



September 8th, 2025 - N°107

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SIU: EESC opinion

- **EESC Opinion: Building a Genuine Savings and Investment Union**

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has issued its **opinion** on the European Commission's plan for a Savings and Investment Union (SIU), stressing that this new initiative must succeed where the Capital Markets Union has fallen short. The EESC sees the SIU as essential to mobilise Europe's vast household savings — over €10 trillion currently held in deposits — to finance innovation, digitalisation, the green transition and defence priorities.

Key messages from the opinion:

- **Tackling market fragmentation:** The EESC calls for deeper integration of EU capital markets by enhancing trading and post-trading infrastructure and expanding platforms such as Target2-Securities. Supervision of major cross-border market players should gradually move to ESMA, provided it has adequate resources.
- **Closing the equity gap:** Companies, especially SMEs, need better access to long-term risk capital. The EESC urges further harmonisation of company, insolvency and tax law, as well as common financial reporting standards, to make equity markets more attractive and accessible across borders.
- **Boosting retail participation:** Savers should have access to cost-effective, transparent, well-performing investment products. Initiatives such as a pan-European savings and

investment account could help, but only if investor protection, strong legal safeguards and financial literacy measures are in place.

- **Strengthening pensions and investment products:** Supplementary pension schemes must complement, not replace, public pensions. High fees, poor information and uneven regulation discourage retail investment; the EESC supports an EU-wide review to improve transparency and harmonisation.
- **Mobilising public and private capital:** The EESC recommends an EU investment fund for competitiveness and resilience, financed through Member State contributions, new own resources and joint EU borrowing. Expanding the role of the EIB, EIF and national promotional banks could channel more equity to start-ups and scale-ups.
- **Innovation and human capital:** To reverse Europe's "brain drain," the EESC calls for incentives to keep skilled entrepreneurs and researchers in Europe and supports employee share ownership with targeted tax incentives.
- **Clear progress tracking:** The Committee urges the Commission to set key performance indicators and a firm timeline for completing the SIU, ensuring accountability and visible results.

Overall, the EESC backs the Commission's vision but insists that the SIU must deliver tangible benefits for citizens and businesses, distribute risks and rewards



fairly, and maintain robust consumer protection.

Financial Stability: NBFIs

- [FSB report: Leverage in Nonbank Financial Intermediation](#)

The Financial Stability Board (FSB) has published a [report](#) setting out policy recommendations to address financial stability risks related to leverage in non-bank financial intermediation (NBFIs). This work forms part of the FSB's broader programme to enhance the resilience of NBFIs and ensure a more stable provision of financing to the real economy.

The report builds on the FSB's 2023 analysis, which identified the role of NBFIs leverage in several recent episodes of market stress, including the March 2020 market turmoil, the Archegos default, and the UK Gilt market disruption in 2022. The FSB underlines that the systemic risk posed by NBFIs leverage can vary across jurisdictions, depending on market structure and institutional frameworks.

The recommendations cover five main areas: risk identification and monitoring; risks in core financial markets; counterparty credit risk management; regulatory inconsistencies that could result in arbitrage; and cross-border cooperation. They reflect feedback received on a December 2024 consultation and acknowledge the diversity of nonbank structures and activities across jurisdictions. Authorities are encouraged to

strengthen data sharing, review public disclosures, implement the BCBS guidance for bank leverage providers, and promote consistent treatment of similar risks.

The report stresses that international co-operation is essential to avoid regulatory fragmentation and mitigate cross-border spillovers. The FSB and standard-setting bodies will undertake further work in 2025 to support national authorities in applying the recommendations and may launch follow-up work on specific areas.

Sustainable Finance: ESRS, VSMEs

- [EFRAG launches consultation on revised EU sustainability reporting standards](#)

EFRAG has published revised and simplified Exposure Drafts of the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS) and opened a 60-day public consultation to gather feedback ahead of its final technical advice to the European Commission. The consultation closes on 29 September 2025, with EFRAG's recommendations due by 30 November 2025.

The revisions significantly streamline the ESRS framework:

- **Major reduction in reporting requirements:** mandatory datapoints cut by 57%, total datapoints (including voluntary) reduced by 68%.



