

SOLVENCY 2: PREPARE FOR IMPACT

KEY DEBATES

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Steven Zietsman

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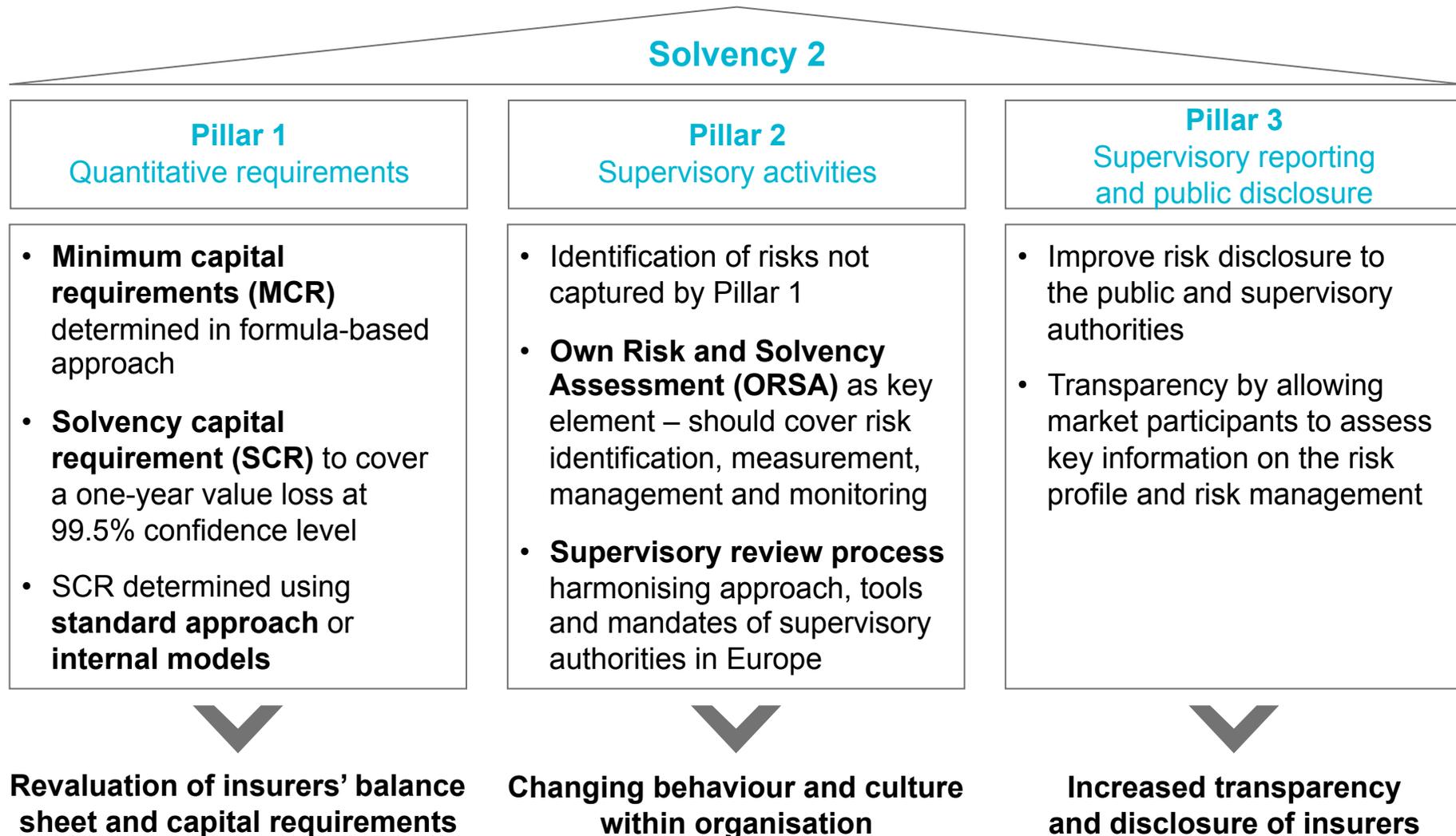
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Agenda

