

European digital sovereignty forum

Central banking in the age of cloud, AI and the digital euro

**Deutsche Bundesbank Regional Office in Hesse
Taunusanlage 5, Frankfurt, Germany**

Thursday 3 December 2026

Digital sovereignty has become a key strategic objective for Europe. It represents the ability of the state, economy, and society to develop and manage key digital technologies and critical infrastructure themselves. Ensuring Europe's capacity to develop and make use of new technologies will require stronger coordination, greater investment capacity, and closer collaboration between the public and private sectors. Reducing fragmentation while supporting innovation, scale-up and resilience will be central to Europe's path toward technological independence.

At the core of this effort are rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, data infrastructure and payments that are actively reshaping the foundations of economic competitiveness and strategic autonomy.

OMFIF's Digital Monetary Institute's European digital sovereignty forum, in collaboration with the Deutsche Bundesbank, convenes 40 senior representatives from central banks, regulators, governments, commercial banks, technology providers and payment service providers to examine how Europe can strengthen its digital sovereignty and develop a secure, innovative and future-ready financial ecosystem.

This invitation-only forum is designed as an interactive discussion. Delegates are encouraged to participate actively throughout the day, contributing questions, comments and perspectives.

09:00 – 09:25 Registration and refreshments

09:25 – 09:30 Welcome remarks

Ulf Slopek, President of the Regional Office in Hesse, Deutsche Bundesbank (*confirmed*)

09:30 – 09:45 Keynote address

Matthias Hauer, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology, and Space (*confirmed*)

09:45 – 10:15 Opening address and Q&A: Safeguarding Europe's monetary and technological autonomy

Fritzi Köhler-Geib, Member of the Executive Board, Deutsche Bundesbank (*confirmed*)

10:15 – 11:05 Session I: Building Europe's digital sovereignty: strategic infrastructure, technology and resilience

- What does digital sovereignty mean in operational terms for Europe's competitiveness, resilience and ability to shape technological developments?
- How should Europe prioritise critical technologies and infrastructure capabilities – including cloud, AI, chips, data and connectivity – to shape its resilience and technological position?
- What practical policy measures should be taken in the short and long term, and how do we ensure strategic collaboration across Europe?
- How can Europe reduce strategic dependencies while remaining open, innovative and globally competitive?

Speakers:

Louisa Solonar-Unterasinger, Chief Information Officer and Commissioner for E-Government and Information Technology of the State of Hesse, Hessian Ministry for Digitalisation and Innovation (*confirmed*)

11:05 – 11:30 Morning refreshment break

11:30 – 12:20 **Session II: Financing Europe's technological ambitions: investment, scale-up and innovation**

- How can Europe better translate its industrial strengths, technological innovation and research base into globally leading companies and platforms?
- What conditions are needed to strengthen venture capital, scale-up financing, public procurement and exit opportunities across European markets?
- How can institutional investors, banks, pension funds, insurers and private capital providers play a greater role in financing strategic technologies and infrastructure?
- How can a more harmonised digital single market help create the environment for European companies to scale?

Speakers:

Nadja Baulecke, VP Financial Services and Insurance, Schwarz Digits (*confirmed*)

Nicola Beer, Vice-President, European Investment Bank (*confirmed*)

Thomas Hellmann, DP World Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford (*confirmed*)

12:20 – 13:10 **Session III: Delivering Europe's payments ecosystem: the digital euro, interoperability and private sector innovation**

- How will the digital euro coexist with and integrate into existing payment ecosystems, including SEPA instant payments, the Wero wallet and international card schemes?
- What progress has been made in addressing fragmentation across European retail payments systems, and what role can interoperability and payment orchestration play in creating a more seamless pan-European payments experience?
- What is the commercial case for banks and private providers in a digital euro ecosystem? How can they build scalable, user-centric and revenue-generating services on top of public infrastructure?
- How should policy-makers and market participants think about the role of stablecoins and tokenised money in retail payments – are they complementary to public money, and what factors will ultimately drive adoption and trust?

Speakers:

Menno Broos, Project Lead, Digital Euro, De Nederlandsche Bank (*confirmed*)

Kelly Devine, President, Europe, Mastercard (*confirmed*)

James Lloyd, Senior Director, International, JUSPAY (*confirmed*)

Petia Niederländer, Director, Payments, Risk Monitoring and Financial Literacy, Oesterreichische Nationalbank (*confirmed*)

13:10 – 14:10 Lunch

14:10 – 15:00 **Session IV: Europe's tokenised financial ecosystem: Pontes, Appia and wholesale markets**

- What role will central bank money as a settlement anchor play in tokenised wholesale financial markets, and how might this role evolve alongside emerging infrastructures such as Appia, Pontes and upgraded TARGET services?
- Are we moving towards a more interoperable, multi-platform financial market architecture, and what does meaningful integration between DLT-based systems and existing market infrastructures require?

- What are the implications of a more tokenised financial system for liquidity, settlement efficiency, cross-border market access and financial stability?
- What lessons from the DLT Pilot Regime and other tokenisation initiatives should shape the future supervisory and market architecture of tokenised wholesale financial markets, and how can the private sector help deliver that vision?

Speakers:

Alexandra Hachmeister, Director General, Digital Euro, Deutsche Bundesbank (*confirmed*)

15:00 – 15:30 Closing fireside and Q&A: Europe's currency sovereignty and the global role of the euro

- What factors will determine the future global role of the euro in an increasingly digital and multipolar financial system, and how can Europe strengthen its attractiveness as an international currency?
- How can deeper capital markets, greater investment capacity and reduced fragmentation support stronger euro-denominated financial markets and greater European financial autonomy?
- To what extent can digital money, tokenisation and evolving financial market infrastructure play in enhancing the usability, resilience and competitiveness of the European financial ecosystem?

15:30 – 16:30 Reception and close