

## **EBA Open Forum on Digital Transformation**

**“The Evolution and Transformation of Payments in the EU: Modern, Safe & Digital!”**

**9 June 2021**

### **Speakers biographies**



#### **John Ballantyne, Bottomline**

John Ballantyne is the Sales Director for Financial Messaging at Bottomline and responsible for creating and leading new business strategy and execution. Previously, John was Head of Business Development at SMA Financial, one of the first and most successful independent SWIFT Service Bureaus. Following the combination with Bottomline in 2010, John moved to Business Development within the Financial Messaging team. He takes commercial responsibility for the Bottomline Universal Aggregator covering bank and corporate connectivity, real-time payments, treasury and cash management and fraud and financial crime solutions.

#### **Alex Bechtel, Deutsche Bank**

Alexander Bechtel is Head of Digital Assets & Currencies Strategy at the Corporate Bank for Deutsche Bank. He has done a PhD at the University of St.Gallen, where he still holds a position as external lecturer. Alexander regularly publishes articles and research on monetary policy and digital currencies. He has worked as an external consultant at the European Central Bank and spent time at Stanford University in the US as a researcher.



#### **Thomas Egner, Euro Banking Association**

Thomas Egner is Secretary General of the Euro Banking Association (EBA). He has been holding this position since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016. Thomas has been engaged in transaction banking for over 20 years, most recently at Commerzbank, where he was responsible for defining and developing clearing and settlement strategies, mainly in the sector of mass payments. He was a member of the bank's SEPA Program Management Team and closely involved in the implementation of the Payment Services Directive (PSD) within Commerzbank.

Representing his institution in the European Payments Council and the German banking community in SWIFT and ISO committees, Thomas has helped to shape the European payments landscape over the last 15 years. Thomas also served as a Board member of EBA CLEARING from 2004 to 2015 and contributed to different national payment committees in Germany.



**Simon Jones, ClearBank**

Simon has over 30 years of experience in finance, treasury and transaction banking across both developed and emerging markets. As ClearBank’s Chief Customer Officer, Simon leads the technology platform’s client management, product and marketing functions, ensuring a customer-centric focus is at the heart of ClearBank’s products and services.

Prior to joining ClearBank in 2019, Simon spent over 20 years at JPMorgan. During his time at the bank, he was responsible for treasury solutions in EMEA, supporting clients around the world. He was also Head of Corporate Sales in EMEA from 2012 to 2015 and Asia Regional Executive for Treasury Services from 2006 to 2010, based in Hong Kong.

Simon is actively involved in UK fintech as a Mentor for TechStars Accelerator programme.



**Manuel Klein, EY**

Manuel Klein works as a senior consultant at EY, focusing on the application of distributed ledger technology in the payments sector and capital markets. Manuel is a founding member of the Digital Euro Association and has been a board member of Monetative e.V. for 5 years, an association that provides education about the existing as well as alternative monetary systems. He started his career as a consultant at a leading financial data provider in the asset management industry.

Manuel holds a Master of Science degree in strategy and finance.



**Kai Laddiman, TAS Group**

After graduating with a master’s degree in Mathematics & Computer Science from St John’s College, University of Oxford, Kai Laddiman joined Infraxis and more recently the TAS Group (which acquired Infraxis in 2020).

Kai is a Technical Team Leader for TAS within the development team of the PayStorm payments processing system. He has a particular focus on innovation and new technologies adoption.



**Glyn Lewis, TAS International**

Glyn Lewis’s career spans 35 years in the software industry, during which he co-founded several successful companies. For the last 20 years Glyn has focussed on the payments market. In 1999 he co-founded eps Electronic Payment Systems, which was acquired by ACI Worldwide in 2006, and in 2009 he co-founded Infraxis AG. In 2020 Glyn joined the board of TAS International following its acquisition of Infraxis, where he is now focussed on establishing TAS as a brand leader for agile solutions in the converging payments market.



### **Holger Neuhaus, European Central Bank**

Holger Neuhaus is Head of the European Central Bank's (ECB's) Market Innovation and Integration Division

in the Directorate General Market Infrastructure and Payments. He was also recently seconded to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as Senior Policy Advisor.

His Division develops the ECB/Eurosystem's approach in relation to innovation and integration in the field of payments and post-trade services. It explores innovation which is triggered by new technologies, changes in business models and overall developments in the financial ecosystem.

Until November 2019 Holger headed the Money Market and Liquidity Division which provides market analysis of euro area money markets and ensures the execution of monetary policy through open market operations and liquidity management.



### **Kate Pohl, facilitator for Euro Banking Association**

Kate Pohl started her career at Irving Trust Co./Bank of New York in NYC, later responsible for clients in Northern and Central Europe. She moved to Frankfurt as Senior Credit Officer and Geschäftsleiterin (Co-branch Manager) for the bank.

Kate joined Chase Bank AG/ JPMC to head Corporate Payments and later ABN AMRO as Global Transactions Services (GTS) Head for Germany. Kate moved to Amsterdam to create and lead: Implementation Management and later became Global Compliance Head for GTS, IT, & Operations.

Returning to Frankfurt for Citigroup in 2008, Kate took on the role of GTS Head for Germany, Austria and Switzerland. She joined ING Bank Germany 5 years later to head Transaction Services and in 2016 became Head of Payments Innovation for Germany and Austria.

Since July 2018, Kate has worked as a Freelance Consultant and Advisor to fintechs, banks and corporations in the areas of financial services and innovation. She is also a facilitator for the EBA (Euro Banking Association) and works with The Core Leadership Institute, coaching and helping professionals to find their Leadership Purpose.

### **Vitus Rotzer, Bottomline**

Vitus Rotzer is the Sales Director for EMEA (excl. UK and Nordics) for Financial Messaging at Bottomline. He is leading the business development and sales activities to expand Bottomline's business across Europe with a special focus on the DACH region.

Vitus is a versatile senior executive with strong leadership, management, and business development skills. He has over 20 years' experience in financial services and software technology within large international organizations, encompassing sales management and senior executive roles.

### **Philipp Sandner, The Frankfurt School Blockchain Center**

Prof. Dr. Philipp Sandner has founded the Frankfurt School Blockchain Center (FSBC). From 2018 to 2020, he was ranked as one of the “top 30” economists by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), a major newspaper in Germany. Further, he belonged to the “Top 40 under 40”—a ranking by the German business magazine Capital.

Since 2017, he has been a member of the FinTech Council of the Federal Ministry of Finance in Germany. He is also on the Board of Directors of Avaloq Ventures and of the Blockchain Founders Group, a Liechtenstein-based venture capital company focusing on blockchain startups.

Philipp’s expertise includes blockchain technology in general, crypto assets such as Bitcoin and Ethereum, the digital programmable Euro, tokenization of assets and rights and digital identity.



### **Ron van Wezel, Aite Group**

Ron van Wezel is a senior analyst for Aite Group’s Retail Banking & Payments practice. His research covers market and regulatory trends in the payments space, with a focus on Europe.

Prior to joining Aite Group, Ron worked in senior roles for financial institutions such as Deutsche Bank and ABN Amro. He has an extensive track record in the payments industry, serving on committees and advisory bodies within EPC, EBA, SWIFT, MasterCard, and other institutions.