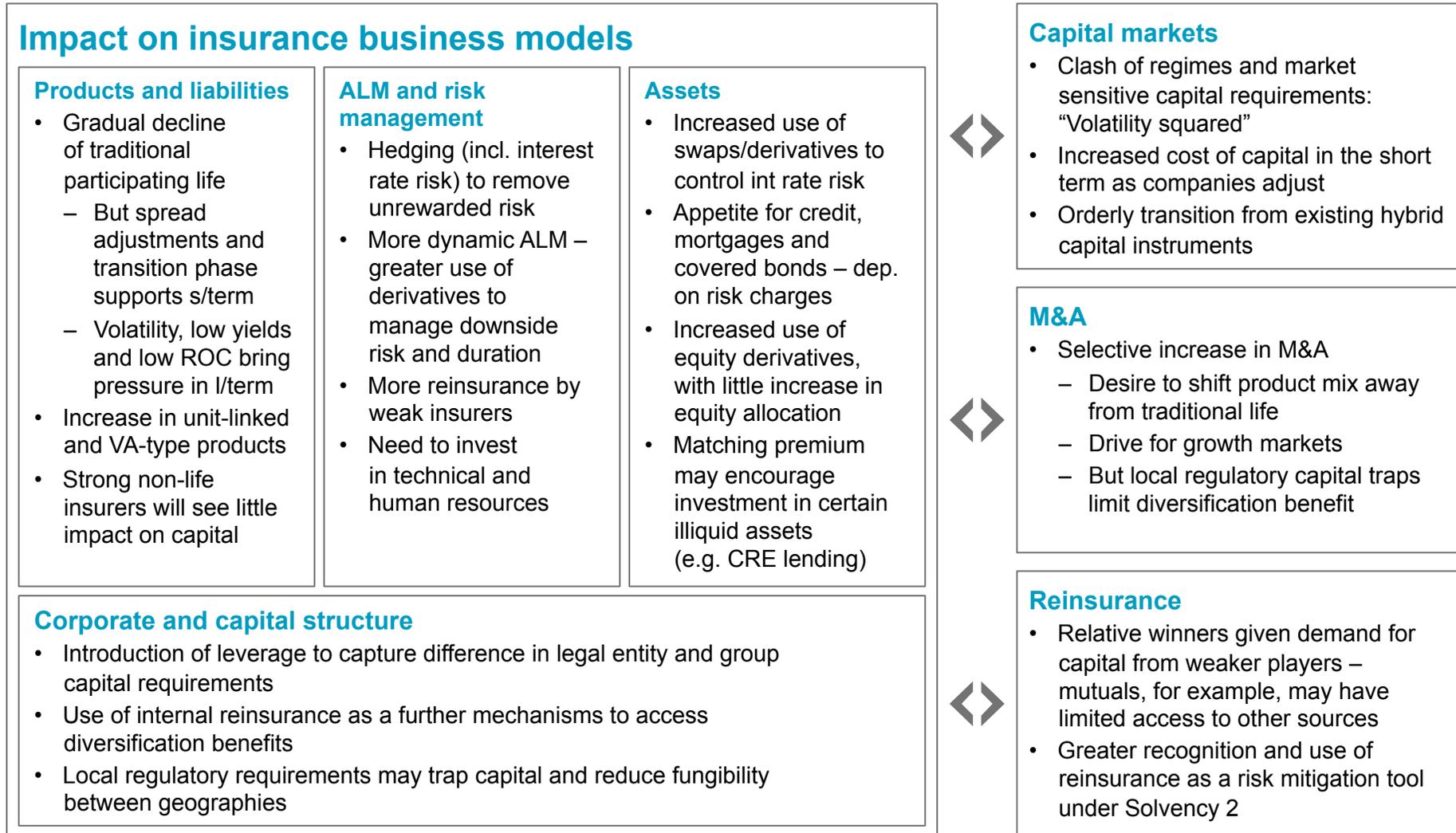
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1. Background

