

INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS' CONFERENCE

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF FINANCE

Vilnius | 30 May 2024



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International Investors' Conference: Shaping the Future of Finance

Vilnius, 30 May 2024



Vilnius 2024 | International Investors' Conference Shaping the Future of Finance

Date | 30 May 2024

Venue | Vilnius University, Theatre Hall, Universiteto g. 3, 01513 Vilnius, Lithuania

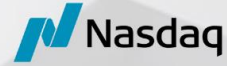
Time | From EEST from 9:30-17:00 (and CEST: 8:30-16:00)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

09.30	Registration and Coffee	
10.00	Opening Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Rimvydas Petrauskas, Rector of Vilnius University
10.10	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jella Benner-Heinacher, President, BETTER FINANCE• Giedrius Steponkus, Chairman, Lithuanian Investors Association
10.15	Keynote Speech	Gintarė Skaistė , Lithuanian Minister of Finance
10.30	Panel 1 Baltic Capital Markets: Lagging Behind or Paving the Way for the EU Capital Market Union? Moderator: Giedrius Steponkus , Chairman, Lithuanian Investors Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inga Beiliūnienė, Member of the Management Board, Chief Business Development Officer at INVEGA• Roland Chai, President of European Market Services, Nasdaq• Eglantine Desautel, CEO, EuroCTP• Marius Jurgilas, CEO, Axiology• Mindaugas Valiulis, Policy Officer, DG for Financial Stability, Financial Services and CMU, European Commission
11.50	Keynote Speech	Gediminas Šimkus , Governor of the Bank of Lithuania
12.10	Standing Lunch and Networking Mingle	
13.10	Panel 2 Baltic FinTechs & Emerging Technologies - Revolutionising Capital Markets & Finance? Moderator: Martin Molko , Research and Policy Officer, BETTER FINANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anne Chone, Senior Risk Analysis Officer, ESMA• Mathilde Janfils, Banking & Expansion Lead (Europe), Wise• Rolandas Juteika, CEO & Chairman of the Board at Revolut Securities Europe Head of Wealth and Trading (EEA) at Revolut• Mattias Levin, Deputy Head, Digital Finance Unit, DG for Financial Stability, Financial Services and CMU, European Commission• Dr Tim Shakesby, Head of Digital Finance, EIOPA• Maria E. Tsani, Head of Financial Services, Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs EMEA, Amazon Web Services (AWS)
14.30	Coffee Break	
15.00	Video Address	José Manuel Campa , Chairperson, European Banking Authority (EBA)

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15.10	<p>Panel 3: Crypto Assets – Legitimate Investments or Consumer Threats?</p> <p>Moderator: Mark Northway, Chair, World Federation of Investors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Achille Agbe, Chairman of iCapital Ventures• Kilvar Kessler, Chairman of the Management Board, Finantsinspeksioon (Estonian Financial Supervision Authority)• Tamara Ferreira Schmidt, Executive Director, Digital Euro Association• Tatiana Fic, Director, Central Banks and Public Policy, World Gold Council
16.30	Keynote Speech	Kilvar Kessler , Chairman of the Management Board, Finantsinspeksioon (Estonian Financial Supervision Authority)
16.45	Address from the Lithuanian Confederation of Industries	Vidmantas Janulevičius , President of the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists and the Chairman of the Global BOD Group
16.50	Closing words	Aleksandra Maczynska , Managing Director, BETTER FINANCE
17.00	Networking drink	

Getting to know our Speakers



Achille Agbe

Chairman of iCapital Ventures

Achille Agbe is the CEO of iCapital Ventures, a fintech company providing next-generation solutions for structuring SMEs, enhancing working capital and valorising SMEs through an integrated financial rating system. He is also Chairman Committee at EIC Corporation (which he also founded), an NGO of entrepreneurs and business angels committed to enhancing financial inclusion. Additionally, he serves as a board member, advisor, and impact committee member for several organisations and associations, such as Collège de Paris, ITSA, stealthio.io, Cardashift, GLG, CEPS, and CBA. As an author, speaker, and consultant, he has been recognised by Forbes, UNESCO, the CEPS (Centres d'Etudes et de Prospective Stratégique de Paris), and many more. Throughout 14 years of his career, he helped investment banks, funds and high-growth companies in their approach to raising funds (debts or capital) on the financial markets. Achille holds a Master of Business Administration from the European Business School and a PhD in Finance & Business Private Law from the Université de Bourgogne.



