

Consolidated Financial Statements and
Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III

June 30, 2016 and 2015

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants	1
Financial Statements	
Consolidated Balance Sheets	2
Consolidated Statements of Income	3
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Equity	4
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows	5
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	6 - 12



Grant Thornton LLP
757 Third Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10017
T 212.599.0100
F 212.370.4520
GrantThornton.com
[linkd.in/GrantThorntonUS](https://www.linkedin.com/company/grantthorntonus)
twitter.com/GrantThorntonUS

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Board of Directors

DZ BANK Capital Funding Trust III

We have reviewed the accompanying consolidated interim financial statements of DZ BANK Capital Funding Trust III (a Delaware corporation) and subsidiary (the "Trust"), which comprise the consolidated balance sheets, and the related consolidated statements of income, changes in equity, and cash flows, as of June 30, 2016 and 2015 and for the six-month periods then ended, and the related notes to the interim financial statements.

Management's responsibility

The Trust's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated interim financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this responsibility includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control sufficient to provide a reasonable basis for the preparation and fair presentation of interim financial information in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct our reviews in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America applicable to reviews of interim financial information. A review of interim financial information consists principally of applying analytical procedures and making inquiries of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters. It is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Conclusion

Based on our reviews, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the consolidated interim financial statements referred to above for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Grant Thornton LLP

New York, New York
August 19, 2016

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III
Consolidated Balance Sheets
June 30, 2016 and 2015
(in Euros and thousands, except share and per share amounts)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
ASSETS		
Subordinated note receivable from DZ BANK	€ 350,003	€ 350,003
Accrued interest on subordinated note receivable from DZ BANK	<u>301</u>	<u>333</u>
Total assets	<u>€ 350,304</u>	<u>€ 350,336</u>
EQUITY		
Shareholders' equity		
Preferred securities, liquidation preference €1,000 per security; 350,000 securities authorized, issued and outstanding at June 30, 2016 and 2015	€ 350,000	€ 350,000
Common security, €1,000 par value; one security authorized, issued and outstanding at June 30, 2016 and 2015	1	1
Retained earnings	<u>301</u>	<u>333</u>
Total shareholders' equity	350,302	350,334
Noncontrolling interest	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Total equity	<u>€ 350,304</u>	<u>€ 350,336</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III
Consolidated Statements of Income
Six-month periods ended June 30, 2016 and 2015
(in Euros and thousands)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Interest income on subordinated note receivable from DZ BANK	€ <u>2,323</u>	€ <u>2,726</u>
Net income	€ <u><u>2,323</u></u>	€ <u><u>2,726</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III
Consolidated Statements of Changes in Equity
Six-month periods ended June 30, 2016 and 2015
(in Euros and thousands, except per share amounts)

	Preferred Securities	Common Security	Retained Earnings	Noncontrolling Interest	Total
Balance, December 31, 2014	€ 350,000	€ 1	€ 369	€ 2	€ 350,372
Net income	-	-	2,726	-	2,726
Cash dividends declared					
Preferred securities (€7.89 per share)	-	-	(2,762)	-	(2,762)
Trust common security (€7.89 per share)	-	-	-	-	-
Balance, June 30, 2015	<u>350,000</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>333</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>350,336</u>
Balance, December 31, 2015	350,000	1	334	2	350,337
Net income	-	-	2,323	-	2,323
Cash dividends declared					
Preferred securities (€6.73 per share)	-	-	(2,356)	-	(2,356)
Trust common security (€6.73 per share)	-	-	-	-	-
Balance, June 30, 2016	<u>€ 350,000</u>	<u>€ 1</u>	<u>€ 301</u>	<u>€ 2</u>	<u>€ 350,304</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows
Six-month periods ended June 30, 2016 and 2015
(in Euros and thousands)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income	€ 2,323	€ 2,726
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Decrease in accrued interest on subordinated note receivable from DZ BANK	<u>33</u>	<u>36</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,356	2,762
Cash flows used in financing activity - cash dividends paid	<u>(2,356)</u>	<u>(2,762)</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents		
Beginning	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Ending	<u>€ -</u>	<u>€ -</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
June 30, 2016 and 2015

