



Atlantic Council: 'Resilient Financial Markets – Shaping the Rules Together'

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1:18-1:20pm

Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr.

President and CEO of SIFMA

Opening Remarks as prepared for delivery

Good afternoon. I'm Ken Bentsen, president and CEO of SIFMA. Thank you all for being here at today's event and thank you to the Atlantic Council for hosting this important event. It is truly a privilege to host our distinguished guest, the Vice President, European Commission, Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, who as of today has taken responsibility for the Commission's Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union portfolio from Lord Hill. In fact, I was in Brussels the Tuesday prior to the UK vote and had the opportunity to meet with Lord Hill and members of his cabinet. With so much on the EU's agenda it is more than encouraging that Vice President Dombrovskis so quickly has taken the time to visit the US.

Today's conversation comes at critical time as the recent vote in the United Kingdom to leave the European Union has changed the political landscape in Europe. And we in the United States are on the precipice of change in our government with the pending November presidential election. Despite these respective events, one thing that remains consistent is the long-standing partnership that has existed between the US and the EU.

It is this relationship that has fostered cooperation and collaboration on many fronts and across a myriad of industries, including financial services.

Today is an opportunity for us to discuss some of our key US and EU priorities and lay further groundwork on our collective efforts to boost growth on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as globally.

We will begin with remarks from Vice President Dombrovskis for about 15 minutes, after which John Rogers and the Vice President will have a conversation further exploring some of the key themes and issues. There will be an opportunity for a couple of audience questions at the end. With that, it is now it is my great honor and privilege to introduce our distinguished speakers Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis and John Rogers.



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The Hon. Valdis Dombrovskis is the European Commission's Vice President for the Euro and Social Dialogue. He has taken over the portfolio of Financial Stability, Financial Services, and the Capital Markets Union in addition to his current responsibilities. Mr. Dombrovskis served as the Prime Minister of Latvia, and before that, was the Minister of Finance and Chief Economist at the Bank of Latvia, in addition to being a member of the European and Latvian Parliaments.

John Rogers serves at Goldman Sachs as executive vice president, chief of staff and secretary to the Board of Directors. He is also currently the chairman of SIFMA's board and has served as board member for the last 4 years.

In addition to serving as SIFMA's current Board Chair, prior to joining Goldman Sachs in the Fixed Income department in 1994, John spent his career in government service as an undersecretary at the Department of State, an assistant secretary of the Treasury, and an assistant to the President at the White House. He is the recipient of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

It is now with great pleasure that I turn the dais over to Vice President Dombrovskis.