

**PRESS RELEASE**

Paris, 23 April 2025

## **François Gemenne appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sustainable Finance Observatory**

### **A strategic turning point to strengthen the mobilisation of private finance for the transition**

At its Extraordinary General Meeting held on 22 April, the Sustainable Finance Observatory announced the appointment of François Gemenne as Chair of its Board of Directors. A researcher, author, lecturer and co-author of the IPCC's 6th report, François Gemenne is recognised for his expertise in the geopolitical challenges of climate change and his commitment to the debate on the ecological transition.

He joins the board with the ambition of strengthening the think tank's role as a key player in the transformation of the financial system.

*"Finance is still a blind spot in the debate on social and climate transition. Yet it plays a crucial role, and there is vast potential for mobilising private capital. We must be pragmatic and develop concrete solutions and tools that can be implemented immediately to finance the reduction of emissions. Furthermore, the issue of capital allocation and transparency efforts are no longer enough; we need to consider the impact of financial practices on the real economy. I am honoured to contribute to this work by taking on presidency the SF Observatory," said **François Gemenne**.*

### **Renewed governance to advance strategic vision**

Following on from Corinne Lepage, François Gemenne's appointment is accompanied by a renewal of governance aimed at consolidating the think tank's strategic direction and strengthening its links with the scientific, economic and institutional spheres. The Board of Directors has also elected Karen Degouve as Secretary of the SF Observatory.

The new **Board of Directors** is composed of:

- **Cécile Martin-Phipps**, Director of the Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable (IFDD), *intuitu personae*; representing the intermediate bodies college.
- **François Gemenne**, Professor at HEC Paris, FNRS qualified researcher at the University of Liège and co-author of the 6th IPCC report, *intuitu personae*, representing the academic college.
- **Guillaume Lorentz**, Climate and Finance Expert at the Sustainable Finance Observatory, representing the association's employees college.
- **Jérôme Courcier**, President of Ethique et Investissement association, representing the civil society college.
- **Karen Degouve**, Natixis, Sustainable Finance Department, *intuitu personae*; representing the qualified experts college.
- **Melissa Perez**, Director of Engagement at Tutélaire; representing the financial actors college.
- **Romain Poivet**, Climate Energy Engagement Lead at the World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA), *intuitu personae*; representing the think tanks college.
- **Stéphane Voisin**, Director of Sustainable Finance at the Institut Louis Bachelier (ILB); representative of the Scientific and Expertise Committee shared with the PARC foundation.

The think tank's management team is also being strengthened with the arrival of **Emilie Maehara** as **Deputy Executive Director**, alongside Raphaël Lebel, Executive Director. Emilie Maehara has 20 years of experience in diplomacy, sustainable development and finance. She has held management positions at C40 Cities and the Global Fund for Cities, after serving as an advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a ministerial cabinet, and as head of the environment office of the Seine Saint-Denis Prefecture.

*"This new governance structure, made up of ambitious players from a variety of backgrounds, marks a new beginning. With its open and collaborative structure and our approach based on transparency and scientific rigour, I am convinced that our think tank can become an international benchmark, with three main objectives:*

- (1) *To redirect private finance towards transition and sustainable development activities;*
- (2) *To develop practical tools that can be used by economic and financial stakeholders to effect positive change.;*

- (3) *To influence decision-makers through regulatory analysis and technical publications,"* emphasises **Raphaël Lebel, Executive Director** of the SF Observatory.

### A French think tank with an international outlook

The Sustainable Finance Observatory continues to draw on the strong, high-level network of financial institutions, regulators, NGOs, public institutions and academics with which the two former entities, 2 Degrees Investing Initiative (2DII) and the Observatoire de la Finance Durable, had maintained close ties since 2013 and 2019, respectively.

The think tank is also a member of the **Paris Agreement Research Commons (PARC)** foundation, chaired by Bertrand Badré, whose mission is to foster a collaborative research ecosystem to produce applied research, tools, data and robust models to stimulate the transition of financial institutions.

The Sustainable Finance Observatory's mission is based on three pillars:

1. **Transparency**, through monitoring and evaluating financial practices, providing data and contributing to methodological work on sustainable finance;
2. **Research and financial engineering** to develop new financing solutions for the transition and expertise in supporting governments and financial institutions; and participation in international programs and an independent research centre backed by the Scientific and Expert Committee (CSE) of the PARC Foundation;
3. And **advocacy**, aimed at bringing about concrete changes in financial sector practices and regulations and promoting an ambitious vision internationally.

### Call for members and free participation

Already comprising some 50 members, companies and individuals, membership of the SF Observatory is open to any stakeholder wishing to participate in analysis and applied research. Numerous working groups are active on ongoing projects, as part of multiple European programs and consortiums focusing in particular on:

- **Transparency** and alignment of financial flows with the Paris Climate Agreement: analysis of 29LECs reports with **ADEME**, **SFDR** regulations and **Pillar 3 ESG** reporting, monitoring of voluntary commitments via **Net Zero Donut**.
- **Mobilisation of savings and impact**: My Fair Money, Impact Potential Assessment Framework.
- The development of **financing solutions** for the transition to **energy renovation** of buildings, **biodiversity** and **adaptation** to climate change in cities.
- Financing the transition in **emerging and developing countries**: financial engineering and **blended finance**, development of taxonomies and alignment frameworks for governments and financial institutions.

All of these projects will be open to contributions from new members of the SF Observatory!

Contact: [comms@sf-observatory.org](mailto:comms@sf-observatory.org)

### About the Sustainable Finance Observatory

The Sustainable Finance Observatory is an internationally recognised, independent, non-profit think tank specialising in mobilising private finance for a sustainable transition. The association is the result of a merger between the Observatoire de la finance durable, an initiative of the French Minister of Finance, and the think tank 2° Investing Initiative. Its mission is to support the improvement of financial practices among economic actors by guiding their impact towards a sustainable societal model. The think tank takes a pragmatic approach by producing studies, tools and methodologies that directly benefit financial institutions, regulators and economic actors to help them strengthen their impact. Sustainable Finance Observatory focuses its activities on three main pillars: Transparency and Data, Research and Advocacy. It is committed to strengthening the capacities of stakeholders through expertise and coalition coordination missions. The Sustainable Finance Observatory draws on the expertise of a Scientific and Expert Committee bringing together more than 50 international researchers and experts in sustainable finance who contribute to its work.

Find out more about the work of the SF Observatory on its three websites:

<https://observatoiredelafinancedurable.com/fr/>  
<https://sustainablefinanceobservatory.org/>  
<https://www.myfairmoney.fr/>