

XL CAPITAL LTD
Form 424B2
August 20, 2004

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424B2
Registration No. 333-116245

Prospectus Supplement
(To Prospectus Dated August 6, 2004)

\$300,000,000

XL Capital Ltd

5.25% Senior Notes due 2014

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

The senior notes will be issued by XL Capital Ltd, a Cayman Islands exempted limited company. The senior notes will mature on September 15, 2014. Interest on the senior notes is payable on March 15 and September 15 of each year, beginning March 15, 2005. We may redeem the senior notes in whole at any time, or in part from time to time, at a make-whole redemption price described in this prospectus supplement. We may redeem the senior notes in whole, but not in part, at any time upon the occurrence of certain tax events as described in this prospectus supplement.

The senior notes will be unsecured and rank equally with all our existing and future unsecured senior debt. The senior notes will be junior to all our future secured debt and rank senior to all our future subordinated debt, in each case, when, and if, issued. The senior notes will be structurally subordinated to losses and loss expenses and other obligations of our subsidiaries.

Investing in the senior notes involves risks. See **□Risk Factors□** on page S-3.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

	Per Senior Note	Total
Initial public offering price	99.432%	\$ 298,296,000
Underwriting discount	0.450%	\$ 1,350,000
Proceeds, before expenses, to XL Capital Ltd	98.982%	\$ 296,946,000

Interest on the senior notes will accrue from August 23, 2004 to the date of delivery.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

The underwriters expect to deliver the senior notes on or about August 23, 2004.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

*Joint Book-Running Managers***Morgan Stanley****Lehman Brothers**

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

August 18, 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>		<u>Page</u>
Prospectus Supplement Summary	S-1	About This Prospectus	1
Risk Factors	S-3	Where You Can Find More Information	1
Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements	S-4	Incorporation of Documents by Reference	2
Use of Proceeds	S-6	XL Capital Ltd	3
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	S-7	XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc	3
Capitalization	S-8	The Trusts	3
Selected Consolidated Financial Data	S-10	Use of Proceeds	4
Description of the Senior Notes	S-12	Accounting Treatment Relating to Trust Securities	4
Book-Entry; Delivery and Form	S-17	Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preference	
Certain Tax Consequences	S-19	Ordinary Share Dividends	4
Underwriters	S-21	General Description of the Offered Securities	5
Legal Matters	S-22	Description of XL Capital Share Capital	5
Experts	S-22	Description of XL Capital Preference Ordinary Shares	6
Incorporation of Documents by Reference	S-22	Description of XL Capital Ordinary Shares	9
		Description of XL Capital Ordinary Share Warrants	11
		Description of XL Capital Ordinary Share Purchase	
		Contracts and Ordinary Share Purchase Units	13
		Description of XL Capital Debt Securities	14
		Description of XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc	
		Senior Debt Securities	27
		Description of the Trust Preferred Securities	38
		Description of the Trust Preferred	
		Securities Guarantees	50
		Description of the Subordinated Deferrable Interest	
		Debentures	54
		Plan of Distribution	61
		Legal Matters	64
		Experts	64
		Enforcement of Civil Liabilities Under United States	
		Federal Securities Laws	64

You should read this prospectus supplement along with the accompanying prospectus carefully before you invest. Both documents contain important information you should consider when making your investment decision. This prospectus supplement contains specific details regarding this offering and the accompanying prospectus contains information about our securities generally, some of which does not apply to this offering. This prospectus supplement may add, update or change information in the accompanying prospectus. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, on the one hand, and the information contained or incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus, on the other hand, you should rely on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement.

No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representations. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are an offer to sell only the senior notes offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is current only as of its date.

The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering and sale of the senior notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. XL Capital Ltd and the underwriters require persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus come to inform themselves about and to observe any such restrictions. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute an offer of, or an invitation to purchase, any of the senior notes in any jurisdiction in which such offer or invitation would be unlawful.

XL Capital Ltd is prohibited from making any invitation to the public of the Cayman Islands to purchase the senior notes. Non-resident or exempted companies or other non-resident or exempted entities established in the Cayman Islands, however, may purchase the senior notes.

In this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, references to "dollar" and "\$" are to United States currency, and the terms "United States" and "U.S." mean the United States of America, its states, its territories, its possessions and all areas subject to its jurisdiction.

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights information contained elsewhere, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. This summary does not contain all of the information that you should consider before investing in our senior notes. You should read carefully this entire prospectus supplement, including the "Risk Factors" section, and the accompanying prospectus, and the information incorporated by reference, which is described under "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying prospectus. In this prospectus supplement, "XL Capital", "we", "our", "ours" and "us" refer to XL Capital Ltd unless the context otherwise requires.

XL Capital Ltd

We, together with our subsidiaries, are a leading provider of insurance and reinsurance coverages and financial products and services to industrial, commercial and professional service firms, insurance companies and other enterprises on a worldwide basis.

Our principal executive offices are located at XL House, One Bermudiana Road, Hamilton, Bermuda HM11. Our telephone number is (441) 292-8515. Our website is www.xlcapital.com. The information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

You can also obtain additional information about us in the reports and other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. See "Incorporation of Documents by Reference" in this prospectus supplement and "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Documents by Reference" in the accompanying prospectus.

S-1

THE OFFERING

Issuer	XL Capital Ltd
Notes	\$ 300,000,000 aggregate principal amount of 5.25% Senior Notes due 2014

Maturity September 15, 2014

Interest Payment Dates March 15 and September 15 of each year, commencing on March 15, 2005

Ranking The senior notes will be our unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will rank equal in right of payment with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

As of June 30, 2004, the aggregate amount of our outstanding consolidated indebtedness for money borrowed was approximately \$2.7 billion. All such outstanding indebtedness is unsecured and unsubordinated. The senior notes will be structurally subordinated to losses and loss expenses and other obligations of our subsidiaries. As of June 30, 2004, the aggregate amount of indebtedness for money borrowed of our subsidiaries (other than XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc), which would effectively rank senior to the senior notes, was
 \$ 355.0 million.

Optional Redemption We may redeem the senior notes, in whole at any time, or in part from time to time, at our option on not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' notice, at a make-whole redemption price described in "Description of the Senior Notes" Optional Redemption in this prospectus supplement.

Tax Event Redemption We may redeem the senior notes in whole, but not in part, at any time upon the occurrence of certain tax events as described in "Description of the Senior Notes" Tax Event Redemption in this prospectus supplement.

Covenants The indenture governing the senior notes contains a covenant, which will apply to the senior notes, that limits our ability to create liens on the capital stock of certain of our subsidiaries. This covenant is subject to a number of important qualifications and limitations. See "Description of the Senior Notes" Limitation on Liens on Capital Stock in this prospectus supplement.

Trustee, Registrar, Principal Paying and Transfer Agent The Bank of New York

Form of the Notes When issued, the senior notes will be issued as global notes in registered form and governed by the laws of the State of

New York.

Use of Proceeds We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering, together with available cash, to redeem all of our outstanding Liquid Yield Option™ Notes due 2021 (‘‘LYONs’’) on September 7, 2004. See ‘‘Use of Proceeds’’ in this prospectus supplement.

Risk Factors

An investment in the senior notes involves certain risks that you should carefully evaluate prior to making an investment in the senior notes. In particular, you should evaluate the specific risk factors under ‘‘Risk Factors’’ on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement and the disclosure contained in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of certain risks involved with an investment in the senior notes.

S-2

RISK FACTORS

Investing in the senior notes involves risk. In deciding whether to invest in the senior notes, you should carefully consider the following risk factors related to the senior notes, in addition to the other information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the information incorporated by reference herein.

Because we are a holding company and substantially all of our operations are conducted by our subsidiaries, our obligations under the senior notes are effectively subordinated to the obligations of our subsidiaries.

We currently conduct substantially all of our operations through our subsidiaries, and our subsidiaries generate substantially all of our operating income and cash flow. Our ability to pay our obligations under the senior notes depends on our ability to obtain cash dividends or other cash payments or obtain loans from our subsidiaries, which are separate and distinct legal entities that will have no obligations to pay any dividends or to lend or advance us funds and which may be restricted from doing so by contract, including other financing arrangements, charter provisions or applicable legal or regulatory requirements and may also depend on the financial condition and regulatory requirements of our subsidiaries. As a result, our obligations under the senior notes will be effectively subordinated to all of the obligations of our subsidiaries. For a description of certain regulatory restrictions on the payments of dividends by our subsidiaries, see Note 25 of the notes to the consolidated financial statements of XL Capital incorporated by reference to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003.

In addition, because we are a holding company, except to the extent that we have priority or equal claims against our subsidiaries as a creditor, our obligations under the senior notes will be effectively subordinated to the obligations of our subsidiaries.

As of June 30, 2004, the aggregate amount of our outstanding consolidated indebtedness for money borrowed was approximately \$2.7 billion. All such outstanding indebtedness is unsecured and unsubordinated. As of June 30, 2004, the aggregate amount of outstanding indebtedness for money borrowed of our subsidiaries (other than XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc), which would effectively rank senior to the senior notes, was approximately \$355.0 million. The senior notes will also be structurally subordinated to losses and loss expenses and other obligations of our subsidiaries.

The secondary market for the senior notes may be illiquid.

We are unable to predict how the senior notes will trade in the secondary market or whether that market will be liquid or illiquid. There is currently no secondary market for the senior notes. We have no obligation to apply for any listing of the senior notes on any stock exchange. We can give you no assurance as to the liquidity of any

market that may develop for the senior notes, your ability to sell the senior notes or whether a trading market, if it develops, will continue.

The trading price of the senior notes may not fully reflect the value of their accrued but unpaid interest.

The senior notes may trade at a price that does not fully reflect the value of their accrued but unpaid interest. If you dispose of your senior notes between record dates for interest payments, you will be required to include in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes accrued interest through the date of disposition as ordinary income.

S-3

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 ("PSLRA") provides a "safe harbor" for forward-looking statements. Any prospectus, prospectus supplement, our Annual Report to ordinary shareholders, any proxy statement, any Form 10-K, Form 10-Q or Form 8-K of ours or any other written or oral statements made by or on behalf of us may include forward-looking statements which reflect our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. Such statements may include forward-looking statements both with respect to us in general, and to the insurance, reinsurance and financial products and services sectors in particular (both as to underwriting and investment matters). Statements which include the words "expect", "intend", "plan", "believe", "project", "anticipate", "will", "may", and similar statements of a future or forward-looking nature identify forward-looking statements for purposes of the PSLRA or otherwise.

All forward-looking statements address matters that involve risks and uncertainties. Accordingly, there are or will be important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated in such statements.

We believe that these factors include, but are not limited to, the following:

- the timely and full recoverability of reinsurance placed by us with third parties, or other amounts due to us, including, without limitation, amounts due to us from the seller in connection with our acquisition of the Winterthur International operations;
- the projected amount of ceded reinsurance recoverables and the ratings and creditworthiness of reinsurers may change;
- the timing of claims payments being faster or the receipt of reinsurance recoverables being slower than anticipated by us;
- ineffectiveness or obsolescence of our business strategy due to changes in current or future market conditions;
- increased competition on the basis of pricing, capacity, coverage terms or other factors;
- greater frequency or severity of claims and loss activity, including as a result of natural or man-made catastrophic events, than our underwriting, reserving or investment practices anticipate based on historical experience or industry data;
- developments in the world's financial and capital markets which adversely affect the performance of our investments and our access to such markets;
- the potential impact on us from government-mandated insurance coverage for acts of terrorism;
- the potential impact of variable interest entities or other off-balance sheet arrangements on us;
- developments in bankruptcy proceedings or other developments related to bankruptcies of companies insofar as they affect property and casualty insurance and reinsurance coverages or claims that we may have as a counter-party;
- availability of borrowings and letters of credit under our credit facilities;
- changes in regulation or tax laws applicable to us or our subsidiaries, brokers or customers;
- acceptance of our products and services, including new products and services;
- changes in the availability, cost or quality of reinsurance;

- changes in the distribution or placement of risks due to increased consolidation of insurance and reinsurance brokers;
- loss of key personnel;
- the effects of mergers, acquisitions and divestitures;
- changes in rating agency policies or practices;

S-4

- changes in accounting policies or practices or the application thereof;
- legislative or regulatory developments;
- changes in general economic conditions, including inflation, foreign currency exchange rates and other factors;
- the effects of business disruption or economic contraction due to war, terrorism or other hostilities; and
- the other factors set forth in our other documents on file with the SEC.