Inga Beiliūnienė

Member of the Management Board, Chief Business Development Officer at INVEGA

Inga Beiliūnienė is the member of the board in charge of INVEGA's financial product planning and management as well as international relations. A few years ago, Inga got listed as one of the most important women shaping the private and venture capital industry in the Baltic countries. She is a constant speaker and participant at various finance events and conferences across Europe and in Lithuania. In the past, she worked for the European Investment Fund and the Lithuanian Ministry of Economy and Innovation. Inga holds a master's in business administration from Vilnius University.



Jella Benner-Heinacher

President of BETTER FINANCE

Jella Benner-Heinacher is the President of BETTER FINANCE and Chief Managing Director (Deputy) of DSW, the leading shareholder association in Germany. As part of her role with DSW, she spearheads international initiatives through her involvement with the European Corporate Governance Services (ECGS) and as the President of BETTER FINANCE. Her responsibilities include Corporate Governance issues in commissions inside of Germany such as the German Corporate Governance Commission, as well as represent DSW participation in the legislation procedure at a national and international level. Jella also represents shareholders' interests at Annual General Meetings of major corporations such as SAP, Metro, and Henkel in Germany, as well as in France, Spain, and the U.K. (EuroStoxx50). Her influence extends beyond DSW as she holds key positions in various organizations shaping financial markets and governance. She is a member of the German Stock Exchange Expert Committee and the Stock Exchange Board in Düsseldorf. Additionally, she contributes her expertise to the German consumer panel at the German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin). She also serves on the supervisory boards of K + S AG and A.S. Creation AG, showcasing her commitment to ensuring robust oversight in both large-cap and small-cap companies. She is an attorney with an educational background spanning France, Switzerland, and the United States.



José Manuel Campa

Chairperson, European Banking Authority (EBA)

José Manuel Campa is the current Chairperson of the European Banking Authority. After studying law and economics at the University of Oviedo and earning his PhD in economics from Harvard University, Mr. Campa taught finance at New York University and the IESE Business School and consulted for a number of international organisations including the World Bank, the IMF, the Bank for International Settlements and the European Commission. He then served as the 10th Secretary of State for Economy of the Spanish government and was most recently Director of Regulatory affairs of the Santander Bank.



Roland Chai

President of European Market Services, Nasdaq

Roland Chai is the President of European Market Services at Nasdaq. In this role, he leads Nasdaq's multi-asset trading, clearing, listings, and market services businesses across Europe. He also serves as Chairman of the Nasdaq Clearing Board and as a member of the ISSA Board. Before joining Nasdaq, Roland served as Head of Post-Trade at the Hong Kong Exchange, where he oversaw clearing and risk management functions across equities and fixed income, currencies and commodities, as well as the exchange's market surveillance. He previously served as Group Risk Officer at Hong Kong Exchange. During his tenure, Roland re-established risk frameworks across Exchange, Listings, Mainland Commodities, Trading, and Clearing departments. Roland also served on the Board of LME Clear. Prior to joining the Hong Kong Exchange, Roland served as Head of Equities at LCH.Clearnet Ltd and as Product Development Manager at Australian Securities Exchange. Roland Chai holds a double degree in Arts and Law from the University of Sydney.



Anne Chone

Senior Risk Analysis Officer, ESMA

Anne Choné is Senior Risk Analysis Officer at ESMA, where she is in charge of monitoring financial innovation. Anne has been leading ESMA's analytical work in the field of Crypto-Assets and authored the ESMA Advice on crypto-assets to the European Parliament, Council and Commission. She also authored several risk articles on crypto-assets and decentralised finance and coordinated ESMA's response to the Commission's request for technical advice on Digital Finance. Before joining ESMA, Anne was the Principal at Mercer Investments, during which she advised institutional clients on their investment strategies. Prior to that, she worked as a Director in charge of financial institutions at FitchRatings. Anne holds a master's degree in Finance from NEOMA Business School and a CFA certification.



Eglantine Desautel

CEO, EuroCTP

Eglantine Desautel is the Chief Executive Officer at EuroCTP. She has more than 20 years of experience in business transformation with a focus on financial services. Prior to joining EuroCTP, Eglantine spent twelve years at Euronext, a leading pan-European stock exchange and market infrastructure, where she held several positions of responsibility. Most notably, Eglantine was Chief of Staff to the Group CEO (2014-2015) and has then led the development and implementation of the new trading system (2015-2018). More recently, she served as Head of Market Operations and Digital. Eglantine holds an Engineering degree obtained from CentraleSupélec – Université Paris-Saclay (2003) and an MSc in Spacecraft technologies and satellite communications from University College London obtained the same year.



