

Financial support by Trafigura is gratefully acknowledged



Tuesday, 24 March 2015, 13:30h – 17:00h CET

Rue Royale 148, 1000 Brussels

Commodity markets never rest. The recent fall in oil prices and renewed expansionary monetary policies are increasing uncertainty on how these markets will once again react to economic and financial instability. This environment comes on the back of a more generalised reduction or stagnation in commodity prices and an ongoing policy overhaul. How is commodity market structure reacting to those changes? Is price volatility affecting hedging opportunities? Is the new price environment reducing appetite for policy action? How are financial reforms developing in this area? Have banks lost interest in commodities trading, and why?

12:30 Registration & Lunch

13:30 Welcome remarks

13:35 Session 1. Liquidity in commodity finance

The session will discuss how volatile market conditions affect availability of hedging tools. As banks change their business models and review their participation in physical and paper commodity markets to support the long-end of the curve, other actors, such as commodity trading houses, advance and re-shape their business to cope with the 'new normal'. Have volatile market conditions created a liquidity gap in financing commodity trading? What kind of role will policy actions play?

Speakers:

Christophe Salmon, Chief Financial Officer EMEA, Trafigura

Jan-Maarten Mulder, Global Head of Commodities, ABN Amro

Paul Willis, Technical Specialist - Commodities / Markets Policy Division, Financial Conduct Authority

Andras Hujber, Policy Officer, DG ENER, Wholesale markets; Electricity & Gas

Jonathan Hill, Regulatory Policy Analyst, BP

Bjorn Sibbern, Senior Vice President Global Trading & Market Services, NASDAQ OMX

Moderated by **Neil Hume**, Commodities Editor, Financial Times

15:15 Coffee break

15:30 Session 2. The sinking barrel: How price can change market structure

Prolonged changes in price levels can have long-lasting effects on the supply and demand structure. The drop in oil prices threatens to scale down investments in unconventional sources and ultimately change energy policies around the globe. Oil prices may also have an impact on other commodities markets with unexpected effects on the futures curve (contango) and market structure. The commodity value chain is rather complex and important price adjustments may have different effects whether you look downstream or upstream. Can current volatile market conditions produce a long-lasting change in some commodities markets? And how?

Speakers:

Craig Pirrong, Professor of Finance, Bauer College of Business, University of Houston

Giacomo Luciani, Adjunct Professor, Co-Director of the Executive Master in International Oil and Gas Leadership, Graduate Institute

Istemi Berk, Research Associate, Institute of Energy Economics, University of Cologne

Moderated by **Neil Hume**, Commodities Editor, Financial Times

17:00 End of the conference