

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

---

09:45 / Opening keynote

---

# Day 1 - Monday, 19 October 2026

Panel discussion

10:15 / **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?

## SPEAKERS



**Francisco Bejar**

Head Custody, SIX



**Sam Riley**

Chief Executive Officer, Clearstream Securities Services



**Val Wotton**

Global Head of Equities Solutions, DTCC

---

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?

## SPEAKERS



**Patrice Aguesse**

Director, Head of market policy Division, AMF



**Alex Dockx**

Executive Director Industry Development, JP Morgan



**Jennifer Robertson**

Head of Unit, European Commission

12:15 / **Panel discussion**  
**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?

# Day 1 - Monday, 19 October 2026

12:15 / **Panel discussion**  
**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?

## SPEAKERS



**Christoph Hock**

Head of Tokenisation & Digital Assets, Union Investment



**Sid Ulker**

Counsel, Ashurst

13:00 / **Networking lunch**

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

Debate it out!

14:30 / **By 2030, the majority of today's banking ops roles will have been replaced by AI**

## OVERVIEW

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

## SPEAKERS



**Rebecca Healey**

Managing Partner, Redlap Consulting Ltd



**Niamh Kingsley**

CEO & Founder at ace, Chief Technology Officer at G MASS

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?

## SPEAKERS



**Natalie Berkecz**

Global head of Custody, Tax and Regulatory Product, Northern Trust Corporation



**Adrian Whelan**

Global Head of Market Intelligence, Brown Brothers Harriman

15:15 / **Networking coffee break**

15:45 / **Keynote address**

# Day 1 - Monday, 19 October 2026

16:15 / Panel discussion  
**Banks' Operations in 2030**

## OVERVIEW

- / How should banks be adapting their operations to ensure they can compete with new industry players in the years to come?
  - / How critical is the roll out of New Tech as part of this broader transformation, and which types of New Tech will have the biggest impact?
  - / Does AI deployment create tensions across business lines and with clients and counterparties?
  - / To what extent is the evolution of Operations driven by Regulation vs commercial factors?
- 

17:00 / **Closing remarks**

---

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?

## SPEAKER



**Tim Beckwith**

Head of Commercial & Business Development, Cboe Clear

Panel discussion

11:00 / **Pathways towards a DLT-based Multi-Money world**

Focus stage

## OVERVIEW

- / How do different DLT-based money solutions serve wholesale markets? Are they complementary or could they pose risks of fragmentation?
- / What are outstanding barriers to a “multi-money” world?

## SPEAKER



**Etay Katz**

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

# Day 2 - Tuesday, 20 October 2026

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?

Panel discussion

## 11:45 / 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

### SPEAKER



**Ruth McMaster**

Global Head of Investment Banking Operations and Cross Product Operations, Deutsche Bank AG London

## 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.

# Day 2 - Tuesday, 20 October 2026

**13:50 / Ask Me Anything**

Main stage

## OVERVIEW

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

---

**14:10 / Ask Me Anything**

Main stage

## OVERVIEW

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

---

**14:30 / Closing fireside discussion with Lord Ed Vaizey, Co-Chair of UK APPG on Crypto and Digital Assets**

Main stage

## SPEAKER



Ed Vaizey

Co-Chair of UK APPG on Crypto and Digital Assets

---

**15:15 / Closing remarks**

---

**15:30 / Networking drinks**