



The following provides a collection of relevant publications regarding digitalization and financial innovation at both the global and jurisdictional level. To view previous versions since June 2022, please see the [newsletter's page](#) on the GFMA website.

February 2025

GFMA, AFME, ASIFMA, and SIFMA

[SIFMA Joins Joint Letter to the PWG on Digital Asset Markets \(February 20, 2025\)](#)

SIFMA and joint associations provided comments to the President's Working Group (PWG) on Digital Asset Markets Chair in support of the goals of the PWG on Digital Asset Markets and propose recommendations to bolster U.S. leadership in digital assets by removing obstacles to bank engagement with digital asset activities. The related press release can be found [here](#).

[AFME Publishes Release Welcoming the ECB's Expanded Initiative to Settle DLT-based Transactions in Central Bank Money \(February 20, 2025\)](#)

AFME published a response welcoming the "ECB's expanded initiative to settle DLT-based transactions in central bank money." Additional details on the [initiative](#) can be found in the EU section of this newsletter.

[AFME Publishes Inaugural Edition of its DLT Market Report \(February 10, 2025\)](#)

AFME published the inaugural edition of its "Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) Market Report." The report will be published on a semi-annual basis and it aims to bridge a data gap by offering timely insights into the evolution of the global DLT-based capital market activities and providing a comprehensive overview of the primary DLT fixed income market, secondary markets and valuations, repo transactions, as well as an overview of the size of the tokenized fund industry and that of other tokenized asset markets. The related press release can be found [here](#).

GLOBAL

[BIS Publishes Bulletin on How Digital Innovation Can Improve Credit to Small Firms in Emerging Market Economies \(February 27, 2025\)](#)

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) published a BIS Bulletin titled "How far can digital innovation improve credit to small firms in emerging market economies?" The bulletin finds that "the rise of big tech and fintech lenders that make better use of data digital innovation could reduce the need for collateral and improve SME's access to credit." However, it also finds that "big tech and fintech lending so far constitutes only a small share of the total."

[FSB Chair's Letter Includes Focus on Digital Innovation and Implementation of Global Regulatory Framework for Crypto-asset Markets and Global Stablecoin Arrangements \(February 24, 2025\)](#)

The Financial Stability Board (FSB) published a letter from its Chair, Klaas Knot, to the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors ahead of their meeting on 26-27 February. The [letter](#) outlines key FSB issues for 2025 including digital innovation, as well as highlights implementation efforts relating to the FSB's global regulatory framework for crypto-asset markets and activities and global stablecoin arrangements. This implementation work includes a peer review (see below update).

[FSB Announces Thematic Peer Review on Global Regulatory Framework for Crypto-asset Activities \(February 21, 2025\)](#)

The Financial Stability Board (FSB) announced a "Thematic Peer Review on FSB Global Regulatory Framework for Crypto-asset Activities." In the announcement the FSB noted that "the objective of the review is to examine progress made by FSB member and select non-member jurisdictions in implementing the FSB's global regulatory framework, including any lessons learnt." Feedback is requested by 28 March 2025.

[BCBS Publishes Call for Papers for Workshop on Technological Innovation in Financial Markets \(February 14, 2025\)](#)

The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) published a call for papers for a 9-10 December 2025 workshop on "Technological innovations in financial markets – Risks and opportunities in banking and regulation." The deadline for papers is 30 June 2025.

[BIS IH Announces Project Focusing on Improving Instant Cross-border Payments Using Central Bank Money Settlement \(February 13, 2025\)](#)

The BIS Innovation Hub (BIS IH) announced "Project Rialto: improving instant cross-border payments using central bank money settlement." The project plans to "combine instant payment systems with a next-generation tokenised market infrastructure for central bank money settlement." Additional details can be found on the project [website](#).

NORTH AMERICA

United States

[Senate Banking Committee Holds Hearing on Digital Assets \(February 26, 2025\)](#)

The US Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs held a subcommittee hearing on "Exploring Bipartisan Legislative Frameworks for Digital Assets." The hearing video and related witness testimonies can be found on the hearing [webpage](#).

[SEC Commissioner Peirce Issues Statement Outlining Efforts from SEC Crypto Task Force \(February 21, 2025\)](#)

US Securities and Exchange Commissioner (SEC) Hester M. Peirce published a statement summarizing efforts from the SEC Crypto Task Force. The statement also highlights an option for members of the public to submit input on these efforts, as well as to request a meeting to discuss feedback.

