

Information Circular: Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. STRIDES

To: Head Traders, Technical Contacts, Compliance Officers, Heads of ETF

Trading, Structured Products Traders

From: William Slattery, Associate Vice President, NASDAQ Listing Qualifications

Department

DATE: February 4, 2008

Equity-Linked Notes

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. 11% Callable Stock Return Income Debt Securities Linked to Common Stock of The Home Depot, Inc.

Symbol CUSIP Number

HRO

59022Y717

Information on the Notes

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the "Issuer") has issued 11% Callable Stock Return Income Debt Securities ("STRIDES") linked to the common stock of The Home Depot, Inc. ("Home Depot"). The STRIDES were priced at \$25 each and mature on February 8, 2010.

The STRIDES pay a coupon of 11% per annum, paid quarterly on the 8th of each May, August, November, and February.

At maturity, if the Notes have not been previously called, in exchange for each STRIDES, the investor will receive a number of shares of Home Depot common stock equal to the then current share multiplier.

The STRIDES are callable beginning February 9, 2009 up until the maturity date (the "Call Period"). The Issuer will notify the trustee at least 5 business days prior to the call date. The Yield to Call on the STRIDES is 14%. The calculation of the Yield to Call takes into account the original issue price of the STRIDES, the time to the call date, and the coupon payments of the STRIDES, as well as the call price. If the Issuer calls the STRIDES on any particular date during the Call Period, the call price will be an amount so that the Yield to Call on the STRIDES up to but excluding the call date will be 14% per annum.

If on any date the closing market price of Home Depot common stock is less than \$1.00, the STRIDES will be redeemed on the third business day following such a date and will deliver a number of shares of Home Depot stock equal to the then current share multiplier plus the accrued and unpaid interest up to the redemption date and the present value of the remaining coupon payments, if any.

Investors in STRIDES will not be entitled to any rights with respect to Home Depot until such time as the Issuer shall deliver Home Depot shares to investors in the STRIDES, if applicable.

There can be no assurances as to how the STRIDES will trade in the secondary market or whether such market will be liquid or illiquid. Securities with characteristics similar to the STRIDES are unique securities, and there is currently no secondary market for the STRIDES.

It is expected that the market value of the STRIDES will depend substantially on the value of Home Depot and may be affected by a number of other interrelated factors including, among other things: the general level of interest rates, the volatility of Home Depot stock, the time remaining to maturity, the dividend yield of Home Depot stock, and the credit ratings of the Issuer.

The Trustee for the securities is The Bank of New York.

Trading in the STRIDES on NASDAQ is on a UTP basis and is subject to NASDAQ equity trading rules. The STRIDES will trade from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Additional risks may exist with respect to trading the STRIDES during Nasdaq's Pre-Market and Post-Market sessions.

Trading of the STRIDES on NASDAQ is subject to the provisions of <u>NASDAQ Rule 2310</u>. Members recommending transactions in the STRIDES to customers should make a determination that the recommendation is suitable for the customer. In addition, members must possess sufficient information to satisfy the "know your customer" obligation that is embedded in the NASDAQ Conduct Rules.

Members also should review NASD Notice to Members 03-71 for guidance on trading these products. The Notice reminds members of their obligations to: (1) conduct adequate due diligence to understand the features of the product; (2) perform a reasonable-basis suitability analysis; (3) perform customer-specific suitability analysis in connection with any recommended transactions; (4) provide a balanced disclosure of both the risks and rewards associated with the particular product, especially when selling to retail investors; (5) implement appropriate internal controls; and (6) train registered persons regarding the features, risk and suitability of these products.

This Information Circular is not a statutory prospectus. NASDAQ members should consult the registration statement or prospectus for the STRIDES for additional information.

Inquiries regarding this Information Circular should be directed to:

- Will Slattery, NASDAQ Listing Qualifications, at 301.978.8088
- NASDAQ Market Sales at 800.846.0477