

PRESS RELEASE

PROF. PIERRE-HENRI CONAC APPOINTED AS CHAIR OF THE BETTER FINANCE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Brussels, 14 December 2023 – On December 11th, the BETTER FINANCE Scientific Council convened to discuss next year's research program and to elect a new chairperson. The Council recommended that BF continues to build on the extensive research conducted by the team and expressed support for the 2024 research program, including further research on the real return of pension and long-term investment products, digital and sustainable investing, value for money, and shareholders' rights, among other topics.

Comprising highly skilled and experienced independent academics, the Scientific Council plays a crucial role in assisting BETTER FINANCE in delivering high-quality research for financial services users, stakeholders, and policymakers. BETTER FINANCE is pleased to announce the election of Professor Pierre-Henri Conac as the new Chair of the BETTER FINANCE Scientific Council. Professor Conac replaces Dr. Prof. Rüdiger Veil, who served two terms as Chair. BETTER FINANCE is very grateful to Professor Veil for effectively chairing the Council and wishes to highlight that all members of the Council, including the Chair, serve on a pro bono basis.



Pierre-Henri Conac, Pierre-Henri Conac is Professor of Financial Market Law at the University of Luxembourg where he founded the Master in European Banking and International Financial Law (LL.M.). He is also Max Planck Fellow at the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg and recently been appointed Acting Head of the Institute's two research departments.

He authored securities market regulations for the French Commission (COB) and the US SEC. Conac played a key role in shaping EU and national policies on company law, banking, and financial law. Like Rüdiger Veil, he is a former member in the category of Independent top-ranking academic of the Securities and Markets Stakeholders Group (SMSG), which advises the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA).

Under his chairmanship, the Scientific Council will continue to advise and support BETTER FINANCE in its research activities, ensuring that the research carried out by BETTER FINANCE maintains the highest standards. BETTER FINANCE is honoured to have distinguished members such as Dr. Prof. Rüdiger Veil (Luxembourg), Prof. Niamh Moloney (Ireland), Prof. Dr. Jan Sebo (Slovakia), and Mr. Nicolas Véron (USA/EU) contributing to help deliver high-quality research for financial services users, other stakeholders, and policymakers.

BETTER FINANCE serves as an independent financial expertise centre for the direct benefit of European financial services users (shareholders, other investors, savers, pension fund participants, life insurance policyholders, borrowers, etc.) and other stakeholders in European financial services who are independent from the financial industry. BETTER FINANCE works closely with the European Commission, and its activities have received support from the European Union since 2012.

Information on the appointed members of the Scientific Council can be found on the next page.

OTHER BETTER FINANCE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Niamh Moloney is Professor of Financial Markets Law at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She specialises in financial market regulation and financial consumer protection. Niamh Moloney has published a large number of articles in this area, including a book (*How to Protect Investors: Lessons from the EU and the UK*, Cambridge University Press) on financial consumer protection. She was a member and then Chair of the Central Bank of Ireland's Consumer Advisory Group; a member of ESMA's Stakeholder Group; and a member of the UK FCA's Consumer Panel. Currently, she is also a member of the board of the Central Bank of Ireland.



Jan Sebo is associate professor and researcher at the Matej Bel University (Faculty of Economics) in Slovakia, with a specialisation in Pension Finance, Pension Economics, Investing and Savings, Public Finance and Regulatory Policy. He leads the research team at the Orange Envelope platform, which provides automated independent personal finance advice and pension tracking services across all pension schemes in Slovakia. He is a former member of the Occupational Pension Stakeholders Group (OPSG) at EIOPA and present member of the Financial Services User Group (FSUG) at the European Commission.



Rüdiger Veil holds the Chair for Civil Law and Business Law at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich. His main research areas are European corporate law and capital markets law. Rüdiger Veil has published numerous books, inter alia on "European Capital Markets Law", and articles in top ranked journals, particularly from a comparative perspective. Since 2012, he has been a member of an academic working group advising the German Federal Ministry of Finance with regard to EU financial market reforms. In addition, Rüdiger Veil has been a member of the ESMA Securities and Markets Stakeholders Group (SMSG); from 2016-2018, he was Chair of the Group. Rüdiger Veil has acted as an expert for the German, European, Chinese and Russian parliament.



Nicolas Véron is a senior fellow at Bruegel in Brussels and at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, DC. His research is mostly focused on financial systems and financial reform around the world, including global financial regulatory initiatives and current developments in the European Union. Nicolas Véron has authored and co-authored numerous policy papers on matters that include banking supervision and crisis management, financial reporting, the Eurozone policy framework, and economic nationalism. He participated as expert in committees of the European Parliament, national parliaments in EU member states, and US Congress. In addition, Nicolas Véron is an independent non-executive board member at the Trade Repository arm of DTCC.