

DEUTSCHE BANK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Form FWP

December 23, 2015

Subject to Completion

Preliminary Term Sheet dated

December 23, 2015

Filed Pursuant to Rule 433

Registration Statement No. 333-206013

(To Prospectus dated July 31, 2015,

Prospectus Supplement dated July 31, 2015 and

Product Supplement STEPS-1 dated

September 15, 2015)

Units	Pricing Date*	January , 2016
\$10 principal amount per unit	Settlement Date*	January , 2016
Term Sheet No. STEPS-97	Maturity Date*	January , 2017
CUSIP No.	*Subject to change based on the actual date the notes are priced for initial sale to the public (the "pricing date")	

STEP Income Securities® Linked to the Common Stock of Ford Motor Company

- Maturity of approximately one year and one week
- Interest payable quarterly at the rate of 8.50% per year
- A payment of [\$0.10 to \$0.50] per unit if the Underlying Stock increases to or above 108.50% of the Starting Value
- 1-to-1 downside exposure to decreases in the Underlying Stock, with up to 100% of your principal at risk
- All payments on the notes subject to the credit risk of Deutsche Bank AG
- Limited secondary market liquidity, with no exchange listing

The notes are being issued by Deutsche Bank AG (“Deutsche Bank”) through its London Branch. There are important differences between the notes and a conventional debt security, including different investment risks and certain additional costs. See “Risk Factors” beginning on page TS-7 of this term sheet, page PS-6 of product supplement STEPS-1, page PS-5 of the prospectus supplement and page 12 of the prospectus.

The initial estimated value of the notes as of the pricing date is expected to be between \$9.46 and \$9.66 per unit, which is less than the public offering price listed below. See “Summary” on the following page, “Risk Factors” beginning on page TS-7 of this term sheet and “Structuring the Notes” on page TS-12 of this term sheet for additional information. The actual value of your notes at any time will reflect many factors and cannot be predicted with accuracy.

By acquiring the notes, you will be deemed to agree to be bound by any Resolution Measure imposed by our competent resolution authority. See “Consent to Potential Imposition of Resolution Measures” on page TS-3 of this term sheet.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), any state securities commission, or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this Note Prospectus (as defined below) is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	<u>Per Unit</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public offering price ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	\$10.000	\$
Underwriting discount ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	\$ 0.175	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to Deutsche Bank	\$ 9.825	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest from the scheduled settlement date, if settlement occurs after that date.

For any purchase of 500,000 units or more in a single transaction by an individual investor or in combined (2) transactions with the investor's household in this offering, the public offering price and the underwriting discount will be \$9.950 per unit and \$0.125 per unit, respectively. See “Supplement to the Plan of Distribution” below.

For any purchase by certain fee-based trusts and discretionary accounts managed by U.S. Trust operating through (3) Bank of America, N.A., the public offering price and underwriting discount will be \$9.825 per unit and \$0.000 per unit, respectively.

The notes:

**Are Not FDIC Insured Are Not Bank Guaranteed May Lose
Value**

Merrill Lynch & Co.

January , 2016

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Summary

The **STEP** Income Securities® Linked to the Common Stock of Ford Motor Company, due January , 2017 (the “notes”) are our senior unsecured obligations. The notes are not guaranteed or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or secured by collateral. **The notes will rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated debts except for debts required to be preferred by law. Any payments due on the notes, including any repayment of principal, will be subject to the credit risk of Deutsche Bank and to any Resolution Measure (as described herein) imposed by our competent resolution authority.** The notes provide quarterly interest payments. Additionally, if the Ending Value of the Underlying Stock, which is the common stock of Ford Motor Company, is at or above the Step Level, the notes will also provide a payment of [\$0.10 to \$0.50] per unit at maturity. If the Ending Value is less than the Step Level, the Redemption Amount will not be greater than your principal amount. If the Ending Value is less than the Starting Value, the Redemption Amount will be less than the principal amount of your notes, and may be as low as zero. Payments on the notes, including the amount you receive at maturity, will be calculated based on the \$10 principal amount per unit and will depend on the performance of the Underlying Stock, subject to our credit risk. See “Terms of the Notes” below.

On the cover page of this term sheet, we have provided the initial estimated value range for the notes. Our initial estimated value of the notes was determined based on our valuation of two theoretical components of the notes: (i) a theoretical bond component and (ii) a theoretical derivative component. The value of the bond component of the notes is calculated based on an internal funding rate, which is determined primarily based on the rates at which our conventional debt securities of comparable maturity may trade, adjusted to account for our funding needs and objectives for the period matching the term of the notes. The value of the derivative component is calculated based on our internal pricing models using relevant parameter inputs.

