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**FONDUL PROPRIETATEA SALUTES AGREEMENT ON NEW
STAND-BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE IMF**

Bucharest, 5 August 2013 - Franklin Templeton Investment Management Limited Bucharest Branch, in its capacity of Sole Director and Fund Manager of S.C. Fondul Proprietatea S.A. ("the Fund") salutes the staff-level agreement reached between the Romanian authorities and the International Monetary Fund, the European Commission and the World Bank on an economic program that could be supported by a new Stand-By Arrangement.

Fondul Proprietatea believes that previous agreements had a significant impact on the macroeconomic stability achieved by Romania and have put the country on a clear path to growth. By continuing this partnership, the Romanian government has shown its commitment to the further reforms still necessary for consolidating the economy.

Greg Konieczny, Fund Manager of Fondul Proprietatea, commented: "A new agreement with the IMF is certainly good news for Romania and it should be a positive sign for foreign investors looking at the country. We believe that the Romanian authorities have made the right decision in continuing this partnership and we particularly welcome the focus on structural reforms announced for the new deal. State-owned enterprises, which still represent a large part of Romania's economy, must undergo a serious process of reform if the country is to have a competitive economy, and we are glad that the Government will focus its efforts on this area. We will fully support any measure aimed at increasing the efficiency, profitability and transparency of the state-owned companies. We are especially excited about the IPO plans of some of the largest Romanian companies including Nuclearelectrica, Romgaz, CE Oltenia, Hidroelectrică and Electrica. In our opinion, noticeable improvements should be seen by the end of the two-year deal and by then Romania could well be one of Europe's fastest-growing economies."

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Launched in December 2005, Fondul Proprietatea ("the Fund") was established to compensate Romanians whose properties were confiscated by the former communist government. An international tender was announced in December 2008, and Franklin Templeton Investments officially took over as investment manager and sole administrator of the Fund on 29 September 2010. The Fund is a closed-end investment company with the investment objective of long-term capital appreciation through via investment primarily in Romanian equity securities.

Franklin Templeton established an office in Bucharest in May 2010, with a team of 27 employees, including 6 locally based investment professionals who are further supported by the over 40 portfolio managers and analysts of the wider Templeton Emerging Markets team.

Franklin Resources, Inc. (NYSE: BEN) is a [global investment management](#) organization operating as Franklin Templeton Investments. Franklin Templeton Investments provides global and domestic investment management solutions managed by its Franklin, Templeton, Mutual Series, Bissett, Fiduciary Trust, Darby, Balanced Equity Management and K2 investment teams. The San Mateo, CA-based company has more than 65 years of investment experience and over \$815 billion in assets under management as of 30 June 2013. For more information, please visit www.franklintempleton.co.uk.

Franklin Templeton Investment Management Ltd.'s office in Bucharest is located at Premium Point, 8th floor, 78-80 Buzesti, District 1, Bucharest, Romania. Tel: +40.200.96.00, Fax: +40.200.96.31/32. For more information on Fondul Proprietatea, please visit <http://www.fondulproprietatea.ro>.

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