Solvency 2 is the updated set of regulatory requirements on capital adequacy and risk management for insurance firms that operate in the European Union

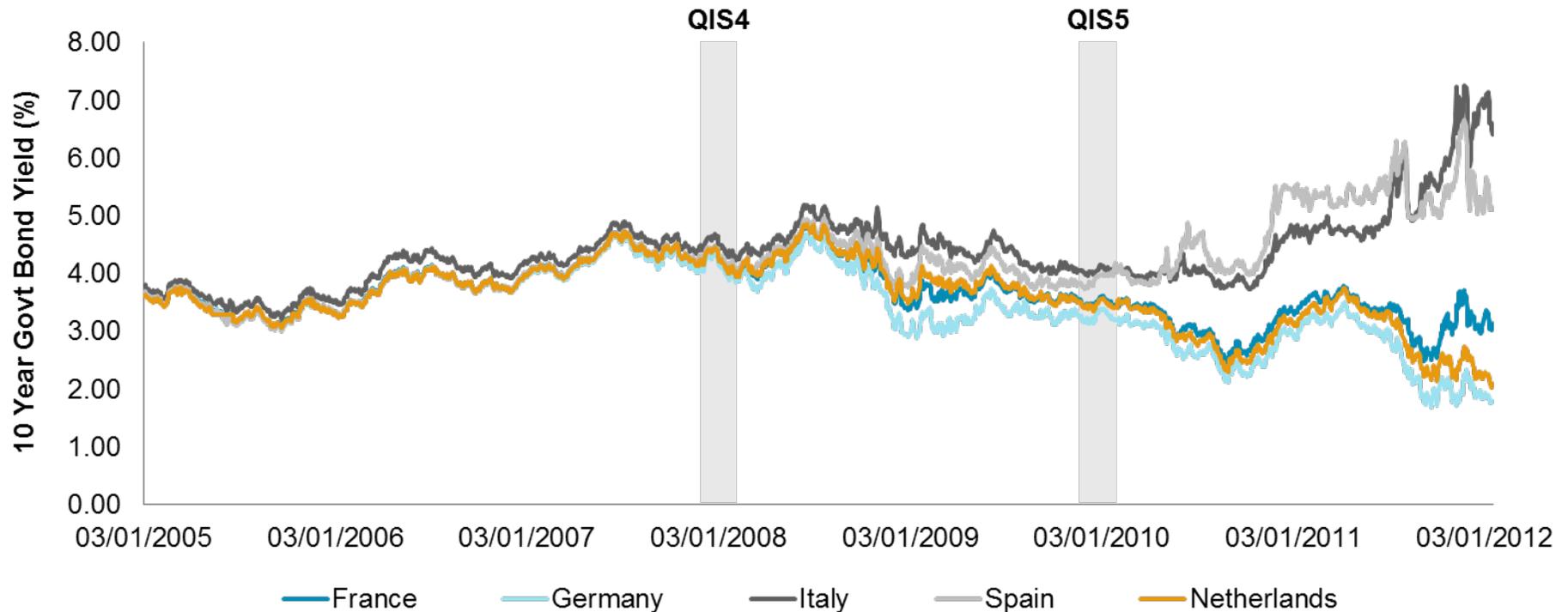


The impact of Solvency 2 on the insurance industry – Waiting for more certainty



Why are the discount rates and capital requirements such a hot topic?