The economic terms of the notes (including the Step Payment) are based on the internal funding rate and the economic terms of certain related hedging arrangements. The internal funding rate is typically lower than the rate we would pay when we issue conventional debt securities on equivalent terms. This difference in funding rate, as well as the underwriting discount and the estimated cost of hedging our obligations under the notes (which includes the hedging related charge described below) will reduce the economic terms of the notes to you and the initial estimated value of the notes on the pricing date. Due to these factors, the public offering price you pay to purchase the notes will be greater than the initial estimated value of the notes. The initial estimated value of the notes calculated on the pricing date will be set forth in the final term sheet made available to investors in the notes. For more information about the initial estimated value and the structuring of the notes, see “Structuring the Notes” on page TS-12.

Terms of the Notes

Issuer: Deutsche Bank AG, London Branch
Principal Amount: \$10 per unit

Redemption Amount
Determination

In addition to interest payable, on the maturity date, you will receive a cash payment per unit determined

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Term: Approximately one year and one week as follows:

Underlying Stock: Common stock of Ford Motor Company (the “Underlying Company”) (NYSE symbol: F)

Starting Value: The Volume Weighted Average Price on the pricing date.

Volume Weighted Average Price: The volume weighted average price (rounded to two decimal places) shown on page “AQR” on Bloomberg L.P. for trading in shares of the Underlying Stock taking place from approximately 9:30 a.m. to 4:02 p.m. on all U.S. exchanges.

Ending Value: The Closing Market Price of the Underlying Stock on the valuation date, multiplied by the Price Multiplier. The valuation date is subject to postponement in the event of Market Disruption Events, as described beginning on page PS-20 of product supplement STEPS-1.

Valuation Date: Approximately the fifth scheduled trading day immediately prior to the maturity date.

Interest Rate: 8.50% per year

Interest Payment Dates: April , 2016, July , 2016, October , 2016 and January , 2017.

Step Payment: [\$0.10 to \$0.50] per unit, which represents a return of [1% to 5%] of the principal amount. The actual Step Payment will be determined on the pricing date.

Step Level: 108.50% of the Starting Value, rounded to two decimal places.

Threshold Value: 100% of the Starting Value

Fees and Charges: The underwriting discount of \$0.175 per unit listed on the cover page and the hedging related charge of \$0.075 per unit described in “Structuring the Notes” on page TS-12.

Price Multiplier: 1, subject to adjustment for certain corporate events relating to the Underlying Stock described beginning on page PS-22 of product supplement STEPS-1.

Calculation Agent: Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (“MLPF&S”) and Deutsche Bank, acting jointly.

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The terms and risks of the notes are contained in this term sheet and in the following:

§ Product supplement STEPS-1 dated September 15, 2015:

http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1159508/000095010315007381/dp58429_424b2-steps1.htm

§ Prospectus supplement dated July 31, 2015:

http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1159508/000095010315006048/crt-dp58161_424b2.pdf

§ Prospectus dated July 31, 2015:

<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1159508/000119312515273165/d40464d424b2.htm>

These documents (together, the “Note Prospectus”) have been filed as part of a registration statement with the SEC, which may, without cost, be accessed on the SEC website as indicated above or obtained from MLPF&S by calling 1-800-294-1322.

Before you invest, you should read the Note Prospectus, including this term sheet, for information about us and this offering. Any prior or contemporaneous oral statements and any other written materials you may have received are superseded by the Note Prospectus. Capitalized terms used but not defined in this term sheet have the meanings set forth in product supplement STEPS-1. Unless otherwise indicated or unless the context requires otherwise, all references in this document to “we,” “us,” “our,” or similar references are to Deutsche Bank.

Consent to Potential Imposition of Resolution Measures

Under the German Recovery and Resolution Act, which became effective on January 1, 2015, the notes may be subject to any Resolution Measure by our competent resolution authority under relevant German and/or European law if we become, or are deemed by our competent supervisory authority to have become, “non-viable” (as defined under the then applicable law) and are unable to continue our regulated banking activities without a Resolution Measure becoming applicable to us. A “**Resolution Measure**” may include: (i) a write down, including to zero, of any payment (or delivery obligations) on the notes; (ii) a conversion of the notes into ordinary shares or other instruments qualifying as core equity tier 1 capital; and/or (iii) any other resolution measure, including (but not limited to) a transfer of the notes to another entity, an amendment of the terms and conditions of the notes or the cancellation of the notes. By acquiring the notes, you will be deemed to agree:

to be bound by any Resolution Measure,

that you would have no claim or other right against us, the trustee and the paying agent arising out of any Resolution Measure, and

that the imposition of any Resolution Measure will not constitute a default or an event of default under the notes, under the senior indenture or for the purpose of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as set forth in the accompanying prospectus dated July 31, 2015.

