

# Towards a new Eurosystem balance sheet

Isabel Schnabel
Member of the Executive Board
of the ECB



Chicago Booth Conference on the Global Economy and Financial Stability, London, 15 November 2025

### QE fundamentally changed the composition of the Eurosystem's balance sheet

#### **Eurosystem balance sheet composition**

(% of total assets or liabilities)



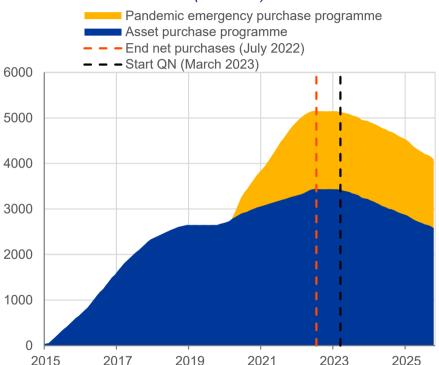
Sources: ECB and ECB calculations.

Notes: The chart depicts the composition of the Eurosystem's consolidated balance sheet as of 31 December 2006 and 31 December 2024, based on daily financial statements. The categorization is as follows: i) Gold and foreign reserves = A1, A2.2 & A3; ii) Credit operations = A5.1-5; iii) Euro-denominated securities = A4, A7 & A11.2 (Other financial assets); Banknotes = L1; Reserves = L2.1 & L2.2; Capital and revaluation accounts = L13 (Provisions), L14 (Revaluation accounts) & L15 (Capital and reserves). Remaining assets and liabilities are classified under "Other assets" and "Other liabilities", respectively. A11.2 includes also other financial assets than euro-denominated securities.

#### Quantitative normalisation (QN) removes residual stimulus from the market

### Eurosystem securities holdings under APP and PEPP

(EUR bn)



Source: ECB.

Notes: The chart depicts cumulative holdings of securities under the Asset Purchase Programme and the Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme. Net purchases were concluded in July 2022. Quantitative normalisation began in March 2023 with the partial reinvestments under the Asset Purchase Programme. Latest observation: October 2025.

## Estimated impact of APP and PEPP sovereign bond holdings on risk premia (basis points)



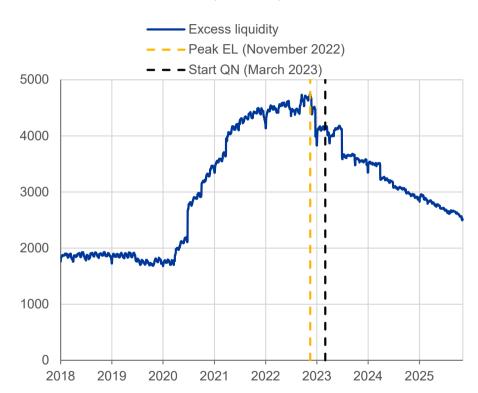


Source: ECB calculations.

Notes: The upper range of estimates are derived using an arbitrage-free affine model of the term structure with a quantity factor (see Eser et al., 2023). The lower range is derived using an alternative version of the model recalibrated so that the model-implied yield reactions to the March PEPP announcement match the two-day yield changes observed after 18 March 2020. The model results are derived using GDP-weighted averages of the zero-coupon yields of the big-four sovereign issuers (DE, FR, IT, ES). Latest observation: October 2025 (monthly data).

### Banks have kept LCR broadly constant despite large fall in excess reserves

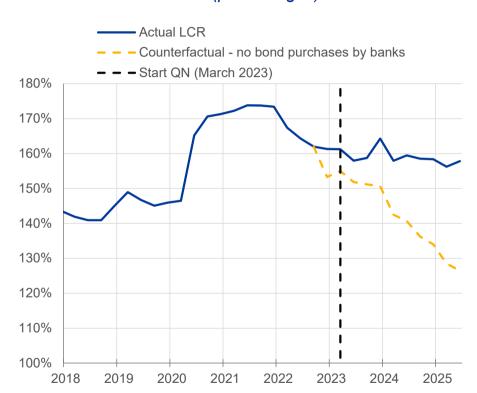
### Excess liquidity evolution (EUR bn)



Source: ECB.

Notes:The chart depicts the daily evolution of excess liquidity from 1 January 2018 until 4 November 2025. Excess liquidity peaked on 14 November 2022. Quantitative normalisation began in March 2023 with the partial reinvestments under the Asset Purchase Programme.

### LCR and counterfactual LCR (percentages)



Source: ECB (Supervisory statistics).

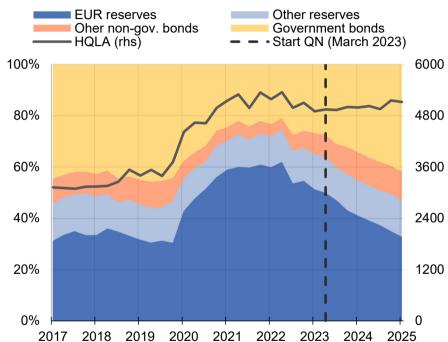
Notes: The counterfactual LCR simulation assumes that government bonds of banks remain fixed at the level from Q3 2022. All other LCR components evolve as the actual. In reality, the government bonds absorbed by non-banks also affect banks' LCRs. This is because non-banks likely would reduce their deposits with banks to pay for the bond purchases, affecting both the net outflows (LCR denominator) and bank HQLA (LCR numerator). The impact on the LCR of non-bank bond absorption is ambiguous.

