

CONFERENCE

# OPTIC 2026

19 October 2026 / Hilton London Bankside

## *Day 1 - Monday, 19 October 2026*

08:30 / Welcome registration and refreshments

09:30 / Opening remarks

### SPEAKER



April Day

Managing Director, Head of Capital Markets, AFME

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09:45 / Opening keynote

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# Day 1 - Monday, 19 October 2026

10:15 / **Panel discussion**  
**The View from the Top: Perspectives from industry leaders**

Main stage

## OVERVIEW

- / How can capital markets help address Europe's financing gap? What changes are needed to boost growth and competitiveness?
- / Are geopolitical trends changing European firms' approach from "global" to "local"?
- / How are new technologies being deployed to deliver transformation?

## SPEAKER



**Val Wotton**

Managing Director, Global Head of Equities Solutions, DTCC

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11:00 / **Networking break**

11:30 / **Panel discussion**  
**Everything you need to know about the EU Market Integration Package**

Main stage

## OVERVIEW

- / What are the key objectives and proposals in the MIP and where are we in the legislative process?
- / Do the proposals go far enough to deliver the Commission's SIU strategy?
- / How does the MIP fit in with broader EU objectives to facilitate the use of DLT-based assets and systems?

## SPEAKER



**Jennifer Robertson**

Head of Unit, European Commission

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Panel discussion

## 12:15 / Modernising Asset Servicing: Challenges and Opportunities

### OVERVIEW

- / What initiatives are out there to drive further harmonisation and standardisation?
- / How are new technologies being deployed to remove inefficiencies and increase automation?
- / What changes are needed to the Shareholders Rights Directive to improve its effectiveness?

Panel discussion

## 12:15 / DLT Adoption - Are we Approaching Institutional Mainstreaming?

Main stage

### OVERVIEW

- / DLT adoption is moving beyond a handful of use cases. Is DLT becoming a driver for institutional banking strategy going forward?
- / Which asset classes / markets are most impacted by the move on-chain?
- / What are the key barriers (market, legal/policy, technological) to moving to DLT-based capital markets?

### SPEAKER



Sid Ulker

Counsel, Ashurst

13:00 / Networking lunch

# Day 1 - Monday, 19 October 2026

14:00 / **Presentation**  
**Navigating geopolitical risk**

Main stage

## OVERVIEW

- / Europe's place in the new global order
- / The impact of AI and other new technologies
- / How should global banks navigate geopolitical uncertainty

## SPEAKER



Neil Shearing

Group Chief Economist, Capital Economics

14:30 / **Debate it out: Topic TBC**

## OVERVIEW

- / A lively debate style format where participants battle it out to win over the audience in a vote.

**Fireside discussion**

14:30 / **From Across the Pond: Key Developments in US markets**

## OVERVIEW

- / What are the main policy initiatives in-flight in US capital markets?
- / What does 23/5 trading mean for operations teams?
- / Can the industry support the current pace of change in digital assets policy?

15:15 / **Networking coffee break**

15:45 / **Keynote address**

# Day 1 - Monday, 19 October 2026

Panel discussion

16:15 / **The Future of Operations**

## OVERVIEW

- / Whether geopolitical tensions are impacting how multi-national firms structure themselves
  - / How AI deployment is breaking into the front office, but creating serious pressures on data management
  - / The role of regulation in driving operational strategies, for example T+1
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17:00 / **Closing remarks**

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17:15 / **Drinks Reception at the Distillery**

# Day 2 - Tuesday, 20 October 2026

08:00 / Welcome registration

08:00 / Welcome registration

09:00 / Opening remarks

09:45 / [Panel discussion](#)  
**12 Months to T+1 – will we be ready?**

Main stage

## OVERVIEW

- / How are firms preparations for T+1 going? Are there any major implementation challenges foreseen?
- / What is the role of regulators in supporting the transition, and what do they expect from the industry?
- / Is there enough awareness? Which parts of the market might be lagging behind?

## SPEAKER



**John Moreau**

Director, Head of Trade Lifecycle Services, DTCC Consulting

10:30 / Networking Break

11:00 / Future Leaders Roundtable

Invitation only

Panel discussion

## 11:00 / CCPs in focus: Implementation, innovation, and interoperability

Main stage

### OVERVIEW

- / How are CCPs and their users managing regulatory change? What are upcoming priorities?
- / Will proposed changes to open access provisions unlock further competition and efficiency, or is more ambition needed?
- / Is there scope to expand central clearing into new transaction flows and asset types?

Panel discussion

## 11:00 / Stablecoins & New Money

Focus stage

### OVERVIEW

- / What will be the leading DLT-based money solution for wholesale markets?

### SPEAKER



**Etay Katz**

Head of Digital Assets and Financial Innovation and senior partner in financial regulation practice, Ashurst

Panel discussion

## 11:45 / CSDs in Focus: Competition, collaboration and connectivity

Main stage

### OVERVIEW

- / With major CSD groups pursuing different strategic approaches, what does the ideal future model look like for Europe?
- / Will the suite of proposals in the MIP improve competition and reduce fragmentation in the CSD landscape?
- / Do CSDs see new technologies as an opportunity or a threat to their existing business?

# Day 2 - Tuesday, 20 October 2026

11:45 / Panel discussion  
**Using AI to Transform Post Trade**

Focus stage

## OVERVIEW

- / Reimagining post-trade processes
- / Deploying & managing AI agents
- / Evaluating ROI
- / Impact on skills and the talent pipeline

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12:30 / **Networking lunch**

13:30 / **Ask Me Anything**

Main stage

## OVERVIEW

- / A candid, open Q&A session with a senior industry leader or policy maker.

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13:50 / **Ask Me Anything**

Main stage

## OVERVIEW

- / A candid, open Q&A session with a senior industry leader or policy maker.

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14:10 / **Ask Me Anything**

Main stage

## OVERVIEW

- / A candid, open Q&A session with a senior industry leader or policy maker.
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# Day 2 - Tuesday, 20 October 2026

14:30 / Closing fireside

Main stage

## SPEAKER



Ed Vaizey

Recent UK Minister for Technology

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15:15 / Closing remarks

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15:30 / Networking drinks