

PRESS RELEASE

BEHAVIOURAL FINANCE EXPERT PROFESSOR BARBARA ALEMANNI JOINS BETTER FINANCE SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Brussels, 30 January 2024 – BETTER FINANCE is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Barbara Alemanni, a specialist in behavioural finance and one of the four academic members of the European Securities and Markets Authority's Securities and Markets Stakeholder Group, to the BETTER FINANCE Scientific Council.

She will be joining other distinguished members, including Prof. Pierre-Henri Conac, Chair of the Scientific Council (Luxembourg), Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Veil (Germany), Prof. Niamh Moloney (Ireland), Prof. Dr. Jan Sebo (Slovakia), and Mr. Nicolas Véron (USA/EU). Together, they will contribute to ensuring that BETTER FINANCE continues to deliver high-quality research for financial services users, other stakeholders, and policymakers.

Professor Alemanni will succeed Vilhjálmur Bjarnason, who served on the Scientific Council for four years. BETTER FINANCE expresses its gratitude to Mr Bjarnason for his valuable contributions and oversight of BETTER FINANCE research during his tenure.

The members of the Scientific Committee and the team at BETTER FINANCE warmly welcome Ms Alemanni and look forward to cooperating on these crucial issues for EU savers, as savers, investors, and financial services users.

BETTER FINANCE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Barbara Alemanni is a Professor of Financial Markets and Institutions in the Department of Economics at the University of Genoa. Additionally, she serves as an Affiliate Professor of Banking and Insurance at SDA Bocconi School of Management in Milan. She imparts her knowledge in both Bachelor and Master courses covering Investments, Financial Markets, and Behavioural Finance. Barbara holds an MSc in Finance from City University in London and a BA in Economics from Bocconi University in Milan. Her primary research interests include the micro and macro structure of financial markets, investor protection, behavioural economics, and financial innovation. She has disseminated her research through publications in both domestic and international scholarly journals and academic books.

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 Acting Director of the Luxembourg Centre for European Law (LCEL). 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 Professor 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).

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.