Please read "Risk Factors" in this term sheet and see the accompanying prospectus for further information.

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Investor Considerations

You may wish to consider an investment in the notes if:

§ You anticipate that the Ending Value will be greater than or equal to the Starting Value.

§ You seek interest payments on your investment.

§ You accept that the maximum return on the notes is limited to the sum of the quarterly interest payments and the Step Payment, if any.

§ You accept that your investment may result in a loss, which could be significant, if the Ending Value is below the Starting Value.

§ You are willing to forgo dividends or other benefits of owning shares of the Underlying Stock.

§ You are willing to accept a limited or no market for sales prior to maturity, and understand that the market prices for the notes, if any, will be affected by various factors, including our actual and perceived creditworthiness, the internal funding rate and fees and charges on the notes.

§ You are willing to assume our credit risk, as issuer of the notes, for all payments under the notes, including the Redemption Amount.

§ You are willing to consent to be bound by any Resolution Measure imposed by our competent resolution authority.

The notes may not be an appropriate investment for you if:

§ You anticipate that the Ending Value will be less than the Starting Value.

§ You anticipate that the price of the Underlying Stock will increase substantially and do not want a payment at maturity that is limited to the Step Payment.

§ You seek principal repayment or preservation of capital.

§ In addition to interest payments, you seek an additional guaranteed return above the principal amount.

§ You seek to receive dividends or other distributions paid on the Underlying Stock.

§ You seek an investment for which there will be a liquid secondary market.

§ You are unwilling or are unable to take market risk on the notes or to take our credit risk as issuer of the notes.

§ You are unwilling to consent to be bound by any Resolution Measure imposed by our competent resolution authority.

We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting, and other advisors before you invest in the notes.

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Hypothetical Payments at Maturity

The following examples are for purposes of illustration only. They are based on **hypothetical** values and show **hypothetical** payments on the notes. **The actual amount you receive and the resulting return will depend on the actual Starting Value, Threshold Value, Ending Value, Step Level, Step Payment, and term of your investment.** The following examples do not take into account any tax consequences from investing in the notes. These examples are based on:

- 1) a Starting Value of 100;
- 2) a Threshold Value of 100;
- 3) a Step Level of 108.50;
- 4) a Step Payment of \$0.30 per unit (the midpoint of the Step Payment range of [\$0.10 to \$0.50] per unit);
- 5) an expected term of the notes of approximately one year and one week; and
- 6) the interest rate of 8.50% per year.

The **hypothetical** Starting Value of 100 used in these examples has been chosen for illustrative purposes only, and does not represent a likely actual Starting Value of the Underlying Stock. For recent actual prices of the Underlying Stock, see “The Underlying Stock” section below. In addition, all payments on the notes are subject to issuer credit risk.

Example 1

The Ending Value is 115 (115% of the Starting Value)

The Ending Value is greater than the Step Level. Consequently, in addition to the quarterly interest payments, you will receive on the maturity date the principal amount of your notes plus the Step Payment of \$0.30 per unit. The Redemption Amount per unit on the maturity date will therefore be equal to \$10.30 per unit (\$10.00 plus the Step

Payment of \$0.30 per unit).

Example 2

The Ending Value is 105 (105% of the Starting Value)

The Ending Value is greater than the Starting Value and the Threshold Value but below the Step Level. Consequently, you will receive the quarterly interest payments, but you will not receive the Step Payment on the maturity date. The Redemption Amount per unit on the maturity date will therefore be equal to \$10.00.

Example 3

The Ending Value is 70 (70% of the Starting Value)

The Ending Value is less than the Starting Value and the Threshold Value. Consequently, you will receive the quarterly interest payments, but you will not receive the Step Payment on the maturity date, and you will participate on a 1-for-1 basis in the decrease in the price of the Underlying Stock. The Redemption Amount per unit will equal:

On the maturity date, you will receive the Redemption Amount per unit of \$7.00.

