

International Conference Towards a Savings and Investment Union (SIU)



28 March 2025



Brussels



[International Conference] Towards a Savings and Investment Union (SIU)

Date: 28 March 2025 |

Location: KBR Royal Library of Belgium, The Auditorium, Main Entrance, Mont des Arts 28, 1000 Brussels

09:00 – 09:30 | Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30 – 09:40 | Opening Remarks

Aleksandra Mączyńska, Managing Director, BETTER FINANCE

09:40 – 10:00 | Keynote Speech: Enhancing Retail Participation in the EU Financial Markets

Maria Luís Albuquerque, European Commissioner for Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union, European Commission

- Progress on the Retail Investment Strategy.
- Ensuring fair, transparent, and accessible investment opportunities.
- How EU policies aim to deliver value for retail investors and boost confidence in financial markets.

10:00 – 11:30 | Panel 1: Enhancing Retail Participation in the EU Financial Markets

Moderator: Jella Benner-Heinacher, President, BETTER FINANCE

Panellists:

- **Andrea Beltramello**, Head of Unit for the Capital Markets Union, DG FISMA, European Commission
- **Ben Granjé**, Chairman, VFB (Vlaamse Federatie van Beleggingsclubs en Beleggers)
- **Nikolaj Kosakewitsch**, President, Nasdaq Copenhagen
- **Sebastian Külps**, Head of Business Development, Germany & Northern Europe, Vanguard Europe
- **Florian Prucker**, Founder, Co-CEO, Scalable Capital

Discussion Points:

- Engaging more retail investors in EU financial markets and addressing the lack of trust.
 - The role of digital solutions in reducing barriers to entry.
 - Improving accessibility and transparency of investment products for retail investors.
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11:30 – 11:50 | Keynote Speech: Delivering Value for Money in EU Financial Markets

Eero Heinäluoma, Member of the European Parliament, ECON Committee Member

- Legislative initiatives to strengthen retail investor participation: enhancing access to financial markets while ensuring fairness and transparency.
- Value for Money (VfM) in financial products: ensuring products deliver appropriate returns relative to their cost, are fit for purpose, and avoid excessive fees.
- Impact on retail investors: how VfM boosts trust, prevents return erosion, and enables better-informed investment decisions.
- Driving financial literacy and sustainability: the role of transparency and education in fostering confidence and aligning with sustainability goals.

11:50 – 13:00 | Coffee, Light Lunch and Networking

13:00 – 14:30 | Panel 2: Delivering Value for Money in EU Financial Markets

Moderator: Karel Lannoo, CEO, CEPS (Centre for European Policy Studies)

Panellists:

- **Matthias Baccino**, Markets Group Lead - Trade Republic
- **Petra Hielkema**, Chair, EIOPA - European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority
- **Verena Ross**, Chair, ESMA - European Securities and Markets Authority
- **Prof. Emanuele Carluccio**, Chair, EFPA - European Financial Planning Association
- **Delphine de Chaisemartin**, Deputy CEO, AFG - The French Asset Management Association

Discussion Points:

- Defining Value for Money (VfM): Establishing benchmarks for VfM, focusing on costs, returns, and alignment with retail investors' needs.
- Regulatory initiatives to promote VfM: Exploring how legislation and supervisory actions can drive the creation of value-driven financial products.
- Improving competition to allow better VfM for consumers.
- Transparency and informed decision-making: Ensuring retail investors have clear information on fees, costs, and product performance to identify VfM products.
- Challenges in delivering VfM: Addressing hurdles faced by the financial industry in balancing profitability with delivering VfM for investors.
- Building trust through industry standards: Promoting best practices within the financial sector to boost confidence and foster long-term retail participation.

15:10 – 15:15 | Closing Remarks: Towards a Savings and Investment Union

Jella Benner-Heinacher, President, BETTER FINANCE