1. ORGANIZATION AND BASIS OF PRESENTATION

DZ BANK Capital Funding Trust III (the “Trust”) is a statutory trust under Chapter 38 of Title 12 of the Delaware Code formed on February 16, 2005 for the purpose of entering into various agreements, to issue and sell common and preferred securities, and to use the proceeds from the issuance of common and preferred securities to acquire, hold and distribute preferred securities issued by DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III as defined in the Amended and Restated Trust Agreement of DZ BANK Capital Funding Trust III dated as of June 6, 2005 (the “Trust Agreement”). The Trust’s common security is owned by DZ BANK AG (“DZ BANK” or the “Parent”), a German banking corporation rated AA- by Standard & Poor’s at both June 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively. The Trust is a wholly-owned subsidiary of DZ BANK.

The Trust was initially capitalized on June 6, 2005 with the issuance to DZ BANK of one share of the Trust’s common security, €1,000 par value (the “Trust Common Security”), raising capital of €1,000. In June 2005, the Trust commenced operations concurrent with the offering and issuance of 200,000 noncumulative Trust Preferred Securities, liquidation preference €1,000 per security (the “Trust Preferred Securities”), to various institutional buyers. The entire capital was used to acquire Class B Preferred Securities issued by DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III (the “LLC Class B Preferred Securities”). DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III in turn used the proceeds to acquire subordinated notes issued by DZ BANK. In July 2005, DZ BANK issued an additional subordinated note in the amount of €100,000,000. Simultaneously, DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III issued an additional 100,000 shares of LLC Preferred Securities. These LLC Preferred Securities were acquired by the Trust and funded through an additional issuance of 100,000 shares of Trust Preferred Securities with identical terms to the authorized, issued and outstanding Trust Preferred Securities (first increase). In October 2005, DZ BANK issued a subordinated note in the amount of €50,000,000. Simultaneously, DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III issued an additional 50,000 shares of LLC Class B Preferred Securities. These LLC Class B Preferred Securities were acquired by the Trust and funded through an additional issuance of 50,000 shares of Trust Preferred Securities with identical terms to the authorized, issued and outstanding Trust Preferred Securities (second increase). There have not been any changes in the holder of the common security for the six-month periods ended June 30, 2016 and 2015.

The LLC Class B Preferred Securities were redeemable at the option of DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III, in whole but not in part, on the Initial Redemption Date on June 6, 2012. DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III did not make use of this option, but still has the option to redeem the Class B Preferred Securities, in whole but not in part, on any payment date thereafter, at the Redemption Amount in accordance with the Amended and Restated Limited Liability Company Agreement of DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III dated June 6, 2005 (the “LLC Agreement”). Subject to the provisions contained in the Trust Agreement, upon redemption of the LLC Class B Preferred Securities, the Trust shall apply the Redemption Amount received in connection therewith to redeem pro rata the Trust Common Security and the Trust Preferred Securities.

The consolidated financial statements are presented in Euros, which is the functional currency of the Trust, DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III and the Trust’s Parent, since its operations are a direct and integral component or extension of the Parent’s operations.

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
June 30, 2016 and 2015

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Trust and DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III, collectively referred to as the “Company”. The Trust consolidates entities in which it has both the power to direct investments that significantly impact the economic performance of the entities and has the obligation to absorb losses or receive benefits that could potentially be significant to the entities. All material intercompany transactions and accounts have been eliminated.

Subordinated Note Receivable From DZ BANK

This represents €350,003,000 subordinated notes issued by DZ BANK, a related party, and are due June 6, 2035. Interest accrues on a quarterly basis for each distribution period based on the applicable three-month EURIBOR plus 1.5%. The Subordinated Note Receivable from DZ BANK is carried at amortized cost.

