

Institute for Financial Integrity & Sustainability

IFIS is a non-profit a.s.b.l., dedicated to promoting integrity and sustainability in financial sectors and professions generally since 2009. We do so by providing a platform for thought leadership and “over the horizon” topics that invite participants to consider subjects that need attention, but are not yet on the normal agendas of organisations or various committees. Founding and Honorary Chairmen are Messrs. Jean-Claude Juncker and Jaques Santer.

IFIS believes that the long-term profitability, sustainability, social utility and public acceptance of financial market-players can best be served by open and active debate on issues of integrity and sustainability, including governance, environmental and social impact. Its core purpose is to develop and sustain trust in the financial sector by encouraging responsible business practices in the best interests of the financial sector and society at large.

Examples of recent event topics have included:

“Sustainability: Earth Problems, Space Solutions”: A brainstorming event between specialists from the space industry and sustainability and finance professionals; a discovery of the potential and accessibility of space data in the pursuit of sustainability and general risk management.

“Entrepreneurship, Leadership, and The Holy Grail of Sustainability”: A conference supported by the House of Sustainability exploring the links between entrepreneurship, executive leadership, and sustainable business practices, subtitled: “How Creative Minds Outpace Executive Habits”.

“ESG Under Fire: Why it Still Matters”: a mini-conference with international speakers sponsored by the House of Sustainability addressing the current push-back against ESG principles and explaining the dangers of abandoning the vision and aspirations that it represents.

“In Pursuit of the Public Good”: Jenny de Nijs, Director for the Development of the Financial Centre, at the Luxembourg Ministry of Finance led the discussion on the respective roles and responsibilities of government and private sector in the pursuit of societal well-being.

“The Stock Exchange: Sponsor or Facilitator of Change”: Julie Becker, CEO of the Luxembourg Exchange, explained the forward-looking strategy set out by the Green and traditional Exchanges, demonstrating the changing role of the SE and its aim of generating a sustainable impact on society.

“The Greenwashing Equation” – a sponsored mini-conference with speakers from Ireland, Paris and Japan exploring the nature and impact of greenwashing, regulatory efforts to level the playing field in the EU, and the pitfalls to be avoided by organisations transitioning to “go green”.

Speakers at our events are drawn from within the Luxembourg environment and abroad. Past speakers have joined us from the ECB, EIB, the French Treasury, CSSF and Luxembourg Ministries. CEOs from prominent firms such as BGL BNP Paribas and VP Bank have also contributed to a rich vein of thought leadership topics.

Participants at our events are typically board directors, executives, ESG professionals, or academics sourced from among IFIS members and friends, as well as sponsor networks.

The organisation is financed through membership fees collected from individual and corporate members, some of whom kindly further sponsor specific events enabling IFIS to fulfil its objective to bring new perspectives to our local debates from abroad.

Should you consider our cause worthy, we would be delighted to have you contribute to our activities through regular membership, or sponsorship of a specific event.

Further information on the Institute for Financial Integrity and Sustainability and our activities may be found on our website: <https://www.ifis.lu/our-vision-our-mission>.

Anthony Smith-Meyer, Executive Director, Institute for Financial Integrity and Sustainability

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