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Cover; Contents; I. Introduction; II. The Recent Evolution in Bank Stress Tests: III. A Combined Unconsolidated/Consolidated Stress Test Approach; Figure; 1. Conceptual Difference between 'Traditional' Stress Test and Stress Tests Taking into Account Group Structures; IV. Quantifying the Potential Bias of not Using a Combined Approach; 2. Banks' Geographical Distributions; 3. Banks' share of Profits and Capital Outside EU; 4. Partial and Full Ring Fencing Adjustments; V.

Conclusions; References; Annex I - Mapping Bank Groups

Sommario/riassunto

The recent crisis has spurred the use of stress tests as a (crisis) management and early warning tool. However, a weakness is that they omit potential risks embedded in the banking groups' geographical structures by assuming that capital and liquidity are available wherever they are needed within the group. This assumption neglects the fact that regulations differ across countries (e.g., minimum capital requirements), and, more importantly, that home/host regulators might limit flows of capital or liquidity within a group during periods of stress. This study presents a framework on how to integrate this risk element into stress tests, and provides illustrative calculations on the size of the potential adjustments needed in the presence of some limits on intragroup flows for banks included in the June 2011 EBA stress tests.