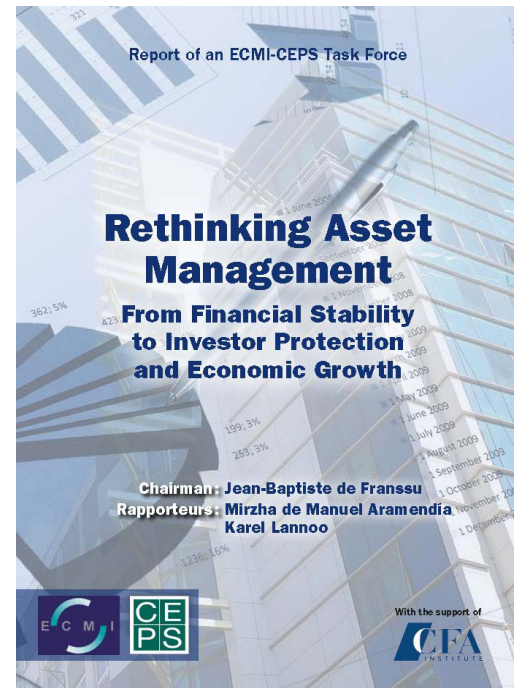


## FEATURED

### Rethinking Asset Management: From Financial Stability to Investor Protection and Economic Growth

ECMI-CEPS Task Force Report | April 2012

Fresh prospects are opening for asset managers as Europe seeks to reduce its historical reliance on banking and to promote capital markets. But following the financial crisis, the industry faces a dual challenge: regaining investors' trust and coping with the post-crisis regulatory reform. This report draws the link between asset management and several key issues: financial stability, product integrity, investor protection and the real economy. It evaluates the discussions on product integrity in UCITS and 'shadow banking', as well as the many legislative proposals that are currently under consideration – including the implementation of the alternative investment fund managers Directive (AIFMD), the review of the markets in financial instruments Directive (MiFID II) and the packaged retail investment products (PRIIPs). In an effort to make these complex issues comprehensible to a broad group of readers, the report combines clear language and straightforward introductions with detailed analysis and technical illustrations. [Click here to download.](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Independence in Financial Services - With ESMA Chair Steven Maijoor

6 June 2012 | 13:15 - 15:00 | CEPS Brussels

The EU financial reform agenda has focused on the need to stabilise the financial system. In doing so, fundamental questions have been raised about the roles of various actors, including banks, hedge funds, supervisors, credit rating agencies and auditors. A common thread in the EU policy response has been that of taking action to ensure the real and perceived independence of financial services actors. In particular, recent or forthcoming legislative proposals regarding auditors, credit rating agencies and securities markets set down measures to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure independence. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

### Investor Protection: Which Way Now? - With AMF Managing Director Edouard Vieillefond

7 June 2012 | 12:30-14:30 CET | Hotel Intercontinental Paris

On the occasion of launching the report «Rethinking Asset Management» in Paris, ECMI-CEPS and the CFA Institute will celebrate a debate on retail investor protection, with the participation of Edouard Vieillefond, Managing Director of the French Authority for Financial Markets (AMF) and other speakers. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

### Understanding the Trigger: CDS Credit Event Determination and the Systemic Importance of Sovereign CDS

13 June 2012 | 12:30 - 15:00 CET | CEPS Brussels

The recent Greek debt restructuring raised questions around the complexity of derivative contracts and the potential implications of a credit event. This seminar will discuss the process through which the ISDA Credit Derivatives Determinations Committee decides whether a credit event has occurred, in specific factual circumstances, and the detail of standardised CDS contracts. The event will assess potential conflicts of interest in this process and how they are managed, and will also examine political pressures therein, and what these mean for market efficiency and integrity. Speakers include David Geen, General Counsel, ISDA, and Andrew Byatt, Vice-President, DTCC. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS [continued]

### Lunch Time Meeting with Xavier Rolet, CEO London Stock Exchange Group

*Save de date!* 26 June 2012 | Lunch-time | Central Brussels

Financial market infrastructures are key promoters of competitiveness and market efficiency. Business models are currently striving to gather the best in-house technological expertise to minimise technological glitches under highly volatile market conditions and confront sweeping changes from upcoming regulatory overhaul in MiFID and EMIR. These reforms will result in additional changes to the global trading landscape while competition among platforms moves rapidly across asset classes. [More information to be announced soon.](#)