Dividend Distributions

The holders of the Trust Common security and the Trust Preferred Securities (together, the “Trust Securities”), are entitled to receive cash distributions when the Trust receives distributions on the Subordinated Note Receivable from DZ BANK. These cash distributions are payable on a noncumulative basis quarterly in arrears.

Distributions on the Trust Securities will be calculated by the calculation agent on the liquidation preference of the Trust Securities on a quarterly basis for each distribution period on the applicable three-month EURIBOR plus 1.5% and any additional adjustments, as defined in the Trust Agreement. The right of the holders of the Trust Securities to receive distributions is noncumulative.

For the six-month period ended June 30, 2016, the Trust has made dividend distributions on Trust Preferred Securities and Trust Common Security of €2,355,500 and €7, respectively. For the six-month period ended June 30, 2015, the Trust has made dividend distributions on Trust Preferred Securities and Trust Common Security of €2,761,500 and €8, respectively.

Allocation of Net Income

Net income is allocated to the Trust Common Security and Trust Preferred Securities as defined in the Trust Agreement. The undistributed retained earnings of €300,905 and €332,513 as of June 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively, will be allocated on a pro rata basis to the Trust Common Security, the Trust Preferred Securities and the noncontrolling interest.

Noncontrolling Interest

Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (the “Codification” or “ASC”) 810 clarifies that a noncontrolling interest in a subsidiary is an ownership interest in the consolidated entity that should be reported as equity in the consolidated financial statements. Dividend distributions have been made on noncontrolling interest of €14 and €16 for the six-month periods ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, respectively.

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
June 30, 2016 and 2015

Income Taxes

The Trust expects to be treated as a grantor trust for U.S. federal income tax purposes, and not as a business entity subject to tax as a corporation. For United States federal income tax purposes, holders of the Trust Preferred Securities are considered the owners of the LLC Class B Preferred Securities held by the Trust. Each United States holder of Trust Preferred Securities is required to include in his/her gross income his/her distributive share of the gross income attributable to the LLC Class B Preferred Securities.

DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III expects to be treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a partnership is not a taxable entity, DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III is not subject to U.S. federal, state and local income tax on its income. Instead, each holder of a security is required to take into account his/her allocable share of income, gain, loss and deduction of the partnership in computing his/her U.S. federal tax liability.

Accordingly, the Company has made no provision for income taxes in the accompanying consolidated statements of income.

FASB ASC Topic 740 "Income Taxes", provides guidance for how uncertain tax positions should be recognized, measured, disclosed and presented in the financial statements. This requires the evaluation of tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing the Company's tax returns to determine whether the tax positions are "more likely than not" of being sustained "when challenged" or "when examined" by the applicable tax authority. Tax positions not deemed to meet the more-likely-than-not threshold would be recorded as a tax expense and liability in the current year. Management evaluated the Company's tax positions that require adjustment to the financial statements in order to comply with the provisions of this guidance. With few exceptions, the Company is no longer subject to income tax examinations by U.S. federal, state or local tax authorities for years before 2011.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The consolidated financial statements are prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, ("US GAAP"), which require management to make estimates and assumptions, including those regarding financial instrument valuations, that affect the related amounts reported in the consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ materially from these estimates.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

For purposes of reporting cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash due from banks and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less. At June 30, 2016 and 2015, the Company did not have any cash and cash equivalents.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In June 2014, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2014-11 which amends the authoritative accounting guidance under ASC Topic 860 "Transfers and Servicing". The amendments require two accounting changes. First, the amendments change the accounting for repurchase-to-maturity transactions to secured borrowing accounting. Second, for repurchase financing arrangements, the amendments require separate accounting for a transfer of a financial asset executed contemporaneously with a repurchase agreement with the same counterparty, which will result in secured borrowing accounting for