[FRB Governor Waller Delivers Speech on a Maturing Stablecoin Market \(February 12, 2025\)](#)

Christopher J Waller, Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (FRB), delivered a speech entitled “Reflections on a Maturing Stablecoin Market.” The speech calls for the private sector to continue to develop innovative solutions that fit a market need while building sustainable business models and for the public sector to set “clear and targeted legal and regulatory frameworks” and coordinate “those frameworks across states and national boundaries to enable private sector innovation at a global scale.”

[HFSC Holds Hearing on Digital Assets \(February 11, 2025\)](#)

The US House Financial Services Committee (HFSC) held a hearing entitled “A Golden Age of Digital Assets: Charting a Path Forward.” For more information, the Committee Memorandum is available [here](#).

[CFTC Announces Crypto CEO Forum to Launch Digital Asset Markets Pilot \(February 7, 2025\)](#)

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) announced it will “hold a CEO forum of industry-leading firms to discuss the launch of the CFTC’s digital asset markets pilot program for tokenized non-cash collateral such as stablecoins.” Acting Chair Pham had “previously proposed a [CFTC pilot program](#) as a U.S. regulatory sandbox to provide regulatory clarity for digital asset markets” and last year the CFTC’s Global Markets Advisory Committee (GMAC) Digital Asset Markets Subcommittee released a [recommendation](#) “on expanding the use of non-cash collateral through distributed ledger technology.”

[FRB Governor Bowman Highlights the Importance of Innovation in Banking \(February 5, 2025\)](#)

Federal Reserve Board (FRB) Governor Michelle W. Bowman delivered a speech on “Bank Regulation in 2025 and Beyond.” In her remarks, she urged that “we must prioritize understanding the risks and benefits of new technologies before developing a supervisory posture” and that “we must create a supervisory and regulatory environment that facilitates reasonable and supportive approaches.”

EUROPE

Cyprus

[Central Bank of Cyprus Includes Digitalization as Part of Strategic Vision \(January 16, 2025\)](#)

Christodoulos Patsalides, Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus, delivered a speech on “The Central Bank of Cyprus Agenda – Strategic Vision and Priorities.” In his remarks, he provided an overview of the digital economy and global trends, as well as highlighted efforts in these areas and their importance to the strategic vision of the Bank.

EU

[ECB Announces Expansion of Initiative to Settle DLT-based Transactions in Central Bank Money \(February 20, 2025\)](#)

The European Central Bank (ECB) announced a decision to “expand its initiative to settle transactions recorded on distributed ledger technology (DLT) in central bank money.” This “initiative will contribute to establishing an integrated European market for digital assets, in line with the Governing Council’s call for promoting a digital capital markets union in its [statement](#) of 7 March 2024.” [AFME](#) published a [release](#) welcoming the announcement.

[Christine Lagarde Provides Update on Digitalization Efforts at European Parliament Plenary Debate on the ECB Annual Report \(February 11, 2025\)](#)

Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), provided remarks at the European Parliament plenary debate on the ECB’s Annual Report. The remarks highlighted ECB efforts relating to digitalization and noted the importance of the digital euro project. The text of the European Parliament’s Report on the ECB can be found [here](#).

[EBA Issues Opinion in Response to the EC’s Proposed Amendments to the EBA Draft Technical Standards on Conflicts of Interests for Issuers of Asset-Referenced Tokens \(February 5, 2025\)](#)

The European Banking Authority (EBA) issued an “Opinion in response to the European Commission’s proposed amendments to the EBA draft technical standards on conflicts of interests for issuers of asset-referenced tokens.” The opinion notes that “the EBA agrees with the substantive changes proposed by the EC, which favour proportionality, as well as with other amendments which are considered non-substantive.” The EBA draft can be found [here](#).

[ESMA Announces Consult on the Criteria for Assessment of Knowledge and Competence Under MiCA \(February 2, 2025\)](#)

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) launched a [consultation](#) on the criteria for the assessment of knowledge and competence of crypto-asset service providers’ (CASPs) staff giving information or advice on crypto-assets or crypto-asset services. Comments are requested by 22 April 2026.

France

[Denis Beau Delivers Speech on the New Payments Landscape \(February 18, 2025\)](#)

Denis Beau, First Deputy Governor of the Banque de France, delivered a speech titled “New payments landscape, but old challenges for central banks?” In the remarks he noted that “we need a regulatory framework that does not stifle innovation but that is sufficiently demanding to ensure that stakeholders are reasonably protected, stability of our payment system is guaranteed and prevention of new system wide financial crisis is ensured.” Additionally, he noted “we need to persevere with the policy goals we have been pursuing so far” and that “collaboration will remain essential.”

