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:** Europe's digital sovereignty: Germany's contribution to strategic resilience

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

09:45 – 10:45	**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:

Thomas Erwin, Global Co-Lead for AI in Government and Infrastructure, AI and Data Leader for Germany, EY (*confirmed*)
Fritzi Köhler-Geib, Member of the Executive Board, Deutsche Bundesbank (*confirmed*)
Claudia Plattner, President, Federal Office for Information Security (*confirmed*)
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*)

Moderator: **Katie-Ann Wilson**, Managing Director, Digital Monetary Institute, OMFIF

10:45 – 11:40 **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*)
Christopher Schmitz, Partner, Strategy and Transactions, EY-Parthenon (*confirmed*)

Moderator: **Lewis McLellan**, Head of Content, Digital Monetary Institute, OMFIF

11:40 – 12:10 Refreshment break

12:10 – 12:40 **Keynote and Q&A**: Shaping the future of European payments

- What role should pan-European initiatives such as the Wero wallet and the Digital Euro play alongside established international card schemes?
- What will it take to build a competitive, seamless pan-European payments ecosystem, including the commercial models, partnerships and infrastructure needed to achieve scale?
- How can greater interoperability and competition drive innovation, resilience and choice for consumers and merchants, while strengthening Europe's strategic autonomy and preserving global connectivity?

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

Moderator: **John Orchard**, Chairman, Digital Monetary Institute, OMFIF

12:40 – 13:30 **Session III:** Delivering Europe's payments ecosystem: the digital euro, interoperability and private sector innovation

- 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*)
James Lloyd, Senior Director, International, JUSPAY (*confirmed*)
Petia Niederländer, Director, Payments, Risk Monitoring and Financial Literacy, Oesterreichische Nationalbank (*confirmed*)

Moderator: **Katie-Ann Wilson**, Managing Director, Digital Monetary Institute, OMFIF

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 15:25 **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?
- How can DLT-based market infrastructures be integrated with existing financial systems, and what lessons can practical initiatives such as Project Pythagore offer for the development of tokenised wholesale markets?
- What are the implications of a more tokenised financial system for liquidity, settlement efficiency, cross-border market access and financial stability?
- How should Europe's regulatory and supervisory framework evolve to support the development of tokenised wholesale financial markets, while ensuring appropriate safeguards and encouraging private sector innovation?

Speakers:

Timothée Fluteau, Deputy Head, Wholesale Digital Currency and Innovation Division, Banque de France (*confirmed*)
Alexandra Hachmeister, Director General, Digital Euro, Deutsche Bundesbank (*confirmed*)
Efthimia Kefalea, Director, Head of Derivatives Clearing Development and Digital Innovation, Eurex Clearing, Deutsche Börse Group (*confirmed*)

Moderator: **Lewis McLellan**, Head of Content, Digital Monetary Institute, OMFIF

15:25 – 16:05 **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?

Speakers:

Ulrich Bindseil, Professor of Practice in Financial Infrastructure, Frankfurt School of Finance & Management; Director General, Market Infrastructures and Payments, European Central Bank (2019–2025) (*confirmed*)
David Marsh, Chairman and CEO, OMFIF (*confirmed*)

Moderator: **John Orchard**, Chairman, Digital Monetary Institute, OMFIF

16:05 – 16:25	**Closing address and Q&A:** Safeguarding Europe's monetary and technological autonomy
	Fritzi Köhler-Geib, Member of the Executive Board, Deutsche Bundesbank (*confirmed*)
	Moderator: **David Marsh**, Chairman and CEO, OMFIF
16:25 – 16:30	**Closing remarks**
	David Marsh, Chairman and CEO, OMFIF
16:30 – 17:30	**Reception and close**