Yield on Government Bonds in core Solvency 2 markets 2005 to 2012



Source: Bloomberg, Morgan Stanley Research, Oliver Wyman

Lower yields in core markets and the rise of “government bond spreads” has created significant stress under current proposed framework

Liability measurement – the most crucial aspect of the S2 debate

Key debates

- Considerable uncertainty about the liability discount rate to be used under Solvency 2
- Proposed counter-cyclical premium is seen as unsuitable in its current form
- Specification of a matching premium is still uncertain
- The very low levels of bond yields are making the implementation of Solvency 2 more problematic for the industry than originally envisaged

Morgan Stanley/Oliver Wyman view

- Compromise on the discount rate – allowing the inclusion of spread adjustments and stabilisation of long-term discount rates under certain conditions
- No evidence of a desire by the politicians to create capital stress – expect there to be some element of “reverse engineering” in the ultimate calibration
- Counter-cyclical premium – expect a formulaic approach, removing its contingent nature
- Matching premium approach – expect it to be preserved or replaced with an economically similar combination of back-book grandfathering and an illiquidity premium on new business
- Use of extrapolation method for discount curves to help stabilise long-duration liabilities where fixed-income markets are not sufficiently deep and liquid

Asset allocation – still uncertain, but change is likely depending on appetite for risk

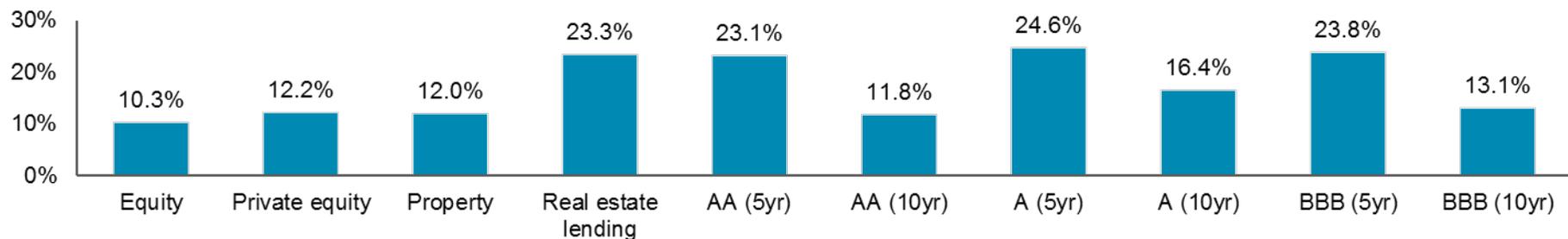
Key debates

- What impact will the increased sensitivity of insurers' balance sheets have on their strategies?
- How will insurers look to manage market risk in the new environment and what impact will this have on investments and asset allocations?
- When will insurers decide and implement their new investment strategies, and what impact will this have on markets?

Morgan Stanley/Oliver Wyman view

- Asset allocations will remain differentiated across different types of business but stronger focus on managing the volatility and optimising risk with return
- De-risking of traditional business will continue
- Annuity businesses under matching premium rules will invest further in illiquid funding to provide returns for shareholders and support annuity pricing
- Currently, short-duration, high quality credit and real estate lending look relatively attractive assets under Solvency 2, while equities and direct real estate appear less attractive

Estimate of the likely relative attractiveness of different asset classes under the current draft Solvency 2 rules



Source: Morgan Stanley Research, Oliver Wyman

Note: For credit, focus on credit spread capital. Interest rate risk and asset / liability duration mismatch capital requirements are not considered nor do we consider the effect of 'Symmetric Adjustment Mechanism' for both equities and spreads.

Timetable and process – delayed, but still happening

Key debates

- Solvency 2 has been delayed, at one point some even questioned whether it would actually come into force
- Although it is clear the original October 31, 2012 deadline is not possible, the “realistic” implementation date is not clear
- The delay has resulted in many different aspects of Solvency 2 being re-opened for debate

Morgan Stanley/Oliver Wyman view

- We believe Solvency 2 will be introduced, but most likely not until January 1, 2014 or even later
- The next key date is likely to be the European Parliament plenary session vote on July 2, 2012
- Solvency 2 is likely to be less uniform than originally hoped
- We expect to see use of grandfathering and some inconsistent implementation between member states