The foregoing review of important factors should not be construed as exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with the other cautionary statements that are included herein or elsewhere. We undertake no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise.

S-5

USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate our net proceeds from our sale of \$300,000,000 aggregate principal amount of senior notes in this offering, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions and estimated offering expenses, to be approximately \$296.6 million.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering, together with available cash, to redeem all of our outstanding Liquid Yield Option™ Notes due 2021 (LYONs). At June 30, 2004, the aggregate accreted value of LYONs outstanding was approximately \$315,108,000. Interest on the LYONs for the twelve months ending September 7, 2004 accretes at a rate of 3.551% per annum. The maturity date of the LYONs is September 7, 2021.

S-6

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated is as follows:

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2004	Fiscal Year Ended December 31,				
		2003	2002	2001	2000**	1999**
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	7.9x	3.1x	3.3x	*	6.5x	8.3x

* For the year ended December 31, 2001, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$832.4 million.

** The ratio reflects certain reclassifications of interest expense related to the accretion of deposit liabilities that were implemented retroactively effective March 31, 2002.

We have computed the foregoing ratio by dividing (1) income from continuing operations before income taxes, minority interest and income or loss from equity investments plus the sum of fixed charges, amortization of capitalized interest and distributed income of equity investments, less minority interest, by (2) fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense on all indebtedness (including amortization of deferred financing costs), the portion of operating lease rental expense that is representative of the interest factor (deemed to be 30% of operating lease rentals) and interest credited to policyholders consisting of accretion of deposit liability transactions.

S-7

CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth the consolidated capitalization of XL Capital as of June 30, 2004, on an actual basis and as adjusted to give effect to the issuance of \$300,000,000 aggregate principal amount of senior notes in this offering and the anticipated application of the estimated net proceeds as described under "Use of Proceeds."

You should read the following information in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the notes to those financial statements and the information under the heading "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2004, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	(Unaudited)	
	As of June 30, 2004	
	Actual	As Adjusted
	(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share and per share amounts)	
Debt:		
364-day revolver (1)(2)	\$	□
Three-year credit facility (1)(2)		□
7.15% Senior Notes due 2005	99,990	99,990
6.58% Guaranteed Senior Notes due 2011	255,000	255,000
6.50% Guaranteed Senior Notes due 2012	597,600	597,600
Zero Coupon Convertible Debentures due 2021(3)	650,670	650,670
Liquid Yield Option TM Notes due 2021(3)	315,108	□
2.53% Senior Notes due 2009 (4)	825,000	825,000
5.25% Senior Notes due 2014 offered hereby		300,000
	\$ 2,743,368	\$ 2,728,260
Total debt		
Shareholders' Equity:		
Series A preference ordinary shares; \$0.01 par value per share, 9,200,000 shares issued and outstanding (actual and as adjusted) (5)	\$ 92	\$ 92
Series B preference ordinary shares; \$0.01 par value per share, 11,500,000 shares issued and outstanding (actual and as adjusted) (6)	115	115

Series C preference ordinary shares; \$0.01 par value per share, no shares issued and outstanding (actual and as adjusted)	□	□
Class A ordinary shares; \$0.01 par value per share, 138,380,904 shares issued and outstanding (actual and as adjusted)	1,383	1,383
Additional paid in capital	3,901,680	3,901,680
Accumulated other comprehensive income	29,019	29,019
Deferred compensation	(77,009)	(77,009)
Retained earnings	3,221,292	3,221,292
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total shareholders' equity	\$ 7,076,572	\$ 7,076,572
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total capitalization	\$ 9,819,940	\$ 9,804,832
	<hr/>	<hr/>

-
- (1) In June of 2004, we replaced our principal \$2.5 billion credit and letter of credit facility that expired on June 23, 2004, with a new \$1.0 billion facility that expires on June 22, 2005 and a new \$2.0 billion facility that expires on June 22, 2007. Both facilities are available to provide revolving credit (\$600.0 million in the aggregate) and letters of credit (\$3.0 billion in the aggregate) and are syndicated and unsecured.
 - (2) Does not include letters of credit outstanding as of June 30, 2004 in the amount of approximately \$2.8 billion. The \$1.0 billion facility was unutilized at June 30, 2004, and approximately \$1.7 billion of the \$2.0 billion facility was utilized to provide letters of credit at June 30, 2004.
 - (3) The Zero Coupon Convertible Debentures and the LYONs were issued at a discount to their face amount. The amounts shown are the accreted values at June 30, 2004. The Zero Coupon Convertible Debentures and the LYONs are convertible into Class A ordinary shares under certain circumstances.

S-8

-
- (4) The 2.53% Senior Notes due 2009 are a component of the Company's 6.5% Equity Security Units (the "Units"). In March 2004, the Company issued 33 million Units in a public offering. The Company received approximately \$800.2 million in net proceeds from the sale of the Units. Each Unit has a stated amount of \$25 and consists of (a) a purchase contract pursuant to which the holder agreed to purchase, for \$25, a variable number of shares of the Company's Class A Ordinary Shares on May 15, 2007 and (b) a one-fortieth, or 2.5%, ownership interest in the senior notes issued by the Company due May 15, 2009 with a principal amount of \$1,000.
 - (5) In August 2002, we issued and sold 9,200,000 8% Series A preference ordinary shares for gross proceeds of \$230.0 million.
 - (6) In November 2002, we issued and sold 11,500,000 7 5/8% Series B preference ordinary shares for gross proceeds of \$287.5 million.

S-9

SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

Our selected consolidated financial, operating and supplemental data presented below as at and for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000 and 1999 are derived from our audited consolidated financial statements, which have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, and which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The summary consolidated financial and operating data presented below for the six month periods ended June 30, 2004 and June 30, 2003 have been derived from our unaudited consolidated financial data as presented in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2004, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and reflect all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring accruals) considered necessary for a fair presentation of our financial position and results of operations as at the end of and for the periods presented. The results of operations for the first six months of 2004 are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the full year.

Edgar Filing: XL CAPITAL LTD - Form 424B2

You should read the following selected consolidated financial, operating and supplemental data in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the notes to those financial statements and the information under the heading "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended June 30, 2004 which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Certain reclassifications to prior period information have been made to conform to current year presentation.

	(Unaudited)						
	Six Month						
	Period Ended						
	June 30,		Year Ended December 31,				
	2004 ⁽¹⁾	2003 ⁽¹⁾	2003 ⁽¹⁾	2002 ⁽¹⁾	2001 ⁽¹⁾	2000	1999 ⁽²⁾
(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share and per share amounts and ratios)							
Income Statement Data:							
Net premiums earned general operations	\$3,405,150	\$2,901,407	\$6,081,033	\$4,899,073	\$2,730,420	\$2,011,525	\$1,728,753
Net premiums earned financial operations	66,612	62,780	139,622	67,745	37,113	23,715	21,253
Net premiums earned life operations	1,110,980	163,253	748,495	1,022,992	695,595		
Net investment income	463,523	382,455	779,558	734,535	610,528	580,946	525,318
Net realized gains (losses) on investments	124,100	89,024	120,195	(214,160)	(93,237)	45,090	66,800
Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) on derivative instruments	53,737	2,236	(27,542)	(51,761)	11,768	21,405	27,556
Equity in net income of investment affiliates	97,109	61,104	133,902	64,662	80,580	70,032	43,865
Fee income and other	15,059	22,069	41,745	54,963	18,247	(1,131)	100,400
Net losses and loss expenses incurred general operations	2,054,324	1,800,546	4,576,856	3,329,047	2,890,076	1,426,443	1,298,673
Net losses and loss expenses incurred financial operations	9,530	22,283	33,750	(1,732)	15,155	6,116	5,361
Claims and policy benefits life operations	1,140,572	202,783	818,894	1,069,456	698,675		
Acquisition costs, operating expenses and exchange gains and losses	1,122,883	897,235	1,926,393	1,549,440	1,073,903	743,067	689,005
Interest expense	95,018	92,422	199,407	168,086	113,272	70,593	37,378
Amortization of intangible assets	6,514	750	4,637	6,187	58,569	58,597	49,141
Income (loss) before minority interests, equity in net income of insurance affiliates and income tax expense	907,429	668,309	457,071	457,565	(758,636)	446,766	434,117
Preference share dividends	20,160	20,161	40,321	9,620			
Net income (loss) available to ordinary shareholders	\$815,773	\$587,516	371,658	395,951	(576,135)	506,352	470,509

S-10

(U.S. dollars in thousands, except share and per share amounts and ratios)

106.2% 108.7%

- (1) Results for all periods subsequent to July 1, 2001 include the results of Winterthur International, which was acquired with effect from this date. The results also include the consolidation of XL Re Europe, which is accounted for as a subsidiary with effect from January 1, 2002. In the years ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999, our share of net income of Le Mans Ré (now known as XL Re Europe) was included in equity in net income of insurance and operating affiliates. Our net income for the years ended December 31, 2003, 2002 and 2001 was impacted by the September 11 event. See Item 8, Note 4 to our consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003. The effect of all of these items should be considered when making period to period comparisons of our results of operations and financial condition and liquidity. See Item 7, Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 for further discussion and analysis.
- (2) Information includes the financial results of NAC for the full year then ended.
- (3) The loss and loss expense ratio is calculated by dividing the losses and loss expenses incurred by the net premiums earned for general insurance and reinsurance operations.
- (4) The underwriting expense ratio is the sum of acquisition expenses and operating expenses for general insurance and reinsurance operations divided by net premiums earned for general insurance and reinsurance operations. See Item 8, Note 3 to our consolidated financial statements in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 for further information.
- (5) The combined ratio is the sum of the loss and loss expense ratio and the underwriting expense ratio. A combined ratio under 100% represents an underwriting profit and over 100% represents an underwriting loss.

S-11

DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR NOTES

We will issue the senior notes under a senior indenture we have entered into and supplemental indenture we will enter into with The Bank of New York, as trustee. A copy of the indenture is on file with the SEC and may be obtained by accessing the internet address provided or contacting us as described under "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying prospectus. The following description is not complete, and is qualified in all respects by reference to the indenture and the supplemental indenture, the form of which will be filed as an exhibit on Form 8-K. You should read the indenture, the supplemental indenture and the associated documents carefully to fully understand the terms of the senior notes. In addition, to the extent that the following description is not consistent with that contained in the accompanying prospectus under "Description of XL Capital Debt Securities," you should rely on this description.

General Terms of the Senior Notes

The senior notes will be the direct, unsecured and unsubordinated obligations of XL Capital Ltd. The senior notes will rank equal in right of payment with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. As of June 30, 2004, the aggregate amount of our outstanding consolidated indebtedness for money borrowed was approximately \$2.7 billion. All such outstanding indebtedness is unsecured and unsubordinated. The senior notes will be structurally subordinated to losses and loss expenses and other obligations of our subsidiaries. As of June 30, 2004, the aggregate amount of indebtedness for money borrowed of our subsidiaries (other than XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc), which would effectively rank senior to the senior notes, was \$355.0 million.