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Summary of the Hypothetical Examples

	Example 1 The Ending Value is greater than or equal to the Step Level	Example 2 The Ending Value is less than the Step Level but greater than or equal to the Starting Value	Example 3 The Ending Value is less than the Starting Value and the Threshold Value
Starting Value	100.00	100.00	100.00
Ending Value	115.00	105.00	70.00
Step Level	108.50	108.50	108.50
Threshold Value	100.00	100.00	100.00
Interest Rate (per year)	8.50%	8.50%	8.50%
Step Payment	\$0.30	\$0.00	\$0.00
Redemption Amount per Unit	\$10.30	\$10.00	\$7.00
Total Return of the Underlying Stock ⁽¹⁾	19.43%	9.43%	-25.57%
Total Return on the Notes ⁽²⁾	11.59%	8.59%	-21.41%

(1) The total return of the Underlying Stock assumes:

- (a) the percentage change in the price of the Underlying Stock from the Starting Value to the Ending Value;
- (b) a constant dividend yield of 4.38% per year;
- (c) no transaction fees or expenses; and
- (d) a term of approximately one year and one week.

⁽²⁾ The total return on the notes includes interest paid on the notes and assumes an expected term of the notes of approximately one year and one week.

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Risk Factors

There are important differences between the notes and a conventional debt security. An investment in the notes involves significant risks, including those listed below. You should carefully review the more detailed explanation of risks relating to the notes in the “Risk Factors” sections beginning on page PS-6 of product supplement STEPS-1, page PS-5 of the prospectus supplement and page 12 of the prospectus identified above. We also urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting, and other advisors before you invest in the notes.

§ Depending on the performance of the Underlying Stock as measured shortly before the maturity date, your investment may result in a loss; there is no guaranteed return of principal.

§ Your return on the notes may be less than the yield you could earn by owning a conventional fixed or floating rate debt security of comparable maturity.

§ Payments on the notes are subject to our credit risk, and any actual or perceived changes in our creditworthiness are expected to affect the value of the notes. If we become insolvent or are unable to pay our obligations, you may lose your entire investment.

§ The notes may become subordinated to the claims of other creditors, be written down to zero, be converted into equity or other instruments or become subject to other Resolution Measures. You may lose some or all of your investment if any such measure becomes applicable to us. The imposition of any Resolution Measure does not constitute a default or an event of default under the notes, the senior indenture or for the purpose of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 or give you any other right to accelerate or terminate the notes. You may have limited or circumscribed rights to challenge any decision of our competent resolution authority to impose any Resolution Measure. *Please see “Consent to Potential Imposition of Resolution Measures” in this term sheet and the risk factors under the heading “Securities May Be Subject to Resolution Measures” beginning on page 12 of the accompanying prospectus for more information.*

§ You will not receive a Step Payment at maturity unless the Ending Value is greater than or equal to the Step Level.

§ Your investment return is limited to the return represented by the periodic interest payments over the term of the notes and the Step Payment, if any, and may be less than a comparable investment directly in the Underlying Stock.

§ The initial estimated value of the notes is an estimate only, determined as of a particular point in time by reference to an internal funding rate and our pricing models. The internal funding rate is typically lower than the rate we would pay when we issue conventional debt securities of comparable maturity. As a result of this difference, the initial estimated value of the notes would likely be lower if it were based on the rate we would pay when we issue

conventional debt securities of comparable maturity. This difference in funding rate, as well as the underwriting discount and the estimated cost of hedging our obligations under the notes (which includes the hedging related charge described below), reduces the economic terms of the notes to you.

Our internal pricing models consider relevant parameter inputs such as expected interest and dividend rates and mid-market levels of price and volatility of the assets underlying the notes or any futures, options or swaps related to such underlying assets. Our pricing models are proprietary and rely in part on certain forecasts about future events, which may prove to be incorrect. Because our pricing models may differ from other financial institutions' valuation models, and because funding rates taken into account by other financial institutions (including those with similar creditworthiness) may vary materially from the internal funding rate used by us, our initial estimated value of the notes may not be comparable to the initial estimated values of similar notes of other financial institutions.

The public offering price you pay for the notes will exceed the initial estimated value. The difference is due to the inclusion in the public offering price of the underwriting discount and the estimated cost of hedging our obligations under the notes (which includes the hedging related charge described below), all as further described in "Structuring the Notes" on page TS-12. These factors are expected to reduce the price at which you may be able to sell the notes in any secondary market and, together with various credit, market and economic factors over the term of the notes, including changes in the price of the Underlying Stock, will affect the value of the notes in complex and unpredictable ways.