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
June 30, 2016 and 2015

the repurchase agreement. The amendments also require additional disclosures regarding repurchase agreements. The amendments are effective for the first interim or annual period beginning after December 15, 2014. Entities are required to present changes in accounting for transactions outstanding on the effective date as a cumulative-effect adjustment to retained earnings as of the beginning of the period of adoption. Early adoption is prohibited. The amendments regarding disclosures for certain transactions accounted for as a sale are required to be presented for interim and annual periods beginning after December 15, 2014, and the disclosure for repurchase agreements, securities lending transactions, and repurchase-to-maturity transactions accounted for as secured borrowings are required to be presented for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2014, and for interim periods beginning after March 15, 2015. The disclosures are not required to be presented for comparative periods before the effective date. Adoption of this update did not have a material effect on the Trust's consolidated statement of income or balance sheets.

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-14, which amends the authoritative accounting guidance under ASC Topic 310 "Receivables". The amendments require that a mortgage loan be derecognized and that a separate other receivable be recognized upon foreclosure if the follow conditions are met: (1) the loan has a government guarantee that is not separable from the loan before foreclosure; (2) at the time of foreclosure, the creditor has the intent to convey the real estate property to the guarantor and make claim on the guarantee, and the creditor has the ability to recover under that claim and (3) at the time of foreclosure, any amount of the claim that is determined on the basis of the fair value of real estate is fixed. Upon foreclosure, the separate other receivable should be measured based on the amount of the loan balance (principal and interest) expected to be recovered from the guarantor. The amendments are effective for annual periods, and interim periods within those annual periods, beginning after December 15, 2014. Entities should adopt the amendments in this Update using either a prospective transition method or a modified retrospective transition method. Adoption of this update did not have a material effect on the Trust's consolidated statement of income or balance sheets.

In February 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-02 "Consolidation (Topic 810): Amendments to the Consolidation Analysis", which amends the consolidation requirements in ASC 810. This update is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2016, and for interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2017. We are currently reviewing this ASU to determine if it will have an impact on the Trust's consolidated financial statements.

In May 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-07 "Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820): Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities that Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or Its Equivalent)". The amendments apply to reporting entities that elect to measure the fair value of an investment using the net asset value ("NAV") per share (or its equivalent) practical equivalent. The amendments remove the requirement to categorize within the fair value hierarchy all investments for which fair value is measured using the NAV per share practical expedient. The amendments in this ASU are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2015, with early adoption permitted. We are currently evaluating the impact of adopting this new guidance on the Trust's consolidated financial statements.

In May 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-09, which provides new guidance that supersedes the revenue recognition requirements in ASC Topic 605, "Revenue Recognition". The guidance requires an entity to recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the company expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The guidance is effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2016. We are

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
June 30, 2016 and 2015

currently evaluating the impact of adopting this new guidance on the Trust's consolidated financial statements.

In June 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13 "Financial Instruments – Credit Losses", which sets forth a "current expected credit loss" ("CECL") model which requires the entity to measure all expected credit losses for financial instruments held at the reporting date based on historical experience, current conditions and reasonable supportable forecasts. This replaces the existing incurred loss model and will apply to the measurement of credit losses on financial assets measured at amortized cost and to some off-balance sheet credit exposures. This ASU will be effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2020, and for interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2021. We are currently evaluating the impact of adopting this new guidance on the Trust's consolidated financial statements.

3. SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

The Company's noncumulative preferred securities consist of 350,000 shares authorized, issued and outstanding at June 30, 2016 and 2015, each having a liquidation preference, as defined in the Trust Agreement, of €1,000.

The Company's common security consists of one share par value €1,000, authorized, issued and outstanding at June 30, 2016 and 2015.

4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Trust's regular trustees, Ralf Weingartner, Carl Amendola, Norah McCann and Jonas Kelletshofer, are employees of DZ BANK New York and act as managers, as defined in the Trust Agreement. DZ BANK New York provides administrative services to the Company. Currently, the Company does not reimburse DZ BANK New York for these services.

