

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 27 June 2023

Time for the top management of BETTER FINANCE to evolve

As of July 1st, 2023,

- Guillaume Prache will step down as Managing Director and **Aleksandra Mączyńska**, currently Executive Director, will become Acting Managing Director.
- **Matis Joab**, currently Finance Officer, will become Executive Director.
- Aleksandra and Matis will form the Executive Team together with **Arnaud Houdmont**, who was named Director of Communication last March.

In 2017, Aleksandra Mączyńska transitioned from her position at the Polish consumer and competition watchdog and joined BETTER FINANCE. She has been the vice chair of the EIOPA Occupational Pensions Stakeholder Group since 2018 and is part of the EC Consumer Policy Advisory Group, and of ESMA's Consultative Working Group for the Coordination Network on Sustainability (bio attached).

Matis Joab joined BETTER FINANCE in 2020. Prior to that he served as the Financial Director of the European Students' Forum (AEGEE) (bio attached).

Guillaume Prache and several European investor and financial services user organisations founded BETTER FINANCE in 2009, considerably expanding the scope of Euroshareholders created in 1992. BETTER FINANCE started with one employee and one intern with an annual budget of € 50,000. In 2023 it has 9 to 10 team members, and an annual budget of more than € one million. It is today the leading European NGO most involved in consultative bodies related to European financial and corporate governance policy. Since 2012 it enjoys the support of the European Union to increase the engagement of financial services users and individual investors in the design of EU-financial policy making.

Guillaume Prache will remain at BETTER FINANCE as Senior Advisor to assist the new Executive Team in several areas. He also remains the executive president of the biggest BETTER FINANCE member organisation, the French FAIDER, which represents 1,6 million financial users. He also continues to serve as a member of the ESMA and EIOPA-insurance Stakeholder Groups and of other financial consultative bodies.

Guillaume Prache said: *"It has been 15 years since I started BETTER FINANCE as a project and then as an NGO. It is now time to renew the top management of the organisation by offering very capable and dedicated team members bigger responsibilities and new experiences and challenges. We are also currently facing financial challenges, mainly the mandatory indexation of most of our costs to Belgian inflation while our main sources of income are not indexed. Eliminating the biggest salary of the Team also helps address this issue while protecting the most precious asset of our NGO, its human "capital".*

I have full confidence in Aleksandra and in the new Executive Team, under the continued presidency of Jella Benner-Heinacher, to lead BETTER FINANCE into new developments to the benefit of citizens as savers, pension savers, individual investors, and other financial services users."

Contact: Director of Communications | Arnaud Houdmont | +32 (0)2 514 37 77 | houdmont@betterfinance.eu

BIOGRAPHIES:



Aleksandra Mączyńska joined BETTER FINANCE in 2017 as Executive Director responsible for policy and research. She has been the vice chair of the EIOPA Occupational Pensions Stakeholder Group since 2018 and is part of the EC Consumer Policy Advisory Group. She represents individual investors and financial services users in the United Nations Civil Society Advisory Body of the Principles for Responsible Banking (UNEPFI) as well as ESMA's Consultative Working Group for the Coordination Network on Sustainability.

Prior to joining BETTER FINANCE, she worked at the Polish consumer and competition watchdog. She studied at the Faculty of Management at the Poznan University of Economics and at the Warsaw School of Economics. She has vast experience in the management of international projects, e.g. EU funded capacity building projects. As a Fellow of the Robert Bosch Foundation Programme for Young Executives from the Public Sector, she worked for the Division for World Bank International Monetary Fund, Debt Issues and International Finance Structure at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. She was an expert in various EU Council Working Groups (WP on Financial Services) as well as the European Commission's Advisory Committees.



Matis Joab joined BETTER FINANCE at the beginning of 2020. Since then, he has been in charge of finances, administration and member relations, as well as representing BETTER FINANCE at the European Financial Reporting Expert Group and contributing to BETTER FINANCE's research work in relation to pension savings and investor rights.

Prior to joining BETTER FINANCE, he served as the Financial Director of the European Students' Forum (AEGEE) after gaining professional experience in the private sector in his native Estonia, primarily working in commercial real estate, investments, and project management. He holds a master's degree (*cum laude*) in management and a bachelor's degree in applied economics from Tallinn University of Technology.