- **Simpler, clearer standards:** the text has been shortened by more than 55%, with more concise language and a clearer structure.
- **Six key levers of simplification:**
 - Streamlined double materiality assessment to reduce complexity and documentation.
 - Clearer, more readable disclosures with fewer “voluntary” options.
 - Removal of overlaps between general and topical standards.
 - New burden-relief exemptions when reporting would cause “undue cost or effort.”
 - Enhanced alignment with global standards, especially the forthcoming IFRS Sustainability Disclosure Standards.

To encourage broad engagement, EFRAG will organise outreach events across Europe in September and October, offering stakeholders a chance to discuss the changes directly before the standards are finalised.

Regarding the next steps, there is a consultation open until 29 September 2025; at the end of it a final technical advice will be submitted to the European Commission by 30 November 2025.

- **EU unveils Voluntary Sustainability Reporting Standard for Non-Listed SMEs**

On 30 July 2025, the European Commission formally adopted a [recommendation](#) introducing a new voluntary sustainability reporting standard—called VSME—tailored specifically for non-listed micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

For context, the VSME standard was developed by EFRAG, the Commission’s technical advisor for corporate and sustainability reporting. It addresses a growing pressure on SMEs to provide ESG data—stemming from requests by large, CSRD-covered companies and financial institutions—even when SMEs themselves fall outside the mandatory sustainability reporting scope. By adopting VSME, SMEs can better manage sustainability issues, strengthen their resilience, and enhance access to sustainable finance.

VSME is structured into two optional modules, offering flexibility based on SMEs’ size and capacity:

- **Basic Module** — Entry-level disclosures comprising 11 key indicators, including Scope 1 & 2 greenhouse gas emissions, workforce metrics, and anti-corruption measures. This module establishes a minimal reporting baseline—especially for micro-enterprises.
- **Comprehensive Module** — Optional and builds upon the Basic Module with 9 additional **disclosures**, such as ESG strategies, GHG reduction targets, climate transition planning, value-chain incident reporting, and



governance indicators like gender diversity in governance bodies.

The standard is designed for relevance and usability: no materiality assessment is required, and disclosures are applied only if applicable to the specific SME circumstances. The VSME standard is voluntary; there is no assurance requirement—a simple self-declaration by the SME is sufficient. Large companies and financial institutions are strongly encouraged to base their ESG data requests on the VSME standard when dealing with SMEs in their value chains, promoting clarity and reducing complexity. The Commission also urged Member States to raise awareness and support uptake of VSME, including fostering digital tools and templates to ease implementation.

While VSME is not (yet) mandatory, it plays a crucial interim role as it aligns with the Omnibus I simplification package, which proposes limiting CSRD requirements to only very large firms (1,000+ employees), expanding the voluntary standard to those excluded from mandatory listing. The VSME standard may eventually inform an official delegated act, formalizing its use across the EU—though details will depend on legislative negotiations to come.

Defence: Christophe Gomart's Report

- [Own-initiative report on European Defence Readiness 2030](#)

The draft [own-initiative report](#) by Christophe Gomart (EPP, FR), titled "European Defence Readiness 2030: assessment of needs" has been published in the European Parliament's Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE). This report complements the European Commission's ReArm Europe plan, presented in March 2025, and outlines several recommendations aimed at removing obstacles to private investment in the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB).

Own-initiative reports are used by the European Parliament to encourage the European Commission to take action on a specific issue. While the Commission is not obliged to act on the Parliament's recommendations, it must provide justification if it chooses not to follow them.

A key focus of the report is ensuring that the EU sustainable finance framework does not act as a barrier to defence investment. It calls on the European Commission to publicly reaffirm that the Taxonomy Regulation does not prohibit investment in the defence sector. Furthermore, it suggests that defence-related activities be recognised as contributing to UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, given their role in conflict prevention and peacekeeping.

The report also urges the Commission and ESMA to replace the term



"controversial weapons" with "prohibited weapons," aligning with the definitions provided in the Commission's recent guidance note on the defence omnibus. These include biological weapons, chemical weapons, anti-personnel mines, and cluster munitions, all banned under international treaties. Financial actors are encouraged to align their exclusion policies accordingly and to publish their investment policies in the defence sector.

