
Press release

Financial services must be central to EU–UK growth agenda

17 March 2026

In response to the Chancellor's remarks at the [Mais lecture](#), **Adam Farkas, Chief Executive of the Association for Financial Markets in Europe (AFME)**, said:

"AFME welcomes the UK Chancellor's focus on growth and her pragmatic approach to the EU–UK relationship. We also strongly welcome the recognition that deep and liquid capital markets can be a source of collective European strength."

"AFME continues to support an outcomes-based approach to equivalence as key to facilitating cross-border activity. Early progress could be made in targeted areas, including aspects of the CRR framework, particularly where EU banks interact with UK entities, and in providing appropriate relief for intragroup transactions."

"A stronger framework for deeper EU–UK financial services cooperation is essential to support growth, enhance regulatory certainty and unlock investment across Europe."

- Ends -

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Notes:

1. The Association for Financial Markets in Europe (AFME) is the voice of the leading banks in Europe's financial markets, providing expertise across a broad range of regulatory and capital markets issues. We represent over 150 leading global and European banks and other significant market players. Our members play a vital role in Europe's financial ecosystem, underwriting around 90% of European corporate and sovereign debt, and 85% of European listed equity capital issuances. Importantly, AFME members are market makers, providing liquidity, which is essential for ensuring financial markets can function efficiently. We also represent law firms and other associate members which advise market participants and support AFME's legal and regulatory initiatives. For more information please visit the AFME website: www.afme.eu
2. Follow us on Twitter [@AFME_EU](https://twitter.com/AFME_EU)

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