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18 April 2024

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# Consultation Paper

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Draft regulatory technical standard on the harmonisation of conditions enabling the conduct of the oversight activities under Article 41(1) point (c) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554

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# 1. Responding to this consultation

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The European Supervisory Authorities (the ESAs) invite comments on all proposals put forward in this paper and in particular on the specific questions summarised on page 7.

Comments are most helpful if they:

- respond to the question stated;
- indicate the specific point to which a comment relates;
- contain a clear rationale;
- provide evidence to support the views expressed / rationale proposed; and
- describe any alternative regulatory choices the ESAs should consider.

## Submission of responses

Please send your comments via the EU survey tool:

[Response form](#) by 18 May 2024.

Comments submitted after this deadline, or submitted via other means may not be processed.

## Publication of responses

Your responses will be published on the ESAs' website unless: you request to treat them confidential, or they are unlawful, or they would infringe the rights of any third-party. Please, indicate clearly and prominently in your submission any part you do not wish to be publicly disclosed. ESAs may also publish a summary of the survey input received on their website.

A confidential response may be requested from us in accordance with the ESAs' rules on public access to documents. We may consult you if we receive such a request. Any decision we make not to disclose the response is reviewable by the ESAs' Board of Appeal and the European Ombudsman.

### Declaration by the contributor

By sending your contribution to EIOPA you consent to publication of all non-confidential information in your contribution, in whole/in part – as indicated in your responses, including to the publication of the name of your organisation, and you thereby declare that nothing within your response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication.

## Data protection

Please note that personal contact details (such as name of individuals, email addresses and phone numbers) will not be published. EIOPA, as a European Authority, will process any personal data in line with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. More information on how personal data is processed can be found under the Legal notice sections on the ESAs' websites.

## 2. Executive Summary

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### Introduction and scope

Regulation (EU) 2022/2554<sup>1</sup> (“DORA”) introduces a pan-European oversight framework of ICT third-party service providers designated as critical (CTPPs). As part of this oversight framework, the ESAs and competent authorities (CAs) have received new roles and responsibilities.

In this context, the ESAs have been mandated under Article 41(1) to develop draft regulatory technical standards (RTS) to harmonise the conditions enabling the conduct of oversight activities.

According to the mandate, the draft RTS shall specify:

- a) the information to be provided by an ICT third-party service provider in the application for a voluntary request to be designated as critical;
- b) the information to be submitted by the ICT third-party service providers that is necessary for the LO to carry out its duties;
- c) the criteria for determining the composition of the joint examination team, their designation, tasks, and working arrangements;
- d) the details of the competent authorities’ assessment of the measures taken by CTPPs based on the recommendations of the LO.

This consultation paper and the included draft RTS cover the draft technical standards aimed at specifying the criteria for determining the composition of the joint examination team ensuring a balanced participation of staff members from the ESAs and from the relevant competent authorities, their designation, tasks, and working arrangements (point c above). A dedicated consultation paper covering points (a), (b) and (d) has been published on 8 December 2023 and publicly consulted by the ESAs up to 4 March 2024.

### Next steps

The ESAs will consider the feedback received when finalising the draft RTS following this public consultation. The ESAs expect to submit the RTS by 17 July 2024 to the European Commission for adoption.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on digital operational resilience for the financial sector and amending Regulations (EC) No 1060/2009, (EU) No 648/2012, (EU) No 600/2014, (EU) No 909/2014 and (EU) 2016/1011, OJ L 333, 27.12.2022, p. 1.