On public guarantees, the report encourages each Member State to publish a detailed strategic outlook on its military expenditure by 2030. It advocates for an expanded role for the European Investment Bank (EIB), including a mandate extension to support the EDTIB. The report calls for the EIB, with Member State backing, to deliver EUR 4 billion in short-term lending to the defence sector. It also recommends scaling up the Defence Equity Facility from its current budget of EUR 175 million to EUR 1 billion. Additionally, the European Observatory on Late Payments should conduct a study on payment timelines within the EDTIB, comparing them to those in other industrial sectors.

The report also asks the Commission to support the proposed "Finance Europe" label by creating an EU-wide label, to better channel private savings towards long-term investments in Europe's real economy.

The deadline for submitting amendments is set for 8 September. The vote in SEDE Committee and the final plenary vote are yet to be confirmed.



European Parliament

Reporting obligations

Scaling up European innovation - What is the potential European added value of a 28th regime?"

The taxation of the EU's financial sector

The silent hand of central banking: collateral framework

European Commission

Proposal for Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2402 laying down a general framework for securitisation and creating a specific framework for simple, transparent and standardised securitisation

Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 on prudential requirements for credit institutions as regards requirements for securitisation exposures

Consultation on amendments to the treatment of securitisation exposures under the Liquidity Coverage Ratio Delegated Regulation

DG FISMA - European Financial Stability and Integration Review 2025

Call for evidence on a European blueprint for Savings and Investments Accounts

Annual report on taxation

Defence Readiness Omnibus

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

Opinion on the first omnibus package on sustainability

Opinion on assessing tax reporting obligations in the EU

Official Journal of the European Union

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1190 of 13 February 2025 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2554 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to regulatory technical standards specifying the criteria used for identifying financial entities required to perform threat-led penetration testing, the requirements and standards governing the use of internal testers, the requirements in relation to the scope, testing methodology and approach for each phase of the testing, results, closure and remediation stages and the type of supervisory and other relevant co-operation needed for the implementation of TLPT and for the facilitation of mutual recognition

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1140 of 27 February 2025 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1114 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to regulatory technical standards specifying records to be kept of all crypto-asset services, activities, orders and transactions undertaken

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1141 of 27 February 2025 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1114 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards regulatory technical standards specifying the requirements for policies and procedures on conflicts of interest for issuers of asset-referenced tokens



Regulation (EU) 2025/1215 amending Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 as regards requirements for securities financing transactions under the net stable funding ratio

European Securities and Market Authority (ESMA)

Technical advice to the European Commission on the review of the UCITS Eligible Assets Directive

Discussion paper on the integrated collection of funds' data

Technical advice concerning the Prospectus Regulation and the RTS updating the CDR on metadata

Technical advice concerning civil prospectus liability

Principles on third-party risks supervision

CCP resolution briefing on the operationalisation of resolution cash calls

Consultation on draft RTS on information on clearing fees and associated costs (Article 7c(4) of EMIR)

Consultation on draft RTS on Margin Transparency requirements.

Technical Advice on the Scope of CSDR Settlement Discipline

Final report on the conditions of the Active Account Requirement

Call for evidence on a comprehensive approach for the simplification of financial transaction reporting

Final report on RTS 22 on transaction data reporting under Art. 26 and RTS

24 on order book data to be maintained under Art. 25 of MiFIR

Final report on RTS 23 on supply of reference data under Art.27 of MiFIR

Report on the Functioning and Review of the DLT Pilot Regime

ESMA's Securities and Markets Stakeholder Group - Advice on ESMA's consultation on draft technical standards under the Regulation on the transparency and integrity of ESG rating activities

ESMA – Institut Louis Bachelier – Alan Turing Institute - Leveraging Large Language Models in Finance: Pathways to Responsible Adoption

Consultation on the methodology for calculating market capitalisation and market capitalisation ratios

EU T+1 Industry Committee - High-level Roadmap to T+1 Securities Settlement in the EU