Tatiana Fic

Central Banks and Public Policy, World Gold Council

Tatiana Fic is the Director for Central Banks and Public Policy at the World Gold Council. Her regular activities involve active engagement with both national and international policy makers to discuss and shape effective regulatory framework for gold. She also engages with central banks on the role of gold as a reserve asset. In Europe, one of her recent areas of focus is the Markets in Crypto Asset regulation (MiCA). She is interested in the utilisation of tokenisation in financial services to enhance efficiency, attract new investors, and improve market liquidity and accessibility, as well as its role in advancing the EU capital markets union. Before joining the World Gold Council, she worked at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research where she led and co-authored research in macroeconomics and finance for national and international regulators, such as the United Nations, European Commission, and national financial supervisory authorities and central banks. She started her career at the National Bank of Poland where, among other responsibilities, she held the position of Head of the Macroeconomic Projections Division. Tatiana holds a PhD in Economics from Warsaw School of Economics.



Mathilde Janfils

Banking & Expansion Lead (Europe), Wise

Mathilde Janfils is a Banking & Expansion Lead (Europe) at Wise, a global technology company building the best way to move and manage money around the world. Mathilde is responsible for the expansion of Wise's Assets product in Europe and the UK through banking relationships, acquiring licenses and working with regulators. Before Wise, Mathilde worked on financial regulation and policy at various public organisations, including the European Central Bank, the French Prudential Supervision and Resolution Authority, the Deutsche Bundesbank and the Bank for International Settlements. She has an MSc in Finance from the London School of Economics.



Vidmantas Janulevičius

President of the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists and the Chairman of the Global BOD Group

Vidmantas Janulevičius is the president of the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists (LPK) - a major association in Lithuania that represents industrialists and employers. LPK members include most Lithuanian production enterprises, banks, trading companies, representative offices of foreign firms, research institutes, and educational establishments. He is also the Chairman of the Board at Global BOD Group (GBG) - a high-tech group of companies, whose expertise dates back to 1998, when the first industrial CD factory in Lithuania was established in Vilnius. Since then, GBG has consistently embraced innovation and conducted extensive engineering research and development, leading to business expansion and diversification. Vidmantas holds a bachelor's degree from Vilnius University.



Marius Jurgilas

CEO, Axiology

Marius Jurgilas, PhD is the Co-Founder and CEO of Axiology – financial securities tokenization platform under EU DLT Pilot Regime Regulation. Marius is an influential global voice in the area of fintech, institutional finance, and DeFi, the future of digital currencies and financial infrastructure. He has more than 15 years of experience in central banking, supervision, and financial innovations. He is a former board member at the Bank of Lithuania, a former BIS Innovations network CBDC working group chair and a former member of the ECB Digital Euro High-Level Task Force. Marius has also worked at Norges Bank (Central Bank of Norway) and the Bank of England. Marius is also a professor of partnership at Vilnius University and Chair of the Science and Studies Committee of the Lithuanian Research Council.



Rolandas Juteika

CEO & Chairman of the Board at Revolut Securities Europe | Head of Wealth and Trading (EEA), Revolut

Rolandas Juteika is CEO & Chairman of the Board at Revolut Securities Europe and Head of Wealth and Trading (EEA) at Revolut. In his role, he leads business strategy, risk management, and compliance efforts. Since joining Revolut in 2021, Rolandas has spearheaded the growth of the fastest-growing licensed financial brokerage company in the EEA region. In addition to his role at Revolut, Rolandas is a board member of the Lietuvos Finansų Maklerių Asociacija, the financial brokerage association in Lithuania, contributing to the development and governance of financial brokerage in the region. Prior to his current positions, Rolandas held several key roles at Luminor Group, including Head of Savings and Investment Products in the Baltics, Chairman of the Investment Products Governance Committee, and Head of Securities Trading. His responsibilities encompassed strategy development, regulatory compliance, product design, and marketing for a wide range of investment products. He also has entrepreneurial experience as a self-employed iOS app developer since 2018. Rolandas holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Vilnius University.



Kilvar Kessler

Chairman of the Management Board

Kilvar Kessler is the Chairman of the Management Board of Finantsinspektsioon, the Estonian Financial Supervision and Resolution Authority. His work for the Authority has been instrumental as he guided the organisation in developing a smooth functioning financial system in Estonia, most notably in regulation and supervision of the financial system. On top of his work in Estonia, Mr Kessler is actively involved in international organisations and collaborative projects for financial market supervisors. Moreover, he has been a member of the European Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) supervisory board since it was created. He also lectures as a visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Law at the University of Tartu.



