

Media release

Patrick Odier elected new president of Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) – New transparency recommendations published: a first for the Swiss financial centre

Zürich, 23 June 2021

Patrick Odier is the new president of Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF). The Geneva banker, known for his banking expertise and commitment to sustainability, was elected by the SSF Members' Assembly in Bern on 22 June 2021. He succeeds Jean-Daniel Gerber, who is retiring from his position, as planned, after six years in office. At its public Annual Conference, SSF also presented its Reporting Recommendations on Portfolio ESG Transparency – a first for the Swiss financial centre and an important foundation for building investor trust.

Zürich, 23 June 2021 – The new president of Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) is Patrick Odier, who succeeds Jean-Daniel Gerber. Following his election at the Members' Assembly of 22 June 2021 in Bern, the Senior Managing Partner of Lombard Odier commented: "I am delighted to receive this honour and thank SSF members for placing their trust in me. As the Swiss financial centre transforms into a leading international hub for sustainable finance, our organisation is growing into a key partner, helping to build bridges and foster collaboration between the various industry players. With the support of the SSF Secretariat, I intend to leverage this position to embed sustainability even more deeply into the DNA of the Swiss financial centre. On a global level, our task is to strengthen Switzerland's leading role in this field and tackle the challenges presented by the transition to a net zero economy." He also spoke warmly of the departing president: "We are incredibly grateful to Jean-Daniel Gerber, whose exceptional personal commitment and attentive stewardship over the past six years has made SSF what it is today: a highly regarded and credible voice in all aspects of sustainable finance."

SSF launches transparency reporting recommendations for asset managers and investors

Regulatory authorities in several financial centres have started to introduce stricter transparency requirements for ESG-related investments, based in part on complex taxonomies governing business activity and extensive reporting rules on the violation of environmental and human rights standards. Even so, it is difficult for both asset managers and asset owners to develop a simple and concise reporting system that allows different portfolios to be compared, as no uniform standards currently exist that encompass the relevant qualitative information or quantitative key performance indicators (KPIs). SSF seeks to fill this gap by publishing transparency recommendations on concrete reporting elements that make it possible to assess the ESG credentials of investment portfolios. Sabine Döbeli, CEO of SSF comments: "The challenge for us was to consider the needs of asset owners, who in practice often have to combine data from different providers, while at the same time making sure our recommendations are simple enough for asset managers to implement. The

purpose of the new transparency recommendations is to define central data points that provide a concise overview of a portfolio's ESG performance, without at the same time burdening asset managers with unnecessary reporting obligations."

High-calibre panel discussion with industry players and NGOs

The Federal Council and Swiss financial industry bodies have a clear goal in mind: to turn Switzerland's financial centre into a leading international hub for sustainable finance. There is consensus between industry players and other stakeholders that transparency is a key success factor. This was underscored during a lively panel discussion with Antoinette Hunziker-Ebnetter (Forma Futura), Thomas Vellacott (WWF Switzerland), Stephan Nolan (FC4S) and Christoph Baumann (SIF). They confirmed the need for stricter transparency standards but also pointed out that new methods need to be developed for measuring the impact on the real economy. The industry itself recognises the challenges involved. In her keynote speech, Magali Anderson, Chief Sustainability and Innovation at LafrageHolcim Ltd. specifically welcomed the call for greater transparency at company level. She pointed out that more sustainable business practices provide a great opportunity for carbon-intensive undertakings as well to adopt a forward-looking business model, which in turn bolsters trust on the investors' side.

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Additional information:

> SSF Recommendations on Portfolio ESG Transparency (PDF file)

([English report](#), [German summary](#), [French summary](#))

> [Newsletter SSF](#) bi-monthly

> [Twitter @SwissSustFin](#)

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Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) strengthens the position of Switzerland in the global marketplace for sustainable finance by informing, educating and catalysing growth. The association, founded in 2014, has representative offices in Zurich, Geneva and Lugano. Currently SSF unites around 180 members and network partners from financial service providers, investors, universities and business schools, public-sector entities and other interested organisations. An overview of Swiss Sustainable Finance's current members and network partners can be found [here](#).