The senior notes will bear interest at the rate of 5.25% per annum from August 23, 2004 to maturity or early redemption, payable semi-annually on March 15 and September 15 of each year, commencing on March 15, 2005, to the persons in whose names the senior notes were registered at the close of business on the preceding March 1 and September 1, respectively. Interest on the senior notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year comprised of twelve 30-day months. The amount of interest payable for any period shorter than a full semi-annual period for which interest is computed will be computed on the basis of the actual number of days elapsed in the 180-day period. The senior notes will mature on September 15, 2014. Unless previously redeemed in full as provided herein, we will repay the senior notes at their principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest on September 15, 2014. Principal and interest will be payable, and the senior notes will be transferable or exchangeable, at the office or offices or agency maintained by us for this purpose.

We may issue from time to time, without giving notice to or seeking the consent of the holders of the senior notes, additional senior notes having the same ranking and the same interest rate, maturity and other terms as the senior notes, except for the initial public offering price and the issue date. Any additional senior notes having such similar terms, together with the senior notes offered hereby, will constitute a single series of senior notes under the indenture and the supplemental indenture.

Any payment otherwise required to be made in respect of the senior notes on a date that is not a business day for the senior notes may be made on the next succeeding business day with the same force and effect as if made on the originally scheduled payment date. No additional interest shall accrue as a result of such delayed payment. A business day is defined in the indenture as any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or other day on which banking institutions in New York City or any place of payment are authorized by law or regulation to close.

If a holder has given wire transfer instructions to us at least ten business days prior to the applicable payment date, we will make all payments on such holder's senior notes by wire transfer of immediately available funds to the account specified in those instructions. Otherwise, payments on the senior notes will be made at the office or agency of the paying agent and registrar for the senior notes, currently located at 101 Barclay Street, Floor 8 West, New York, New York 10286, unless we elect to make interest payments by check mailed to the holders at their addresses set forth in the register of holders. Senior notes may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange at the office of the registrar. In addition, all notices or demands to or upon us in respect of the senior notes and the indenture may be served on us at the office of the registrar.

There are no provisions in either the indenture or the senior notes that protect the holders in the event that we incur substantial additional indebtedness, whether or not in connection with a change in control.

S-12

The senior notes will not be entitled to the benefit of any mandatory redemption or sinking fund.

Our ability to pay interest on the senior notes is dependent on our ability to obtain cash dividends or obtain loans from our subsidiaries. See "Risk Factors" Because we are a holding company and substantially all of our operations are conducted by our subsidiaries, our obligations under the senior notes are effectively subordinated to the obligations of our subsidiaries.

The senior notes will be issued only in fully registered form without coupons in denominations of \$1,000 and any whole multiple of \$1,000. No service charge will be made for any transfer or exchange of the senior notes, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with a transfer or exchange.

Holder may transfer or exchange the senior notes in accordance with the provisions of the indenture and the supplemental indenture. The senior notes will be represented by one or more permanent global notes registered in the name of a nominee of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"). While the senior notes are represented by global notes, ownership of beneficial interests in any global security with respect to which DTC is the depository will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by such depository or its respective nominee (with respect to beneficial interests of participants) and records of participants (with respect to beneficial interests of persons who hold through participants). See "Book Entry; Delivery and Form" in this prospectus supplement. Except as described under "Book-Entry; Delivery and Form," the senior notes will not be issuable in certificated form. Upon the issuance of certificated notes, holders will be able to transfer certificated notes at the specified office of the registrar or any paying or transfer agent upon the surrender of such certificated notes, together with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly completed and executed, and otherwise in accordance with the provisions of the indenture and the supplemental indenture. In the case of a transfer of part only of a certificated note, a new certificated note shall be issued to the transferee at such specified office in respect of the part transferred and a further new certificated note in respect of the balance of the holding not transferred shall be issued to the transferor.

Optional Redemption

The senior notes will be redeemable, in whole at any time or in part from time to time, at our option, at a redemption price equal to accrued and unpaid interest on the principal amount being redeemed to the redemption date plus the greater of:

- 100% of the principal amount of the senior notes to be redeemed, and

- the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the senior notes to be redeemed (not including any portion of such payments of interest accrued to the date of redemption) discounted to the date of redemption on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury rate, plus 20 basis points.

□Treasury rate□ means, with respect to any date of redemption, the rate per year equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity of the comparable Treasury issue, assuming a price for the comparable Treasury issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the comparable Treasury price for such date of redemption. The Treasury rate shall be calculated on the third business day preceeding the date of redemption.

□Comparable Treasury issue□ means the United States Treasury security selected as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the senior notes to be redeemed that would be used, at the time of selection and under customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the senior notes.

□Comparable Treasury price□ means, with respect to any date of redemption, the average of the reference Treasury dealer quotations for the date of redemption, after excluding the highest and lowest reference Treasury dealer quotations, or if the trustee obtains fewer than four reference Treasury dealer quotations, the average of all reference Treasury dealer quotations.

S-13

□Reference Treasury dealers□ means each of Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated and Lehman Brothers Inc. and their respective successors and any other primary Treasury dealer we select. If any of the foregoing ceases to be a primary U.S. government securities dealer in New York City, we must substitute another primary Treasury dealer.

□Reference Treasury dealer quotations□ means, with respect to each reference Treasury dealer and any date of redemption, the average, as determined by the trustee, of the bid and asked prices for the comparable Treasury issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the trustee by the reference Treasury dealer at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third business day before the date of redemption.

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the date of redemption to each holder of the senior notes to be redeemed. Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the date of redemption, interest will cease to accrue on the senior notes or portions of senior notes called for redemption.

If less than all of the senior notes are to be redeemed, the senior notes to be redeemed shall be selected by the trustee, by a method the trustee deems to be fair and appropriate.

We will not be required to (1) register the transfer of or exchange the senior notes during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any senior notes and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing or (2) register the transfer of or exchange any senior note selected for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any senior note being redeemed in part.

Tax Event Redemption

If a tax event occurs and is continuing, we may, at our option, redeem the senior notes in whole, but not in part, at any time at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the senior notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the date fixed for redemption and additional amounts (as defined below), if any, then due or that will become due on the date fixed for redemption as a result of the redemption. Installments of interest on senior notes which are due and payable on or prior to a redemption date will be payable to holders of the senior notes registered as such at the close of business on the relevant record dates.

“Tax event” means if we determine that, as a result of (1) any change in, or amendment to, the law or treaties (or any regulations or rulings promulgated thereunder) of the Cayman Islands, Bermuda or any other jurisdiction from or through which we make a payment on the senior notes or in which we generally become subject to taxation; or (2) any change in position regarding the application, administration or interpretation of such laws, treaties, regulations or rulings (including a holding, judgment or order by a court of competent jurisdiction) (each of the foregoing in clauses (1) and (2), a “Change in Tax Law”), we are, or on the next interest payment date in respect of the senior notes would be, required to pay more than *de minimis* additional amounts with respect to the senior notes as described under “Payment of Additional Amounts,” and such obligation cannot be avoided by taking commercially reasonable measures available to us. The Change in Tax Law must become effective on or after the date of this prospectus supplement. In the case of a successor entity, the Change in Tax Law must become effective after the date that such successor entity first becomes an obligor on the senior notes (unless the Change in Tax Law had already occurred prior to such date, but on or after the date of this prospectus supplement, with respect to the original entity).

Notice of any redemption will be mailed at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each registered holder of senior notes to be redeemed at its registered address (which notice will be irrevocable). Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date, interest shall cease to accrue on the senior notes. In the event any senior notes are called for redemption, neither we nor the trustee will be required to register the transfer of or exchange the senior notes to be redeemed during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of the mailing of a notice of redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in case of a tax event redemption, no such notice of redemption will be given (a) earlier than 90 days prior to the earliest date on which the payor would be obliged to make such payment or withholding if a payment in respect of senior notes by it were then due and (b) unless at the time such notice is given, such obligation to pay such additional amounts remains in effect. Prior to the publication or mailing of any notice of redemption of senior notes pursuant to the foregoing, we will deliver to the paying agent (a) an officers’

S-14

certificate stating that we are entitled to effect such redemption and setting forth a statement of facts showing that any factual conditions precedent to our right so to redeem have been satisfied and (b) a legal opinion of an outside nationally recognized tax counsel to the effect that the circumstances referred to above (including those under the definition of “tax event”) exist.

Limitation on Liens on Capital Stock

Under the supplemental indenture, XL Capital will covenant that, so long as any senior notes are outstanding, XL Capital will not, nor will XL Capital permit any designated subsidiary to, create, assume, incur, guarantee or otherwise permit to exist any indebtedness evidenced by notes, debentures, bonds or similar instruments, which is secured by any mortgage, pledge, lien, security interest or other encumbrance upon any shares of capital stock of any designated subsidiary (whether such shares of stock are now owned or hereafter acquired) without effectively providing concurrently that the senior notes will be secured equally and ratably with such indebtedness for at least the time period such other indebtedness is so secured.

The term “capital stock” of any person means any and all shares, interests, rights to purchase, warrants, options, participations or other equivalents of or interests in (however designated) equity of such person, including preferred stock, but excluding any debt securities convertible into such equity.

The term “designated subsidiary” means any present or future consolidated subsidiary of XL Capital that is a regulated insurance company, the assets of which constitute at least 20% of XL Capital’s consolidated assets. As of June 30, 2004, XL Capital’s designated subsidiaries consisted of XL Re Ltd, XL Insurance (Bermuda) Ltd and XL Reinsurance America Inc.

Additional Events of Default

The Events of Default described in the accompanying prospectus under “Description of XL Capital Debt Securities” Events of Default and Notice Thereof” will apply to the senior notes; however (1) with respect to the

senior notes, the reference to 60 days in clause (1) of that subsection is 30 days; and (2) the following shall constitute additional Events of Default with respect to the senior notes:

- default by us under any instrument or instruments under which there is or may be secured or evidenced any of our indebtedness (other than the senior notes) having an outstanding principal amount of \$50,000,000 (or its equivalent in any other currency or currencies) or more, individually or in the aggregate, that has caused the holders thereof to declare such indebtedness to be due and payable prior to its stated maturity, unless such declaration has been rescinded within 30 days;
- default by us in the payment when due of the principal or premium, if any, of any bond, debenture, note or other evidence of our indebtedness, in each case for money borrowed, or in the payment of principal or premium, if any, under any mortgage, indenture, agreement or instrument under which there may be issued or by which there may be secured or evidenced any of our indebtedness for money borrowed, which default for payment of principal or premium, if any, is in an aggregate principal amount exceeding \$50,000,000 (or its equivalent in any other currency or currencies), if such default shall continue unremedied or unwaived for more than 30 days after the expiration of any grace period or extension of the time for payment applicable thereto; and
- default in the payment of any additional amounts with respect to interest on any senior notes (as described below under Payments of Additional Amounts), when such amounts become due and payable, and continuance of such default for a period of 30 days, and default in the payment of additional amounts payable with respect to any principal of or premium, if any, on any senior notes, when such additional amounts become due and payable either at maturity, upon any redemption, by declaration of acceleration or otherwise.

