S OPINIONS INCLUDED IN MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS ARE NOT STATEMENTS OF CURRENT OR HISTORICAL FACT. CREDIT RATINGS AND MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS DO NOT CONSTITUTE OR PROVIDE INVESTMENT OR FINANCIAL ADVICE, AND CREDIT RATINGS AND MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS ARE NOT AND DO NOT PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PURCHASE, SELL, OR HOLD PARTICULAR SECURITIES. NEITHER CREDIT RATINGS NOR MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS COMMENT ON THE SUITABILITY OF AN INVESTMENT FOR ANY PARTICULAR INVESTOR. MOODY'S ISSUES ITS CREDIT RATINGS AND PUBLISHES MOODY'S PUBLICATIONS WITH THE EXPECTATION AND UNDERSTANDING THAT EACH INVESTOR WILL MAKE ITS OWN STUDY AND EVALUATION OF EACH SECURITY THAT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR PURCHASE, HOLDING, OR SALE.**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS PROTECTED BY LAW, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COPYRIGHT LAW, AND NONE OF SUCH INFORMATION MAY BE COPIED OR OTHERWISE REPRODUCED, REPACKAGED, FURTHER TRANSMITTED, TRANSFERRED, DISSEMINATED, REDISTRIBUTED OR RESOLD, OR STORED FOR SUBSEQUENT USE FOR ANY SUCH PURPOSE, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, IN ANY FORM OR MANNER OR BY ANY MEANS WHATSOEVER, BY ANY PERSON WITHOUT MOODY'S PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT. All information contained herein is obtained by MOODY'S from sources believed by it to be accurate and reliable. Because of the possibility of human or mechanical error as well as other factors, however, all information contained herein is provided "AS IS" without warranty of any kind. MOODY'S adopts all necessary measures so that the information it uses in assigning a credit rating is of sufficient quality and from sources Moody's considers to be reliable, including, when appropriate, independent third-party sources. However, MOODY'S is not an auditor and cannot in every instance independently verify or validate information received in the rating process. Under no circumstances shall MOODY'S have any liability to any person or entity for (a) any loss or damage in whole or in part caused by, resulting from, or relating to, any error (negligent or otherwise) or other circumstance or contingency within or outside the control of MOODY'S or any of its directors, officers, employees or agents in connection with the procurement, collection, compilation, analysis, interpretation, communication, publication or delivery of any such information, or (b) any direct, indirect, special, consequential, compensatory or incidental damages whatsoever (including without limitation, lost profits), even if MOODY'S is advised in advance of the possibility of such damages, resulting from the use of or inability to use, any such information. The ratings, financial reporting analysis, projections, and other observations, if any, constituting part of the information contained herein are, and must be construed solely as, statements of opinion and not statements of fact or recommendations to purchase, sell or hold any securities. Each user of the information contained herein must make its own study and evaluation of each security it may consider purchasing, holding or selling. NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AS TO THE ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, COMPLETENESS, MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE OF ANY SUCH RATING OR OTHER OPINION OR INFORMATION IS GIVEN OR MADE BY MOODY'S IN ANY FORM OR MANNER WHATSOEVER.

MIS, a wholly-owned credit rating agency subsidiary of Moody's Corporation ("MCO"), hereby discloses that most issuers of debt securities (including corporate and municipal bonds, debentures, notes and commercial paper) and preferred stock rated by MIS have, prior to assignment of any rating, agreed to pay to MIS for appraisal and rating services rendered by it fees ranging from \$1,500 to approximately \$2,500,000. MCO and MIS also maintain policies and

procedures to address the independence of MIS's ratings and rating processes. Information regarding certain affiliations that may exist between directors of MCO and rated entities, and between entities who hold ratings from MIS and have also publicly reported to the SEC an ownership interest in MCO of more than 5%, is posted annually at [www.moody.com](http://www.moody.com) under the heading "Shareholder Relations — Corporate Governance — Director and Shareholder Affiliation Policy."

Any publication into Australia of this document is by MOODY'S affiliate, Moody's Investors Service Pty Limited ABN 61 003 399 657, which holds Australian Financial Services License no. 336969. This document is intended to be provided only to "wholesale clients" within the meaning of section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001. By continuing to access this document from within Australia, you represent to MOODY'S that you are, or are accessing the document as a representative of, a "wholesale client" and that neither you nor the entity you represent will directly or indirectly disseminate this document or its contents to "retail clients" within the meaning of section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, credit ratings assigned on and after October 1, 2010 by Moody's Japan K.K. ("MJKK") are MJKK's current opinions of the relative future credit risk of entities, credit commitments, or debt or debt-like securities. In such a case, "MIS" in the foregoing statements shall be deemed to be replaced with "MJKK". MJKK is a wholly-owned credit rating agency subsidiary of Moody's Group Japan G.K., which is wholly owned by Moody's Overseas Holdings Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of MCO.

This credit rating is an opinion as to the creditworthiness of a debt obligation of the issuer, not on the equity securities of the issuer or any form of security that is available to retail investors. It would be dangerous for retail investors to make any investment decision based on this credit rating. If in doubt you should contact your financial or other professional adviser.