### Share of government bonds in HQLA has risen, partly reflecting changes in returns

5

### HQLA evolution and composition of significant banks

(LHS % of HQLA, RHS EUR bn)



Sources: ECB (Supervisory statistics, MOPDB) and ECB calculations. Notes: Total high-quality liquid assets reported by significant institutions in EUR bn and their composition. The EUR reserves are derived from aggregated MOPDB data, while foreign currency reserves are proxied as the remaining assets with central banks reported under the LCR. Latest observation Q2 2025.

### Spread between euro area yields and expected average ECB deposit facility rate

(percentage per annum)



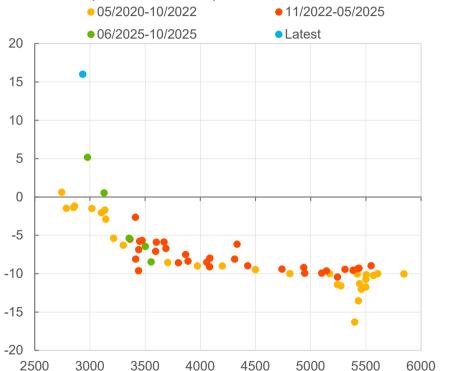
Sources: ECB. Bloomberg and ECB calculations.

Notes: The chart depicts the spread of euro area GDP-weighted yield over overnight indexed swap rates of matching maturity linked to the euro short-term rate (€STR). The spread is adjusted by the difference between the €STR and ECB deposit facility rate so as to show the spread to the market-implied DFR. Latest observation: 3 November 2025.

#### No direct link between QN and interest rate control in a demand-driven framework

### United States: Reserves and spread of repo rates over interest on reserve balances

(y-axis: SOFR spread to IORB in bps, x-axis reserves + ONRRP in US bn)



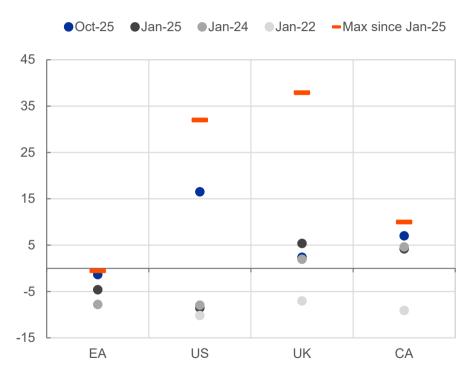
Sources: Bloomberg and ECB staff calculations.

Notes: Reserves are calculated as the sum of bank reserves held with the Federal Reserve and overnight reverse repo usage (ONRRP). IORB refers to interest on reserve balances, SOFR refers to the secured overnight financing rate. Dots refer to monthly averages except for latest

Latest observation: 28 October 2025.

#### Spread of repo rates over policy rates

(basis points)

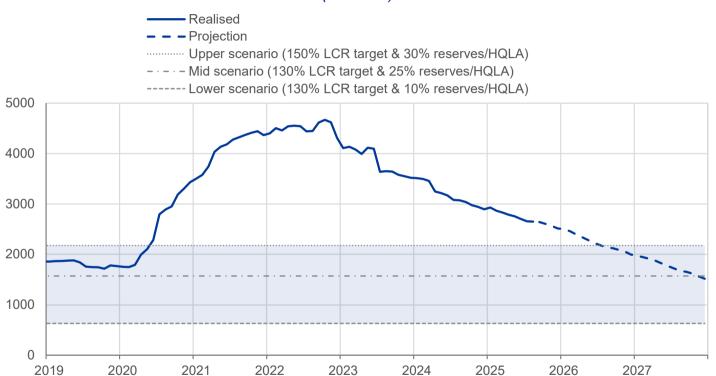


Sources: Bloomberg, ECB (MMSR), Federal Reserve, Bank of Canada. Notes: Monthly average repo rates spreads over policy rates. Euro area repo includes 1-day repo against EGB. Highest daily observation in the spread is depicted as a bar. Latest observation 4 November 2025.

6

#### Scenarios suggest that banks may want to hold a significant buffer of excess reserves

### Excess reserves and bank reserve demand scenarios (EUR bn)

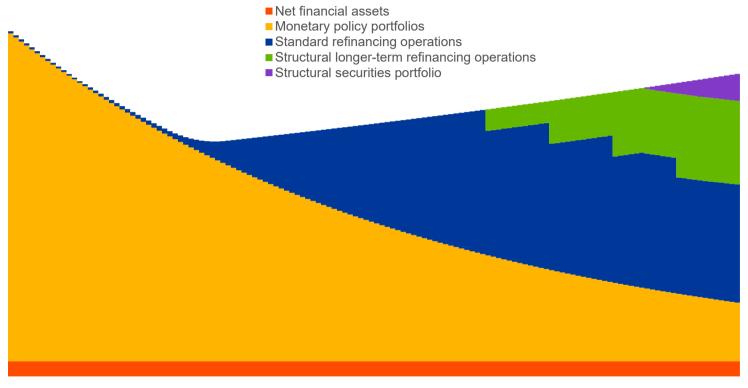


Sources: ECB (Supervisory statistics and MOPDB), ECB calculations.

Notes: The simulations take the current levels of the LCR and the share of EUR reserves in HQLA for significant banks and show the hypothetical reserve demand that would correspond to specified aggregate reserve shares and LCR target levels. It is assumed that less significant institutions target the same level as significant banks and that the other banks holding EUR reserves with the Eurosystem experience a proportional decline in reserves as the banks covered by LCR reporting. Scenario lines should not be interpreted as point estimates. The projections are based on quarterly Eurosystem internal balance sheet projections and assume take-up in standard refinancing operations is in line with the median SMA respondent.

### Persistent take-up of standard refinancing operations to precede structural operations

#### Stylised evolution of the Eurosystem liquidity supply in the new operational framework



Source, ECB.

Thank you very much for your attention!