Payment of Additional Amounts

All amounts payable (whether in respect of principal, interest or otherwise) in respect of the senior notes will be made free and clear of and without withholding or deduction for or on account of any present or future taxes, duties, levies, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature imposed or levied by or on behalf of the Cayman Islands or Bermuda or any political subdivision thereof or any authority or agency therein or thereof having power to

S-15

tax, unless the withholding or deduction of such taxes, duties, levies, assessments or governmental charges is required by law. In that event, we will pay, or cause to be paid, such additional amounts as may be necessary in order that the net amounts receivable by a holder after such withholding or deduction (including any withholding or deduction from such additional amounts) shall equal the respective amounts that would have been receivable by such holder had no such withholding or deduction been required (additional amounts), except that no such additional amounts shall be payable in relation to any payment (including a payment made in connection with a redemption) in respect of any of the senior notes:

- to, or to a third party on behalf of, a person who would be able to avoid such withholding or deduction by complying with such person's statutory requirements or by making a declaration of non-residence or similar claim for exemption but, in either case, fails to do so, or is liable for such taxes, duties, levies, assessments or governmental charges in respect of such senior note by reason of his having some connection with (including, without limitation, being a citizen of, being incorporated or engaged in a trade or business in, or having a residence or principal place of business or other presence in) the Cayman Islands or Bermuda, as the case may be, other than (a) the mere holding of such senior note, (b) the receipt of principal, interest, or other amount in respect of such senior note or (c) the mere enforcement of rights with respect to such senior note;
- presented for payment more than 30 days after the Relevant Date, except to the extent that the relevant holder would have been entitled to such additional amounts on presenting the same for payment on or before the expiry of such period of 30 days;
- on account of any inheritance, gift, estate, personal property, sales or transfer or similar taxes, duties, levies, assessments or similar governmental charges; or
- on account of any taxes, duties, levies, assessments or governmental charges that are payable otherwise than by withholding from payments in respect of such senior note.

The "Relevant Date" means, in respect of any payment, the date on which such payment first becomes due and payable, but if the full amount of the moneys payable has not been received by the trustee on or prior to such due date, it means the first date on which, the full amount of such moneys having been so received and being available for payment to holders, notice to that effect shall have been duly given to the holders of the senior notes.

If we become subject generally at any time to any taxing jurisdiction other than or in addition to the Cayman Islands or Bermuda, or make a payment on the senior notes from any jurisdiction other than or in addition to the Cayman Islands or Bermuda, references in this section to the Cayman Islands and Bermuda shall be read and construed as references to such other jurisdiction(s) and/or to the Cayman Islands and Bermuda.

Change in Control

The senior notes will not include the provisions described under the caption "Description of XL Capital Debt Securities" Certain Covenants Provisions Applicable to Senior Debt Securities Only in the accompanying prospectus with respect to a change in control.

Defeasance

The senior notes will be subject to defeasance under the conditions described in the accompanying prospectus.

S-16

BOOK-ENTRY; DELIVERY AND FORM

Except as set forth below, the senior notes will be issued in the form of one or more fully registered notes in global form without coupons (each a "Global Note"). The Global Notes will be deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC and registered in the name of DTC or a nominee thereof.

Global Notes

Pursuant to procedures established by DTC, interests in the Global Notes will be shown on, and the transfer of such interest will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee with respect to interests of persons who have accounts with DTC ("participants") and the records of participants with respect to interests of persons other than participants. Such accounts initially were designated by or on behalf of the initial purchasers and ownership of beneficial interests in the Global Notes will be limited to persons who have accounts with DTC, or participants, or persons who hold interests through participants. Holders may hold their interests in the Global Notes directly through DTC if they are participants in such system, or indirectly through organizations which are participants in such system.

So long as DTC or its nominee is the registered owner or holder of the notes, DTC or such nominee will be considered the sole owner or holder of the notes represented by such Global Notes for all purposes under the indenture. No beneficial owner of an interest in the Global Notes will be able to transfer such interest except in accordance with DTC's procedures, in addition to those provided for under the indenture with respect to the notes.

The laws of some states require that certain persons take physical delivery in definitive form of securities that they own. Consequently, your ability to transfer your beneficial interests in a Global Note to such persons may be limited to that extent. Because DTC can act only on behalf of its participants, which in turn act on behalf of indirect participants and certain banks, your ability to pledge your interests in a Global Note to persons or entities that do not participate in the DTC system, or otherwise take actions in respect of such interests, may be affected by the lack of a physical certificate evidencing such interests.

We will make payments of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on Global Notes to DTC or its nominee as the registered owner thereof. Neither we nor the trustee nor any of their respective agents will have

any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the Global Notes or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to such beneficial ownership interests.

We expect that DTC or its nominee, on receipt of any payment of principal or interest in respect of a Global Note representing any notes held by it or its nominee, will immediately credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interests in the principal amount of such Global Note as shown on the records of DTC or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in such Global Note held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in [street name]. Such payment will be the responsibility of such participants.

Transfers between participants in DTC will be effected in accordance with DTC's procedures, and will be settled in same-day funds.

Notes that are issued as described below under [Certificated Notes] will be issued in registered definitive form without coupons (each, a [Certificated Note]). Upon transfer of Certificated Notes, such Certificated Notes may, unless the Global Note has previously been exchanged for Certificated Notes, be exchanged for an interest in the Global Note representing the principal amount of notes being transferred.

DTC has advised us that it will take any action permitted to be taken by a holder of notes, including the presentation of notes for exchange as described below and the conversion of notes, only at the direction of one or more participants to whose account with DTC interests in the Global Notes are credited and only in respect of such portion of the aggregate principal amount of the notes as to which such participant or participants has or have given such direc-

S-17

tion. However, if there is an Event of Default under the notes, the Global Notes will be exchanged for legended notes in certificated form, and distributed to DTC's participants.

DTC has advised us that it is:

- (1) a limited purpose trust company organized under the laws of the State of New York;
- (2) a member of the Federal Reserve System;
- (3) a [clearing corporation] within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code; and
- (4) a [Clearing Agency] registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

DTC was created to hold securities for its participants and facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between participants through electronic book-entry changes in accounts of its participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical transfer and delivery of certificates. Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations and may include certain other organizations. Indirect access to the DTC system is available to other entities such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly ([indirect participants]).

Although DTC has agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of beneficial ownership interests in the Global Notes among participants of DTC, it is under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures, and such procedures may be discontinued at any time. Neither we, nor the trustee nor any of their respective agents will have any responsibility for the performance by DTC or its participants or indirect participants of their respective obligations under the rules and procedures governing their operations,

including maintaining, supervising or reviewing the records relating to, or payments made on account of, beneficial ownership interests in Global Notes.

Certificated Notes

You may not exchange your beneficial interest in a Global Note for a note in certificated form unless:

- (1) DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for the Global Note, or DTC ceases to be a [clearing agency] registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and in either case, we thereupon fail to appoint a successor depository within 90 days; or
- (2) an Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing with respect to the notes.

In all cases, Certificated Notes delivered in exchange for any Global Note or beneficial interests therein will be registered in the names, and issued in any approved denominations, requested by or on behalf of the depository in accordance with its customary procedures.

S-18

CERTAIN TAX CONSEQUENCES

Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands at present impose no taxes on income, profits, capital gains or appreciations of XL Capital. There are also currently no taxes imposed in the Cayman Islands on income, profits, capital gains or appreciations of the holders of the senior notes nor any taxes on the holders of the senior notes in the nature of estate duty or capital transfer tax. Further, as an exempted company, XL Capital has obtained an undertaking from the Cayman Islands Government authorities that, until June 2018, no law which is enacted in the Cayman Islands imposing any tax on profit, income, capital gains or appreciations will apply to XL Capital and that, for the same period, no taxes on profit, income, capital gains or appreciations nor any tax in the nature of estate duty or inheritance tax will be payable on the senior notes or other obligations of XL Capital. The Cayman Islands impose stamp duties on certain categories of documents; however, the current operations of XL Capital do not involve the payment of stamp duties in any material amount. The Cayman Islands impose an annual fee upon all exempted companies incorporated in the Cayman Islands.

United States

The following discussion summarizes the material U.S. federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to you if you invest in senior notes and are a U.S. holder. This summary deals only with U.S. holders that purchase senior notes at their issue price as part of the initial distribution and that will hold senior notes as capital assets. It does not address considerations that may be relevant to you if you are an investor that is subject to special tax rules such as a bank, thrift, real estate investment trust, partnership, regulated investment company, insurance company, dealer in securities or currencies, trader in securities or commodities that elects marked to market treatment, person that will hold senior notes through a partnership or other pass-through entity, person that will hold senior notes as a hedge against currency risk or as a position in a [straddle] or conversion transaction, tax-exempt organization, a person whose [functional currency] is not the U.S. dollar, or a person liable for alternative minimum tax. Furthermore, the discussion below is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and regulations, rulings and judicial decisions thereunder as of the date hereof, and such authorities may be repealed, revoked or modified so as to result in United States federal income tax consequences different from those discussed below. If a partnership holds our senior notes, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner of a partnership holding our senior notes, you should consult your tax advisors.

In general, you will be a U.S. holder if you are an initial purchaser of a senior note who is a beneficial owner of the senior note and who is for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

- a citizen or individual resident of the United States;
- a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, one of the states or the District of Columbia;
- an estate all of the income of which is includable in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source; or
- a trust:
 - if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust; or
 - that has a valid election in effect under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations to be treated as a U.S. person.

You should consult your tax advisor about the tax consequences of holding senior notes, including the relevance to your particular situation of the considerations discussed below, as well as the relevance to your particular situation of state, local or other tax laws.

Accrual of Interest. Interest on a senior note will constitute qualified stated interest \square and generally will be taxable to you as ordinary income at the time it is paid or accrued in accordance with your method of accounting for tax purposes.

S-19

Sales, Exchanges or Other Taxable Dispositions of Senior Notes. A U.S. holder will recognize gain or loss on the disposition of ownership interests in the senior notes (including upon a redemption of the senior notes) in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized by such U.S. holder on the disposition of the senior notes (less any accrued qualified stated interest not previously included in income, which will be subject to tax in the manner described above under Accrual of Interest \square) and such U.S. holder's adjusted tax basis in such senior notes. The tax basis in a senior note generally will equal its cost. Selling expenses incurred by such U.S. holder will reduce the amount of gain or increase the amount of loss recognized by such U.S. holder upon a disposition of the senior notes. Such gain or loss will generally be capital gain or loss and will be long-term capital gain or loss if a U.S. holder has held its senior notes for more than a year. Long-term capital gains of individuals are eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses is subject to limitations.

Backup Withholding Tax and Information Reporting

Unless a U.S. holder is an exempt recipient, such as a corporation, payments under senior notes and the proceeds received from the sale of senior notes will generally be subject to information reporting and may also be subject to U.S. federal backup withholding tax if such U.S. holder fails to supply an accurate taxpayer identification number or otherwise fails to comply with applicable U.S. information reporting or certification requirements. Any amounts so withheld generally will be allowed as a credit against the U.S. holder's U.S. federal income tax liability, provided that the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

S-20

UNDERWRITERS

Under the terms and subject to the conditions contained in an underwriting agreement, dated August 18, 2004 (the Underwriting Agreement \square), the underwriters named below (the Underwriters \square) have severally agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to them, severally, the respective principal amount of the senior notes set forth opposite their respective names below:

Principal

Underwriters	Amount of Notes
Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated	\$150,000,000
Lehman Brothers Inc	150,000,000
	<hr/>
Total	\$300,000,000
	<hr/>

The Underwriting Agreement provides that the obligations of the several Underwriters to pay for and accept delivery of the senior notes is subject to, among other things, the approval of certain legal matters by their counsel and certain other conditions. The Underwriters are obligated to take and pay for all of the senior notes if any are taken.

The Underwriters initially propose to offer the senior notes directly to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and may offer the senior notes to certain dealers at a price that represents a concession not in excess of 0.20% of the principal amount of the senior notes. Any Underwriter may allow, and any such dealers may reallow, a concession to certain other dealers not to exceed 0.15% of the principal amount of the senior notes. After the initial offering of the senior notes, the offering price and other selling terms may from time to time be varied by the Underwriters.

The expenses of the offering, not including the underwriting discount, are estimated to be approximately \$350,000 and are payable by us.

