

# Rating Action: Moody's changes outlook on EDP to positive, affirms ratings

11 May 2021

Paris, May 11, 2021 -- Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") has today changed the outlook on EDP - Energias de Portugal, S.A. ("EDP") and its finance subsidiary EDP Finance B.V. to positive from stable. Concurrently, Moody's has affirmed the Baa3 senior unsecured ratings, the (P)Baa3 senior unsecured MTN program rating, the Ba2 junior subordinate debt ratings and the Prime-3 commercial paper rating of EDP. Moody's has also affirmed the Baa3 senior unsecured ratings, the (P)Baa3 senior unsecured MTN program rating and the Prime-3 commercial paper rating of EDP Finance B.V..

A full list of affected ratings is provided towards the end of this press release.

#### RATINGS RATIONALE

The rating action reflects the recent deleveraging achieved by EDP and Moody's expectation that credit metrics could strengthen further as the company executes its updated strategy.

EDP's ratio of funds from operations (FFO) to net debt rose to close to 17% in 2020 from around 15% in the prior year, reflecting the company's resilience in the context of the pandemic, the EUR1 billion rights issue in August 2020 to partially finance the Viesgo acquisition, as well as the sale of a portfolio of hydro plants in Portugal for EUR2.2 billion at year-end 2020. Under its new strategy announced in February 2021, EDP targets to further improve its financial profile whilst investing at the same time EUR24 billion over 2021-25, of which 80% will be dedicated to renewables[1].

The change in outlook to positive takes account of the front-loading of several creditor-friendly measures to finance this capex programme, including (1) a EUR750 million hybrid issuance in January 2021; (2) a EUR1.5 billion capital increase by its renewables subsidiary EDP Renováveis S.A., completed in April 2021[2]; and (3) the recent announcement of a 405 megawatts asset rotation deal for an enterprise value (100%) of USD0.7 billion. Moody's also notes positively that EDP's management has committed to take steps to reinforce its balance sheet, if needed, to maintain a sustainable leverage.

The outlook change further factors in the progress realised by EDP in (1) improving its business risk profile, as a result of continuing investments in renewables and in networks and a reduction of its exposure to merchant activities, including through the disposal of thermal plants and supply activities in Spain as well as the Viesgo acquisition in 2020; and (2) reducing exposure to Portugal following the sale of the hydro plants, which also helped reduce merchant exposure. Accordingly, Moody's has revised downwards its ratio guidance for an upgrade.

The rating affirmation reflects that EDP's Baa3 rating continues to be supported by (1) the company's diversified business and geographical mix, including a strong footprint in North America (20% of EBITDA in 2020); (2) stable earnings stemming from contracted generation and regulated networks, which account for over 75% of group EBITDA; (3) the low carbon intensity of its power generation fleet and the strategy to exit coal-fired power generation by 2025, which positions it well in the context of the energy transition; and (4) the group's track record of rotating assets to alleviate financing needs.

These factors are balanced against (1) the residual exposure to volatile power prices of EDP's merchant generation and supply activities; (2) the earnings volatility stemming from variations in hydro output in Iberia and, to a lesser extent, wind resource globally; (3) the execution risks associated with a significant investment programme; (4) the remaining exposure to Portugal and the challenging macro-economic environment in Brazil; (5) EDP's relatively high dividend payout, which constrains financial flexibility; and (6) the minority holdings in the group, which add to complexity.

# FACTORS THAT COULD LEAD TO AN UPGRADE OR DOWNGRADE OF THE RATINGS

The ratings could be upgraded if EDP's progress on the delivery of its strategy were to result in a sustained strengthening of its financial profile, with FFO/net debt in the high teens and retained cash flow (RCF) to net debt trending towards the low teens (both in percentage terms). Conversely, the outlook could be stabilised if

credit metrics appear likely to remain persistently below the guidance for the higher rating.

Given the positive outlook, downward pressure on the ratings is unlikely. Nevertheless, the ratings could be downgraded if EDP's credit metrics fell below the guidance for the Baa3 rating, which includes FFO/net debt in the mid-teens and RCF/net debt in the low double digits (both in percentage terms).

The principal methodology used in these ratings was Unregulated Utilities and Unregulated Power Companies published in May 2017 and available at <a href="https://www.moodys.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?">https://www.moodys.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx?</a> docid=PBC\_1066389. Alternatively, please see the Rating Methodologies page on www.moodys.com for a copy of this methodology.

#### LIST OF AFFECTED RATINGS

#### Affirmations:

- .. Issuer: EDP Energias de Portugal, S.A.
- ....LT Issuer Rating, Affirmed Baa3
- ....Junior Subordinated Regular Bond/Debenture, Affirmed Ba2
- ....Commercial Paper, Affirmed P-3
- ....Backed Senior Unsecured Medium-Term Note Program, Affirmed (P)Baa3
- ....Senior Unsecured Regular Bond/Debenture, Affirmed Baa3
- ..Issuer: EDP Finance B.V.
- ....Backed Commercial Paper, Affirmed P-3
- ...Backed Senior Unsecured Medium-Term Note Program, Affirmed (P)Baa3
- ....Backed Senior Unsecured Regular Bond/Debenture, Affirmed Baa3

## **Outlook Actions:**

- .. Issuer: EDP Energias de Portugal, S.A.
- ....Outlook, Changed To Positive From Stable
- ..Issuer: EDP Finance B.V.
- ....Outlook, Changed To Positive From Stable

EDP - Energias de Portugal, S.A., headquartered in Lisbon, Portugal, is a vertically integrated utility company. It generated EUR3.95 billion of EBITDA in 2020.

## REGULATORY DISCLOSURES

For further specification of Moody's key rating assumptions and sensitivity analysis, see the sections Methodology Assumptions and Sensitivity to Assumptions in the disclosure form. Moody's Rating Symbols and Definitions can be found at: https://www.moodys.com/researchdocumentcontentpage.aspx? docid=PBC 79004.

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#### REFERENCES/CITATIONS

[1] EDP - Strategic Update 2021-2025: https://www.edp.com/sites/default/files/2021-03/EDP%20Strategic%20Update%2021-25 WEBSITE.pdf 25-Feb-2021

[2] EDP - COMPLETION OF EDPR C.€1.5 BN CAPITAL INCREASE: https://www.edp.com/sites/default/files/2021-04/20210416\_Closing%20ABB\_EN.pdf 16-Apr-2021

Please see www.moodys.com for any updates on changes to the lead rating analyst and to the Moody's legal entity that has issued the rating.

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