

Task Force on Asset Allocation in Europe

Principles and Guidelines



Brussels, June 2017

This document offers guidance to members of the Task Force and other parties wishing to understand the functioning of the initiative and the drafting process of the final report. Task Forces represent structured dialogues among industry representatives, policymakers, academics and other relevant stakeholders who discuss topics in dedicated meetings. The final report is the result of the research carried out independently by ECMI-CEPS Rapporteurs.

Participants

The **Chairman** is an expert appointed by CEPS-ECMI to steer the dialogue during meetings and advise as to the general conduct of the activities of the Group.

The **Rapporteurs** are CEPS-ECMI researchers who organise the Group, conduct the research independently and draft the final report.

The **Members** are any individuals, such as academics, policymakers, regulators, supervisors, representatives of commercial companies, trade associations, consumer interests groups, investors' associations, who participate in the activities of the Task Force in a personal capacity. They must have expertise in the topics discussed and provide input to the discussions through presentations and relevant material for the final report.

1. The role of the Experts Group

The Experts Group will:

- Steer the research agenda of the meetings and the content of the active discussions with the Task Force and observers;
- Contribute to meetings with active input, including targeted presentations;
- Support the research of the Rapporteurs and comment on the various drafts of the reports, including the possibility to produce written contributions (subject to the Rapporteurs' approval and editing);
- Ensure that the research behind the final report adheres to the highest standards;
- Have access to all the documents produced during the work of the Group;
- Contribute to the recommendations that will be discussed and added to the final report.

2. The role of the Task Force

The Task Force is the group that will contribute the many viewpoints of the market and more technical expertise in the individual meetings on specific topics. The Task Force will:

- Participate in discussions and actively contribute to meetings (including targeted presentations);

- Be able to see drafts of the final report and provide comments that can improve its content;
- Have access to the internal documents and to the presentations made during the work of the Group.

3. The role of the Observers

A group of policymakers, academics, consumer/investors' associations and independent experts may attend the joint EG and TF meetings. They will attend in an observer capacity, so they will not be required to provide a contribution (unless agreed otherwise). This group will also include speakers invited by CEPS and ECMI to provide individual contributions to one or more meetings.

The lists of members of the Expert Group, Task Force and the Observers will be featured in the final report and on the CEPS and ECMI websites. All members attend the meetings in a personal capacity and do not necessarily endorse the recommendations of the final report.

Objectives of the final report

- The report is meant to contribute to the policy debate by presenting a balanced set of arguments, based on the discussions among participants and internal desk research.
- The report seeks to provide readers with a constructive basis for discussion. The authors will not seek to advance a single position or misrepresent the complexity of any subject matter.
- The report also fulfils an educational purpose, and is therefore drafted in a manner that is easy to understand, with technical jargon fully defined.

Drafting of the main text

- In the main text, rapporteurs detail the results of the research carried out independently in the framework of the Task Force. This part of the report will refer to the discussions during the meetings but also to available data and literature.
- Scientific literature may be cited in this part of the report. Members are not expected to endorse any reference to this literature. A general disclaimer is inserted to clarify this aspect.
- The conclusions of each section will be clearly presented.

Use of data

- The final report features data that are considered both relevant and accurate by the Rapporteurs.
- Task Force members are encouraged to contribute with any data or propose any source of data that Rapporteurs consider as relevant.
- Task Force members may question either the relevance or accuracy of any given data. After consultation with other Group members, the Rapporteurs may decide either to exclude this data or to mention these concerns in the main body of the text.

Drafting of conclusions and recommendations

- The final report will feature a set of policy recommendations, drawn up by the Rapporteurs, which are meant to reflect the Task Force's discussions during the process. For a recommendation to be featured in the report, there needs to be enough information being discussed in the open debates among the TF members. In all cases, the report will seek to identify the points where there is some sort of common understanding of market issues.
- Both policy recommendations and the content of the final report will be summarised at the beginning of the report in the form of an 'executive summary'.
- TF Members will be given ample opportunity to review the final report and provide their input on a draft version. Nevertheless, the authors (Rapporteurs) will be solely responsible for the content of the final report.

Sample disclaimer

The findings presented in this Final Report do not necessarily reflect the views of all the members of this Task Force. However, the members were involved during the drafting of the Final Report and provided input to the discussions through presentations and the provision of data and other materials, which have been used in this Final Report. A set of principles has guided the entire drafting process to allow all of the interests represented in the Task Force to be heard. The Rapporteurs are solely responsible for its content and any errors contained therein. Neither the Experts Group Members nor the Task Force Members (or their respective companies) necessarily endorse the conclusions of the Final Report.

About ECMI – Informing policy on European capital markets

ECMI conducts in-depth research aimed at informing the debate and policy-making process on a broad range of issues related to capital markets. Through its various activities, ECMI facilitates interaction among market participants, policymakers and academics. These exchanges are fuelled by the various outputs ECMI produces, such as regular commentaries, policy briefs, working papers, statistics, task forces, conferences, workshops and seminars. In addition, ECMI undertakes studies commissioned by the EU institutions and other organisations, and publishes contributions from high-profile external researchers.



About CEPS – Thinking ahead for Europe

CEPS is one of Europe's leading think tanks and forums for debate on EU affairs, with an exceptionally strong in-house research capacity and an extensive network of partner institutes throughout the world. CEPS' commitment to institutional independence is rooted in the independence exercised by each member of its staff. As an organisation, CEPS is committed to carrying out state-of-the-art policy research that addresses the challenges facing Europe and maintaining high standards of academic excellence and unqualified independence and impartiality. It provides a forum for discussion among all stakeholders in the European policy process and works to build collaborative networks of researchers, policy-makers and business representatives across the whole of Europe.

