

Press release - 14.00 h

## Sustainable Swiss financial centre: The train picks up speed

Zurich, 24 October 2014 Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) held its first public event at the SIX Convention Point in Zurich on Thursday afternoon. The Association aims to advance sustainability in all financial services and strengthen Switzerland as a leading centre for sustainable finance. At the well-attended event 'Towards a sustainable Swiss financial centre: combining strengths for success', State Secretary Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch, Head of SECO, and Marianne Fay, Chief Economist of the Climate Change Group at the World Bank highlighted the opportunities created for Switzerland by the financial centre's focus on sustainability. Features as quality, innovation and profound financial know-how will be in high demand. Although some critical voices were heard during the panel discussion, the consensus was that the prospects for a sustainable Swiss financial centre are good. The train picks up speed.

State Secretary Marie-Gabrielle Ineichen-Fleisch opened the first public event of Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF). The Head of SECO explained the countless advantages that can be generated by a combination of Switzerland, sustainability and finance to more than 200 participants. This also with a view to the UN goals for sustainable development: private sector initiatives such as SSF may provide new approaches to investment and alternative solutions and at the same time open up new business opportunities.

Marianne Fay, Chief Economist of the Climate Change Group at the World Bank emphasised the fundamental changes currently being seen in the business world. The readiness, in fact the urgency, to combat climate change is growing at a more rapid pace than the financial resources required for this endeavour. "If we do not want to cook our planet, we have to shape our growth more ecological. The capital demand for sustainable global development is enormous. A country such as Switzerland can become an important player in this field and create new market opportunities for itself." SSF Chairman Klaus Tischhauser is convinced that it is no longer open to question that sustainable finance is a viable business concept for the Swiss financial centre. The only question that remains is how quickly the protagonists can agree on a common strategy and join forces to achieve these goals. Time is of the essence, as the foreign competition is not sleeping.

Under the direction of Haig Simonian, an international panel of experts representing various financial sectors - Ivo Germann, SECO; Ivo Knoepfel, OnValues; Burkhard Varnholt, Julius Baer; Daniel Wild, RobecoSAM; Scott Williams, PWC - then engaged in a lively discussion of the opportunities and risks that will emerge from a sustainable Swiss financial centre. The participants agreed that Switzerland boasts excellent structures and a wealth of knowledge. In the near future the term 'sustainable' would become superfluous as the legal environment will require this approach. Some were sceptical about the speed of implementation: global institutional investors demand the kind of solutions that are not yet on offer.

Sabine Döbeli, CEO of SSF stressed the importance of information and effective cooperation in meeting this trend. "The current 73 members and network partners of SSF are confident about the potential of sustainable financial investments. By promoting sustainability in financial services with

reliable data and customised training courses, we will collectively strengthen Switzerland as a financial centre."

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**Swiss Sustainable Finance** is the central point of information for all issues relating to 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.

Find more information on Swiss Sustainable Finance in our new **brochure**.



## List of all 73 members and network partners of Swiss Sustainable Finance (23.10.2014)

### Members

Abels Avocats  
Adveq Management AG  
AlphaMundi Group Ltd.  
AST FEE Schweiz. Anlagest. Für Erneuerbare Energien  
Bamboo Finance  
Bank J. Safra Sarasin  
Banque Bonhôte & Cie SA  
Banque Lombard Odier & Cie SA  
Banque Pâris Bertrand Sturdza SA  
Banque SYZ & CO SA  
Baumann & Cie  
BHP - Bruggler and Partners Ltd.  
BlueOrchard Finance S.A.  
BSI SA  
Café Europe Textagentur GmbH  
CANDRIAM INVESTORS GROUP  
Clarmondial  
CONINCO Explorers in finance SA  
Conser Invest  
Contrast Capital  
Covalence EthicalQuote  
De Pury Pictet Turrettini & Co LTD  
E2 Management Consulting AG  
EBG Investment Solutions  
Edmond de Rothschild (Suisse) S.A.  
Emerald Technology Ventures Inc.  
Ethos Foundation  
Fondation Guilé  
ForestFinance Ltd.  
Forma Futura Invest Inc.  
Fundo SA  
Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation  
Globalance Bank  
Helvetia Insurance  
Inrate Ltd  
Julius Baer Group Ltd  
LGT Group  
MIRABAUD et Cie SA  
Nest Collective Foundation  
Notenstein Private Bank Ltd  
OnValues  
Partners Group  
Prakriti Projects Ltd.  
PwC  
Raiffeisen Switzerland  
REES AG  
RepRisk AG  
responsAbility Investments AG  
RobecoSAM AG  
South Pole Group  
Suva  
Swiss Investment Fund for Emerging Markets (SIFEM)  
Swiss Mobiliar Cooperative Company  
Swiss Philanthropy Foundation  
Swiss Re  
Swisscanto Asset Management Ltd.  
Symbiotics SA  
The Pictet Group  
Thurgauer Kantonalbank  
VELUX STIFTUNG  
Vontobel  
Zurmont Madison Private Equity

### Network partners

Business School Lausanne  
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  
Economic Development, City of Zurich  
ETH Sustainability - ETH Zürich  
Geneva Finance Research Institute - University of Geneva  
Office for Economy and Labour, Canton of Zurich  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO  
Sustainable Finance Geneva  
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