# 3. Background and rationale

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## Background

1. The framework on digital operational resilience for the financial sector established by the DORA introduces a Union oversight framework for the information and communication technology (ICT) third-party service providers (TPPs) to the financial sector designated as critical in accordance with Article 31 of that Regulation.
2. In this context, the ESAs have been mandated under Article 41(1) to develop draft regulatory technical standards (RTS) to harmonise the conditions enabling the conduct of oversight activities. According to the mandate, the draft RTS shall specify:
  - (a) the information to be provided by an ICT third-party service provider in the application for a voluntary request to be designated as critical under Article 31(11);
  - (b) the content, structure and format of the information to be submitted, disclosed or reported by the ICT third-party service providers to the Lead Overseer pursuant to Article 35(1), including the template for providing information on subcontracting arrangements;
  - (c) the criteria for determining the composition of the joint examination team ensuring a balanced participation of staff members from the ESAs and from the relevant competent authorities, their designation, tasks, and working arrangements;
  - (d) the details of the CAs' assessment of the measures taken by CTPPs based on the recommendations of the Lead Overseer.
3. While developing this consultation paper and the draft RTS, the ESAs have decided to divide the mandate of Article 41(1) in two separate RTS: one focusing on the areas of the mandate having a direct impact on financial entities and ICT third party service providers (points (a), (b) and (d) above) and the other one on the requirements to be followed by the competent authorities in relation to the joint examination team (point (c) above). The reason of this decision is related to the different specific nature of the information included in the empowerment given by Article 41: the empowerments included in points (a), (b) and (d) have a clear impact on the market participants (either ICT third-party providers or financial entities), while the one included in point (c) has an impact only to the supervisory community, which also warrants shorter period for consultation.
4. This consultation paper and the included draft RTS cover the areas included in point (c) of Article 41(1) of Regulation 2022/2554.

## Rationale

5. According to Article 40, when conducting oversight activities, the Lead Overseer is assisted by a joint examination team composed of staff members from:
  - (a) the ESAs;
  - (b) the relevant competent authorities supervising the financial entities to which the CTPP provides ICT services;
  - (c) the national competent authority designated or established in accordance with Directive (EU) 2022/2555 responsible for the supervision of an essential or important entity subject to that Directive, which has been designated as CTPP, on a voluntary basis;
  - (d) one national competent authority from the Member State where the critical ICT third-party service provider is established, on a voluntary basis.

The members of the joint examination team needs to have expertise in ICT matters and in operational risk, as well as relevant skills (communication, collaboration, supervisory experience).

6. The success of the entire oversight activities is dependent on the good cooperation between ESAs and the competent authorities which happens both in the Oversight Forum introduced in Article 32 and in the joint examination teams as described above.

Particularly, since the joint examination team is the structure involved on the daily oversight of the CTPPs, given the high technical complexity of the oversight activities and the scarce availability of the expertise needed to perform them, it is crucial for the ESAs and the entire supervisory community to ensure the maximum efficiency and effectiveness of the joint examination teams.

7. The ESAs have been mandated to develop draft RTS to specify the criteria for determining the composition of the joint examination team ensuring a balanced participation of staff members from the ESAs and from the relevant competent authorities, their designation, tasks, and working arrangements.
8. The draft RTS developed complements the DORA and constitutes the regulatory framework to define the functioning of the JET, which will be complemented by specific *ad hoc* internal or public policies, procedures and arrangements to ensure its operational implementation.

## 4. Overview of questions for consultation

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1. Is the content of the RTS sufficiently clear and detailed? Please make any drafting proposal that would facilitate the understanding of your responses, specifying the article(s) and the paragraph(s) targeted.
2. Do you agree with the impact assessment and the main conclusions stemming from it?

# 5. Draft Regulatory Technical Standards

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COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...

of **DD Month YYYY**

**supplementing Regulation 2022/2554 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to regulatory technical standards to specify the criteria for determining the composition of the joint examination team ensuring a balanced participation of staff members from the ESAs and from the relevant competent authorities, their designation, tasks, and working arrangements**