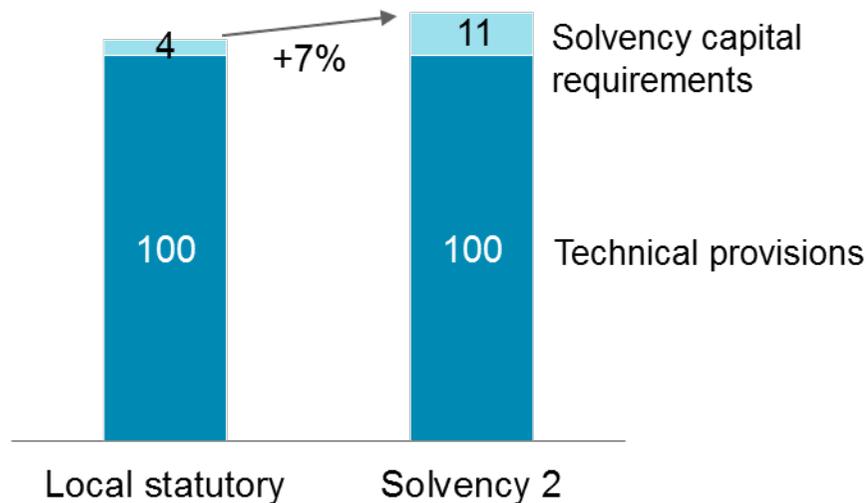
Solvency 2 equivalence requirements could be problematic

Key debates

- Will Solvency 2 apply, for instance, to the US business of EU insurers, and place them at a competitive disadvantage in key markets?



Example: Capital requirements for US fixed annuities could more than double under Solvency 2



Source: Morgan Stanley Research, Oliver Wyman

Morgan Stanley/Oliver Wyman view

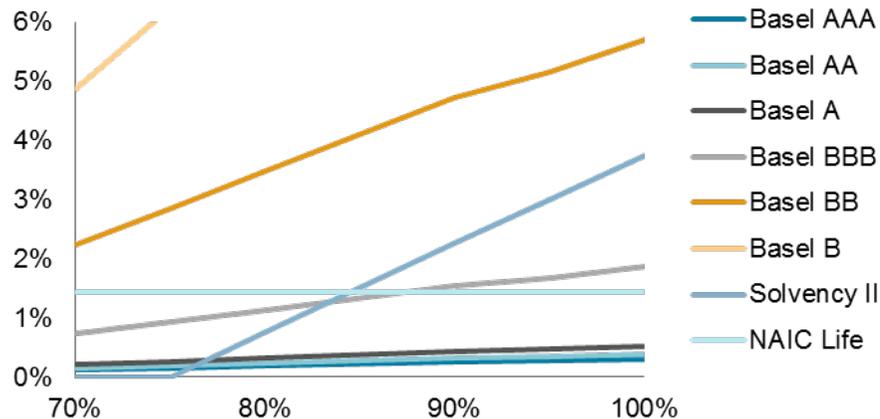
- From a political perspective it seems reasonable to assume the European Commission would have no desire to put European insurers at a competitive disadvantage relative to international peers
- The US market is problematic given the clear shortfall of the existing regime relative to an “economic” capital framework with consolidated group supervision; however, we anticipate some form of waiver or deemed equivalence – albeit on a temporary basis
- Regardless of the ultimate decision, preparing for Solvency 2 has better informed European insurers of the relative attractiveness of US product types, and we expect continued reshaping of product portfolios away from traditional spread contracts
- We note that several European insurers – Allianz, Aviva and AXA, for example – prudently assume non-equivalence for US subsidiaries in reported economic solvency ratios. Any relaxation in the rules would therefore boost existing capital metrics

Clash of regimes: Solvency 2 in a broader regulatory context

Key debates

- How does Solvency 2 interact with other regulatory and accounting developments worldwide?
- What other regulatory change should be expected to flow from the recent crises?
- Are we going to see a global Solvency 2 applied consistently someday (analogous to banking’s “Basel”)?

