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*Press release*

## **Fitch affirms Garanti Bank's long-term IDR with Stable Outlook, emphasizing the bank's financial resilience and self-sufficiency**

**Bucharest, March 01<sup>st</sup> 2019** – Fitch Ratings affirmed Garanti Bank Romania's long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'BB-', with stable outlook, while the bank's Viability Rating was also affirmed at 'bb-', despite legislative uncertainties having already had an impact on the market and the financial system.

Stable Outlook on Garanti's IDR reflects Fitch's view that the bank is sufficiently independent from the parent bank. The funding of the bank is predominantly from customer deposits and the bank is not reliant on parent funding. GBR's liquidity position is adequate as reflected by cash, accounts at central bank and other liquid assets such as government bonds.

Fitch emphasized that their recent decision reflects Garanti Bank's resilience, despite increased operating environment risks to the banking sector arisen from a series of proposed or adopted legislative measures.

Fitch affirmed the viability rating of the bank mentioning that "the bank's improving capital metrics and reasonable preprovision profitability provide a cushion against the potentially significant impact of a punitive bank tax in the short to medium term."

"We have always targeted a sustainable and healthy organic growth in the market. Fitch's assertion of our ratings confirms our strength and our ability to carry out the ambitious long-term plans we have in Romania", stated Ufuk Tandoğan, CEO of Garanti Bank Romania.

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**About Garanti Bank Romania**



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Garanti Bank is part of the financial-banking group Garanti Romania, which brings together Garanti Leasing (the brand under which the company Motoractive IFN SA operates) and Garanti Consumer Finance (the brand under which Ralfi IFN operates). Being present in Romania since 1998, Garanti Bank has developed over time a solid and diverse client portfolio, and continuously expanded its national network and product portfolio for all business segments: retail, SME and corporate.

Last year, Garanti Bank was nominated as a Superbrand, distinguishing itself from over 1,500 brands analysed by Superbrands Romania. Furthermore, in August, Garanti Bank was awarded by world-renowned magazine Global Finance, as “Best Consumer Digital Bank in Romania”. The distinction was granted within the “2018 World's Best Consumer Digital Banks in Central and Eastern Europe Competition” and it is the 11th award that Garanti Bank received from Global Finance in the past ten years.

Garanti Bank Romania is held by Turkiye Garanti Bankasi AS (TGB), Turkey’s second largest private bank, with leading presence in all business lines and more than 16 million customers. The Spanish financial group Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA) is the majority shareholder of TGB.

For more information, please visit: [www.garantibank.ro](http://www.garantibank.ro)