**(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 14 December 2022 on digital operational resilience for the financial sector and amending Regulations (EC) No 1060/2009, (EU) No 648/2012, (EU) No 600/2014, (EU) No 909/2014 and (EU) 2016/1011<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 41(1), point (c) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The oversight framework established by Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 should be built on a structured and continuous cooperation between the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) and the competent authorities through the Oversight Forum and the joint examination teams .
- (2) After the designation of the critical ICT third-party service providers and taking into account the annual oversight plans for all critical ICT third-party service providers, the authorities listed in Article 40(2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 should be asked to nominate their staff as member of the joint examination teams. When nominating staff, these authorities should ensure that the staff meet the specific technical expertise required in the profiles needed in the joint examination teams. The demonstration that an authority does not have staff meeting the specific technical expertise needed in the joint examination teams should be considered by the Lead Overseer as justification to discharge, at that point in time, the authorities of their obligation to nominate staff members to the joint examination teams. In that case, the authority should nevertheless commit on the best effort basis to address this shortfall of expertise and try to reinforce its capabilities to contribute to the joint examination teams in the context of the next exercise. Unless otherwise agreed by the nominating authority and the Lead Overseer, the individuals appointed as members of a joint examination team should continue to be employees of the nominating authority and therefore subject to working hours and permanent location of work as included in their employment contracts.

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L 333, 27.12.2022, p. 1.



- (3) In order to maximise synergies among resources and ensure the most effective execution of oversight activities, a joint examination team should be able to oversee multiple critical ICT third-party service providers. The grouping of the critical ICT third-party service providers to be assigned to a specific joint examination team, and its overall staffing needs should take into account the risk profile of the critical ICT third-party service providers, and the envisaged level of intensity of oversight activities which should result in a strategic multi-annual oversight plan, annually updated by the Lead Overseer to the extent necessary and reflected into the individual annual oversight plan. To ensure the reliability of the planned and ongoing commitment of resource staffing of the joint examination team by the authorities, the Lead Overseer should consult both the joint oversight network and the Oversight Forum.
- (4) The Lead Overseer should apply a combination of criteria and principles when identifying the number of staff members in each joint examination team and the resulting composition. Those criteria and principles should take into account the technical nature of the oversight tasks, the different grade of dependency of financial entities on the services provided by the critical ICT third-party service providers, the geographical distribution, the size and the number of financial entities relying on those services and, where possible, a proportionate cross-sectoral representation. In performing this task, the Lead Overseer should rely on the information provided by competent authorities in the context of designation of the critical ICT third-party service providers, including the results of the calculation of all the sub-criteria as defined in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) xx<sup>3</sup> and consider the criticality of the critical ICT third-party service providers for the provisioning of specific financial services both at Member State and Union level.
- (5) The Lead Overseer and the members of the joint examination teams should periodically assess the achievements of the joint examination teams to ensure that the structure and the composition of the joint examination team is fit for purpose and continuously improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Oversight Framework. The Lead Overseer and the authorities should make use of these assessments to review the membership of a joint examination team, when appropriate.
- (6) The ESAs should define the oversight procedures to be followed by the members of the joint examination team and the Lead Overseer coordinator in the performance of their duties. Those oversight procedures should ensure that the members of the joint examination team are free from any conflict of interests while performing their duties.
- (7) Since the oversight tasks largely depend on processing confidential information, the Lead Overseer should grant members of the joint examination team access to such information and to the relating IT (e.g. tools, applications, datasets) and non-IT (e.g. policy, procedures, documentation) resources on a need-to-know basis if this is necessary for members of the joint examination team to assist the Lead Overseer in the fulfilment of its statutory functions or tasks or to enable the members of the joint examination team to access information relevant to their tasks or take over tasks from other members of the joint examination team with minimal delays.
- (8) When defining arrangements between the Lead Overseer and the competent authorities to implement this Regulation, consistently with the Commission Delegated Regulation xxxx, the Lead Overseer should include a section detailing the procedure of

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<sup>3</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) xx supplementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 of the European Parliament and of the Council by specifying the criteria for the designation of ICT third-party service providers as critical for financial entities.

reimbursement of the direct and indirect costs of all involved authorities in the joint examination teams.