The activities are substantially governed by DZ BANK New York which provides ongoing administrative support. Therefore, the Company's financial condition and results of operations may not necessarily be indicative of those that would have resulted if the Company had operated as an unaffiliated company.

5. VARIABLE INTEREST ENTITIES

In accordance with FASB ASC 810-10 Consolidation, "Variable Interest Entity" ("VIE") is defined as an entity with one or more of the following characteristics:

- The equity investment at risk is not sufficient to permit the entity to finance its activities without additional subordinated financial support from other parties;
- Equity holders either (a) lack direct or indirect ability to make decisions about the entity, (b) are not obligated to absorb expected losses of the entity or (c) do not have the rights to receive expected residual returns of the entity if they occur; or
- Equity holders have voting rights that are not proportionate to their economic interests, and the activities of the entity involved or are conducted on behalf of an investor with a disproportionately small voting interest.

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
June 30, 2016 and 2015

If an entity is deemed to be a VIE, the reporting entity that both has the power to direct activities that significantly impact the economic performance of the VIE and the obligation to absorb losses or receive benefits that could potentially be significant to the VIE is considered the primary beneficiary and must consolidate the VIE.

The Trust purchased LLC Class B Preferred Securities issued by DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III whose purpose was to acquire subordinated notes issued by DZ BANK. For further details on the transactions, see Note 1. As of June 30, 2016 and 2015, the Trust has determined that its investee is a VIE under ASC 810-10. Furthermore, the Trust has concluded that it is the primary beneficiary of the VIE and, therefore, the Trust has consolidated the VIE under ASC 810-10.

The Trust has not provided support to the VIE when it was not contractually obligated to do so.

6. FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

FASB ASC 820 “Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures” requires the disclosure of fair value information about financial instruments for which it is practicable to estimate that value, whether or not the instrument is recognized in the consolidated balance sheet. FASB ASC 825-10 excludes certain financial instruments from its disclosure requirements. The aggregate fair value amounts presented do not represent the underlying value of the Company.

A description of the valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities recorded at fair value, and for estimating fair value for financial instruments not recorded at fair value in accordance with ASC 820, is set forth below.

Accrued Interest Receivable

The carrying amount is a reasonable estimate of fair value.

Subordinated Note Receivable From DZ BANK

The fair value is based on the quoted market price of the Trust Preferred Securities, which are financial instruments that react to changes in market conditions in a similar way as the Subordinated Note Receivable from DZ BANK.

The estimated fair values of the Company’s financial instruments as of June 30, 2016 and 2015 are as follows:

	<u>June 30, 2016</u>		<u>June 30, 2015</u>	
	<u>Carrying Amount</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Carrying Amount</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>
Subordinated note receivable				
from DZ BANK	€ 350,003,000	€ 328,127,813	€ 350,003,000	€ 318,502,730

The estimated fair value amounts at June 30, 2016 and 2015 have not been reevaluated or updated for purposes of these consolidated financial statements subsequent to those respective dates. As such, the estimated fair values of these financial instruments subsequent to the respective reporting dates may be different than amounts reported at June 30, 2016 and 2015.

DZ BANK CAPITAL FUNDING TRUST III
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements
June 30, 2016 and 2015

7. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing these consolidated financial statements, the Company has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition and/or disclosure through August 19, 2016, the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued.

Responsibility Statement from the Legal Representatives

To the best of our knowledge, and in accordance with the applicable reporting principles for interim financial reporting, the interim financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company, and the interim management report of the company includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the company, together with a description of the principal opportunities and risks associated with the expected development of the company for the remaining months of the year.

New York, August 18, 2016

DZ BANK Capital Funding Trust III

Trustees



Carl Amendola



Norah McCann



Jonas Kelletshofer



Ralf Weingartner

DZ BANK Capital Funding Trust III

Wilmington, State of Delaware, United States of America

Semi-Annual Management Report of Financial Year 2016

Substantial Business Transactions

Important events which could influence the position of DZ BANK Capital Funding Trust III and DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III as its subsidiary (collectively, the "Company") have not occurred until preparation of the Financial Report.

