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TURNING THE POWER OF EUROPEAN SAVINGS INTO COLLECTIVE PROSPERITY

At its annual European conference held in Brussels, the French Asset Management Association (AFG) delivers a clear message to European and national policymakers: **the Savings and Investment Union (SIU) must be fully recognised as a strategic instrument serving the sovereignty, competitiveness and prosperity of the European Union.**

Europe's ability to finance its economic, social, environmental and geopolitical priorities has become a central issue. This is no longer merely a financial question; it is a political and strategic challenge.

The AFG reiterates that **European asset managers play a key role in this process by mobilising household and institutional savings to support growth, innovation and the sustainable transition across the continent.** A new virtuous circle linking employment, savings and investment for the benefit of European citizens can and must be reactivated.

The Savings and Investment Union must therefore be designed and implemented as an instrument of sovereignty and competitiveness, capable of transforming European savings into concrete investment in European companies and strategic projects. *“Preparing this Union means finally acknowledging the need to invest in European capital markets,”* the AFG states.

Statement by Philippe Setbon, President of the AFG

“The Savings and Investment Union must not be reduced to a purely regulatory exercise; it must become a structuring political project, serving Europe's sovereignty, prosperity and social model. The Savings and Investment Union should be an ambitious political endeavour, capable of transforming European savings into a sustainable engine of growth and economic security.”

Asset Management at the Heart of the European Project

Europe has a major asset: a high level of savings. Yet this strength remains insufficiently mobilised in support of the European economy.

With nearly **€30 trillion in assets under management in Europe**, the European asset management industry already represents a central pillar of economic financing. Asset management companies:

- transform household savings into productive investment.
- channel long-term capital towards companies, infrastructure and innovation.



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- support SMEs and companies undergoing transition.
- accompany major economic and societal transformations.

By linking citizens' life projects with the financing needs of the European economy, asset management plays an economic, social and now clearly strategic role.

Retirement, Pensions and Demographics

Preparing for retirement can no longer be considered independently of Europe's ability to finance its own economy. The rapid ageing of the European population places unprecedented structural pressure on pension systems and social protection models. The Savings and Investment Union must be recognised as a key lever to complement pay-as-you-go pension systems, strengthen long-term savings and enable European citizens to prepare for retirement under good conditions. By mobilising long-term savings, asset management helps secure life trajectories and preserve the financial sustainability of Europe's social models.

AFG's proposals for a successful European Savings and Investment Union

1. **Enable retail investors to invest more in the European economy**, in particular to prepare for retirement and to finance major life projects.
2. **Decisively improve the channelling of savings into productive investment in Europe**, so that European capital works more directly for European growth and jobs.
3. **Strengthen a robust, integrated and competitive European asset management industry**, capable of serving the objectives of European citizens while operating effectively at global scale.
4. **Establish an efficient and streamlined regulatory and supervisory framework**, fully aligned with the European Union's agenda on sustainable competitiveness.

Citizens' trust is a critical condition for success. It is built on greater transparency regarding the destination of their investments, on access to high-quality, comparable and accessible information, and on fair and unbiased access to markets. It also requires greater clarity on how their savings are used.

In this context, the availability, reliability and consistency of both financial and non-financial data are decisive to support informed investment decisions and to strengthen confidence in European capital markets.

A Conference Focused on European Dialogue

The AFG's annual European conference, held this year in Brussels, brings together senior representatives of European institutions, public authorities, regulators and financial market



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participants. Its objective is to foster dialogue between policymakers and professionals, moving from shared diagnoses to concrete solutions.

Facts & Figures 2026



About the AFG

The French Asset Management Association (AFG) represents and promotes the value of asset management for investors and for the future of the French economy. It brings together more than 400 members, including around 330 asset management companies, which collectively manage 90% of assets under management in France.

Total assets under management amount to €5 trillion, the highest level among EU Member States.

The AFG supports the development of French asset management for the benefit of savers, investors and companies. It advocates for stable, efficient and competitive regulation, with a clear commitment: enabling savers to finance their life projects while mobilising private savings towards companies undergoing transformation.



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