- (9) This Regulation is based on the draft regulatory technical standards submitted to the European Commission by the European Banking Authority, the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority, and the European Securities and Markets Authority.
- (10) The Joint Committee of the European Supervisory Authorities referred to in Article 54 of Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4</sup>, in Article 54 of Regulation (EU) No 1094/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>5</sup> and in Article 54 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>6</sup> has conducted open public consultations on the draft regulatory technical standards on which this Regulation is based, analysed the potential costs and benefits of the proposed standards and requested advice of the Banking Stakeholder Group established in accordance with Article 37 of Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, the Insurance and Reinsurance Stakeholder Group and the Occupational Pensions Stakeholder Group established in accordance with Article 37 of Regulation (EU) No 1094/2010, and the Securities and Markets Stakeholder Group established in accordance with Article 37 of Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### *Article 1*

##### **Tasks of the members of the joint examination team**

1. For the purpose of Article 40(1) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554, the joint examination team shall assist the Lead Overseer in conducting oversight activities, including the individual oversight plan adopted annually according to Article 33(4) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554.
2. The tasks of the members of the joint examination team shall be performed under the coordination of the Lead Overseer coordinator and shall include any of the following:
  - a) assisting the Lead Overseer in the preparation and drafting of the individual annual oversight plan describing the annual oversight objectives and the main oversight activities planned for each critical ICT third-party service provider that are to be carried out by the Lead Overseer and the joint examination team;
  - b) assisting the Lead Overseer in performing the assessment referred to in Article 33(2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554;

- c) collecting and assessing the information submitted by the critical ICT third-party service provider according to Article 37 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 and Chapter II of the Commission Delegated Regulation xxx [on oversight harmonisation];
  - d) conducting general investigations on the critical ICT third-party service providers according to Article 38 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554;
  - e) conducting inspections of the critical ICT third-party service providers according to Article 39 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554;
  - f) drafting the recommendations addressed to the critical ICT third-party service provider as defined in Article 35(1), point (d) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554;
  - g) assessing the remediation plan and the progress reports as defined in Article 4 of the Commission Delegated Regulation xxx [on harmonisation of the conditions of oversight conduct];
  - h) preparing and drafting the requests and decisions to the critical ICT third-party service provider referred to in Article 35(6), Article 37(1), Article 38(4), Article 39(6) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554;
  - i) assisting the Lead Overseer in its contribution to horizontal oversight activities, including in the development of benchmarking, as referred to in Article 32(3) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554;
  - j) ensuring that the relevant information relating to financial entities making use of the services provided by the critical ICT third-party service providers are shared with the Lead Overseer;
  - k) assisting the Lead Overseer in unplanned *ad hoc* activities deemed necessary by the Lead Overseer for the purpose of oversight.
3. In case the individual annual oversight plan is significantly revised during the year by the Lead Overseer, the Lead Overseer shall involve the joint examination team in the process of the revision and execution of the individual annual oversight plan according to point (a) of paragraph 2.

## *Article 2*

### **Establishment of the joint examination team**

1. After the first designation of the ICT third-party service provider as critical in accordance with Article 31(1) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 or when material changes regarding the critical ICT third-party service provider occur, the Lead Overseer, in agreement with the Joint Oversight Network, shall establish the joint examination team responsible to carry out the oversight activities concerning the assigned critical ICT third-party service provider.

For the purpose of the first subparagraph, material changes regarding the critical ICT third-party service provider shall be understood as significant changes to:

- a) the services provided by critical ICT third-party service provider;

