

CONFERENCE

# ***OPTIC 2026***

19 October 2026 / Hilton London Bankside

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

**08:15 / Welcome registration and refreshments**

**09:15 - 09:30**

Opening remarks

### ***Speaker***



**April Day**  
Managing Director, Head of  
Capital Markets  
AFME

# Day 1 - Monday, 19 October 2026

## PANEL DISCUSSION

09:30 - 10:30

The View from the Top: Perspectives from industry leaders

## 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?

## Moderator



**Adriana Ennab**  
Global Head of Policy &  
Regulation  
Global Digital Finance

## Speakers



**Francisco Bejar**  
Head of Custody  
SIX



**Jean-Jacques Barberis**  
Deputy CEO - Coverage and  
Digital Assets  
CACEIS



**Katie Harries**  
Director and Head of Europe  
Policy  
Coinbase



**Sam Riley**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Clearstream Securities  
Services



**Val Wotton**  
Managing Director, Global  
Head of Equities Solutions  
DTCC

10:30 / *Networking break*

# Day 1 - Monday, 19 October 2026

## TRACK A FIRESIDE DISCUSSION

11:00 - 11:30

Chris Cox, Global Head of Investor Services at Citi

### *Moderator*



Adam Farkas  
CEO  
AFME

### *Speaker*



Chris Cox  
Head of Investor Services  
Citi

## TRACK C SESSION BY INVITATION ONLY

11:00 - 13:00

Future Leaders Workshop

The Exchange

### *Speaker*



Joanna Conlon  
Consultant and Founder  
Light Consulting

## TRACK A PANEL DISCUSSION

11:30 - 12:15

### Everything you need to know about the EU Market Integration Package

#### 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?

#### *Moderator*



**Ayesha Ghafoor**  
Senior Vice President Public  
Policy and Government  
Affairs  
BNY

#### *Speakers*



**Alex Dockx**  
Executive Director Industry  
Development  
JP Morgan



**Britta Woernle**  
Director, Head of Market  
Advocacy Europe, Trust and  
Securities Services  
Deutsche Bank



**Jennifer Robertson**  
Head of Unit  
European Commission



**Patrice Aguesse**  
Director, Head of Market  
Policy Division  
AMF

## TRACK A PANEL DISCUSSION

12:15 - 13:00

### DLT Adoption - Are we Approaching Institutional Mainstreaming?

Summit 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?

#### Moderator



**Coco Chen**  
Associate Director,  
Technology and Operations  
AFME

#### Speakers



**Christoph Hock**  
Head of Tokenisation & Digital  
Assets, DLT Transformation  
Lead  
Union Investment



**Pallavi Thakur**  
Global Head of Industry  
Engagement for Payments  
and FX  
Swift



**Sid Ulker**  
Counsel  
Ashurst



**Varun Paul**  
Senior Director of Financial  
Markets  
Fireblocks

TRACK B PANEL DISCUSSION

12:15 - 13:00

## Asset Servicing in Focus: Challenges and Opportunities

Focus Stage

### OVERVIEW

- / What impacts does T+1 have on Corporate Actions?
- / How can we digitalise the asset servicing workflow?
- / SRD II – what is next? Will we get a revised Directive or Regulation?
- / Market Standards – What is the Single Rule Book for Europe?

### Moderator



**Michael Collier**  
Global Head of Asset  
Services, Product  
Management, Securities  
Services  
J.P. Morgan

### Speakers



**Mariangela Fumagalli**  
Head of Asset Servicing  
Global Product and  
Regulatory Solutions  
BNP Paribas



**Richard Nicholls**  
Vice President – Head of  
Asset Services London / UK  
Accelerated Settlement  
Taskforce – Corporate Actions  
Lead  
Morgan Stanley



**Serkan Yagci**  
Managing Director  
x-markets consulting

13:00 / *Networking lunch*

## TRACK B LUNCH & LEARN

13:00 - 14:15

### Beyond Fragmentation: Integrating Settlement, Collateral, Payments and Financing

Join BNY for an interactive lunch and learn exploring the concept of the integrated post-trade operating model and its potential to transform how firms connect settlement, collateral, liquidity and financing activities. Drawing on practical examples and market experience, the discussion will examine how leading firms are moving beyond managing fragmentation and toward operating models designed to reduce it.

#### OVERVIEW

- / Why fragmentation continues to constrain efficiency, liquidity and growth
- / The defining characteristics of an integrated post-trade operating model
- / How tighter integration between settlement, collateral, payments and financing can improve operational outcomes
- / Practical examples of how integrated operating models can enhance collateral mobility and settlement efficiency
- / The implications of T+1, regulatory change and expanding market access requirements for post-trade infrastructure
- / Questions firms should be asking as they evaluate their own operating models

#### Speakers



**Greig Ramsay**  
International Head of Client  
Coverage for Global Clearing  
and Global Collateral  
BNY



**Matthew Steggles**  
Director, Product, Global  
Clearing  
BNY



**Neale Kelleher**  
Client Executive, Clearance &  
Collateral Management  
BNY

## **PRESENTATION**

**14:15 - 14:45**

### **Navigating geopolitical risk**

Summit 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

TRACK A

DEBATE IT OUT!

