

PRESS STATEMENT

ESMA Stakeholder Group elects Chair and Vice-Chairs

The Securities and Markets Stakeholder Group (SMSG) of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) has elected Jesper Lau Hansen as its new Chair, and Judith Hardt and Peter De Proft, as its Vice-Chairs.

The election took place at the first meeting of its new membership on 29 January 2014, following their appointment by ESMA's Board of Supervisors in November 2013.

The new Chair, Dr. Jesper Lau Hansen, is currently Professor of Company Law and Financial Markets Law at Copenhagen University and represents the academic constituency. The two Vice-Chairs, Judith Hardt, Director General, Federation of European Stock Exchanges (FESE), and Peter De Proft, Director General, European Fund and Asset Management Association (EFAMA), represent financial market participants.

Dr. Jesper Lau Hansen, SMSG Chair, said:

“I look forward to chairing the SMSG and, together with the Vice-Chairs, representing all securities markets stakeholders by ensuring that those who are directly affected by ESMA's regulations have their voice heard in their preparation.”

Mr. Peter De Proft, SMSG Vice-Chair said:

“I am honoured to be appointed Vice Chair of this group for a second term, together with my colleague and Vice Chair, Judith Hardt and looking forward to working as a team with the Chair.

“Our mandate is straightforward, but crucial. We must continue to ensure ongoing engagement with industry stakeholders. We are there to provide timely and insightful advice for ESMA and to support them in their mission of protecting investors while

promoting stable and well-functioning financial markets in the European Union”.

Ms. Judith Hardt, SMSG Vice-Chair said:

“The securities markets stakeholder group has a strategic role to play in advising ESMA on the implementation of level 1 measures. Our priority is to help the group formulate timely and useful advice for ESMA at a critical time. I look forward to working together with the Chair and my colleague Peter De Proft.”

The SMSG Chair and Vice-Chairs will serve for a period of 2½ years to coincide with the Group’s mandate.

Notes for editors

1. [2013/1909 ESMA appoints new Securities Markets Stakeholders Group](#) 12 December 2013.
2. Detailed information about the members and work of the SMSG can be found [here](#).
3. The Securities and Markets Stakeholder Group (SMSG) was established in accordance with Article 37 of the [ESMA Regulation](#), with the task of helping to facilitate consultation with stakeholders in areas relevant to ESMA’s tasks.
4. The ESMA Regulation fixes the number of representatives on the SMSG of Financial market participants to 10, while the number of academics shall be at least five. The Regulation does not mention the numbers for the other four categories, but the proportions should be balanced.
5. ESMA is an independent EU Authority that was established on 1 January 2011 and works closely with the other European Supervisory Authorities responsible for banking (EBA), and insurance and occupational pensions (EIOPA), and the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB).
6. ESMA’s mission is to enhance the protection of investors and promote stable and well-functioning financial markets in the European Union (EU). As an independent institution, ESMA achieves this aim by building a single rule book for EU financial markets and ensuring its consistent application across the EU. ESMA contributes to the regulation of financial services firms with a pan-European reach, either through direct supervision or through the active co-ordination of national supervisory activity.

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