Germany

[Burkhard Balz Speech Highlights Potential Challenges and Opportunities for Cross-border Payments \(February 18, 2025\)](#)

Burkhard Balz, Member of the Executive Board of the Deutsche Bundesbank, delivered a speech titled "Unlocking the potential of cross-border payments - challenges and opportunities." The speech highlighted potential scenarios for utilizing central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), including a scenario where "messages could be tokenised and used to settle smart contracts in more technically innovative infrastructures."

[Burkhard Balz Delivers Speech on the Role of CBDCs in Europe's Digital Financial Ecosystem \(February 13, 2025\)](#)

Burkhard Balz, Member of the Executive Board of the Deutsche Bundesbank, delivered a speech titled "Envisioning tomorrow - the role of CBDCs in Europe's digital financial ecosystem." The speech highlights efforts relating to the digital euro project, including details relating to a wholesale CBDC.

[Sabine Mauderer Highlights the Importance of Digitalization for the Future of the Financial Industry in Europe \(February 12, 2025\)](#)

Dr. Sabine Mauderer, First Deputy Governor of the Deutsche Bundesbank, delivered a speech titled "The European financial industry of the future." In her remarks, she highlighted efforts in the EU related to digitalization and noted that "we need to leverage digital technologies to create efficient, integrated and resilient European financial markets" and that "the digital CMU could be a game changer in this respect."

United Kingdom

[Sasha Mills Highlights Potential Impact of Innovation on FMIs \(February 10, 2025\)](#)

Sasha Mills, Executive Director, Financial Market Infrastructure at the Bank of England (BoE), delivered a speech on "Financial Market Infrastructure (FMI) Regulation in a Changing World: Our Priorities for 2025." The remarks called for "playing our respective roles in embracing responsible innovation" and noted "these benefits could be realized by bringing new technologies to existing firms (for example, through tokenisation or the introduction of atomic settlement) or through new types of FMIs joining the payments, settlement and clearing sectors."

[FCA and PSR Report on Digital Wallets \(February 2, 2025\)](#)

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and Payment Systems Regulator (PSR) published a joint feedback statement that "assesses the usage and impact of digital wallets." The statement notes that they have found "significant benefits to consumers through greater convenience, enhanced security measures, and, for some, greater financial inclusion."

APAC

Australia

[AUSTRAC Takes Action Against 13 Remittance and Digital Currency Exchange Providers \(February 17, 2025\)](#)

The Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) announced it “recently took action against 13 remittance and digital currency exchange providers with more than 50 others still in its sights.” This is part of “a year-long blitz to target non-reporting and under reporting.”

Hong Kong

[SFC Announces New Roadmap to Develop HK as a Global Virtual Asset Hub \(February 19, 2025\)](#)

The Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) “outlined 12 major initiatives to enhance the security, innovation and growth of Hong Kong’s virtual asset (VA) market under a five- pillar “ASPIRe” roadmap, which stands for Access, Safeguards, Products, Infrastructure and Relationships.” Additional details on the roadmap can be found [here](#).

[HKMA Chief Executive Highlights the Importance of Digitalization and Innovation \(February 17, 2025\)](#)

Eddie Yue, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), delivered a speech on “Navigating new growth corridors in Asia-Pacific.” In the remarks he noted that HKMA needs “to focus on three things: digitalisation, sustainability, and engagement.” He highlighted experimentation with tokenisation use cases as examples of key efforts to reach these goals.

India

[Rajeshwar Rao Delivers Speech Highlighting the Impacts of Digitalization \(February 21, 2025\)](#)

Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), delivered the inaugural address at a conference focused on “Finance for Growth Amid Creative Disruptions.” The remarks highlight potential impacts from digitalization and artificial intelligence and notes that “these changes make it essential for us to understand how to harness them for sustainable economic growth.”

Singapore

[MAS Introduces Bond Scheme to Promote Digital Finance \(January 15, 2025\)](#)

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) announced a “Global-Asia Digital Bond Grant Scheme (G-ADBGS).” The announcement noted that “digital bonds are bonds issued on a digital platform using distributed ledger technology, which enables the automation of operational, settlement and asset servicing processes” and that “this has the potential to improve operational efficiency and lower costs.” The scheme will be valid until 31 December 2029.

Thailand

[Thai SEC Amends Rules to Allow Mutual Funds and Private Funds to Invest in Digital Assets \(January 16, 2025\)](#)

The Thailand Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced amendments to the regulations concerning investments in digital assets by mutual funds and private funds, adding investment tokens as an eligible asset for investment with an investment limit similar to that of transferable securities such as stocks and bonds and allowing investment in crypto assets. The effect of this announcement is 16 January 2025.

*All information collected and provided for this report is publicly available.