14:45 - 15:30

"This House would trust Claude to manage its settlement fails"

Summit Stage

## OVERVIEW

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

## Moderator



**Peter Tomlinson**  
Managing Director, Equities  
Trading and Post Trade  
AFME

## Speakers



**Kerril Burke**  
CEO  
PayRecAI



**Niamh Kingsley**  
CEO & Founder at ace, Chief  
Technology Officer at G  
MASS



**Rebecca Healey**  
Managing Partner  
Redlap Consulting Ltd



**Thomas Daniels**  
Industry Expert - Post-Trade  
Digital & Data

## TRACK B FIRESIDE DISCUSSION

14:45 - 15:30

### The US in Focus: Key Developments in US markets

Focus Stage

#### 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?

#### *Moderator*



**Sachin Mohindra**  
Executive Director, Global  
Banking & Markets, Market  
Solutions  
Goldman Sachs

#### *Speakers*



**Adrian Whelan**  
Global Head of Market  
Intelligence  
Brown Brothers Harriman



**Kyle Edwards**  
VP, Public Policy  
cboe

15:30 / *Networking coffee break*

## FIRESIDE DISCUSSION

16:00 - 16:30

with Lord Ed Vaizey, Co-Chair of UK APPG on Crypto and Digital Assets

#### *Speakers*



**Ed Vaizey**  
Co-Chair of UK APPG on  
Crypto and Digital Assets



**Matthew Harley**  
Associate Director, UK  
Advocacy  
AFME

## PANEL DISCUSSION

16:30 - 17:15

The evolution of financial market infrastructure: opportunities and challenges

## OVERVIEW

- / With continued scrutiny on infrastructure fragmentation, what does the ideal future model look like for Europe?
- / How can we achieve truly integrated and interoperable post-trade ecosystem, and improve capital mobility and liquidity?
- / How are firms balancing the opportunities of new technology with the need to ensure continuity and resilience?

## Moderator



**Michael Hughes**  
Head of Capital Markets  
Business Consulting  
Capgemini

## Speakers



**Camille Papillard**  
Deputy Head of Financial  
Intermediaries and  
Corporates Client Line  
BNP Paribas



**Jerome Blais**  
Head of European Expansion  
Euronext Securities



**Marcus Austin**  
Head of Sales & Relationship  
Management, US, UK,  
Nordics  
Clearstream



**Victor O'Laughlen**  
Executive Platform Owner  
BNY Global Clearing

17:15 - 17:30

Closing remarks

**17:30 / Drinks Reception at the Distillery**

08:00 / Welcome registration

TRACK B REGISTRATION REQUIRED

08:00 - 09:00

Women of OPTIC breakfast

The Exchange

## OVERVIEW

/ An invitation-only breakfast for the Women of OPTIC and allies.

09:00 - 09:15

Opening remarks

## Speaker



James Kemp  
Managing Director,  
Technology & Operations  
AFME

## FIRESIDE DISCUSSION

09:15 - 09:45

Christopher Woolard CBE, Wholesale Digital Markets Champion

## Speakers



Christopher Woolard CBE  
Wholesale Digital Markets  
Champion



James Kemp  
Managing Director,  
Technology & Operations  
AFME

## TRACK A PANEL DISCUSSION

09:45 - 10:30

### 12 Months to T+1 – will we be ready?

Summit 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?

#### *Moderator*



**Andrew Douglas**  
Chair  
UK Accelerated Settlement  
Taskforce

#### *Speakers*



**Aerron Reynolds**  
Business Consulting  
Associate Director  
DTCC



**Daniel Carpenter**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Meritsoft (a Cognizant  
company)



**Heather Pilley**  
Technical Specialist  
Financial Conduct Authority



**Marie-France Dessertenne**  
Global T+1 Program Manager  
BNP Paribas

## TRACK B

09:45 - 10:30

### DLT Sandbox Regimes - Insights from Participants on Where We are Now And What Comes Next

EU DLT Pilot Regime and UK Digital Securities Sandbox participants will present on the journeys their firms have undertaken under those regimes

#### OVERVIEW

- / Innovation in trading and settlement models
- / Recent market developments, including new products and volumes
- / Views on commercial scalability and ecosystem adoption
- / Regulatory process

