The Impact of MiFID II on Equity Trading

June 8, 2017

Executive Summary:

The Markets in Financial Instruments Directives II (MiFID II) is scheduled to go into effect in January 2018. Much of the discussion and debate so far has focused on the new requirements mandating the separation of research payments from trading commissions (unbundling). This will undoubtedly have a profound effect on the market for investment research. Receiving far less focus, however, is the other half of the unbundling equation—how related changes in trading services will impact the market.

With research fully unbundled from trading, asset managers will select their trading counterparties based solely on their trading prowess: execution performance, liquidity sourcing, algorithmic products, and overall service. MiFID II regulations also include new rules specifically addressing trading—including new pre- and post-trade requirements and regulations around dark pool caps and trading venues. Taken together, these new regulations have the potential to transform the trading landscape in Europe and beyond.

Methodology:

From March to April 2017, Greenwich Associates interviewed 55 buy-side traders and head traders based in Europe about expected changes to their trading workflow following the implementation of the MiFID II regulations in 2018.
The data reported in this document reflect solely the views reported to Greenwich Associates by the research participants. Interviewees may be asked about their use of and demand for financial products and services and about investment practices in relevant financial markets. Greenwich Associates compiles the data received, conducts statistical analysis and reviews for presentation purposes in order to produce the final results. Unless otherwise indicated, any opinions or market observations made are strictly our own.

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