### 2012 ECMI Annual Conference: Capital Markets for Growth - Averting Financial Disintegration in Europe

*Save de date!* 18 October 2012 | Full-day | Central Brussels

As in previous editions, our 2012 annual conference will bring together international experts in capital markets from industry, policy making and academia for a full-day event in Brussels. The conference will be structured in four sessions around the following topics: euro-area outlook, the role of capital markets after bank deleveraging, market structure reforms, and investor protection. Keynote speakers include: Manmohan Singh, Senior Economist at the IMF, on bank deleveraging and its impact on capital markets, and Paul De Grauwe, Professor at the London School of Economics (LSE), on the strategy to overcome the euro-area crisis. [Click here to learn more.](#)

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### Does the OTF proposal in MiFID II make sense? - Setting the Institutional and Regulatory Framework for Trading Platforms

ECMI Policy Brief | April 2012 | By Diego Valiante

The proposal to introduce a new legal definition of trading venue in Europe aims at capturing all hybrid mechanisms that allow the trading of derivatives and other financial instruments, typically considered OTC. But does the definition of 'organised trading facility' proposed by the European Commission make sense? How does it sit next to the existing categories of trading venues? This paper proposes to classify a core set of brokerage services as bilateral execution systems under a broader definition of systematic internaliser, subject to revised obligations. [Click here to download.](#)

### Reviewing the EU's Market Abuse Rules

ECMI Policy Brief | May 2012 | By Carmine Di Noia

Rules on market abuse should be technically well designed, proportionate and crystal clear, but also subject to more efficient and harmonised supervision. This paper focuses particularly on the draft regulation proposed by the European Commission. The use of a regulation is welcomed, as abuses should be regulated in a harmonised manner by member states. At the same time, the paper criticises some of the proposed provisions, notably the new notion of inside information not to abuse (Art. 6.e) and the unchanged definition of inside information for listed companies to disclose. [Click here to download.](#)

### Setting the record straight for investors: Why call it «advice» when you mean captive sales?

ECMI Policy Brief | Upcoming June 2012 | By Mirzha de Manuel

A recent scoreboard indicates that the market for investment products, pensions and securities is the worst perceived by consumers in terms of ease to compare products, trust in suppliers and consumer satisfaction. This policy brief will examine the protection of retail investors at the point of sale in Europe and advance a reform agenda to improve the quality and transparency of sale services. Firstly, the paper will consider the fundamentals of investor protection by referring to selected empirical evidence and the EU regulatory framework. The second part of this policy brief will propose a reform agenda to ensure investors can access transparent, independent and quality advice.



## RECENT EVENTS

### CEPS Dialogue with MEPs: *Market Structure and Investor Protection - Need for a Wake-up Call?*

23 May 2012 | 12:30-15:00 | European Parliament Strasbourg

Invited by MEP Kay Swinburne, ECMI researchers met a group of MEPs during lunch at the European Parliament in Strasbourg to discuss informally ongoing regulatory reforms affecting market structure and investor protection. Karel Lannoo, Diego Valiante and Mirzha de Manuel emphasised the importance of getting reform right, fostering both competition and resilience while significantly improving investor protection throughout the value chain. The event was an opportunity for ECMI and CEPS to present some of its recent publications to MEPs and to answer their questions.



### Launch of the Task Force Report «Rethinking Asset Management»

19 April 2012 | 13:15-15:00 CET | CEPS Brussels

ECMI and CEPS launched their landmark report 'Rethinking Asset Management' on April 19 in Brussels. Speaking at this event, Tilman Lueder, Head of Unit at the European Commission, emphasised the opportunities opened by the AIFMD (Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive) and the importance of dealing with 'shadow-banking' to strengthen the industry. Mirzha de Manuel, author of the report, presented its main findings, including the empirical evidence pointing at shortcomings in investor protection at the point of sale. Fellow panellists all agreed in the crucial importance of reforming distribution to promote competition, product integrity and lower fees – but doing so at the EU rather than national level to preserve the single market. [Click here to learn more.](#)



### Commodities Task Force: Seventh Meeting

13 March 2012 | 10:00-17:00 CET | CEPS Brussels

Task force members met for the last time before the launch of the final report later in 2012 to kick-start the drafting process. After having held six substantive meetings over the past few months, research fellows Diego Valiante and Christian Eigenhofer will now concentrate on finalising the research undertaken in the framework of this task force and drafting the final report. Members met at CEPS to discuss residual issues, the structure of the final report and the calendar for completing the project. [Click here to learn more.](#)