The initial estimated value of the notes on the pricing date does not represent the price at which we, MLPF&S, or any of our respective affiliates would be willing to purchase your notes in the secondary market at any time. Assuming no changes in market conditions or our creditworthiness and other relevant factors, the price, if any, at which we, MLPF&S, or any of our respective affiliates would be willing to purchase the notes from you in secondary market transactions, if at all, would generally be lower than both the public offering price and the initial estimated value of the notes on the pricing date. MLPF&S has advised us that any repurchases by them or their affiliates will be made at prices determined by reference to their pricing models and at their discretion. These prices will include MLPF&S's trading commissions and mark-ups and may differ materially from the initial estimated value of the notes determined by reference to our internal funding rate and pricing models.

A trading market is not expected to develop for the notes. None of us, MLPF&S, or any of our respective affiliates is obligated to make a market for, or to repurchase, the notes. There is no assurance that any party will be willing to purchase your notes at any price in any secondary market.

Our business, hedging and trading activities, and those of MLPF&S and our respective affiliates (including trading in shares of the Underlying Stock), and any hedging and trading activities we, MLPF&S or our respective affiliates engage in for our clients' accounts, may affect the market value and return of the notes and may create conflicts of interest with you. Our economic

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interests in determining the initial estimated value of the notes on the pricing date and the price, if any, at which we or our affiliates would be willing to purchase the notes from you in secondary market transactions, are potentially adverse to your interests as an investor in the notes.

§ The Underlying Company will have no obligations relating to the notes, and neither we nor MLPF&S will perform any due diligence procedures with respect to the Underlying Company in connection with this offering.

§ You will have no rights of a holder of the Underlying Stock, and you will not be entitled to receive shares of the Underlying Stock or dividends or other distributions by the Underlying Company.

While we, MLPF&S or our respective affiliates may from time to time own securities of the Underlying Company, § we, MLPF&S and our respective affiliates do not control the Underlying Company, and have not verified any disclosure made by the Underlying Company.

§ The Redemption Amount will not be adjusted for all corporate events that could affect the Underlying Stock. See “Description of the Notes—Anti-Dilution Adjustments” beginning on page PS-22 of product supplement STEPS-1.

§ There may be potential conflicts of interest involving the calculation agent. We have the right to appoint and remove the calculation agent.

There is substantial uncertainty regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes. § See “Summary Tax Consequences” below and “U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences” beginning on page PS-31 of product supplement STEPS-1.

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The Underlying Stock

We have derived the following information from publicly available documents. We have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the following information. Ford Motor Company designs, manufactures and services cars and trucks. The company also provides vehicle-related financing, leasing and insurance through its subsidiary.

Because the Underlying Stock is registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Underlying Company is required to file periodically certain financial and other information specified by the SEC. Information provided to or filed with the SEC by the Underlying Company can be located at the Public Reference Section of the SEC, 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549 or through the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov> by reference to SEC CIK number 37996.

This term sheet relates only to the notes and does not relate to the Underlying Stock or to any other securities of the Underlying Company. The Underlying Company will have no obligations with respect to the notes. None of us, MLPF&S, or any of our respective affiliates has participated or will participate in the preparation of the Underlying Company's publicly available documents. None of us, MLPF&S, or any of our respective affiliates has made any due diligence inquiry with respect to the Underlying Company in connection with the offering of the notes. None of us, MLPF&S, or any of our respective affiliates makes any representation that the publicly available documents or any other publicly available information regarding the Underlying Company are accurate or complete. Furthermore, there can be no assurance that all events occurring prior to the date of this term sheet, including events that would affect the accuracy or completeness of these publicly available documents that would affect the trading price of the Underlying Stock, have been or will be publicly disclosed. Subsequent disclosure of any events or the disclosure of or failure to disclose material future events concerning the Underlying Company could affect the price of the Underlying Stock and therefore could affect your return on the notes. The selection of the Underlying Stock is not a recommendation to buy or sell the Underlying Stock.

The Underlying Stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "F."

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Historical Data

The following table shows the quarterly high and low Closing Market Prices of the shares of the Underlying Stock on its primary exchange from the first quarter of 2008 through December 31, 2015. We obtained this historical data from Bloomberg L.P. We have not independently verified the accuracy or completeness of the information obtained from Bloomberg L.P. These historical trading prices may have been adjusted to reflect certain corporate actions such as stock splits and reverse stock splits.