Mattias Levin

Deputy Head, Digital Finance Unit, DG for Financial Stability, Financial Services and CMU, European Commission

Mattias Levin is the deputy head of unit of the Digital Finance unit of the European Commission's Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union DG ("FISMA"). At FISMA, he has previously worked on regulation related to banks, investment firms, conglomerates and financial market infrastructures. Before joining DG FISMA, he was a member of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA), a think tank attached to the President of the European Commission. Prior to joining the Commission, Mattias was a Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS). Mattias studied at the London School of Economics, Lund University and the Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Strasbourg.



Aleksandra Maczyńska,

Acting Managing Director, BETTER FINANCE

Aleksandra Maczyńska is the Acting Manager Director at BETTER FINANCE. Aleksandra has extensive experience in managing international projects, including EU-funded capacity-building initiatives. Before joining BETTER FINANCE, she was the Deputy Director of the International Relations and Communication Department of the Polish consumer and competition watchdog. As a Fellow of the Robert Bosch Foundation Programme for Young Executives from the Public Sector, she worked at 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 at various EU Council's Working Parties such as the WP on Financial Services and WP on Competitiveness and Growth, as well as European Commission's Working Groups and Advisory Committees. One of her tasks was also external representation and managing professional networks such as the Consumer Policy Network (CPN), International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN), European Competition Network (ECN) and OECD Competition Committee. Additionally, she has contributed to EU expert groups, including membership in the Directorate-General for the Environment on the European Commission Eco-labelling Board, the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) Occupational Pensions Stakeholder Group (OPSG), and the United Nations Civil Society Advisory Body of the Principles for Responsible Banking (UNEPFI).



Martin Molko

Research and Policy Officer, BETTER FINANCE

Martin Molko serves as Research and Policy Officer at BETTER FINANCE, where he monitors policy developments and supports outreach efforts. His recent work focuses on self-directed investments in securities and direct shareholding, encompassing Digital Finance trends related to FinTech, data access, and AI. He is currently part of the EC Expert Group on European Financial Data Space. Martin has contributed to several of BETTER FINANCE flagship reports, notably on Robo-advisory services, and actively participates in various initiatives related to the EU Capital Markets Union (CMU), especially concerning MiFID/R II market structure and protections, as well as listing rules. His prior roles at a European news agency, along with various consulting, project management, and

editorial positions in Belgium, France, and Germany, have shaped his policy analysis and insights into finance from a retail perspective. Martin earned a Bachelor's Degree in Information and Communication from the University of Nice and a Master's Degree in European Studies from the Free University of Brussels (ULB).



Mark Northway

Chair, World Federation of Investors

Mark Northway is chair of the World Federation of Investors, and past chair of ShareSoc, the UK Individual Shareholders Society. He is also an investment manager at Sparrows Capital, an evidence-based asset management firm. Mark's investment experience spans credit, fixed income, equity and treasury markets. He has previously worked for Brookfield, LBBW, Rabobank and Standard Chartered Bank. Mark holds a BA (Exeter), an MBA (Open) and the IMC.



Prof. Rimvydas Petrauskas

Rector of Vilnius University

Professor Rimvydas Petrauskas is the Rector of Vilnius University. In this role, his priorities are the orientation of studies towards the development of a full-fledged and creative personality, the development of interdisciplinary and internationality of science, and the strengthening of the university's role in society and the state. He studied and did internships at the Universities of Basel, Berlin, Greifswald and Krakow, the German Institute of History in Warsaw, and the Herder Institute in Marburg (Germany). He has published monographs and articles from the field of research in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Also, prof. Rimvydas is a member of several international academic organisations and a member of the editorial boards of ten scientific journals. Prof. Rimvydas holds a bachelor's degree in history, a master's degree, and a Doctor of Humanities from Vilnius University.



Tamara Ferreira Schmidt

Executive Director, Digital Euro Association

Tamara Ferreira Schmidt is executive director of the Digital Euro Association (DEA). She specializes in Financial Engineering, Capital Markets and Derivatives with over 15 years of experience. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation granted her the German Chancellor Fellowship to research the impact of alternative financing on the Brazilian and German early-stage entrepreneurial ecosystems. Consultant and creator of personalized content about investments, startups, innovation, digital currencies and blockchain, Tamara has already lectured at Brazil-Germany Fintech eTour, TEDx KanzlerPark, Web 3.0 Disruptors Week, Crypto Assets Conference, Digital Euro Conference, Brussels Blockchain Week, CBDC Conference, among other events.