Example: Capital requirements for residential mortgages

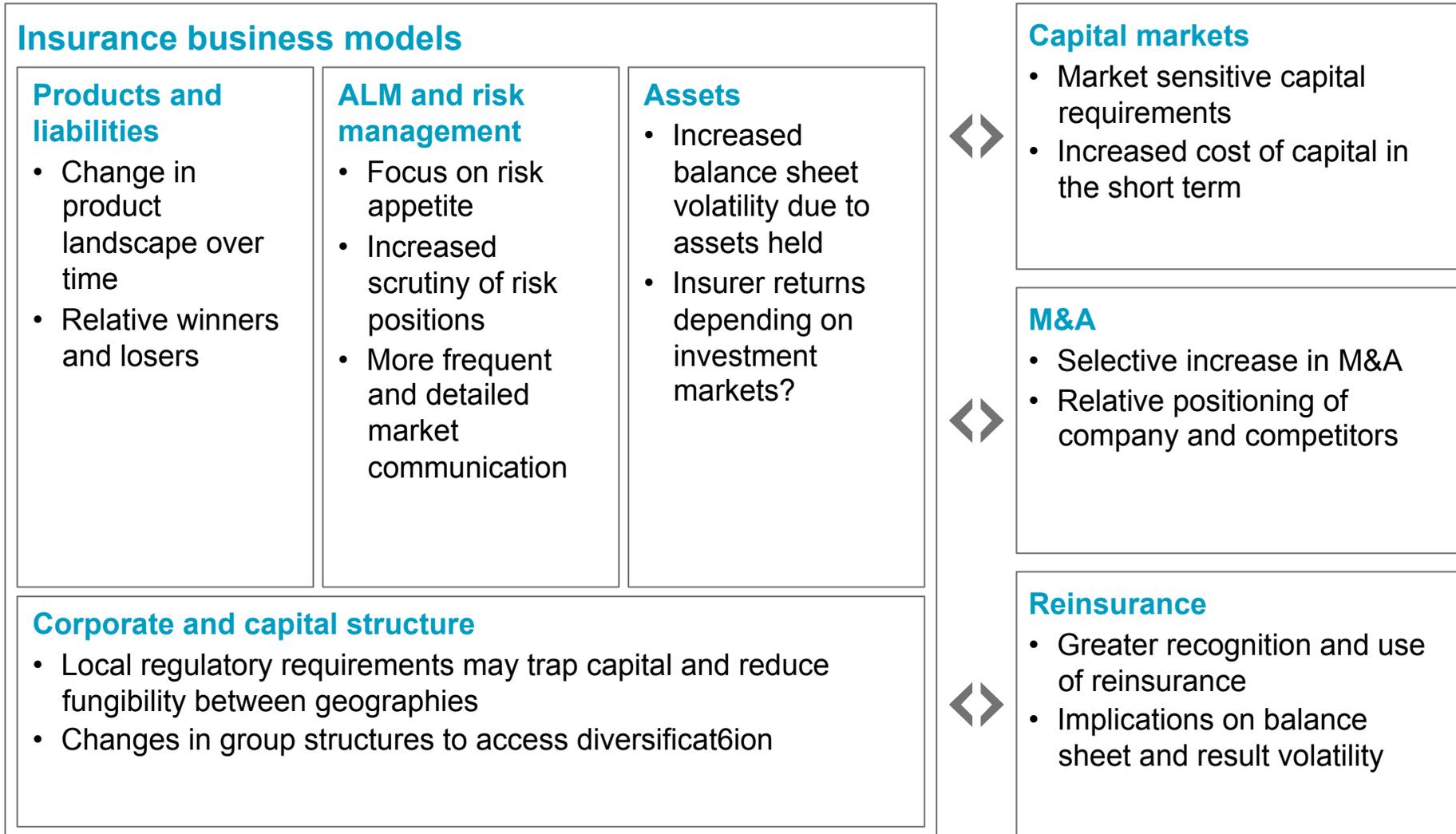


Notes: Source: International Institute of Finance (IIF), Morgan Stanley Research, Oliver Wyman