We have agreed to indemnify the several Underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

We do not intend to apply for listing of the senior notes on a national securities exchange, but have been advised by the Underwriters that they intend to make a market in the senior notes. The Underwriters are not obligated, however, to do so and may discontinue their market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the senior notes.

In order to facilitate the offering of the senior notes, the Underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the prices of the senior notes. Specifically, the Underwriters may overallocate in connection with the offering, creating a short position in the senior notes for their own account. In addition, to cover overallocations or to stabilize the price of the senior notes, the Underwriters may bid for, and purchase, the senior notes in the open market. Finally, the Underwriters may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an Underwriter or a dealer for distributing the senior notes in the offering, if they repurchase previously distributed senior notes in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price for the senior notes above independent market levels. The Underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

Certain of the Underwriters will make the senior notes available for distribution on the Internet through a proprietary website and/or a third-party system operated by Market Axess Corporation, an Internet-based communications technology provider. Market Axess Corporation is providing the system as a conduit for communications between certain of the Underwriters and their customers and is not a party to this offering. Market Axess Corporation, a registered broker-dealer, will receive compensation from certain of the Underwriters based on transactions conducted through the system. Certain of the Underwriters will make the senior notes available to their customers through the Internet distributions, whether made through a proprietary or third-party system, on the same terms as distributions made through other channels.

Certain of the Underwriters and their respective affiliates have, from time to time, performed various investment or commercial banking and financial advisory services for us in the ordinary course of business.

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain U. S. legal matters with respect to the senior notes will be passed upon for us by Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP, New York, New York. Certain matters with respect to the senior notes under the laws of the Cayman Islands will be passed upon for us by Appleby Spurling Hunter, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands. Certain U.S. legal matters with respect to the senior notes will be passed upon for the underwriters by Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, New York, New York. Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP has in the past performed, and continues to perform, certain legal services for us and our affiliates.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of XL Capital Ltd and our subsidiaries as of December 31, 2003 and 2002 and for the three years ended December 31, 2003, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus from our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report, which is incorporated herein by reference.

INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus supplement the information we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information that we file after the date of this prospectus supplement with the SEC will automatically be deemed to be incorporated by reference and will update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement the documents listed below and under "Incorporation of Documents by Reference" in the accompanying prospectus, and any future filings made with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, prior to the termination of the senior notes offering described in this prospectus supplement.

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, filed on March 15, 2004;
- Amended Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2003, filed on April 29, 2004;
- Proxy Statement dated March 26, 2004, filed on March 26, 2004;
- Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2004, filed on May 10, 2004;
- Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended June 30, 2004, filed on August 9, 2004; and
- Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on March 16, March 18, March 24, May 19, August 9 and August 18, 2004.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or considered to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement shall be considered to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus supplement to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus supplement or in any subsequently filed document that is or is considered to be incorporated by reference modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement that is modified or superseded will not, except as so modified or superseded, constitute a part of this prospectus supplement. Nothing herein shall be deemed to incorporate information furnished to, but not filed with, the SEC. You may request a copy of any of the documents which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, other than exhibits which are not specifically incorporated by reference into such documents, and XL Capital Ltd's constitutional documents, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following:

Investor Relations
XL House
One Bermudiana Road
Hamilton, Bermuda HM11
Telephone: (441) 292-8515

\$1,934,000,000

XL Capital Ltd

Ordinary Shares
Preference Ordinary Shares
Debt Securities
Ordinary Share Warrants
Ordinary Share Purchase Contracts
Ordinary Share Purchase Units

XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc

Senior Debt Securities fully and unconditionally guaranteed by XL Capital Ltd

XL Capital Trust I **XL Capital Trust II** **XL Capital Trust III**

**Trust Preferred Securities fully and unconditionally guaranteed to the extent provided in this Prospectus
by XL Capital Ltd**

The following are types of securities that may be offered and sold under this prospectus:

XL Capital Ltd Debt Securities	XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc Senior Debt
XL Capital Ltd Ordinary Shares	Securities
XL Capital Ltd Preference Ordinary Shares	Trust Preferred Securities
XL Capital Ltd Ordinary Share Warrants	XL Capital Ltd Subordinated Deferrable
XL Capital Ltd Ordinary Share Purchase Contracts	Interest Debentures
XL Capital Ltd Ordinary Share Purchase Units	

A prospectus supplement, which must accompany this prospectus, will describe the securities XL Capital Ltd, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc and/or the trusts are offering and selling, as well as the specific terms of the securities. Those terms may include, among others, as applicable:

Maturity	Redemption terms
Interest rate	Conversion terms
Dividend rate	Listing on a securities exchange
Sinking fund terms	Amount payable at maturity
Ranking	

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The securities may be offered in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. The securities may be sold directly to you, through agents which XL Capital Ltd, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc and/or the applicable trust may elect, or through underwriters and dealers which XL Capital Ltd, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc and/or the applicable trust may select. If XL Capital Ltd, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc and/or the applicable trust use agents, underwriters or dealers to sell the securities, XL Capital Ltd, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc and/or the applicable trust, as applicable, will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement.

August 6, 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
About This Prospectus	1
Where You Can Find More Information	1
Incorporation of Documents by Reference	2
XL Capital Ltd	3
XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc	3
The Trusts	3
Use of Proceeds	4
Accounting Treatment Relating to Trust Securities	4
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preference Ordinary Share Dividends	4
General Description of the Offered Securities	5
Description of XL Capital Share Capital	5
Description of XL Capital Preference Ordinary Shares	6
Description of XL Capital Ordinary Shares	9
Description of XL Capital Ordinary Share Warrants	11
Description of XL Capital Ordinary Share Purchase Contracts and Ordinary Share Purchase Units	13
Description of XL Capital Debt Securities	14
Description of XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc Senior Debt Securities	27
Description of the Trust Preferred Securities	38
Description of the Trust Preferred Securities Guarantees	50
Description of the Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures	54
Plan of Distribution	61
Legal Matters	64
Experts	64
Enforcement of Civil Liabilities Under United States Federal Securities Laws	64

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that XL Capital Ltd, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc and the trusts filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") utilizing a "shelf" registration process, relating to:

- (1) XL Capital Ltd's ordinary shares, preference ordinary shares, debt securities (which may include medium term notes), ordinary share warrants, ordinary share purchase contracts, ordinary share purchase units, subordinated deferrable interest debentures, guarantees of XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc senior debt securities and guarantees of trust preferred securities;
- (2) XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc's senior debt securities; and
- (3) the trust preferred securities of XL Capital Trust I, XL Capital Trust II and XL Capital Trust III described in this prospectus.

Under this shelf process, XL Capital Ltd, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc and the trusts may sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings up to a total initial offering price of \$1,934,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that XL Capital Ltd, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc and the trusts may offer. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. For additional information regarding XL Capital Ltd, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc or the trusts and the offered securities, please refer to the registration statement. Each time XL Capital Ltd, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc or a trust sells securities it will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also supplement or update information contained in this prospectus; *provided*, that such information does not constitute material changes to the information herein such that it alters the nature of the offering or the securities offered. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

In this prospectus, and in the accompanying prospectus supplement, unless the context requires otherwise, "we," "us" and "our" refer to XL Capital Ltd and its subsidiaries, "XL Capital" refers to XL Capital Ltd and not any of its subsidiaries, "XL Finance" refers to XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc and "XL Capital trusts" or the "trusts" refer, collectively, to XL Capital Trust I, XL Capital Trust II and XL Capital Trust III.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We, the trusts and XL Finance have filed with the SEC under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), a combined registration statement on Form S-3 (herein, together with all amendments and exhibits, referred to as the "registration statement") relating to the offered securities.

XL Capital

XL Capital is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), and in accordance therewith files reports, proxy and information statements and other information with the SEC. Such reports, proxy statements and other information can be inspected and copied at prescribed rates at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. The SEC also maintains a website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. The website address is <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, such material can be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

1

XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc

XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc is not currently subject to the information reporting requirements of the Exchange Act. XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc is directly and indirectly wholly owned by XL Capital and currently has no operations. XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc has not engaged in any activities other than those incidental to its formation and the issuance of senior debt securities in January 2002, and the lending or the contributing of the proceeds of those senior debt securities to XL Capital and activities incidental to or connected with the foregoing. The outstanding senior debt securities of XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc are, and any future issuances of debt securities of XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc will be, fully and unconditionally guaranteed by XL Capital and by no other subsidiary of XL Capital. See "Description of XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc Senior Debt Securities."

The Trusts

None of the trusts is currently subject to the information reporting requirements of the Exchange Act. No separate financial statements of the trusts have been included herein. We do not believe that such financial statements would be material to holders of the trust preferred securities because:

- (1) all of the voting securities of the trusts will be owned, directly or indirectly, by XL Capital, a reporting company under the Exchange Act;
- (2) the trusts have no independent operations and exist for the sole purpose of issuing securities representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the applicable trust and investing the proceeds thereof in the subordinated deferrable interest debentures issued by XL Capital; and
- (3) the obligations of each trust under the trust securities are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by XL Capital to the extent that the trust has funds available to meet such obligations.

See "The Trusts," "Description of the Trust Preferred Securities," "Description of the Trust Preferred Securities Guarantees" and "Description of the Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures."

INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows XL Capital to "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus the information it files with the SEC, which means that it can disclose important information to you by referring to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information that XL Capital files after the date of the initial registration statement and prior to the termination of the final offering under this registration statement shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The information that XL Capital files after the date of this prospectus with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. XL Capital incorporates by reference into this prospectus the documents listed below which have been filed by XL Capital with the SEC (SEC file number 1-10804) and any future filings made with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act.

- Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, filed on March 15, 2004;
- Amended Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2003, filed on April 29, 2004;
- Proxy Statement dated March 26, 2004, filed on March 26, 2004;
- Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2004, filed on May 10, 2004; and
- Current Report on Form 8-K, filed on May 19, 2004.

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or considered to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus shall be considered to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or in any subsequently filed document that is or is considered to be incorporated by reference modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement that is modified or superseded shall not, except as so modified or superseded, constitute a part of this prospectus.

You may request a copy of any of the documents which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus, other than exhibits which are not specifically incorporated by reference into such documents, and XL Capital's, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc's and the trusts' constitutional documents, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following:

2

Investor Relations
XL Capital Ltd
XL House
One Bermudiana Road
Hamilton HM11, Bermuda
Telephone: (441) 292-8515

None of XL Capital, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc or the trusts have authorized anyone to give any information or make any representation about XL Capital, XL Finance or the trusts that is different from, or in addition to, that contained in this prospectus or in any of the materials that XL Capital, XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc or the trusts have incorporated by reference into this document. Therefore, if anyone does give you information of this sort, you should not rely on it. If you are in a jurisdiction where offers to exchange or sell, or solicitations of offers to exchange or purchase, the securities offered by this document or the solicitation of

proxies is unlawful, or if you are a person to whom it is unlawful to direct these types of activities, then the offer presented in this document does not extend to you. The information contained in this document speaks only as of the date of this document, unless the information specifically indicates that another date applies.

XL CAPITAL LTD

We, together with our subsidiaries, are a leading provider of insurance and reinsurance coverages and financial products and services to industrial, commercial and professional service firms, insurance companies and other enterprises on a worldwide basis.

We are incorporated in the Cayman Islands. Our principal executive offices are located at XL House, One Bermudiana Road, Hamilton HM11, Bermuda. Our telephone number is (441) 292-8515. Our website is www.xlcapital.com. The information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

You can obtain additional information about us in the reports and other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information" and "Incorporation of Documents by Reference."

XL CAPITAL FINANCE (EUROPE) PLC

XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc (formerly known as XL Finance (UK) plc) was incorporated as a public limited company under the laws of England and Wales on August 29, 2001 under the number 4278406. XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc's registered offices are located at Fitzwilliam House, 10 Saint Mary Axe, London EC3A 8NL, England. XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc's telephone number is (44) 20 7220 7881. XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc is a wholly owned subsidiary of XL Capital.