	<u>High (\$)</u>	<u>Low (\$)</u>
2008		
First Quarter	6.85	5.11
Second Quarter	8.48	4.81
Third Quarter	6.03	4.17
Fourth Quarter	4.55	1.26
2009		
First Quarter	2.94	1.58
Second Quarter	6.41	2.74
Third Quarter	8.44	5.35
Fourth Quarter	10.20	6.84
2010		
First Quarter	14.10	10.28
Second Quarter	14.46	9.88
Third Quarter	13.16	10.16
Fourth Quarter	17.00	12.26
2011		
First Quarter	18.79	14.01
Second Quarter	15.79	12.78
Third Quarter	14.12	9.62
Fourth Quarter	12.51	9.37
2012		
First Quarter	12.96	11.13
Second Quarter	12.64	9.59
Third Quarter	10.59	8.92
Fourth Quarter	12.95	9.79
2013		
First Quarter	14.30	12.13
Second Quarter	15.90	12.44
Third Quarter	17.66	15.74
Fourth Quarter	17.76	15.15
2014		
First Quarter	16.73	14.55
Second Quarter	17.28	15.46
Third Quarter	17.84	14.79

Fourth Quarter 2015	16.01	13.54
First Quarter	16.57	14.46
Second Quarter	16.07	14.78
Third Quarter	15.21	12.90
Fourth Quarter (through December 21, 2015)	15.68	13.62

This historical data on the Underlying Stock is not necessarily indicative of the future performance of the Underlying Stock or what the value of the notes may be. Any historical upward or downward trend in the price per share of the Underlying Stock during any period set forth above is not an indication that the price per share of the Underlying Stock is more or less likely to increase or decrease at any time over the term of the notes.

Before investing in the notes, you should consult publicly available sources for the prices and trading pattern of the Underlying Stock.

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Supplement to the Plan of Distribution

Under our distribution agreement with MLPF&S, MLPF&S will purchase the notes from us as principal at the public offering price indicated on the cover of this term sheet, less the indicated underwriting discount.

We may deliver the notes against payment therefor in New York, New York on a date that is greater than three business days following the pricing date. Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in three business days, unless the parties to any such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, if the initial settlement of the notes occurs more than three business days from the pricing date, purchasers who wish to trade the notes more than three business days prior to the original issue date will be required to specify alternative settlement arrangements to prevent a failed settlement.

The notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. In the original offering of the notes, the notes will be sold in minimum investment amounts of 100 units. If you place an order to purchase the notes, you are consenting to MLPF&S acting as a principal in effecting the transaction for your account.

MLPF&S will not receive an underwriting discount for notes sold to certain fee-based trusts and fee-based discretionary accounts managed by U.S. Trust operating through Bank of America, N.A.

MLPF&S has advised us that they or their affiliates may repurchase and resell the notes, with repurchases and resales being made at prices related to then-prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices, and these prices will include MLPF&S's trading commissions and mark-ups. MLPF&S may act as principal or agent in these market-making transactions; however, it is not obligated to engage in any such transactions. At MLPF&S's discretion, for a short, undetermined initial period after the issuance of the notes, MLPF&S may offer to buy the notes in the secondary market at a price that may exceed the estimated value of the notes at the time of repurchase. Any price offered by MLPF&S for the notes will be based on then-prevailing market conditions and other considerations, including the performance of the Underlying Stock, the remaining term of the notes, and our creditworthiness. However, none of us, MLPF&S, or any of our respective affiliates is obligated to purchase your notes at any price or at any time, and we cannot assure you that we, MLPF&S, or any of our respective affiliates will purchase your notes at a price that equals or exceeds the estimated value of the notes at the time of repurchase.

MLPF&S has also advised us that, if you hold your notes in a MLPF&S account, the value of the notes shown on your account statement will be based on MLPF&S's estimate of the value of the notes if MLPF&S or another of its affiliates were to make a market in the notes, which it is not obligated to do. That estimate will be based upon the price that MLPF&S may pay for the notes in light of then-prevailing market conditions, and other considerations, as mentioned

above, and will include transaction costs. This price may be higher than or lower than the initial estimated value of the notes.

The distribution of the Note Prospectus in connection with these offers or sales will be solely for the purpose of providing investors with the description of the terms of the notes that was made available to investors in connection with their initial offering. Secondary market investors should not, and will not be authorized to, rely on the Note Prospectus for information regarding Deutsche Bank or for any purpose other than that described in the immediately preceding sentence.