2023-2024 Common Supervisory Action (CSA) on the integration of sustainability risks and disclosures

European Insurance and Occupational Pension Authority (EIOPA)

Uncovering the IBIP Sales Process - Results from EIOPA's first coordinated Mystery Shopping Exercise on Insurance-Based Investment Products

Response to the European Commission's targeted consultation on integration of EU capital markets

2024 Annual Report

Insurance companies as shock absorbers in the mutual fund sector: contrarian investment behavior and market stabilizer



Report on biodiversity risk management by insurers

European Banking Authority (EBA)

consultation on draft Regulatory Technical Standards specifying the minimum list of information to be provided to the competent authorities at the time of the notification under Article 23(6) of CRD

Draft Regulatory Technical Standards on the components of the business indicator under Article 314(9)(a) of the CRR and the elements to be excluded from the business indicator under Article 314(9)(b) of the CRR and on the adjustments to the business indicator under Article 315(3)(a), (b) and (c) of the CRR

Draft Implementing Technical Standards on the mapping of the business indicator components with corresponding supervisory reporting references under Article 314(10) of the CRR

Draft Implementing Technical Standards amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/3117 on supervisory reporting under Article 430(7) of Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 concerning operational risk.

The Joint Committee of the ESAs

Consultation on draft joint guidelines to ensure that consistency, long-term considerations and common standards for assessment methodologies are integrated into the stress testing of ESG risks

European Central Bank (ECB)

Eurosystem's Advisory Group on Market Infrastructures for Securities and Collateral (AMI-SeCo) - Key messages on the European Commission's targeted consultation on integration of EU capital markets

The Single Resolution Board (SRB)

2024 Annual report

The European Stability Mechanism (ESM)

Evaluation report on the analytical capability of the ESM

Financial Stability Board (FSB)

Vulnerabilities in Non-bank Commercial Real Estate Investors

European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG)

Final Comment Letter on ISSB proposed amendments to IFRS S2

World Economic Forum

The Future of Global Fintech: From Rapid Expansion to Sustainable Growth

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

OECD Economic Outlook - Tackling Uncertainty, Reviving Growth

Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

2024/25 Annual Report



The Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

Complex Proliferation Financing and Sanctions Evasion Schemes

European Fund and Asset Management Association (EFAMA)

Fact book 2025 – Trends in European Investment Funds

Annual Review 2024-2025

Response to the European Commission's targeted consultation on integration of EU capital markets

EFAMA – EACB – FIA and ISDA - Letter to ESMA and the European Commission on the timing for implementation of certain Day 1 active account requirements (AAR) and recommendation to ESMA to issue an opinion or a no-action letter

Views on the upcoming level 1 review of SFDR

EFAMA – Insurance Europe – EBF – Business Europe - Joint industry contribution to EFRAG's ESRS Set 1 simplification exercise

Tokenization, a buy-side practitioner's guide

Association for Financial Markets in Europe (AFME)

Q1 2025 Government Bond Data Report

Q1 2025 European High Yield and Leveraged Loan report

AFME & ISDA - Views on the review of SFDR

Q1 2025 ESG Finance report

Response to the EBA's consultation on proposed RTS in the context of the EBA's response to the European Commission's Call for Advice on new AMLA mandates

Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE)

Response to ESMA's consultation on the technical standards under the ESG Ratings Regulation

Response to the European Commission's targeted consultation on integration of EU capital markets

The European Banking Federation (EBF)

Response to the European Commission's call for evidence on the review of SFDR

Response to the EBA's consultation on proposed RTS in the context of the EBA's response to the European Commission's Call for Advice on new AMLA mandates

The European Savings and Retail Banking Group (ESBG)

Response to the EBA's consultation on proposed RTS in the context of the EBA's response to the European Commission's Call for Advice on new AMLA mandates

Response to the SRB consultation on its Expectations on Valuation Capabilities

Accountancy Europe

Views on sustainability assurance: omnibus proposal

Views on CSRD scope reduction: omnibus proposal

Statement on the ESRS revision proposals

The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)

EU-US trade: Preserving the consumer interest



Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

Learning from Sweden: a blueprint for building resilient European capital markets

European Capital Markets Institute (ECMI)

