



**POPSO Covered Bond S.r.l.**  
**Financial statements as at December 31, 2021**

**Independent auditor's report in accordance with article  
14 of Legislative Decree n. 39, dated January 27, 2010**

## Independent auditor's report pursuant to article 14 of Legislative Decree n. 39, dated January 27, 2010 (Translation from the original Italian text)

To the Quotaholders of  
POPSO Covered Bond S.r.l.

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of POPSO Covered Bond S.r.l. (the Company), which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2021, the income statement, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the cash flow statement for the year then ended and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 2021, and of the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report.

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the regulations and standards on ethics and independence applicable to audits of financial statements under Italian laws. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to the premise of the notes to the financial statements where directors state that the Company's sole purpose is the purchase of loans, receivables and securities through borrowings pursuant to Law n. 130 of April 30, 1999, in the context of transactions for the issuance of covered bonds. As indicated by the directors, the Company has disclosed the financial assets, the securities purchased and the results of such transactions in the notes to the financial statements in accordance with the provisions of Law n.130 of April 30, 1999, according to which loans, receivables and securities of each transaction form a separate class of net assets, which is separated from the net equity of the Company and from the net assets of other transactions. Our opinion is not qualified with respect to this matter.

## **Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union and, within the terms provided by the law, for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern and, when preparing the financial statements, for the appropriateness of the going concern assumption, and for appropriate disclosure thereof. The directors prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA Italia), we have exercised professional judgment and maintained professional skepticism throughout the audit. In addition:

- we have identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, designed and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtained audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- we have obtained an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control;
- we have evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors;
- we have concluded on the appropriateness of directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to consider this matter in forming our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company

- to cease to continue as a going concern;
- we have evaluated the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We have communicated with those charged with governance, identified at an appropriate level as required by ISA Italia, regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

## **Report on compliance with other legal and regulatory requirements**

### **Opinion pursuant to article 14, paragraph 2, subparagraph e), of Legislative Decree n. 39 dated January 27, 2010**

The directors of POPSO Covered Bond S.r.l. are responsible for the preparation of the Report on Operations as at December 31, 2021, including its consistency with the related financial statements and its compliance with the applicable laws and regulations.

We have performed the procedures required under audit standard SA Italia n. 720B, in order to express an opinion on the consistency of the Report on Operations, with the financial statements of POPSO Covered Bond S.r.l. as at December 31, 2021 and on its compliance with the applicable laws and regulations, and in order to assess whether it contains material misstatements.

In our opinion, the Report on Operations is consistent with the financial statements of POPSO Covered Bond S.r.l. as at December 31, 2021 and comply with the applicable laws and regulations.

With reference to the statement required by article 14, paragraph 2, subparagraph e), of Legislative Decree n. 39, dated January 27, 2010, based on our knowledge and understanding of the entity and its environment obtained through our audit, we have no matters to report.

Milan, April 27, 2022

EY S.p.A.

Signed by: Davide Lisi, Auditor

*This report has been translated into the English language solely for the convenience of international readers.*