An investor's household, as referenced on the cover of this term sheet, will generally include accounts held by any of the following, as determined by MLPF&S in its discretion and acting in good faith based upon information then available to MLPF&S:

the investor's spouse (including a domestic partner), siblings, parents, grandparents, spouse's parents, children and grandchildren, but excluding accounts held by aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews or any other family relationship not directly above or below the individual investor;

a family investment vehicle, including foundations, limited partnerships and personal holding companies, but only if the beneficial owners of the vehicle consist solely of the investor or members of the investor's household as described above;

a trust where the grantors and/or beneficiaries of the trust consist solely of the investor or members of the investor's household as described above; provided that, purchases of the notes by a trust generally cannot be aggregated together with any purchases made by a trustee's personal account.

Purchases in retirement accounts will not be considered part of the same household as an individual investor's personal or other non-retirement account, except for individual retirement accounts ("IRAs"), simplified employee pension plans ("SEPs"), savings incentive match plan for employees ("SIMPLEs"), and single-participant or owners only accounts (i.e., retirement accounts held by self-employed individuals, business owners or partners with no employees other than their spouses).

Please contact your Merrill Lynch financial advisor if you have any questions about the application of these provisions to your specific circumstances or think you are eligible.

STEP Income Securities®

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Structuring the Notes

The notes are our debt securities, the return on which is linked to the performance of the Underlying Stock. As is the case for all of our debt securities, including our market-linked notes, the economic terms of the notes reflect our actual or perceived creditworthiness at the time of pricing. The internal funding rate we use in pricing the market-linked note is typically lower than the rate we would pay when we issue conventional debt securities of comparable maturity. This generally relatively lower internal funding rate, which is reflected in the economic terms of the notes, along with the fees and charges associated with market-linked notes, typically results in the initial estimated value of the notes on the pricing date being less than their public offering price.

Payments on the notes, including the interest payments on the notes and the Redemption Amount, will be calculated based on the \$10 principal amount per unit. The Redemption Amount will depend on the performance of the Underlying Stock. We are also required to make the interest payments on the notes. In order to meet these payment obligations, at the time we issue the notes, we expect to enter into certain hedging arrangements (which may include call options, put options or other derivatives) with MLPF&S or one of its affiliates. The terms of these hedging arrangements are determined by seeking bids from market participants, which may include us, MLPF&S and one of our respective affiliates, and take into account a number of factors, including our creditworthiness, interest rate movements, the volatility of the Underlying Stock, the tenor of the notes and the tenor of the hedging arrangements. The economic terms of the notes and their initial estimated value depend in part on the terms of these hedging arrangements.

MLPF&S has advised us that the hedging arrangements will include a hedging related charge of approximately \$0.075 per unit, reflecting an estimated profit to be credited to MLPF&S from these transactions. Since hedging entails risk and may be influenced by unpredictable market forces, additional profits and losses from these hedging arrangements may be realized by us, MLPF&S or any other hedge providers.

For further information, see “Risk Factors—General Risks Relating to the Notes” beginning on page PS-6 and “Use of Proceeds and Hedging” on page PS-17 of product supplement STEPS-1.

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Summary Tax Consequences

Due to the lack of direct legal authority, there is substantial uncertainty regarding the U.S. federal income tax consequences of an investment in the notes. In determining our responsibilities, if any, for information reporting and withholding, we expect to treat a note for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a prepaid financial contract that is not debt, with associated periodic payments, with the consequences described below. Our special tax counsel, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, believes that this treatment is reasonable, but has advised that it is unable to conclude that it is more likely than not that this treatment will be upheld, and that alternative treatments are possible that could materially and adversely affect the timing and character of income or loss on your notes. Generally, if this treatment is respected, upon a taxable disposition of a note (including at maturity), you should recognize gain or loss equal to the difference between the amount you realize (other than any periodic payment or sales proceeds attributable to an accrued periodic payment) and the amount you paid to acquire the note. Your gain or loss generally should be capital gain or loss, and should be long-term capital gain or loss if you have held the note for more than one year, although the treatment of any Step Payment is uncertain, as discussed below.

In determining our information reporting responsibilities, if any, we intend to treat periodic payments to U.S. holders (and any sales proceeds attributable to an accrued but unpaid periodic payment) as ordinary income. Insofar as we have responsibility as a withholding agent, we expect to treat periodic payments on the notes made to a non-U.S. holder (and any sales proceeds attributable to an accrued but unpaid periodic payment) as U.S.-source income, subject to withholding at a rate of 30% absent a claim for an exemption or reduction under an applicable income tax treaty.