THE TRUSTS

Each of XL Capital Trust I, XL Capital Trust II and XL Capital Trust III is a statutory trust formed under Delaware law pursuant to (i) a separate declaration of trust, executed by XL Capital, as sponsor for such trust (the "sponsor"), and the trustees (as defined herein) as of that date of such trust and (ii) the filing of a separate certificate of trust with the Delaware Secretary of State. The declaration of trust of each trust will be amended and restated in its entirety (as so amended and restated, the "declaration") substantially in the form incorporated by reference in the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Each trust exists for the exclusive purposes of (1) issuing and selling the trust preferred securities representing preferred undivided beneficial interests in the assets of such trust and trust common securities representing common undivided beneficial interests in the assets of such trust (the "trust common securities" and, together with the trust preferred securities, the "trust securities"), (2) investing the gross proceeds of the trust securities in a series of subordinated deferrable interest debentures and (3) engaging in only those other activities necessary or incidental thereto.

All of the trust common securities will be directly or indirectly owned by XL Capital. The trust common securities will rank equal with, and payments will be made thereon *pro rata*, with the trust preferred securities except that upon an event of default under the declaration, the rights of the holders of the trust common securities to payment in respect of distributions and payments upon liquidation, redemption and otherwise will be subordinated to the rights of the holders of the trust preferred securities. Each trust has a term of approximately 55 years, but may terminate earlier as provided in the applicable declaration.

Each trust's business and affairs will be conducted by the trustees (the "trustees") appointed by XL Capital, as the direct or indirect holder of all the trust common securities. The holder of the trust common securities will be entitled to appoint, remove or replace any of, or increase or reduce the number of, the trustees of a trust. The duties and obligations of such trustees shall be governed by the declaration of such trust, the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the "Trust Indenture Act"), and the Delaware Statutory Trust Act. A majority of the trustees

(the [regular trustees]) of each trust will be persons who are employees or officers of or affiliated with XL Capital.

One trustee of each trust will be a financial institution which will be unaffiliated with XL Capital and which shall act as property trustee and as indenture trustee for purposes of the Trust Indenture Act, pursuant to the terms set forth in a prospectus supplement (the [property trustee]). In addition, unless the property trustee maintains a principal place of business in the State of Delaware, and otherwise meets the requirements of applicable law, another trustee of each trust will have its principal place of business or reside in the State of Delaware (the [Delaware Trustee]). XL Capital will pay all fees, expenses, debts and obligations (other than the trust securities) related to the trusts and the offering of trust securities. The office of the Delaware trustee for each trust in the State of Delaware is First Union Trust Company, National Association, One Rodney Square, 920 King Street, Suite 102, Wilmington, Delaware 19801. The principal place of business of each trust shall be c/o XL Capital Ltd, XL House, One Bermudiana Road, Hamilton HM11, Bermuda (telephone number (441) 292-8515).

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as may otherwise be described in the prospectus supplement relating to an offering of securities, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities included in this prospectus will be used for general corporate purposes. Each trust will invest all proceeds received from the sale of its trust securities in a particular series of subordinated deferrable interest debentures of XL Capital, which will use such funds for general corporate purposes. Any specific allocation of the net proceeds of an offering of securities to a specific purpose will be determined at the time of such offering and will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

ACCOUNTING TREATMENT RELATING TO TRUST SECURITIES

The precise terms of the transaction, including the amount and type of ownership interests of XL Capital in the trust, and an analysis of the relevant accounting rules and interpretations (including FASB Interpretation No. 46, [Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities] ([FIN 46]) will dictate the accounting treatment of the Trust Preferred Securities. Such accounting treatment may involve, among other possibilities, consolidating the trust with XL Capital's consolidated financial statements or reflecting only the subordinated deferrable interest debentures issued to each trust. The prospectus supplement relating to an offering of Trust Preferred Securities will describe the accounting treatment expected to apply to any such offering.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERENCE ORDINARY SHARE DIVIDENDS

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and our ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preference ordinary share dividends for each of the periods indicated is as follows:

	Three Months Ended March 31, 2004	Fiscal Year Ended December 31,				
		2003	2002	2001	2000**	1999**
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	11.0x	3.1x	3.3x	*	6.5x	8.3x
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preference Ordinary Share Dividends	9.0x	2.6x	3.1x	*	6.5x	8.3x

* For the year ended December 31, 2001, earnings were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$832.4 million.

** The ratios reflect certain reclassifications of interest expense related to the accretion of deposit liabilities that were implemented retroactively effective March 31, 2002.

We have computed the foregoing ratios by dividing (1) income from continuing operations before income taxes, minority interest and income or loss from equity investees plus the sum of fixed charges, amortization of capitalized interest and distributed income of equity investees, less minority interest, by (2) the sum of fixed charges and, where indicated, preference ordinary share dividends. Fixed charges consist of interest expense on all indebtedness (including amortization of deferred financing costs), the portion of operating lease rental expense that is representative of the interest factor (deemed to be 30% of operating lease rentals) and interest credited to policyholders consisting of accretion of deposit liability transactions. Because we had no outstanding preference ordinary shares during any of the years ended December 31, 2001, 2000 and 1999, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges is identical to the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preference ordinary share dividends for each of these periods.

XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc and the trusts had no operations during the periods set forth above.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFERED SECURITIES

XL Capital may offer from time to time under this prospectus, separately or together:

- ordinary shares;
- preference ordinary shares;
- unsecured senior or subordinated debt securities;
- warrants to purchase ordinary shares of XL Capital;
- ordinary share purchase contracts; and
- ordinary share purchase units, each representing ownership of one or more ordinary share purchase contracts and, as security for the holder's obligation to purchase ordinary shares under the share purchase contract, any one or more of (1) debt securities of XL Capital (which may be senior or subordinated),

(2) senior debt securities of XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc, fully and unconditionally guaranteed by XL Capital, (3) debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities, (4) preference ordinary shares of XL Capital or (5) preferred securities of a trust.

XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc may offer from time to time under this prospectus unsecured senior debt securities, which will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed by XL Capital.

Each trust may offer from time to time under this prospectus trust preferred securities representing undivided beneficial interests in its respective assets, which will be fully and unconditionally guaranteed to the extent described in this prospectus by XL Capital.

The aggregate initial offering price of the offered securities will not exceed \$1,934,000,000.

References to "XL Capital," "we," "our" or "us" in "Description of XL Capital Preference Ordinary Shares," "Description of XL Capital Ordinary Shares," "Description of XL Capital Ordinary Share Warrants" and "Description of XL Capital Debt Securities," refer solely to XL Capital Ltd and not its subsidiaries.

DESCRIPTION OF XL CAPITAL SHARE CAPITAL

General

The Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association of XL Capital provide that its authorized share capital is US\$9,999,900 divided into 999,990,000 ordinary shares, par value \$0.01 per share. The XL Capital ordinary

5

shares are currently divided into five classes: Class A Ordinary Shares and Class B Ordinary Shares (together, the "ordinary shares") and Series A Preference Ordinary Shares, Series B Preference Ordinary Shares and Series C Preference Ordinary Shares.

As of May 10, 2004, XL Capital's issued and outstanding shares were approximately as follows:

Class of Shares*	Shares
Class A Ordinary Shares	138,124,185
Series A Preference Ordinary Shares	9,200,000
Series B Preference Ordinary Shares	11,500,000

All issued and outstanding shares are fully paid and nonassessable.

* Class B Ordinary Shares and Series C Preference Ordinary Shares are authorized. No Class B Ordinary Shares are outstanding and no Series C Preference Ordinary Shares have been issued.

DESCRIPTION OF XL CAPITAL PREFERENCE ORDINARY SHARES

General

We are authorized to issue up to 999,990,000 ordinary shares of our company, par value \$0.01 per share. Without prejudice to any special rights previously conferred on the holders of existing shares, the board of directors has the power to issue our ordinary shares with such preferred, deferred or other special rights, terms or conditions, or such restrictions, whether in regard to dividends, voting, return of share capital, exchange for other classes of shares, exchangeability for other securities or otherwise as the board of directors may from time to time determine.

The following is a description of certain general terms and provisions of the preference ordinary shares that, following appropriate resolutions of the board of directors, we may issue with preferred rights (□preference ordinary shares□). The particular terms of any class or series of preference ordinary shares will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement may also state that any of the terms set forth herein are inapplicable to such series of preference ordinary shares; *provided*, that the information set forth in such prospectus supplement does not constitute material changes to the information herein such that it alters the nature of the offering or the securities offered.

The following summary of terms of our preference ordinary shares is not complete. You should refer to the provisions of our Memorandum of Association, our Articles of Association and the terms of each class or series of the preference ordinary shares which will be filed with the SEC at or prior to the time of issuance of such class or series of the preference ordinary shares and described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Terms

The terms of each series of preference ordinary shares will be described in any prospectus supplement related to such class or series of preference ordinary shares.

The board of directors in approving the issuance of a class or series of preference ordinary shares shall determine, and the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth with respect to such class or series, the following:

- whether dividends on that class or series of preference ordinary shares will be cumulative or non-cumulative;
- the dividend rate and rights in respect of dividends on the preference ordinary shares of that class or series and whether the dividend rate is subject to reset (up to a specified maximum) under certain circumstances described, if applicable, in such prospectus supplement;
- the liquidation preference per share of that class or series of preference ordinary shares, if any;

6

-
- the voting powers, if any, of the preference ordinary shares of that class or series;
 - any redemption and sinking fund provisions applicable to that class or series of preference ordinary shares;
 - any conversion provisions applicable to that class or series of preference ordinary shares; and
 - the terms of any other preferences or other rights and limitations, if any, applicable to that class or series of preference ordinary shares.

Dividends

Holders of preference ordinary shares will be entitled to receive, when, as and if declared by the board of directors, cash dividends at the rates and on the dates as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Except as set forth below, no dividends will be declared or paid on any class or series of preference ordinary shares unless full dividends for all classes or series of preference ordinary shares which have the same rank as, or rank senior to, such class or series of preference ordinary shares (including cumulative dividends still owing, if any) have been or contemporaneously are declared and paid. When those dividends are not paid in full, dividends will be declared *pro rata* so that the amount of dividends declared per share on that class or series of preference ordinary shares and on each other class or series of preference ordinary shares having the same rank as, or ranking senior to, that class or series of preference ordinary shares will in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends per share on that class or series of preference ordinary shares and the other preference ordinary shares bear to each other. In addition, generally, unless all dividends on the preference ordinary shares have been paid, no dividends will be declared or paid on the ordinary shares and generally we may not redeem or purchase any ordinary shares.

Voting Rights

The holders of the preference ordinary shares shall not, except as required by law or as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, have any right or power to vote on any question or in any proceeding or to be represented at, or to receive notice of, any meeting of shareholders. On any matters on which the holders of the preference ordinary shares shall be entitled to vote, they shall be entitled to one vote for each share held.

Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, if six or more full quarterly dividends (whether consecutive or not) on any series of preference ordinary shares shall be in arrears, then during such period, which we refer to herein as the "voting period," the holders of a majority of the outstanding preference ordinary shares of all series so in arrears and having such right represented in person or by proxy at any meeting of our shareholders held for the election of directors during such voting period shall be entitled, as a class, to the exclusion of the holders of all other classes of our shares, to elect two of our directors, each preference ordinary share entitling the holder thereof to one vote.