- b) the activities performed by financial entities using ICT services of the critical ICT third-party service provider; or
  - c) the list of critical ICT third-party service providers at Union level referred in Article 31(9) or Regulation (EU) 2022/2554.
2. In application of paragraph 1, considering the envisaged level of intensity of oversight activities to be performed in relation to all critical ICT third-party service providers, the Lead Overseer shall identify the number of members of the joint examination team and its composition according to Article 3(1).
  3. The authorities referred to in Article 40(2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 shall nominate one or more individuals from their staff to be appointed as members of the joint examination team. An individual may be nominated and appointed as member of one or more joint examination teams.
  4. The Lead Overseer shall appoint the nominated individuals as members of the joint examination team either on a full-time or on a part-time basis depending on their availability, the specific needs of the Lead Overseer, and the agreement between the nominating authority and the Lead Overseer.
  5. When nominating the members of the joint examination team, the authorities referred to in Article 40(2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 shall assess their technical expertise, qualifications and skills in ICT and relevant areas, including communication and collaboration skills, as well as audit and supervision skills.
  6. The Lead Overseer may require the authorities to modify their nominations only in justified circumstances and when the profiles of the nominated individuals do not match the profile of the resources needed.
  7. The Lead Overseer and the authorities shall take all appropriate and possible measures to ensure the joint examination team is staffed adequately in accordance with the annual individual oversight plan.

### *Article 3*

#### **Members of the joint examination team**

1. The Lead Overseer shall define the number of members of the joint examination team and its composition in agreement with the Joint Oversight Network and in consultation with the Oversight Forum, as part of the process of establishment of the joint examination team, and as required over time, taking into account the tasks included in the individual annual oversight plans drafted for each critical ICT third-party service provider overseen by the joint examination team. To define the number and the composition of members in the joint examination team, the Lead Overseer shall consider at least the following:
  - a. the number of critical ICT third-party service providers overseen by the joint examination team and by the ESAs as Lead Overseers;
  - b. the specific individual oversight needs related to the specific critical ICT third-party service provider, as assessed by the Lead Overseer;

- c. the stability of the composition of the joint examination team, ensuring a proper knowledge retention ;
  - d. the necessary skills required for the execution of the tasks by the joint examination team, considering the technical and non-technical ICT knowledge requirements;
  - e. the Member States in which the critical ICT third-party service provider provides ICT services supporting critical or important functions of the financial entities, and the competent authorities which supervise the financial entities making use of those services;
  - f. the different types, sizes and number of financial entities to which the critical ICT third-party service provider provides ICT services supporting critical or important functions;
  - ~~g.~~ the competent authorities which supervise the financial entities mostly dependent on the ICT services provided by the critical ICT third-party service providers;
  - h. a proportionate cross-sectoral representation of the authorities nominating members of the joint examination team.
2. When nominating members of the joint examination team, the authorities referred to in Article 40(2) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 shall consider at least points (b), (c), (d), (f) and (g) of paragraph 1.
  3. The members of the joint examination team shall be involved either in the execution of specific tasks, or in the ongoing support of the activities carried out by the Lead Overseer, considering the tasks defined in Article 1(2) of this Regulation.

#### *Article 4*

##### **Renewal of the joint examination team**

Periodically, in cases where the appointed Lead Overseer changes, or in cases where material changes as defined in Article 2(1) occur, the Lead Overseer, after consulting the members of the joint examination team, shall assess the achievements of the joint examination team. The results of this assessment shall be used by both the nominating authorities and Lead Overseer to decide whether it is appropriate to renew the membership of the joint examination team.

#### *Article 5*

##### **Working arrangements of the members of the joint examination team**

1. The members of the joint examination team shall carry out their tasks identified in the individual annual oversight plan with due skill, care and diligence without any bias and in accordance with the instructions of the Lead Overseer coordinator.

2. When carrying out oversight tasks, the members of the joint examination team shall follow oversight procedures drafted jointly by the European Supervisory Authorities in relation to the conduct of oversight activities and any relevant operational area, including but not limited to specifications relating to the use of IT tools and equipment, training and time management.
3. The members of the joint examination team shall follow the information and data handling specifications and instructions as provided by the Lead Overseer coordinator and shall comply with the ESAs confidentiality regime. The Lead Overseer coordinator shall inform the members of the joint examination team of the ESAs' confidentiality regime.

