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**FRANKLIN TEMPLETON CELEBRATES TWO YEARS AND HIGHLIGHTS MAJOR
ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE TAKING OVER FONDUL PROPRIETATEA**

Bucharest, 27 September 2012 – Franklin Templeton Investment Management Limited celebrates two years since taking over the mandate of investment manager and sole administrator of Fondul Proprietatea S.A. (“the Fund”) and underscores the main achievements of the past while also laying out plans for the future.

Dr. Mark Mobius, Executive Chairman of Templeton Emerging Markets Group, said: “This is an exciting time to both celebrate and reflect on our progress so far. We are extremely proud of our achievements and we remain committed to our long-term vision of unlocking value for FP’s shareholders. The success of the Fund depends to a large extent on the reform of state-owned companies. We look forward to an acceleration of the Government’s stock exchange listings calendar and implementation of professional management, which should contribute to a higher performance of these companies. We remain unchanged in our commitment to pursue the secondary listing on the Warsaw Stock Exchange (“WSE”), approved by shareholders on 27 June 2012. A secondary listing would be a major step forward in increasing the visibility of highly efficient and well-run Romanian companies in Eastern Europe. We strongly believe the Fund’s success will reflect positively on Romania’s attractiveness as an investment destination for the international community.”

Greg Konieczny, Fund Manager of Fondul Proprietatea, added: “Since we started managing the Fund two years ago, given the inherited portfolio holdings, we have inevitably begun a process of transforming the way state-owned companies are run. This process has not been without challenges, but we have made great strides in bringing important topics such as corporate governance, privatizations through the stock exchange and professional management into the public agenda. With the support of the Government, market regulators and the investor community, we certainly expect these goals to be fully realized in the near future, as they are crucial for fulfilling the potential of Romanian state-owned companies, including those in the Fund’s portfolio.”

Entering the third year of his mandate as Fund Manager of Fondul Proprietatea, Greg Konieczny outlines the investment team’s future plans: “We remain committed to our goal of

unlocking the value of the Fund for our shareholders and will continue our activist efforts to the benefit of both the Fund and Romania. In terms of future steps, our short-term priorities continue to be: (a) the execution of our second buy-back programme and (b) the successful listing on the WSE. Over the medium to long-term, we continue to actively encourage authorities and company management to carry on plans for implementing professional management in state-owned companies. With regard to Romania's privatizations plan, we certainly hope to see several important IPOs realized in the first half of 2013, which would send a positive signal to the market."

Vivek Kudva, Managing Director for India and Central & Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa (CEEMEA), added: "Given the breadth of Franklin Templeton local resources, we are able to maintain a strong level of commitment on the ground to achieve our long-term goals. We are proud of our dedicated team's accomplishments in managing Fondul Proprietatea, which is a unique and challenging mandate, but rewarding at the same time."

Some of the most significant highlights achieved in the first two years by Franklin Templeton were:

- Successfully listed Fondul Proprietatea on the Bucharest Stock Exchange (BVB) in January 2012 which significantly contributed to the liquidity, capitalization and trading volume of the Romanian capital market.
- The listing has raised awareness of Romania's attractiveness as an investment destination among large foreign institutional investors and, as a result, since Fondul's listing, the country benefited from more than EUR 700 million in portfolio investments from foreign investors in Fondul Proprietatea shares.
- Publicly advocated among government authorities for the listing of state-owned companies on the stock exchange, implementation of professional management and international corporate governance standards, as a means to unlock value, increase transparency, and allow for efficiency gains in these companies, many of which are part of the Fund's portfolio.
- Increased accountability, responsibility and corporate governance standards in portfolio companies by continuous oversight of the state-owned companies' management.
- Strongly engaged in shareholder activism efforts by challenging decisions detrimental to the best long-term interest of the Fund's shareholders and enhancing the Fund's position as minority shareholder.
- Performed a strategic review of investor demand, prepared a plan, and received shareholder approval to list the Fund on the WSE to increase the Fund's visibility and attract additional demand for the shares.
- Completed the first buy-back programme to repurchase 1.7% of the existing shares, and received authorization from shareholders for a second buy-back programme to repurchase an additional 7.9% of the existing shares.
- Performed dividend payments to the Fund's shareholders for financial years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 amounting to RON 2.039 billion or RON 0.15155 per share.
- Actively managed the Fund through periods of high volatility, with a view to protect and increase the value of the Fund.
- Lifted voting restrictions and introduced the principle of one share equal to one voting right, thus putting the Fund truly in the hands of its shareholders.
- Ongoing promotion of the Fund to a broad base of foreign institutional investors which included almost 500 bilateral meetings in 15 countries, as well as two special investor relations events for analysts and investors.
- Significantly improved transparency of the Fund and its portfolio companies to shareholders and the public through ongoing communication and disclosure about the Fund and its underlying companies.

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Launched in December 2005, Fondul Proprietatea ("the Fund") was established to compensate Romanians whose properties were confiscated by the former communist government. An international tender was announced in December 2008, and Franklin Templeton Investments officially took over as investment manager and sole administrator of the Fund on 29 September 2010. The Fund is a closed-end investment company with the investment objective of long-term capital appreciation through via investment primarily in Romanian equity securities.

Franklin Templeton established an office in Bucharest in May 2010, with a team of 27 employees, including 6 locally based investment professionals who are further supported by the over 40 portfolio managers and analysts of the wider Templeton Emerging Markets team.

Franklin Templeton Investment Management Limited is a subsidiary of Franklin Resources, Inc. [NYSE:BEN], a [global investment management](#) organization operating as Franklin Templeton Investments. Franklin Templeton Investments provides global and domestic investment management solutions managed by its Franklin, Templeton, Mutual Series, Darby and Bissett investment teams. The San Mateo, CA-based company has more than 60 years of investment experience and over \$731 billion in assets under management as of 31 August 2012. For more information, please visit www.franklintempleton.co.uk.

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