Due to the lack of direct legal authority, even if a note is treated as a prepaid financial contract that is not debt, with associated periodic payments, there remain substantial uncertainties regarding the tax consequences of owning and disposing of it. For instance, you might be required to include amounts in income during the term of the note in addition to the periodic payments you receive and/or to treat all or a portion of your gain or loss on its taxable disposition (in addition to any amounts attributable to an unpaid periodic payment, as discussed above) as ordinary income or loss or as short-term capital gain or loss, without regard to how long you have held it. In particular, a Step Payment could be treated as an item of ordinary income.

In 2007, the U.S. Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service released a notice requesting comments on various issues regarding the U.S. federal income tax treatment of “prepaid forward contracts” and similar instruments. The notice focuses in particular on whether beneficial owners of these instruments should be required to accrue income over the term of their investment. It also asks for comments on a number of related topics, including the character of income or loss with respect to these instruments; the relevance of factors such as the nature of the underlying property to which the instruments are linked; the degree, if any, to which income (including any mandated accruals) realized by non-U.S. persons should be subject to withholding tax; and whether these instruments are or should be subject to the “constructive ownership” regime, which very generally can operate to recharacterize certain long-term capital gain as ordinary income and impose a notional interest charge. While the notice requests comments on appropriate transition rules and effective dates, any Treasury regulations or other guidance promulgated after

consideration of these issues could materially and adversely affect the tax consequences of an investment in the notes, possibly with retroactive effect.

It would be prudent to assume that an applicable withholding agent will treat periodic payments on the notes as potentially subject to withholding under FATCA. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the section of the accompanying product supplement entitled “U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences,” under a recent IRS notice, withholding under FATCA will not apply to payments of gross proceeds (other than any amount treated as interest) from the taxable disposition, including redemption at maturity, of the notes. You should consult your tax adviser regarding the potential application of FATCA to the notes.

Non-U.S. holders should note that, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the section of the accompanying product supplement entitled “U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences,” recently promulgated Treasury regulations imposing a withholding tax on certain “dividend equivalents” under certain “equity linked instruments” will not apply to the notes.

You should review carefully the section of the accompanying product supplement entitled “U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences.” The preceding discussion, when read in combination with that section, constitutes the full opinion of our special tax counsel regarding the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of owning and disposing of the notes.

Under current law, the United Kingdom will not impose withholding tax on payments made with respect to the notes.

For a discussion of certain German tax considerations relating to the notes, you should refer to the section in the accompanying prospectus supplement entitled “Taxation by Germany of Non-Resident Holders.”

You should consult your tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal tax consequences of an investment in the notes (including possible alternative treatments and the issues presented by the 2007 notice), as well as tax consequences arising under the laws of any state, local or non-U.S. taxing jurisdiction.

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Where You Can Find More Information

We have filed a registration statement (including a product supplement, a prospectus supplement and a prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this term sheet relates. Before you invest, you should read the Note Prospectus, including this term sheet, and the other documents that we have filed with the SEC, for more complete information about us and this offering. You may get these documents without cost by visiting EDGAR on the SEC website at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, we, any agent, or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you these documents if you so request by calling MLPF&S toll-free at 1-800-294-1322.

Market-Linked Investments Classification

MLPF&S has advised us that it classifies certain market-linked investments (the “Market-Linked Investments”) into categories, each with different investment characteristics. The following description is meant solely for informational purposes and is not intended to represent any particular Enhanced Income Market-Linked Investment or guarantee any performance.

Enhanced Income Market-Linked Investments are short- to medium-term market-linked notes that offer you a way to enhance your income stream, either through variable or fixed-interest coupons, an added payout at maturity based on the performance of the linked asset, or both. In exchange for receiving current income, you will generally forfeit upside potential on the linked asset. Even so, the prospect of higher interest payments and/or an additional payout may equate to a higher return potential than you may be able to find through other fixed-income securities. Enhanced Income Market-Linked Investments generally do not include market downside protection. The degree to which your principal is repaid at maturity is generally determined by the performance of the linked asset. Although enhanced income streams may help offset potential declines in the asset, you can still lose part or all of your original investment.

“**STEP** Income Securities®” and “**STEPS**” are the registered service marks of Bank of America Corporation, the parent company of MLPF&S.