

## Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain

Following recent concerns in the financial press regarding the sustainability of public debt in the “PIGS” countries (Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain) we have received a number of queries from investors regarding our exposure to these regions in our triple-A rated government and first money market fund ranges.

Our investment philosophy at BlackRock is firmly based on detailed analysis of each security within our portfolios. We do not rely solely on the opinions of rating agencies, rather we perform our own ongoing due diligence on each item on our proprietary approved lists. The quality of all of our investments is continuously monitored, and any concerns that our credit team might have regarding individual issuers are immediately translated into maturity restrictions, suspensions from the approved list or swift removal from the portfolios altogether. This process is in place to protect the overall integrity of the credit quality of our portfolios with critical consideration of the price stability required in money market funds. This process takes place daily, in real time, to protect the fund from price deterioration and portfolio devaluations.

As at 31 January 2009, the BlackRock Euro Government Liquidity Fund invested exclusively triple-A rated euro zone governments holding only paper issued by the governments of Germany, France and Netherlands. As of the same date, BlackRock had no exposure to Ireland or Greece within its BlackRock Cash Selection Funds range of triple-A rated money market funds. BlackRock has a small exposure (less than 1%) to Caixa of Portugal in its BlackRock US Dollar First Fund and selectively holds small exposures to top-tier Spanish bank names within these portfolios, all of these holdings have undergone our in-depth credit review process.

Our extensive experience through multiple interest rate cycles and market events, our rigorous credit standards, and our consistent focus on risk management have enabled us to deliver on our fundamental objectives of safety, liquidity and yield across our money fund complex.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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