Dr. Tim Shakesby

Head of Digital Finance, EIOPA

Tim is the Head of the Digital Transformation Unit at EIOPA, leading its work on digital finance in insurance, including such areas as AI, distributed ledger technologies, crypto assets, Open Insurance and data sharing. He joined EIOPA in 2013, and since then, he led work across the ESAs on consumer disclosures for investments and savings and the development of conduct of business oversight and supervisory convergence within EIOPA. Before EIOPA he worked for the European Commission, during which he worked on improving rules on transparency within the retail investment markets. Before that, he worked on retail investment policy at the UK FSA. He is passionate about innovation in the service of better consumer experiences and embedding behavioural research within EU policy-making and implementation.



Gediminas Šimkus

Governor of the Bank of Lithuania

Gediminas Šimkus is the Governor of the Bank of Lithuania. He joined the Bank of Lithuania in 2002 and since then has held different positions, providing substantial knowledge of monetary policy formation, macro-prudential and economic policy decision-making. During his position as a Member of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania, he oversaw the field of banking, financial stability, and research. As the Chairman of the Board, Gediminas oversaw monetary policy, research and organisational management. He also spent 2 years working as the Financial Stability Expert at the Financial Stability Directorate at the European Central Bank (ECB). In 2012, he was a lecturer on International Finance at the ISM University of Management and Economics. Gediminas holds a master's in economics and a bachelor's in economics from Vilnius University.



Gintarė Skaistė

Lithuanian Minister of Finance

Gintarė Skaistė is the current Minister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania. One of the major achievements in her current role is the “New Generation Lithuania,” the € 2.225 billion plan. The plan received an additional €1.7 billion for new investments, taking into account geopolitical fluctuations and changes in the region and the need to strengthen resilience in the energy sector. Other significant initiatives during her term include the Baltic Capital Markets Development Acceleration Fund, developed in collaboration with Latvia and Estonia, to create a pan-Baltic capital market, and as such, make Baltic states more visible to foreign investors. In her support for the FinTech sector in Lithuania, the Minister together with representatives of the market and the public sector, prepared the Guidelines on Fintech Sector Development in Lithuania in 2022-2027, aiming to make the country an internationally recognised European Fintech hub of high added value. She is also a member of the Lithuanian Riflemen’s Union and an honorary member of the Lithuanian Community of the Atlantic Treaty. In 2016, she was elected a member of the Seimas (Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania and re-elected in 2020. Gintare is an economist with a PhD in Social Sciences.



Giedrius Steponkus

Chairman, Lithuanian Investors Association

Giedrius Steponkus is the Founder and Chairman of the Lithuanian Investors Association (LIA). He is a dynamic figure in the finance sector, distinguished for his entrepreneurial spirit and innovative leadership. With his work at the LIA, he championed the interests of investors and promoted transparency and accountability in the financial sector. In the past, he played a significant role in the integration of the Vilnius Stock Exchange into the Helsinki Stock Exchange (HEX), eventually leading to its inclusion as part of Nasdaq. As the main shareholder, his strategic decision to sell his stake at the exchange to the Helsinki Stock Exchange facilitated this transformative move, which had a profound impact on the regional financial landscape. He also held key roles in prominent financial institutions, serving as Chairman and Temporary Administrator of a leading Moldovan commercial bank. An expert in financial innovation, he significantly contributed to advancing artificial intelligence in finance as an External Expert at EISMEA. In 1993 he founded Steponkus & Co, a pioneering stock brokerage firm, where he leveraged technology to reshape financial services. Giedrius holds a Master's in Physics from Vilnius University and an Executive MBA from the BMI Executive Institute.



Maria E. Tsani

Head of Financial Services, Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs EMEA, Amazon Web Services (AWS)

Maria joined AWS in 2019, after more than a decade in the banking sector dealing with emerging policy and regulatory requirements. Born in Buenos Aires, she previously worked at the Argentine Ministry of Industry as a political advisor before moving to London to pursue post-graduate research thanks to a UK Government Chevening Scholarship. At AWS, Maria supports Financial Services customers as they leverage the scale, security, and agility of AWS to transform the industry. Maria is a regular speaker at industry events and contributes her expertise to several industry bodies. She holds a Master of Arts in Globalization studies from Warwick University and an MBA from the UCEMA in Buenos Aires.



Mindaugas Valiulis

Policy Officer, DG for Financial Stability, Financial Services and CMU, European Commission

Mindaugas Valiulis is a Policy Officer working for the Capital Markets Union unit of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union ("FISMA"). During his 7 years at the European Commission, he has worked on a number of policy areas focused on promoting and further developing the Capital Markets Union. Most recently, he has been working on the retail investment strategy as well as topics relating to alternative finance and risk capital. Before joining DG FISMA, he gathered experience in management consulting. Mindaugas studied economics at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom and the University of Mannheim in Germany.

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