Financial Position and Financial Performance

The assets of the Company in the amount of TEUR 350,304 (2015: TEUR 350,336) consist of the Subordinated Note Receivable from DZ BANK AG in the amount of TEUR 350,003 (2015: TEUR 350,003) and accrued interest on the Subordinated Note Receivable in the amount of TEUR 301 (2015: TEUR 333).

The Financial Performance of the fiscal year consists of Interest Income on the Subordinated Note Receivable from DZ BANK AG and shows a net income amounting to TEUR 2,323 (2015: TEUR 2,726).

At the same time, an amount of TEUR 2,356 (2015: TEUR 2,762) was passed through in the form of Trust capital payments for the Trust Preferred Securities to the owners of the Trust Preferred Securities.

Risk Report

Credit Risk

The Company is solely focused on passing through the interest payments, which have been received from DZ BANK AG, to the owners of Trust Preferred Securities in the form of Trust capital payments. Therefore, the financial performance of the Company depends on the interest payments of DZ BANK AG, whereby the assignment for passing through the interest payments to the owners of Trust Preferred Securities depends, amongst others, on certain tests in relation to the financial position of DZ BANK AG and DZ BANK Group.

The Trust commenced operations concurrent with the offering of 350,000 non-cumulative Trust Preferred Securities to various institutional buyers. The entire capital was used to acquire Class B Preferred Securities issued by DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III, which in turn used the proceeds to acquire subordinated notes issued by DZ BANK AG.

The LLC Class B Preferred Securities were redeemable at the option of DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III, in whole but not in part, on the Initial Redemption Date on June 06, 2012. DZ BANK Capital Funding LLC III did not make use of this option, but still has the option to redeem the Class B Preferred Securities, in whole but not in part, on any payment date thereafter.

Subject to the provisions contained in the Trust Agreement, upon redemption of the LLC Class B Preferred Securities, the Trust shall apply the Redemption Amount received in connection therewith to redeem pro rata the Trust Common Security and the Trust Preferred Securities. The Trust Preferred Securities will not have any scheduled maturity date and will not be redeemable at any time at the option of the holders thereof.

Accounting risks

Primary goal of the external accounting of the Company is the appropriate and timely provision of information for addressees of the financial statements and the management report. Therewith connected is the ambition to assure the correctness of the external accounting and for this reason to avoid the violation of accounting norms, which could lead to false information of the addressees or cause controlling errors.

As the Regular Trustees of DZ BANK Capital Funding Trust III are employees of DZ BANK AG, the regulation, monitoring, and control of the accounting is implemented into the general risk management system of DZ BANK AG. With regard to the financial statements and the management reporting, the accounting related risk management aims to avoid or reduce identified and valuated operational risks. In this regard, the activities of the employees, the implemented controls, the used technologies, and the workflows are organized in a manner to assure the compliance with the applicable statutory provisions.

The relevant methods which are used to prepare the financial statements are specified in an organization manual and are updated regularly.

Furthermore, the established processes are reviewed continuously and, if necessary, adjusted with regard to new circumstances as well as modified statutory provisions. To ensure and enhance the quality of the accounting, the employees assigned to the reporting process are trained regarding statutory provisions and IT-systems in use.

The correctness of the form and content as well as the consistent application of the instructions and rules by the employees involved in the accounting process are audited by an audit company within the scope of the statutory audit.

Forecast of the Financial Year 2016

The result for the next six months of the financial year 2016 of the Company is expected to be positive. It is assumed that in 2016 the Company will continue to pass through the interest payments received from DZ BANK AG to the owners of Trust Preferred Securities as the above mentioned certain tests in relation to the financial position of DZ BANK AG and DZ BANK Group are positive.