#### *Moderator*



Coco Chen  
Associate Director,  
Technology and Operations  
AFME

#### *Speakers*



Amparo Garcia Flores  
CEO  
Securitize



Mark Kepeneghian  
CEO  
LISE SA



Martin Watkins  
Chief Executive Officer  
Montis Digital



Niki Beattie  
Chair  
Cleartoken

10:30 / *Networking Break*

TRACK A

PANEL DISCUSSION

11:00 - 11:45

## Using AI to Transform Post Trade

Summit Stage

### OVERVIEW

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

### *Moderator*



Coen ter Wal

### *Speakers*



**Declan Marriott**  
Head of Markets and Treasury  
Operations  
Lloyds Banking Group



**Gopala Subramaniam**  
CEO  
NOVA CMX



**Remi Lagane**  
Head of EMEA presales for  
Trading, Investment  
Management, Securities  
Finance, Operations and  
Finance  
**Murex**



**Ruth McMaster**  
Global Head of Investment  
Banking Operations and  
Cross Product Operations  
Deutsche Bank

**TRACK B** **PANEL DISCUSSION**

**11:00 - 11:45**

**Digital Currencies in Focus: 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?

***Moderator***



**Keith Bear**  
Fellow, Centre for Alternative  
Finance  
University of Cambridge

***Speakers***



**Austin Elwood**  
Digital Assets Industry Lead  
NatWest



**Dirk Bullmann**  
Managing Director, Public  
Policy, Strategy and  
Innovation, CEO Office  
CLS



**Etay Katz**  
Head of Digital Assets and  
Financial Innovation and  
Senior Partner in Financial  
Regulation Practice  
Ashurst



**Polina Evstifeeva**  
Digital Assets Solutions, VP  
State Street

11:45 - 12:30

## Equities Clearing: Implementation, innovation, and interoperability

Summit 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?

### *Moderator*



**Martyn Nott**  
Global Head, Network  
Management  
Bank of America

### *Speakers*



**Cate Grant**  
Global Head of Market  
Solutions  
Goldman Sachs



**Corina Scott**  
Head Clearing Product &  
Business Development  
SIX



**Tim Beckwith**  
Head of Commercial &  
Business Development  
Cboe Clear

11:45 - 12:30

## T+1 in Europe - Ask the Experts

Focus Stage

### OVERVIEW

- / Interactive discussion with UK and EU industry leaders, with an opportunity to put your questions directly to them.
- / What are the next major project milestones? What should firms be concentrating on?

### *Moderator*



**Mikko Olli**  
Associate Director, Post Trade  
AFME

### *Speakers*



**Emma Johnson**  
Head of Industry Advocacy &  
Insight  
The ValueExchange



**John Siena**  
Associate General Counsel,  
Co-Head of Regulatory  
Strategy  
Brown Brothers Harriman &  
Co.



**Marcello Topa**  
Director, Global Head of  
Advocacy, Investor Services  
Citi



**Tony Holland**  
Director - Market Practice  
ISLA

**12:30 / Networking lunch**

12:30 - 13:30

## Exception Management under T+1 with NOVA CMX

The Exchange

### OVERVIEW

- / Why the overnight exception-resolution buffer disappears under T+1, and what replaces it
- / Shifting from reactive to preventive exception management
- / Where exceptions originate
- / How CSDR cash penalties change the financial stakes of every unresolved exception
- / Managing the hard cases: securities financing, FX timing gaps, and cross-border flows under compressed settlement cycles
- / and, briefly address the December 2026 deadline for build - and move to the testing phase

### Speakers



Gopala Subramaniam  
CEO  
NOVA CMX



Tamsin Davies  
Executive Director, Global  
Custody Settlements &  
Strategic Transformation  
J.P. Morgan

### ASK ME ANYTHING

13:30 - 13:55

## Sasha Mills, Bank of England

Summit Stage

### OVERVIEW

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

### Speaker



Sasha Mills  
Executive Director of Financial  
Market Infrastructure  
Bank of England

## PANEL DISCUSSION

13:55 - 14:45

### Banks' Operations in 2030

Summit Stage

## 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?

## Moderator



**Marcus Corry**  
Director, Technology and  
Operations  
AFME

## Speakers



**Aileen McCormack**  
Head of Operations  
Barclays Europe



**Nigel Cobb**  
Head of Process Engineering,  
Market Operations  
Citi



**Stephen Martin**  
Head of Financial Services  
Compliance and Security for  
EMEA and APAC  
AWS



**Tiina Winnan**  
Head of Equity Distribution  
Operations  
Deutsche Bank

***Day 2 - Tuesday, 20 October 2026***

14:45 - 15:20

Audrey Metzger, Banque de France

Speakers



Audrey Metzger  
Director of Innovation and  
Financial Markets  
Infrastructures Directorate  
Banque de France



Sabine Ditttrich  
Head of Government and  
Regulatory Policy and  
Relations, Europe | PPCR  
Barclays

15:20 - 15:30

Closing remarks

15:30 / Networking drinks