

*Press release*

## **20-step roadmap for a future-oriented Swiss finance centre: report presented at the SSF Members' Assembly**

*Zurich, 15 June 2016*

The Members' Assembly of Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) provided a platform for the launch of the report "Proposals for a Roadmap towards a Sustainable Financial System in Switzerland". Alexander Karrer, Deputy State Secretary and Head of Multilateral Affairs at the State Secretariat for International Financial Matters (SIF), subsequently gave a talk emphasising the importance of international developments in the area of Green Finance and highlighting the active role that Switzerland plays in these processes. The Members' Assembly also saw the election of five new board members, allowing SSF to tap into new specialist skills, which will support the organisation in implementing its strategy.

Over 80 member representatives attended the third Members' Assembly of SSF, held on 14 June in the Kursaal Bern conference centre. Members elected five new representatives to the SSF board: Roland Dominicé, CEO Symbiotics; Patrick Fankhauser, Head Sales and Business Development, Inrate; Pierin Menzli, Head of Sustainable Investment Research, J. Safra Sarasin; Rochus Mommartz, CEO responsAbility and Andreas Spiegel, Head Group Sustainability Risk, Swiss Re. **Jean-Daniel Gerber, President of Swiss Sustainable Finance**, congratulated the new board members on their election and had the following words to say about future collaboration: "The newly acquired skills and wealth of experience make the SSF Board well equipped to support the implementation of the strategy and to strengthen Switzerland's position as a leading centre for sustainable finance."

### **SSF presents successes in the first full financial year**

Over the past year, SSF has already organised six specialist events attended by over 500 professionals. Five workgroups are responsible for putting the various strategic priorities into practice. One workgroup, for example, oversaw the publication of the first market study on Swiss investments for development. Another workgroup focuses on institutional asset owners and is preparing the publication of a sustainable investments toolkit for autumn 2016. The SSF Annual Report 2015 provides information on these and other activities, and also charts the steady rise in the number of SSF members. **Sabine Döbeli, CEO of Swiss Sustainable Finance**, comments: "We have recently added two high-profile names in the insurance industry, Axa Winterthur and the Swiss Insurance Association, to our list of over 90 members and network partners. Through sharing know-how and offering practical tools, we support our members in developing finance and investment processes that are even more effective in dealing with future challenges."

### **Launch of roadmap report with 20 concrete measures**

After the official Members' Assembly, the main focus of the afternoon programme was the launch of the report "Proposals for a Roadmap towards a Sustainable Financial System in Switzerland". Sibyl Anwander, Head of the Economics and Innovation Department at the Federal Office of the Environment (FOEN) presented 20 concrete measures drafted by a diverse project team of finance experts, representatives of science and federal authorities coordinated by FOEN. Specific proposals for action were put forward to promote sustainable financial services taking into account environmental, social and governance criteria in the five segments asset & wealth management, institutional investors, credit & lending, capital markets and research & education. A key requirement is to introduce greater transparency in the sustainability of financial products, while the integration of sustainability risks and opportunities in the investment, credit and rating processes is also considered to be crucial for long-term financial success. An expert panel debated the role of these proposals for reinforcing Switzerland's status as a leading international centre for asset and wealth management.

In his closing speech, Alexander Karrer, Deputy State Secretary of SIF, stressed the growth opportunities offered by new areas of "Green Finance" in the Swiss financial services industry. He further underlined the importance of better understanding environmental risks in the financial context. Through its active participation in the G20 Green Finance study group and other international bodies, Switzerland has been able to contribute its expertise and offer an international platform to leading Swiss financial companies.

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#### **Studies:**

[SSF Annual Report 2015](#)

FOEN study: ["Proposals for a Roadmap towards a Sustainable Financial System in Switzerland"](#)

#### **Additional information:**

- > [CVs of new SSF Board members](#)
- > [SSF newsletter](#) twice a month
- > [Twitteraccount @SwissSustFin](#)
- > [LinkedIn account Swiss Sustainable Finance](#)

**Swiss Sustainable Finance** (SSF) strengthens the position of Switzerland in the global marketplace for sustainable finance by informing, educating and catalyzing growth. The association, founded in 2014, has representation in Zurich, Geneva and Lugano. Currently SSF unites over 90 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](#).