

Press Release

Comprehensive action plan for sustainability in the Swiss financial centre drafted

Zurich, September 22, 2014. **Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) convened for its inaugural general meeting at the Kursaal in Bern. The election of the board was an important agenda item. In six workshops the members drafted several action plans that will be implemented in the near future.**

For the first time since its founding event in July the members of Swiss Sustainable Finance convened at the Kursaal in Bern. The first item on the agenda was the election of the board. More than 80 members from all parts of country represented the interests of more than 70 organisations, financial service providers, insurance companies, asset managers, foundations and public sector entities. All proposed directors were elected unanimously. The board consists of 11 members:

Elected Board Members (in alphabetical order)

- Philipp Aeby, CEO RepRisk
- Nicola Battalora, Head of Asset Management and Capital Markets, BSI
- Eric Borremans, Sustainability Specialist, Pictet Asset Management
- David Bresch, Global Head Sustainability, Swiss Re
- Ladina Caduff, Head Sustainability, Raiffeisen
- Jean-Philippe de Schrevel, CEO Bamboo Finance
- Angela de Wolff, Founding Partner Conser Invest and Co-Founder Sustainable Finance Geneva
- Hubert Niggli, Head of Finance Department, SUVA
- Klaus Tischhauser, CEO ResponsAbility
- Daniel Wild, Head of Sustainability Investing Research and Development, RobecoSAM
- Beatrice Zwicky, Board member and member of the investment committee, Nest Anlagestiftung

Klaus Tischhauser, founder of ResponsAbility, was elected to the position of chairman. "The Swiss financial centre has a unique opportunity to assume a leadership position in sustainable finance. We have the necessary brainpower, experience and frameworks. But we are never complacent, it is a competitive market", stresses Klaus Tischhauser. "We are very pleased to have such experienced and committed board members", Sabine Döbeli, CEO SSF, comments on the election of the board. "I am very confident that we will reach our goals thanks to the extensive know-how of our members." The aim of the SSF association is to foster further integration of sustainability principles into the Swiss financial marketplace. Today, sustainable assets of CHF 57 billion are managed in Switzerland, a significant proportion of which is for international clients. A third of global microfinance investments are managed by Swiss players.

Comprehensive action plan drafted

In six workshops the members drafted key action plans to be implemented in the coming months.

- Of high importance is **communication**. Existing Swiss strengths in sustainable finance will be presented to a broad specialist audience as well as to the general public.
- **Information and market data** are crucial. SSF will collect market data and conduct surveys. Trends as well as new developments will be evaluated and made available for everyone.
- Of high importance is also the **educational sector**. Swiss financial education and training programs include hardly any courses on sustainable finance. SSF aims to cooperate with different universities and business schools to promote the integration of sustainable finance know-how. SSF will also encourage academic research activities on sustainable finance.
- **Swiss institutional asset owners** have so far been interested in sustainable investments, but hesitant to adopt systematic sustainable investment strategies. This workshop offers institutional asset owners a platform to discuss the main barriers and potential first steps for long-term sustainable investment strategies. This includes the development of guidance documents.
- Switzerland is one of the major **global centres for private wealth management**. The workshop looks for ways to promote new offerings and new ways and therefore support the Swiss brand of private banking.
- Switzerland is an important player when it comes to the management of **microfinance and development investments**. Through this workshop SSF aims to promote the right frameworks and foster the development of innovative financing solutions to bring sustainability to the microfinance and development sector.

The first public Swiss Sustainable Finance event **“Towards a sustainable Swiss financial centre: combining strengths for success”** takes place on **October 23, 2014 at SIX in Zurich**.

State Secretary Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch, SECO, and Rachel Kyte, World Bank, will present their views on the role of the financial sector in long-term sustainable development. An international panel of experts will then discuss the opportunities and risks associated with a sustainable Swiss financial centre. **Information and registration: www.sustainablefinance.ch**

Swiss Sustainable Finance is the main point of information for all questions on sustainable finance in Switzerland. The association brings together financial and non-financial service providers, investors, universities and business schools, public sector entities and other interested organisations to foster the integration of sustainability principles into all financial services and strengthen Switzerland as the leading centre for sustainable finance. SSF closely cooperates with Sustainable Finance Geneva to reach this goal.

Contact

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List of members and network partners of Swiss Sustainable Finance (22 September 2014)

Members

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AlphaMundi Group Ltd.
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Banque Lombard Odier & Cie SA
Banque SYZ & CO SA
BHP - Bruggen and Partners Ltd.
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Swiss Philanthropy Foundation
Swisscanto Asset Management Ltd.
The Pictet Group
VELUX STIFTUNG
Zurmont Madison Private Equity

Network partners

Business School Lausanne (BSL)
Center for Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability (CCRS) at the University of Zurich
Center for Microfinance, Department of Banking and Finance, University of Zurich
Center for Responsibility in Finance, Department of Banking and Finance, University of Zurich
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