It's the last chance for an EU finance union

A supervisory efficiency test for EU financial markets: Taking an operational approach to integration and oversight

Bruegel

Breaking the deadlock: a single supervisor to unshackle Europe's capital markets union

Finance Watch

More risk, no reward? The strange revival of securitisation

How the Omnibus proposal sets the foundation for a deregulation agenda

Assessing transition risk in prudential transition plans

Better Finance

Response to the European Commission's call for evidence on the review of SFDR

Response to the European Commission's targeted consultation on the integration of EU capital markets

The Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets (AFM)

Response to the European Commission's call for evidence on the review of SFDR

Autorité des services et marchés financiers (FSMA)

Annual Report 2024

Association française des marchés financiers (AMAFI)

Response to the European Commission's targeted consultation on integration of EU capital markets

Response to the European Commission's call for evidence on market integration

Response to the European Commission's call for evidence on the review of SFDR

The German Insurance Association (GDV)

Response to the European Commission's call for evidence on the review of SFDR

■ TUESDAY 1ST OF JULY

■ **EFRAG**

EFRAG Financial Reporting Technical Expert Group (EFRAG FR TEG) meeting. [[Agenda](#)]

■ WEDNESDAY 2ND OF JULY

■ **EFRAG**

EFRAG Sustainability Reporting Board (EFRAG SRB) meeting. [[Agenda](#)]

■ FRIDAY 4TH OF JULY

■ **EFRAG**

EFRAG Sustainability Reporting Board (EFRAG SRB) meeting. [[Agenda](#)]

■ MONDAY 7TH OF JULY

■ **Eurogroup**

Eurogroup meeting [[Agenda](#)]

■ TUESDAY 8TH OF JULY

■ **ECOFIN**

ECOFIN Council meeting [[Agenda](#)]

■ WEDNESDAY 9TH OF JULY

■ **EFRAG**

EFRAG Sustainability Reporting Technical Expert Group (EFRAG SR TEG) meeting [[Agenda](#)]

■ THURSDAY 10TH OF JULY

■ **EFRAG**

EFRAG Sustainability Reporting Technical Expert Group (EFRAG SR TEG) meeting [[Agenda](#)]

■ MONDAY 14TH OF JULY

■ **ECON**



Consideration of the amendments made to MEP Johan Van Overtveldt (ECR, BE) report on “Safeguarding and promoting financial stability amid economic uncertainties”. [[Agenda](#)]

■ **EFRAG**

EFRAG Sustainability Reporting Board (EFRAG SRB) meeting. [[Agenda](#)]

■ **TUESDAY 15TH OF JULY**

■ **ECON Committee**

Vote on the provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations. [[Agenda](#)]

Vote on the adoption of the draft opinion on the omnibus (CSRD/CS3D). [[Agenda](#)]

■ **JURI Committee**

Consideration of the amendments to MEP Jörgen Warborn (PPE, SE) report on the omnibus (CSRD/CS3D). [[Agenda](#)]

Consideration MEP René Repasi (S&D, DE) draft report: “The 28th Regime: a new legal framework for innovative companies”. [[Agenda](#)]

■ **EFRAG**

EFRAG Sustainability Reporting Board & Technical Expert Group (EFRAG SRB & SR TEG) joint meeting. [[Agenda](#)]

EFRAG Sustainability Reporting Board (EFRAG SRB) meeting. [[Agenda](#)]

■ **WEDNESDAY 16TH OF JULY**

■ **AFME & Financial Times**

Webinar: “From proposal to progress – measuring the impact of EU securitisation reform”. [[Agenda](#)]

■ **EFRAG**

EFRAG Sustainability Reporting Board (EFRAG SRB) meeting. [[Agenda](#)]

■ **THURSDAY 17TH OF JULY**

■ **EFRAG**

EFRAG Financial Reporting Board & Technical Expert Group (EFRAG FRB & FR TEG) meeting. [[Agenda](#)]



■ FRIDAY 25TH OF JULY

■ **EFRAG**

EFRAG Sustainability Reporting Board (EFRAG SRB) meeting.
[[Agenda](#)]





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