

*Media Release*

## **SSF Annual Conference: Innovation for a sustainable future – the financial sector must play its part**

*Zurich, 19 June 2026*

The programme for the Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) Annual Conference, held on 18 June 2026 in Bern, was entirely focused on solutions for the future. There was consensus among the distinguished speakers regarding effective levers for a sustainable future: the use of new technologies for sustainable business models and a financial centre that supports innovative companies in scaling up their solutions. At the SSF Members' Assembly, **Christine Schmid**, Chief Investment Officer at Servisa, and **Virginie van Doorn**, Vice President of Sustainable Finance Geneva, were newly elected to the SSF Board.

The programme for the SSF Annual Conference was entirely dedicated to the path towards a sustainable future. The various speakers explored the theme of 'Innovating for a Sustainable Future' from a broad range of perspectives.

**Keynote speaker Tomas Lamanuskas**, Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), vividly illustrated how technology is improving the lives of millions of people. The "AI for Good" initiative, founded by the ITU, aims to make artificial intelligence serve society – through capacity building, standards and partnerships. However, Tomas Lamanuskas also emphasised the importance of building secure and trustworthy AI systems that contribute to sustainable development. In this regard, he sees great potential for Switzerland, which, as a knowledge hub, is ideally placed to put the technology at work for the common good.

**Benjamin Krusche**, Director of Strategy at Clarity AI, and **Sven Wiedmer**, Head of SI Quant at UBS Asset Management, highlighted how artificial intelligence can optimise both the development of sustainable strategies as well as analytics and investment processes. In the first panel, **moderator Carolin Roth** explored with her guests the role of artificial intelligence in sustainable solutions. How great is the potential for practical application, and what obstacles need to be tackled?

The second part of the conference focused on environmental innovations 'made in Switzerland'. **Dominique Mégret**, CEO of Ecorobotix, kicked off the discussion with his contribution. His solutions optimise the use of fertilisers and chemicals in agriculture and are setting new standards through the integration of AI technology. Inventive spirit also shapes the thinking and business model of **Estelle Clerc**, CEO of CellX Biosolutions. She develops bacteria-based solutions that break down so-called 'forever chemicals' such as PFAS, as well as pesticides and pharmaceuticals, thereby addressing one of the major unresolved environmental problems. **Evelien Hooijman**, Director of the Transition Accelerator at ING, and **Christian Ilgner**, representative of the Valyou Investment Foundation and CEO of Cenvion, emphasised the role of the financial sector in scaling up such solutions. Both see great

potential in the energy transition and sustainable infrastructure projects. **Patrick Odier**, President of SSF, explored key success factors for Swiss start-ups with the experts in the second panel discussion. For new solutions to reach market maturity, capital is needed – in the right place at the right time. Whilst Switzerland possesses the necessary financial expertise, there is often still a lack of specialists capable of combining the various instruments, and of investors with the respective risk appetite. He concluded the event with a call to the audience: "The key to the future lies not only in the targeted promotion of innovation – already a strength of Switzerland today – but also in the provision of financial services that support companies in bringing these solutions to the world."

The Swiss Sustainable Finance Members' Assembly took place in the run-up to the Annual Conference. The members present elected the nominees **Christine Schmid**, Chief Investment Officer at Servisa, and **Virginie van Doorn**, Vice President at Sustainable Finance Geneva, to the SSF Board. They replace **Fiona Frick**, Board Member at Sustainable Finance Geneva and Managing Partner at Circe Invest, and **Dominique Becht**, Head of the Investment Team at Stiftung Abendrot, who have served on the SSF Board for the past six years. **Patrick Odier** thanked them for their dedicated service and warmly welcomed the two new members: "We look forward to working with these two financial leaders, who will enrich our SSF Board with their knowledge and experience."

Find the list of all SSF Board Members [here](#).

## Contact

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**Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF)** strengthens Switzerland's position as a global market for sustainable finance through information, education and the promotion of growth. Founded in 2014, the organisation has offices in Zurich and Geneva. SSF currently brings together over 250 members and network partners, including financial service providers, investors, universities and colleges, government agencies and other organisations. You can find an overview of Swiss Sustainable Finance's current members and network partners [here](#).

## Photos

1: Tomas Lamanuskas, Keynote speaker and Carolin Roth, Moderatorin

2: Session 1 with Sven Wiedmer, UBS Asset Management, Benjamin Krusche, Clarity AI, and Carolin Roth, Moderatorin

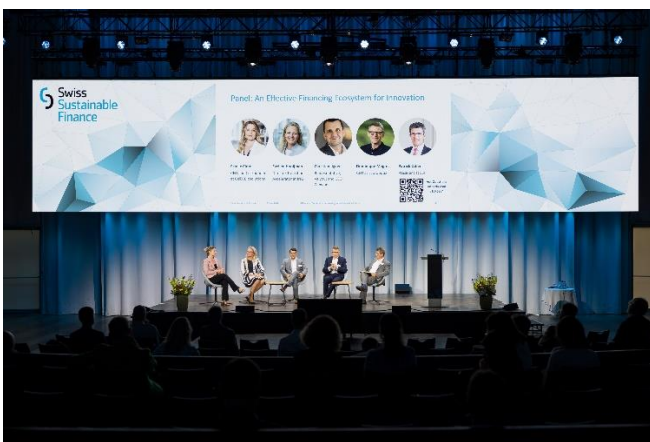
3: Session 2 with Estelle Clerc, CellX Biosolutions, Evelien Hooijman, ING, Christian Ilgner, Valyou Anlagestiftung/Cenvion, Dominique Mégret, Ecorobotix, and Patrick Odier, President SSF



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