Any director who shall have been elected by holders of preference ordinary shares, or by any director so elected as herein contemplated, may be removed at any time during a voting period, either for or without cause, by, and only by, the affirmative votes of the holders of record of a majority of the outstanding preference ordinary shares of all series given at a special meeting of such shareholders called for the purpose. Any vacancy thereby created may be filled during such voting period by the holders of preference ordinary shares of all series, present in person or represented by proxy at such meeting. Any director elected by holders of preference ordinary shares, or by any director so elected as herein contemplated, who dies, resigns or otherwise ceases to be a director shall, except as otherwise provided in the preceding sentence, be replaced by the remaining director theretofore elected by the holders of preference ordinary shares. At the end of the voting period, the holders of preference ordinary shares of all series shall be automatically divested of all voting power vested in them under this provision but subject always to the subsequent vesting of voting power in the holders of preference ordinary shares in the event of any similar cumulated arrearage in payment of quarterly dividends occurring thereafter. The term of all directors elected pursuant to this provision shall in all events expire at the end of the voting period.

In addition, unless a particular series of preference ordinary shares has been previously redeemed or called for redemption, certain transactions that would vary the rights of the holders of such series cannot be made without the

approval of a special resolution in writing by the holders of 100% of such series or the sanction of a special resolution passed by two-thirds of the votes cast at a separate meeting of the holders of such series, subject to any requirements of Cayman Islands law.

Ranking

The preference ordinary shares will rank senior to our ordinary shares with respect to payment of dividends and amounts upon liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of XL Capital. Without the requisite vote of holders of the preference ordinary shares, as described above under "Voting Rights," no class or series of capital shares can be created ranking senior to the preference ordinary shares as to dividend rights or liquidation preference.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, the holders of preference ordinary shares of each series are entitled to receive out of our assets available for distribution to shareholders, before any distribution of assets is made to holders of ordinary shares or any other class or series of our capital shares (including any preferred shares) which is junior as to liquidation rights to our preference ordinary shares of such series, liquidating distributions in the amount set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, plus dividends accrued and accumulated but unpaid to the date of such distribution. If, upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding-up, the amounts payable with respect to our preference ordinary shares of such series and any of our other preference ordinary shares ranking as to any such distribution on a parity with our preference ordinary shares of such series are not paid in full, the holders of our preference ordinary shares of such series and of such of our other preference ordinary shares will share ratably in any such distribution of assets in proportion to the full respective preferential amounts to which they are entitled. After payment of the full amount of the liquidating distribution to which they are entitled, the holders of preference ordinary shares will not be entitled to any further participation in any distribution of assets by us. Neither our consolidation or merger with another corporation nor a sale or transfer of all or part of our assets for cash or securities shall be considered a liquidation, dissolution or winding-up of XL Capital.

Redemption Provisions

The preference ordinary shares of each series will have such optional or mandatory redemption terms, if any, as shall be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Conversion and Exchange Rights

The preference ordinary shares, if convertible, will only be convertible into our ordinary shares, and will not be convertible into or exchangeable for securities of a third party. The terms and conditions, if any, upon which any series of our preference ordinary shares is convertible into ordinary shares or exchangeable into debt securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to such series of preference ordinary shares. Such terms will include:

- (1) in the case such series of preference ordinary shares is convertible into ordinary shares:
 - (a) the number of ordinary shares into which preference ordinary shares of such series are convertible;
 - (b) the conversion price (or manner of calculation thereof);
 - (c) the conversion period;
 - (d) provisions as to whether conversion will be at the option of the holders of such series of preference ordinary shares or at our option or automatic;
 - (e) the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion price; and
 - (f) provisions affecting conversion in the event of the redemption of such series of preference ordinary shares; and

-
- (2) in the case such series of preference ordinary shares is exchangeable into debt securities:

- (a) the principal amount of debt securities into which preference ordinary shares of such series are exchangeable;
- (b) the exchange period; and
- (c) provisions as to whether the exchange will be at the option of the holders of such series of preference ordinary shares or at our option or automatic.

Miscellaneous

Our preference ordinary shares will have no preemptive rights. All of our preference ordinary shares, upon payment in full therefor, will be fully paid and nonassessable.

DESCRIPTION OF XL CAPITAL ORDINARY SHARES

General

The following description of our ordinary shares is a summary. This summary is not complete and is subject to the complete text of applicable laws and our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Voting

The holders of our Class A Ordinary Shares are entitled to one vote per share while our Class B Ordinary Shares carry no voting rights. Our Articles of Association restrict the voting power of any shareholder to less than approximately 10% of total voting power.

Under the Cayman Islands Companies Law (2002 Revision) (the "Law") and our Memorandum and Articles of Association, some matters, such as altering the Memorandum or the Articles of Association, changing the name of a company, voluntarily winding-up a company or removing a director, require approval of shareholders by a special resolution. A special resolution is a resolution (1) passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of such shareholders as, being entitled to do so, vote in person or by proxy at a general meeting or (2) approved in writing by all shareholders entitled to vote at a general meeting of the company.

Dividend Rights

Subject to the Law and any rights and restrictions of any other class or series of shares, including our preference ordinary shares, the board of directors may from time to time declare dividends on the shares issued and authorize payment of the dividends out of our profit realized or unrealized or out of monies otherwise available for dividends in accordance with the Law. The board of directors may declare that any dividend be paid wholly or partly by the distribution of our shares and/or specific assets.

No dividends on the shares issued will be declared by our board of directors, or paid or set apart for payment by us, at any time during which the terms and provisions of any of our agreements, including any agreement relating to our indebtedness, or Cayman Islands law prohibit a declaration, payment or setting apart for payment of a dividend or provide that such a declaration, payment or setting apart for payment would constitute a breach or a default or not be permitted thereunder. No dividends on the shares issued will be declared or paid or set apart for payment if prohibited by law or regulation.

Our Articles of Association provide that no dividend shall be payable except out of our profits, realized or unrealized, or out of monies otherwise available for dividends in accordance with Cayman Islands law. Under Cayman Islands law, we may not lawfully declare or pay a dividend out of the share premium account if there are reasonable grounds for believing that we are, or would immediately following the payment of the dividend be, unable to pay our debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business. In addition, our directors are, as a matter of prudence,

required to ensure that any dividend declared or paid is not of an amount that reduces our reserves to a level that is not sufficient to meet the reserve requirements of our business.

Rights upon Liquidation

Upon our liquidation, after the payments to be made in accordance with the Law and the full amounts that holders of any issued shares ranking senior to the ordinary shares, including our preference ordinary shares, as to distribution on liquidation or winding-up are entitled to receive have been paid or set aside for payment, the holders of the ordinary shares are entitled to receive, *pro rata*, any remaining assets available for distribution to the holders of ordinary shares. The liquidator may deduct from the amount payable in respect of those ordinary shares any liabilities the holder has to or with us. The assets received by the holders of ordinary shares in a liquidation may consist in whole or in part of property. That property is not required to be of the same kind for all shareholders.

Stock Plans

Our incentive stock plan, the "1991 Performance Incentive Program," provides for grants of non-qualified or incentive stock options, restricted stock awards, restricted stock units, performance shares, performance units and stock appreciation rights ("SARs"). The plan is administered by a Committee designated by the board of directors (the "Committee"). Stock options may be granted with or without SARs. Exercise prices (which cannot be less per share than the fair market value per share on the grant date) are established by the Committee at the date of grant. Options and SARs have a life of not longer than 10 years and vest as set forth by the Committee.

Restricted stock awards issued under the 1991 Performance Incentive Program vest over such period as the Committee may approve. These shares contain certain restrictions, prior to vesting, relating to, among other things, forfeiture in the event of termination of employment and transferability. Restricted stock issued under the plan totaled 496,671 shares, 225,960 shares and 227,795 shares in 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively. Vesting for such shares generally occurs over a four year period from the date of issue.

We also have stock plans in place for our non-employee directors. We maintain the Directors Stock & Option Plan, which provides for annual automatic grants of options to purchase 5,000 ordinary shares to each non-employee director in office immediately following our annual meeting. It also provides for automatic grants of options to purchase 5,000 shares to each non-employee director when he or she is first elected to the Board. The exercise price per share of each of the options is equal to the fair market value per ordinary share on the date of grant, the options vest immediately on the date of grant, and they are exercisable for ten years. Discretionary stock option grants may also be made to non-employee directors under the plan. The Directors Stock & Option Plan also provides for discretionary grants of restricted stock and restricted stock units to non-employee directors. Non-employee directors may also make an irrevocable election preceding the beginning of each calendar year to defer cash compensation that would otherwise be payable as their annual retainer in increments of 10% or receive their annual retainer fee currently in the form of shares instead of cash. Any deferred payments will be credited in the form of shares calculated by dividing 110% of the deferred payment by the market value of our stock on the date the fees would otherwise be payable. The shares are distributed in accordance with the terms of the plan. Shares issued under the plan totaled 3,153, 3,622 and 4,240 in 2003, 2002, and 2001, respectively.

A second stock plan, the Stock Plan for Non-employee Directors, provides for the crediting of share units, as of the day of each year that annual retainer fees are payable, determined by dividing the annual retainer fee by the fair market value of an ordinary share on the date the units are credited. These units receive dividends in the form of additional units equal to the cash value divided by the market price on the payment date. Benefits under the plan will be distributed in the form of our ordinary shares following termination of the director's service on the Board. Share units totaling 8,598, 6,659 and 7,318 were issued in 2003, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

In 1999, we adopted our 1999 Performance Incentive Program under which 1,250,000 options were available and issued to employees who were not directors or executive officers. Our 1999 Performance Incentive Program is substantially similar to our 1991 Performance Incentive Program.

The Employee Share Purchase Plan (the "ESPP") was approved by our shareholders on May 10, 2002. The ESPP has two six-month offering periods per year, commencing July 1 and January 1. All employees of XL Capital and its designated participating subsidiaries are eligible to participate in the ESPP, *provided* they have been employed at least one month prior to the start of the offering period. Employees can invest up to 20% of their total monthly cash compensation towards the purchase of our shares up to a total market value (measured on the first day of the applicable offering period) of U.S.\$25,000 in any calendar year. Employees who enroll in the ESPP may purchase our shares at a 15% discount on the lesser of the market price at the beginning or at the end of the six-month offering period. A total of 1,255,000 ordinary shares may be issued under the ESPP. The number of shares issued during the year ended December 31, 2003 and 2002 was 99,059 and 47,399, respectively.

Share Rights Plan

Rights to purchase ordinary shares (the "Rights") were distributed as a dividend at the rate of one Right for each ordinary share held of record as of the close of business on October 31, 1998. Each Right entitles holders of ordinary shares to buy one ordinary share at an exercise price of \$350. The Rights would be exercisable, and would detach from the ordinary shares, only if a person or group were to acquire 20% or more of our outstanding ordinary shares, or were to announce a tender or exchange offer that, if consummated, would result in a person or group beneficially owning 20% or more of our outstanding ordinary shares. Upon a person or group without prior approval of the board of directors acquiring 20% or more of our outstanding ordinary shares, each Right would entitle the holder (other than such an acquiring person or group) to purchase ordinary shares (or, in certain circumstances, ordinary shares of the acquiring person) with a value of twice the Rights exercise price upon payment of the Rights exercise price. We will be entitled to redeem the Rights at \$0.01 per Right at any time until the close of business on the tenth day after the Rights become exercisable. The Rights will expire at the close of business on September 30, 2008, and do not initially have a fair value. We have initially reserved 119,073,878 authorized ordinary shares for issuance upon exercise of Rights.

Classified Board

Our board of directors is divided into three classes that are elected for staggered three-year terms. A director may be removed by the shareholders without cause only by special resolution of the total voting power of our issued shares determined in accordance with our Articles of Association.

DESCRIPTION OF XL CAPITAL ORDINARY SHARE WARRANTS

General

XL Capital may issue ordinary share warrants independently or together with any securities offered by any prospectus supplement and such ordinary share warrants may be attached to or separate from such securities. Each series of ordinary share warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between XL Capital and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the certificates representing the ordinary share warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders of ordinary share warrant certificates or beneficial owners of ordinary share warrants.

