

Good afternoon.

I want to thank the International Securities Lending Association for the kind invitation to address this conference. Welcome to Lisbon! The debate on Securities Finance and Collateral Management couldn't be more topical, as the macro-economic scenario shows and as you just discussed. Moreover, we are witnessing important political discussions regarding legislative changes that can significantly affect the industry in the years to come. I am sorry for not being able to be with you in this event, but I am confident that the conclusions of this conference will be a clear guidance to decision-makers both at national and European level. I am ready to engage with ISLA and all of you on the important debates that are ongoing and forthcoming.

Today, I want to make three comments to feed the discussion within the conference, but also to motivate you to engage with your representatives in the European Parliament, including me.

My first comment is on the scenario we face regarding securities and the financial markets in Europe. I think we can all agree we are lagging behind comparing to our competitors. The last quarter confirmed a technical recession in the Euro Area and the investment level in Europe is still insufficient to feed a competitive and resilient financial market. Our Capital Markets Union is a project that is taking too much time to build. Last week, in Strasbourg, we had a debate -

proposed by my political family - on Europe as the place to invest. It is only normal that different parties have different ideas, but the truth is that we need to create a business friendly environment to generate jobs, growth and competitiveness. This was a priority before the Covid Crisis, turned into an urgency after that and it is an emergency today, considering the inflationary crisis and the war in the European border.

Europe need investment and investors need our market. However, our market also needs to be more attractive. From my point of view, there are three key words: simplification, certainty and commitment.

Simplification in the sense that our 27 national frameworks and the parallel European legal scenario sometimes create important obstacles for investment, with heavy bureaucracy and unproportioned and unjustified administrative burden. The way is the opposite: enforce a strong legal framework where is essential, but not overcharging the market agents. Certainty in the sense that our legal framework needs stability and predictability. It is not reasonable that legal and administrative obligations are different from year to year. Finally, commitment, understood as the compromise of market players with the major trends of our economies, namely the digital and green transitions. Briefly, I stand for a clear and transparent “social contract” between the EU, its Member States and the markets. From our side: simplify, clarify and make predictable the conditions to

invest in Europe. From your side: a strong, transparent and accountable commitment with the twin transition.

This first note leads me to my second comment, related to the status quo in terms of EU legislation. We are negotiating important files and other proposals are coming in the next months. I think it is important to have them in mind and I call your attention to them.

First, we have files with ongoing negotiations. The Anti-Money Laundering package is probably the most important at this stage, but the Council is also negotiating with the Parliament the Capital Requirements legislation or the Alternative Investment Funds Managers Directive.

Second, we have files that are still being negotiated in the Parliament. On the area of tax, my field of direct responsibility, we are negotiating the opinions on the Directive on Administrative Cooperation in the Field of Taxation and the VAT in the Digital Age package. The Instant Payments Directive is also on the list. Moreover, we are starting our work on important files such as the Crisis Management and Deposit Insurance and - and this is particularly important - the Retail Investment Strategy.

Third, the next months will bring more files with significant impact in the market. The revision of the Payment Services Directive is one of

them, but I call your attention to the duo Digital Euro and Open Finance. These will significantly influence the markets and the industry contribution is, therefore, essential.

As you see, there is a lot going on and my main concern is to transform these files on windows of opportunity to change the investment framework in Europe, incentivizing the use of new technologies in financial markets, levelling the playing field between old and new types of assets and simplifying the environment on which companies operate. Digitalization, Decentralization and Transition are the key trends that we can't ignore, both decision-makers and market operators.

My third and final comment is about the future. The world is changing and financial markets are obviously adapting to these changes. My call to you, today, is the call for investment. Europe is the place to invest. We have our obstacles, but the same legal framework that sometimes create those obstacles is the same framework that built our European social economy market. We need investment to create jobs and growth, but we also need investment to change our companies' ecosystem. Supporting the twin transition; tackle digitalization and decentralization, modernizing our markets; adapting our models to the ESG framework; investing in new technologies, supporting Fintechs and start-ups. The list is long and the objectives can only be fulfilled if we work together.

I want to thank you, once again, for the opportunity to address this conference, and I look forward to future opportunities to engage with all of you in the important discussions that lie ahead.

I wish you all a successful and productive conference.

Thank you.