

Press release from:

THE TRANSPARENCY TASK FORCE

14th September 2017

Transparency Task Force Launches Financial Stability Team

At a special Transparency Symposium held yesterday at Morningstar's London office, about marking 10 years after the collapse of Northern Rock, the Transparency Task Force (TTF) launched a new team of volunteers who will be focusing on what more can be done to mitigate the risk of another Global Financial Crisis.

Andy Agathangelou, Founding Chair at the TTF explained:

“We had an outstanding line-up of speakers yesterday – it was like a thought leadership masterclass on what causes markets to crash and even more importantly what more can be done to prevent another one. We're not at all convinced that the interests of business and the public at large have been fully protected against all the risks that are out there that may combine to cause another crash.

Two examples – firstly, markets don't like surprises and there's an obvious correlation between opacity and risk of market failure. It is crystal clear that driving greater transparency into the system would help. Secondly, far too little is being done to properly understand the 'human capital' element to market dynamics and specifically the way incentive schemes continue to be developed that reward the driving of profitable revenue growth in the short term, regardless of the long-term consequences.

The very next step for our new Financial Stability Team is an inaugural conference call, taking place on 3rd October, during which we will begin the production of a White Paper which is to be presented at the House of Commons on 7th February. The White Paper will be a solution-orientated set of ideas for the Government and Regulators to consider and respond to. In keeping with the TTF's approach to encouraging change the White paper will be constructive, consensus based and, we think, rather compelling.

Our call for valiant volunteers at yesterday's Symposium has been met with an enthusiastic response - the following have already stepped up to the plate:

- Leandros Kalisperas, Economist
- Tony Greenham, RSA (Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce)
- Andrew Mills, Director, Insight Financial Research
- Steve Conley, Founder, Values Based Adviser
- Pete Glancy, Head of Policy Development, Lloyds Banking Group

- Anthony Walters, Head of Public Affairs, ACCA Global
- Pollyanaa Turner-Ward, Law Student, former Intern at the Department for Work & Pensions
- Markus Krebsz, UNECE GRM
- Stuart Woollard, Managing Partner, Maturity Institute/OMS LLP
- Martin White, Board Director, UK Shareholders Association
- Laurence Julius, Senior Advisor, Campaign for Fair Finance
- Daniel Kinninmont, Customer & Product Proposition, Scottish Widows
- Gavin Palmer, Shareholder Nomination to the AGM committee Action Group Founder; Former Director of ShareSoc and UKSA

The Financial Stability Team's first Leader is Leandros Kalisperas.

The TTF is all about building consensus on how to harness the transformational power of transparency to drive improvements in the way the financial services sector works, for the benefit of all. We therefore want other collaboratively-minded people to get in touch and get involved - the more the merrier please".

Comments of support from some of the Founder Members of the Financial Stability Team:

Leandros Kalisperas, Economist:

"Thinking about financial stability through the clear-eyed lens of transparency offers the potential to cut through to the essential issues, and allow the key public policy issues that arise to be discussed on a level playing field between market participants, citizens and policy makers. I am excited to be part of the wonderfully collaborative approach of the Transparency Task Force to contribute to this critical initiative".

Tony Greenham, Tony Greenham, RSA (Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce):

"Financial stability is a public good that is essential for enterprise and creativity to flourish, and so the RSA is pleased to add a civic society voice to this industry-led initiative by the Transparency Task Force".

Anthony Walters, Head of Public Affairs, ACCA Global:

"10 years on from the outset of the financial crisis, it's a timely moment to refocus on the importance of standards and transparency across the industry. As memories of the crisis fade and new challenges, such as Brexit, arise we must not lose sight of the role of greater transparency in providing an early warning for future crises. The Financial Stability Team will play a critical role in ensuring the lessons from the last global financial crisis are not forgotten".

Andrew Mills, Director at Insight Financial Research:

"There is a danger that the policy response to the last crisis will shape the next one. In regulatory and monetary terms, we are largely fighting the last war. Bank balance sheets are

better managed, but risk is building up elsewhere as investors use non-bank lending to satisfy their need for yield”.

Gavin Palmer, Shareholder Nomination to the AGM committee Action Group Founder;
Former Director of ShareSoc and UKSA:

"Transparency assists financial stability and the new Financial Stability Team will cover both the hard and soft areas of financial stability, blending new ideas with the old to make a positive and significant impact. We look forward to having the best ideas implemented and supported by the Government, Industry and the majority of participants to make a win/win outcome most of the time".

Ends.

About the Transparency Task Force:

The Transparency Task Force is the collaborative, campaigning community dedicated to driving up the levels of transparency in financial services, right around the world. We believe that higher levels of transparency are a prerequisite for fairer, safer, more stable and more efficient markets that deliver better value for money and better outcomes to consumers.

Furthermore, because of the correlation between transparency, truthfulness and trustworthiness, we expect that our work will help to repair the self-inflicted reputational damage that the financial services sector has suffered for decades. We are calling for the financial services industry to place greater emphasis on transparency and value for money moving forward, in line with the direction being given by governments and regulators around the world. This will be welcomed by all right-minded market participants, pro-consumer professional associations and trade bodies.

<https://www.transparencytaskforce.org>

About Andy Agathangelou:



Andy is:

- Founding Chair of the Transparency Task Force
- Founding Chair, the Technology Task Force
- Chair, Pensions BIB
- Governor, the Pensions Policy Institute
- Fellow, the RSA
- Chair, the Interoperability Steering Group
- Member, Independent Advisory Board to the Investment Association's work on Cost Disclosure
- Former Founding Chair, Friends of the Association of Member Nominated Trustees
- Former Founding Chair, Friends of Automatic Enrolment.