The following summaries of certain provisions of the warrant agreement and ordinary share warrant certificate are not complete. You should look at the warrant agreement relating to, and the ordinary share warrant certificate representing, a series of ordinary share warrants.

The applicable prospectus supplement may also state that any of the terms set forth herein are inapplicable to such series; *provided*, that the information set forth in such prospectus supplement does not constitute material changes to the information herein such that it alters the nature of the offering or the securities offered. Ordinary share warrants for the purchase of ordinary shares will be offered and exercisable for U.S. dollars only and will be in registered form only.

Terms

An applicable prospectus supplement will set forth and describe other specific terms regarding each series of ordinary share warrants offered hereby, including:

- (1) the offering price;
- (2) the number of ordinary shares purchasable upon exercise of each such ordinary share warrant and the price at which such number of ordinary shares may be purchased upon such exercise;
- (3) the date on which the right to exercise such ordinary share warrants shall commence and the date on which such right shall expire; and
- (4) any other terms of such ordinary share warrants.

Exercise of Ordinary Share Warrants

Each ordinary share warrant will entitle the holder thereof to purchase such ordinary shares at such exercise price as shall in each case be set forth in, or calculable from, the prospectus supplement relating to the offered ordinary share warrants. After the close of business on the expiration date of each ordinary share warrant or such later date to which such expiration date may be extended by us, unexercised ordinary share warrants will become void.

Ordinary share warrants may be exercised by delivering to the warrant agent payment as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement of the amount required to purchase the ordinary shares purchasable upon such exercise, together with certain information set forth on the reverse side of the ordinary share warrant certificate. Upon receipt of such payment and the ordinary share warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will, as soon as practicable, issue and deliver the ordinary shares purchasable upon such exercise. If fewer than all of the ordinary share warrants represented by such ordinary share certificate are exercised, a new ordinary share warrant certificate will be issued for the remaining amount of ordinary share warrants.

Amendments and Supplements to Warrant Agreement

The warrant agreement for a series of ordinary share warrants may be amended or supplemented without the consent of the holders of the ordinary share warrants issued thereunder to effect changes that are not inconsistent with the provisions of the ordinary share warrants and that do not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the ordinary share warrants.

Ordinary Share Warrant Adjustments

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the exercise price of, and the number of ordinary shares covered by, an ordinary share warrant are subject to adjustment in certain events, including:

- (1) the issuance of ordinary shares as a dividend or distribution on the ordinary shares;
- (2) certain subdivisions and combinations of the ordinary shares;
- (3) the issuance to all holders of ordinary shares of certain rights or warrants entitling them to subscribe for or purchase ordinary shares at less than the current market value, as defined in the applicable warrant agreement for such series of ordinary share warrants; and

- (4) the distribution to all holders of ordinary shares of certain evidences of our indebtedness or assets, other than certain cash dividends and distributions described below.

No adjustment in the exercise price of, and the number of ordinary shares covered by, an ordinary share warrant will be made for regular quarterly or other periodic or recurring cash dividends or distributions or for cash dividends or

12

distributions to the extent paid from retained earnings. No adjustment will be required unless such adjustment would require a change of at least one percent in the exercise price and exercise rate then in effect; *provided, however*, that any such adjustment not so made will be carried forward and taken into account in any subsequent adjustment; *provided, further*, that any such adjustment not so made shall be made no later than three years after the occurrence of the event requiring such adjustment to be made or carried forward. Except as stated above, the exercise price of, and the number of ordinary shares covered by, an ordinary share warrant will not be adjusted for the issuance of ordinary shares or any securities convertible into or exchangeable for ordinary shares, or securities carrying the right to purchase any of the foregoing.

In the case of:

- (1) a reclassification or change of the ordinary shares;
- (2) certain consolidation or merger events involving us; or
- (3) a sale or conveyance to another corporation of our property and assets as an entirety or substantially as an entirety;

in each case as a result of which holders of our ordinary shares shall be entitled to receive stock, securities, other property or assets (including cash) with respect to or in exchange for such ordinary shares, the holders of the ordinary share warrants then outstanding will be entitled thereafter to convert such ordinary share warrants into the kind and amount of ordinary shares and other securities or property which they would have received upon such reclassification, change, consolidation, merger, sale or conveyance had such ordinary share warrants been exercised immediately prior to such reclassification, change, consolidation, merger, sale or conveyance.

DESCRIPTION OF XL CAPITAL ORDINARY SHARE PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND ORDINARY SHARE PURCHASE UNITS

XL Capital may issue share purchase contracts, representing contracts obligating holders to purchase from XL Capital, and obligating XL Capital to sell to the holders, or holders to sell to XL Capital and XL Capital to purchase from the holders, a fixed or varying number of ordinary shares at a future date or dates. The price per ordinary share may be fixed at the time the share purchase contracts are entered into or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the share purchase contracts. Any share purchase contract may include anti-dilution provisions to adjust the number of shares to be delivered pursuant to such share purchase contract upon the occurrence of certain events. The share purchase contracts may be entered into separately or as a part of share purchase units consisting of one or more share purchase contracts and any one or more of:

- (1) debt securities of XL Capital (which may be senior or subordinated);
- (2) senior debt securities of XL Capital Finance (Europe) plc, fully and unconditionally guaranteed by XL Capital;
- (3) preference ordinary shares of XL Capital;
- (4) trust preferred securities of an XL Capital Trust; or

- (5) debt or equity obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities.

The share purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the share purchase units or vice versa, and such payments may be unsecured or prefunded and may be paid on a current or on a deferred basis. The share purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations in a specified manner and in certain circumstances we may deliver newly issued prepaid share purchase contracts upon release to a holder of any collateral securing such holder's obligations under the original share purchase contract. Any one or more of the above securities, ordinary shares or the share purchase contracts or other collateral may be pledged as security for the holders.

13

obligations to purchase or sell, as the case may be, the ordinary shares under the share purchase contracts. The share purchase contracts may also allow the holders, under certain circumstances, to obtain the release of the security for their obligations under such contracts by depositing with the collateral agent, as substitute collateral, treasury securities with a principal amount at maturity equal to the collateral so released or the maximum number of ordinary shares deliverable by such holders under ordinary share purchase contracts requiring the holders to sell ordinary shares to XL Capital.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any share purchase contracts or share purchase units and, if applicable, prepaid share purchase contracts. The description in the prospectus supplement will be qualified in its entirety by reference to (1) the share purchase contracts, (2) the collateral arrangements and depositary arrangements, if applicable, relating to such share purchase contracts or share purchase units and (3) if applicable, the prepaid share purchase contracts and the document pursuant to which such prepaid share purchase contracts will be issued.

DESCRIPTION OF XL CAPITAL DEBT SECURITIES

General

XL Capital may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series, under one or more indentures, each dated as of a date on or prior to the issuance of the debt securities to which it relates. Senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities may be issued pursuant to separate indentures, a senior indenture and a subordinated indenture, respectively, in each case between us and a trustee qualified under the Trust Indenture Act. Such indentures are subject to such amendments or supplements as may be adopted from time to time. The senior indenture and the subordinated indenture, as amended or supplemented from time to time, are sometimes referred to individually as an "indenture" and collectively as the "indentures." Each indenture is subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act. The aggregate principal amount of debt securities which may be issued under each indenture is unlimited and each indenture provides that the specific terms of any series of debt securities will be set forth in, or determined pursuant to, an authorizing resolution, as defined in the applicable prospectus supplement, and/or a supplemental indenture, if any, relating to such series.

The statements made below relating to the debt securities and the indentures are summaries of the material provisions thereof and are subject to, and are qualified by reference to, the provisions of the applicable indenture and any applicable U.S. federal income tax considerations as well as any applicable supplements to the terms described below in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement may also state that any of the terms set forth herein are inapplicable to such series of debt securities; *provided*, that the information set forth in such prospectus supplement does not constitute material changes to the information herein such that it alters the nature of the offering or the securities offered.

Terms

The debt securities will be our unsecured obligations.

The senior debt securities will rank equal in right of payment with all our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

The subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all our senior indebtedness, which is defined in the section called "Ranking of Debt Securities" below.

The specific terms of each series of debt securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating thereto, including the following, as applicable:

- (1) the title of such debt securities, whether such debt securities are offered pursuant to a medium term notes program, and whether such debt securities are senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and, if subordinated debt securities, the specific subordination provisions applicable thereto;
 - (2) the aggregate principal amount of such debt securities and any limit on such aggregate principal amount;
-
- (3) the price (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount thereof) at which such debt securities will be issued and, if other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount thereof payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof, or, if applicable, the portion of the principal amount of such debt securities that is convertible into ordinary shares or preference ordinary shares or the method by which any such portion shall be determined;
 - (4) if convertible into our ordinary shares or preference ordinary shares or another entity's common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, the terms on which such debt securities are convertible, including the initial conversion price, the conversion period, any events requiring an adjustment of the applicable conversion price and any requirements relating to the reservation of such ordinary shares or preference ordinary shares for purposes of conversion;
 - (5) the date(s), or the method for determining such date or dates, on which the principal of such debt securities will be payable and, if applicable, the terms on which such maturity may be extended;
 - (6) the rate(s) (which may be fixed or floating), or the method by which such rate or rates shall be determined, at which such debt securities will bear interest, if any, including, if applicable, that such debt securities will bear interest at an increased rate (up to a specified maximum) upon the occurrence of an event of default and/or under certain circumstances described in the applicable prospectus supplement (which may include, among other things, a reduction in the trading price of our ordinary shares below certain levels for a minimum period of time);
 - (7) the date(s), or the method for determining such date or dates, from which any such interest will accrue, the dates on which any such interest will be payable, the record dates for such interest payment dates, or the method by which such dates shall be determined, the persons to whom such interest shall be payable, and the basis upon which interest shall be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months;
 - (8) the place(s) where the principal of and interest, if any, on such debt securities will be payable, where such debt securities may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange and where notices or demands to or upon us in respect of such debt securities and the applicable indenture may be served;
 - (9) the period(s), if any, within which, the price or prices at which and the other terms and conditions upon which such debt securities may, pursuant to any optional or mandatory redemption provisions, be redeemed, as a whole or in part, at our option;
 - (10) our obligation, if any, to redeem, repay or repurchase such debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund (as defined in the applicable supplemental indenture) or analogous provision or at the option of a holder thereof, and the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the other terms and conditions upon which such debt securities will be redeemed, repaid or purchased, as a whole or in part, pursuant to such obligations;
 - (11) if other than U.S. dollars, the currency or currencies in which the principal of and interest, if any, on such debt securities are denominated and payable, which may be a foreign currency or units of two or more foreign currencies or a composite currency or currencies, and the terms and conditions relating thereto;
 - (12) whether the amount of payments of principal of or interest, if any, on such debt securities may be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method (which index, formula or method may, but need not, be based on the yield on or trading price of other securities, including United States Treasury

securities, or on a currency, currencies, currency unit or units, or composite currency or currencies) and the manner in which such amounts shall be determined;

15

- (13) whether the principal of or interest, if any, on the debt securities of the series is to be payable, at our election or the election of a holder thereof, in a currency or currencies, currency unit or units or composite currency or currencies other than that in which such debt securities are denominated or stated to be payable and the period or periods within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, such election may be made;
- (14) provisions, if any, granting special rights to the holders of debt securities of the series upon the occurrence of such events as may be specified;
- (15) any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the events of default or our covenants with respect to debt securities of the series, whether or not such events of default or covenants are consistent with the events of default or covenants described herein;
- (16) whether debt securities of the series are to be issuable initially in temporary global form and whether any debt securities of the series are to be issuable in permanent global form and, if s