Morgan Stanley/Oliver Wyman view

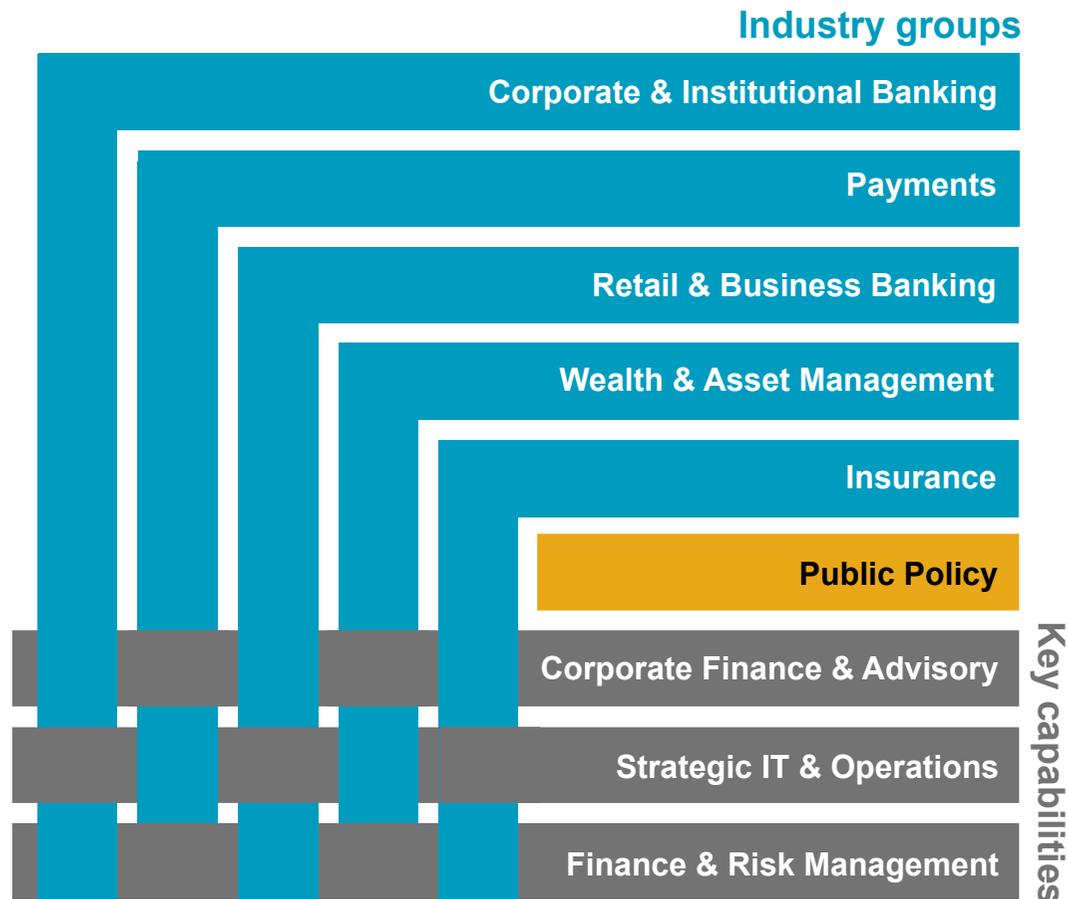
- Constant delays and rising complexity mean that the EU’s Solvency 2 project is less likely to become a de facto global standard, in our view
- We expect one of the most significant clashes to be with IFRS 4 Phase 2 – which is unlikely to converge with the approach taken by Solvency 2, in particular for liability valuation
- We argue the market is under-estimating the risk that certain EU insurers become classed as “SIFIs” – however, the financial consequences of this (if any) are not yet clear
- We see inconsistencies between Solvency 2 and the new banking frameworks: for example, in terms of the capital consequences of owning certain assets; we expect this to drive regulatory capital arbitrage

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