



Media release

## FINANZ'23: Navigating turbulent investment waters with a reliable compass of information

The latest turmoil in the banking world and interest rate markets is an unwelcome addition to the still tangible repercussions of the pandemic and firmly entrenched geopolitical tensions. The challenges posed by the regulatory environment and climate change make for even greater complexity, and are forcing professional investors to rethink tried-and-tested methods and come up with creative new ideas. At the 24th staging of Switzerland's largest financial fair, which will take place in Halle 550 in Zurich Oerlikon on 3 and 4 May 2023, renowned experts from the worlds of finance, politics, academia, and the energy sector – including Sergio Ermotti, Petra Gerlach, Professor Tobias Straumann, Valentin Vogt, and Jürg Grossen – will shine a light on how to navigate this change of era.

**Zurich, 18 April, 2023.** Under the motto «A change of era», FINANZ'23 will focus on four key themes. The future of the Swiss financial centre was a topic of debate even before the state-decreed takeover of Credit Suisse by UBS. However, this seismic event has made the need for action even more clear. Rapidly growing financial centres, most notably Hong Kong, are chipping away at Switzerland's leading position in the world of asset management. To kick off Switzerland's largest financial fair, Swiss Re Chairman and UBS CEO **Sergio Ermotti** will sit down with BILANZ Editor-in-Chief Dirk Schütz in the first in a series of «Fireplace Talks» to answer questions on the outlook for the Swiss financial centre and the options for action in the current circumstances.

Nor is it just the commercial banks that face risks of loss. On the first day of the fair, the question of how well equipped central banks are to deal with future shock waves in their capacity as guardians of global monetary and financial stability – not least given their bloated balance sheets – will be explored by **Petra Gerlach**, Alternate Member of the Governing Board of the Swiss National Bank; **Yvan Lengwiler**, Professor of Finance and Economics at the University of Basel, and **Ernst Baltensperger**, Emeritus Professor of Economics at the University of Bern. The expert discussion will be chaired by the financial blogger Fabio Canetg. The first day of the fair will also feature a special panel comprising three leading fund managers of Switzerland, who will give an insight into their work.

### Further burning topics up for debate

The second day of the fair will start with a roundtable looking at the contrasting forces of globalization and renationalization. The implications of the current environment for the product portfolios of industrial companies and value creation chains will be discussed by **Beat Rieder**, Councillor of State for Canton Valais and member of The Centre party, **Valentin Vogt**, outgoing President of the Swiss Employers' Confederation, and economic historian **Professor Tobias Straumann**. The roundtable will be chaired by Mark Dittli, Editor-in-Chief of The Market.

The closing roundtable of the second day will look at Switzerland's energy strategy. Finanz und Wirtschaft department head **Sylviane Chassot** will lead the debate together with **Martin Koller**, Head of Corporate Strategy & Economics at Axpo; **Christoph Schäfers**, Vice President International Coordination at Uniper; **Werner Luginbühl**, President of the Federal Electricity Commission (ECom), and Green-Liberal National Councillor **Jürg Grossen** from Canton Bern.

With the rise of digitalization, entry barriers to areas of business that were once the sole province of financial institutions are becoming less formidable, and value creation chains are clearly being disrupted as a result. Against this backdrop, financial institutions are having to redefine their roles, expand their core competencies shrewdly by entering into joint ventures with fintech, crypto, and blockchain companies, and harness the new technologies in a sensible way as they reshape business models. Following last year's inaugural success, the Crypto Open Forum will give an insight into the new financial world for the second time at FINANZ'23.

### **FINANZ'23 organizers launch financial fair magazine**

The 24th edition of the financial fair is to be accompanied by a fair magazine for the very first time. Various articles in the editorial section will stake out the framework for the key points of focus of FINANZ'23. Detailed information will also be provided on the roundtables of the event organizers and media partners, as well as on the 100 or so expert talks and specialist panels of the exhibitors and the fair's training partners (SFAA Swiss Financial Analysts Association, the VQF Academy together with the continuous training platform of the Association of Swiss Asset Managers (VSV), the IGUV Interest Group of Independent Asset Managers, the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, the IFZ Institute of Financial Services Zug of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences, and the SMLA Swiss Marketplace Lending Association). The magazine also contains a listing of the more than 100 exhibitors. The first issue, with a print run of 7,000 copies, will be available at the fair and will be sent to professional investors at the end of April, thus having an impact beyond the fair.

The financial fair magazine (German only), the fair programme and the list of exhibitors are available at [www.finanzmesse.ch](http://www.finanzmesse.ch).

**For further information** please contact Bernhard Zosso, Managing Director of FINANZ'23, +41 (0)44 241 30 60, [b.zosso@finanzmesse.ch](mailto:b.zosso@finanzmesse.ch). Editors of financial and business media can obtain accreditation for the fair **up until 4 p.m. on 1 May 2023**.