

PRESS RELEASE

Climate Finance and Renewed Opportunities for US investors in Europe

Paris in the Position to Welcome International Investors

New York, Paris, April 19th, 2016 – At the occasion of its 20th International Financial Forum held in New York on April 18th, 2016, Paris EUROPLACE, which gathers the French-based financial and issuers community, has welcomed more than 400 delegates mainly institutional investors, corporate issuers, bankers, as well as a number of private equity and venture capitalist firms and the market authorities.

Investment Opportunities in the New European Context

François VILLEROY DE GALHAU, Governor of Banque de France, has reminded the current structural reforms in progress in Europe and the attractive investment opportunities led by the gradual recovery of its economic growth. Economic growth in Europe has recovered markedly in 2015 and is expected to get firmer in 2016 and 2017, notably thanks to the dynamism of the German and Spanish economies and, to a lesser extent, France and Italy.

The Governor of Banque de France reaffirmed his position in favor of a stay of United Kingdom in the European Union: “Britain needs Europe” and “Europe needs Britain”, and warned that Brexit would “have consequences the day after” in financial markets, particularly for liquidity in bond markets and in payment systems. “With, and that “with or without Brexit, the EU needs additional reforms to reinforce its economic integration”.

François VILLEROY DE GALHAU has announced two proposals:

- to **“Strengthen investment in Europe”**, through a “Financing and Investment Union”, to fully deliver results in terms of growth and investment;
- to **“Improve the European economic governance and coordination”**, by the setting up of a **Euro area finance Minister backed by a European Treasury system and subject to greater democratic accountability**, to achieve a “full coordination” of fiscal and structural policies.

US and French markets players have confirmed the comeback of US investors in Europe since one year, **and the growing opportunities in Private placements (EuroPP), high yield bonds and stock markets in a context of undervalued companies.**

Arnaud de BRESSON, Managing Director Paris EUROPLACE, has underlined that the Paris financial marketplace also supports a “UK remain”. Should Britain choose the Brexit option, Paris has as from now major cards - compared to other continental cities - to welcome international market players. Among them:

- A global business center, with the presence of large global corporates.

- A strong capital market culture in between London and Frankfurt, with the largest corporate bond market in Europe and a vibrant equity market. As well as new growing financing channels for corporates, including SMEs: EuroPP, Commercial Paper, crowdfunding....
- The second largest mutual fund industry in the world, after the USA.
- The positioning of Paris as an international Green Financial Center.
- A research and innovative pool, with a strong development in Fintech companies.

Paris Climate Agreement: Next Steps for the Global Financial Industry

François DELATTRE, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, has underlined the importance of the climate event in New York at the end of this week with the signature by 120 nations of the COP21 Paris Climate agreement, to confirm their engagement in concrete programs to reduce their carbon issuing.

Arnaud de BRESSON has recalled the strong commitments already taken by the financial sector, at the occasion of the "International Climate Finance Day" organized by Paris EUROPLACE last year in Paris in preparation of the COP21, to reduce investments in the coal sector, accelerate decarbonization of portfolios and develop environmental financing.

Next priority, is the concrete implementation of the Paris principles and the development of a true collective action. In this field Paris EUROPLACE is engaged in partnership with Casablanca Finance City to organize the 2nd Climate Finance Day in the context of COP22, which will be held in Morocco in November 2016.

Thomas DINAPOLI, New York State Comptroller and Trustee of the New York Common Retirement Fund (CRF), speaker at Paris EUROPLACE New York forum, has confirmed that, from now on, long-term investments integrate climate aware strategies. The two concrete priorities are: a better risk assessment and catch new investment opportunities.

The FINTECH at the country of the French Tech

Paris EUROPLACE New York forum has also been the opportunity to present a selection of new disruptive and fast-growing FinTech companies. The French FinTech sector is growing strongly in Paris, with more than 1 000 FinTechs already created.

In partnership with the Paris financial services cluster **FINANCE INNOVATION & BNP Paribas**, a selection of French innovative Fintech has been presented including:

- **Business Innovation and Disruption:** C-Radar, Walnut Algorithms, Créancio - GTI Group,
- **FinTech 3.0:** Scaled Risks and Lemon Way.

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