#### *Article 6*

##### **Arrangements between the Lead Overseer and the nominating authorities**

1. The Lead Overseer and all authorities nominating members of the joint examination team shall establish arrangements to implement the requirements in this Regulation, including arrangements on the time spent and estimated costs related to the oversight activities performed by the joint examination team.
2. The arrangements referred to in paragraph 1 shall include ethical and conduct considerations in relation to the role of the member of the joint examination team, where appropriate.
3. The Lead Overseer and the authorities nominating members of the joint examination team shall ensure that the arrangements referred to in paragraph 2 are timely reviewed and kept up to date.

#### *Article 7*

##### **Entry into force**

1. This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
2. This Regulation shall apply from 17 January 2025.
3. This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

## 6. Draft cost-benefit analysis / impact assessment

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1. As per Article 10(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 (EBA Regulation), of Regulation (EU) No 1094/2010 (EIOPA Regulation) and Regulation (EU) No 1095/2010 (ESMA Regulation), any draft regulatory technical standards developed by the ESAs shall be accompanied by an Impact Assessment (IA) to analyse ‘the potential related costs and benefits’ of the technical standard.
2. The next paragraphs present the IA of the main policy options included in this Consultation Paper (CP) on the harmonization of conditions enabling the conduct of oversight activities under Article 41(1) point (c) of Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 (DORA).

### ***Problem identification***

3. The DORA introduces an oversight framework for the ICT third-party service providers designated as critical according to Article 31(1)(a) of that Regulation. Article 40 of the DORA on ongoing oversight stipulates that the Lead Overseer is to be supported by a joint examination team when conducting oversight activities. The joint examination team is composed by:
  - (a) the ESAs
  - (b) the relevant competent authorities supervising the financial entities to which the CTPP provides ICT services;
  - (c) on a voluntary basis the national competent authority designated or established in accordance with Directive (EU) 2022/2555 responsible for the supervision of an essential or important entity subject to that Directive, which has been designated as CTPP;
  - (d) on a voluntary basis one national competent authority from the Member State where the critical ICT third-party service provider is established.
4. In this context, Article 41(1) point (c) of the DORA mandates the ESAs to specify “*the criteria for determining the composition of the joint examination team ensuring a balanced participation of staff members from the ESAs and from the relevant competent authorities, their designation, tasks, and working arrangements,*”.
5. Article 41(1) points (a), (b) and (d) of the DORA mandate the ESAs to harmonise through a RTS additional elements of the conditions enabling the conduct of the oversight activities. As further detailed in the section dedicated to policy options and outlined in the introductory part of this consultation paper, the ESAs have decided to develop a dedicated RTS covering that part of the mandate of Article 41.
6. This impact assessment does not cover the requirements set out in DORA in relation to the areas covered by the draft RTS, but it focuses only on the specific provisions of the draft RTS and assesses the implications of the policy issues considered by the ESAs while developing the draft RTS.

### *Policy Objectives*

7. The objective of the draft RTS is to specify the criteria determining the composition of the joint examination teams, which are the structures supporting the Lead Overseer in conducting the oversight activities, ensuring a balanced participation of members from the ESAs and the relevant competent authorities parts of the JETs Furthermore, the draft RTS specify the criteria to be followed by the Lead Overseer, the ESAs and the Competent Authorities for the designation of the members of the joint examination teams, the tasks that those members will perform and their working arrangements. The relevant criteria and principles take into account the technical nature of the oversight tasks, the different grade of dependency of financial entities on the services provided by the critical ICT third-party service providers, the geographical distribution of those financial entities, the size and the number of those financial entities, the available ICT skills in each competent authority and, where possible, a proportionate cross-sectoral representation.

### *Baseline scenario*

8. DORA establishes a Union oversight framework of critical ICT third-party service providers for the financial sector that allows for a continuous monitoring of the activities of ICT third-party service providers that are critical to financial entities, while ensuring that the confidentiality and security of customers other than financial entities is preserved.
9. The baseline scenario builds on the roles and responsibilities of the Lead Overseer, ESAs and competent authorities set by the DORA with the goal to achieve the overall aim of the oversight framework, namely to ensure financial stability and market integrity in the digital age. It assumes the mandatory involvement of such authorities in the joint examination teams, to the extent it is considered as necessary by the Lead Overseers to achieve their oversight objectives, and the leading role of the Lead Overseers in the conduct of the oversight activities.

### *General policy options*

#### **POLICY ISSUE 1: STRUCTURE OF THE DRAFT RTS**

##### Options considered

10. Option A: including in one single draft regulatory technical standard all the areas referred to in Article 41(1) of the DORA, i.e., covering those that have a direct impact on financial entities and ICT third party service providers (Article 41(1) points (a), (b) and (d) of the DORA) and the one that must be followed by the ESAs and the relevant competent authorities in relation to the joint examination team (Article 41(1) point (c) of the DORA).
11. Option B: dividing the mandate of Article 41(1) of the DORA in two separate consultation papers: one focusing on the areas of the mandate having a direct impact on financial entities and ICT third-party service providers (Article 41(1) points (a), (b) and (d) of the DORA) and the other one on the requirements to be followed by the supervisory community in relation to the composition of the joint examination team as well as the designation process of such teams, their task and the



underlying arrangements linking the members and the Lead Overseers (Article 41(1)(c) of the DORA). This principle was established by the EBA in a previous RTS<sup>7</sup>.

#### Cost-benefit analysis

12. The empowerment given by Article 41(1) of the DORA contains two different sets of requirements in terms of market impacts: the empowerments included in points (a), (b) and (d) have a clear impact on the market participants (either ICT third-party providers or financial entities), while the one included in point (d) has an impact only to the supervisory community. In light of the above considerations, in order to give the necessary time to the market stakeholders to participate to this public consultation, the ESAs have decided to give priority to the empowerments included in points (a), (b) and (d). A targeted one-month consultation is organised for the remaining dimension of the mandate (point (c)).

#### Preferred option

13. Option B has been retained.

### ***Policy options relating to Chapter II – Information from critical ICT third-party service providers to the Lead Overseer***

#### ***POLICY ISSUE 2: A JET CAN OVERSEE MULTIPLE CTPPs***

#### Options considered

14. Option A: According to article 40(1) the Lead Overseer shall be assisted by a joint examination team established for each critical ICT third-party service provider. This may be interpreted as each JET can oversee only one CTPP.
15. Option B: According to article 40(1) the Lead Overseer shall be assisted by a joint examination team established for each critical ICT third-party service provider. This may be interpreted as each JET can oversee multiple CTPPs under the condition that the relationship JET-CTPP is clearly assigned.

#### Cost-benefit analysis

16. A successful oversight of critical ICT third-party service providers requires the gathering in the joint examination teams of resources with highly technical skills provided by members nominated by the authorities identified in article 40(2) of the DORA. Option B allows to maximise flexibility and synergies among JET structures and ensure the most efficient use of the scarce technical resources available to the members. Such approach is commonly followed by European supervisors and overseers, especially when they have a great number of entities under their responsibility. Depending on the organisational choices of the Lead Overseers and the number and the profiles of the designated critical ICT third-party providers, it would not prevent the Lead Overseers to set up JETs focusing on one single critical ICT third-party provider (especially for the ones requiring a greater number of resources given their size, identified risk level for the financial sector, etc) and, in parallel, other JETs in charge of several critical ICT third-party providers. If option A is retained, having the requirement that one JET can oversee only one CTPP would excessively bound the Lead Overseers in their own organisational capacities, and would require a potential higher number of

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<sup>7</sup> EBA Regulatory Technical Standards on Own Funds: <https://www.eba.europa.eu/regulation-and-policy/own-funds/draft-regulatory-technical-standards-on-own-funds>.

