



**gfma**  
GLOBAL FINANCIAL  
MARKETS ASSOCIATION

# GFMA Digital Finance Monthly Update

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.

## January 2026

### GFMA, AFME, ASIFMA, and SIFMA

#### [ASIFMA Responds to Hong Kong FTSB and SFC on Legislative Proposal to Regulate Virtual Asset Advisory Service Providers and Virtual Asset Management Service Providers \(January 23, 2026\)](#)

**ASIFMA** submitted a response to the Financial Services and Treasury Bureau (FSTB) and Securities and Futures Commission's (SFC) "Further Public Consultation on Legislative Proposal to Regulate Virtual Asset Advisory Service Providers and Virtual Asset Management Service Providers." A link to the consultation is available [here](#) and further details can be found in the Hong Kong section of this newsletter.

#### [SIFMA and SIFMA AMG Submit Comments to SEC Crypto Task Force on Wallet Providers and Broker Dealer Regulation \(January 15, 2026\)](#)

**SIFMA** and **SIFMA AMG** submitted comments to the SEC Crypto Task Force as they evaluate the appropriate regulatory treatment of wallet providers. This letter addresses the critical question of whether such providers should be required to register as a broker under the Exchange Act of 1934 and comply with the requirements generally applicable to broker-dealers.

## GLOBAL

#### [BIS IH Publishes Report on Project FuSSE \(January 29, 2026\)](#)

The BIS Innovation Hub (BIS IH) published a report on their Project FuSSE (Fully Scalable Settlement Engine). This project focuses on "exploring the scalable, flexible and secure design of modern settlement engines" in response to the "continued expansion of digital payments, alongside emerging models such as Internet of Things (IoT)-based payments, AI-driven commerce and broader fintech participation." The text of the report is available [here](#) and further details on the project are available [here](#).

#### [BIS Chief Representative for APAC Delivers Remarks on the Financial Stability Implications of AI and Digital Finance \(January 26, 2026\)](#)

Tao Zhang, Bank for International Settlements (BIS) Chief Representative for Asia and the Pacific (APAC), delivered remarks on "The Financial Stability Implications of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Finance." In the remarks, he highlighted potential benefits and efficiencies from these technologies, but also noted potential financial stability risk concerns.

## **NORTH AMERICA**

### **United States**

#### **SEC Issues Statement on Tokenized Securities (January 28, 2026)**

The US Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Division of Corporation Finance, Division of Investment Management, and Division of Trading and Markets issued a "Statement on Tokenized Securities." The statement is "part of an effort to provide greater clarity on the application of the federal securities laws to crypto assets" by providing the Divisions' views "on taxonomies associated with tokenized securities."

#### **CFTC and SEC Announce Joint Event on Harmonization and US Financial Leadership in the Crypto Era (January 22, 2026)**

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) announced a joint event on "Harmonization: Leadership in the Crypto Era." The event was rescheduled to take place 29 January 2026. Further details regarding the event are included [here](#).

#### **CFTC Chairman Issues Remarks Stating that America's Financial Markets are Ready for a Golden Age (January 20, 2026)**

Michael Selig, Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), provided remarks stating that "America's Financial Markets are ready for a Golden Age." In the remarks he noted that "innovators are leveraging technologies such as blockchain and artificial intelligence not just to modernize legacy financial systems, but also to build new ones." He urged that "to achieve the golden age of American financial markets... regulators must break with the rigid and restrictive regulatory practices of the past" and that "the CFTC will seize this generational opportunity to modernize and future-proof its approach to regulation."

#### **HFSC Holds Subcommittee Hearing on FinTech Innovations and Regulation (January 13, 2026)**

The House Committee on Financial Services (HFSC) Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology, and Artificial Intelligence held a hearing titled "Delivering for American Consumers: A Review of FinTech Innovations and Regulations." Further details including the Committee Memorandum, livestream, and witness testimonies are available on the hearing [webpage](#).

#### **Senate Banking Committee Chair Releases Bipartisan Negotiated Market Structure Bill Text (January 12, 2026)**

Senate Banking Committee Chairman Tim Scott "released" a bipartisan manager's amendment reflecting months of negotiations with Democratic colleagues." Chairman Scott's statement notes that he "believes passing comprehensive market structure legislation will democratize the American economy and establish clear rules of the road for digital assets, all while protecting Main Street retail investors, ensuring future innovation happens in the United States, and safeguarding national security for all Americans." The full bill text is available [here](#).

### **CFTC Chairman Launches Innovation Advisory Committee (January 12, 2026)**

Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Chairman Michael S. Selig launched an Innovation Advisory Committee (IAC) which has been renamed from the former Technology Advisory Committee. The IAC will assist the commission “by providing advice on the impact and implications of technological innovation in the financial services, derivatives, and commodity markets.” It will also “provide advice on the application and utilization of new technologies in financial services, derivatives, and commodity markets.”

### **FRB Withdraws 2023 Policy Statement and Issues New Policy Statement Regarding the Treatment of Certain Board-Supervised Banks that Facilitates Responsible Innovation (December 17, 2025)**

The Federal Reserve Board (FRB) voted to withdraw a 2023 policy statement and issue a new policy statement regarding the treatment of certain Board-supervised banks that facilitates responsible innovation. The Board also withdrew “from the record the Supplementary Information that accompanied the 2023 Policy Statement, which discussed specific crypto-asset activities.” The related Federal Register notice can be found [here](#).

## **EUROPE**

### **EU**

#### **ESMA Adopts New Digital Strategy and an Updated Data Strategy (January 13, 2026)**

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) announced it “has adopted a new [Digital Strategy](#) and updated its [Data Strategy](#).” Summary details are included in the related [press release](#).

#### **ESAs Publish Factsheet to Help Consumers Protect Themselves from Crypto Frauds and Scams (December 15, 2025)**

The three European Supervisory Authorities (EBA, EIOPA, and ESMA – ESAs) published a factsheet “designed to help consumers protect themselves from crypto and other online frauds and scams.” The factsheet can be found [here](#).

### **United Kingdom**

#### **Sasha Mills Delivers Speech on the UK’s Digital Finance Future (January 29, 2026)**

Sasha Mills, Executive Director for Financial Market Infrastructure at the Bank of England (BoE) delivered a speech titled “The sky’s the limit: shaping the UK’s digital financial future.” In her remarks, she “outlined the innovation priorities for the coming year: progressing the systemic stablecoins regime, clarifying how tokenised collateral can operate under UK EMIR, and expanding the Digital Securities Sandbox.”

#### **FCA Requests Feedback on Further Rules for Crypto Firms (January 23, 2026)**

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) published “feedback on further rules for cryptoasset firms.” This is in addition to other requests for feedback from December (see below update). The deadline for response is 12 March 2026.

### **FCA Seeks Feedback on Proposals for UK Crypto Rules (December 16, 2025)**

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) published a release “asking for views on new proposals as the next step in shaping the UK’s crypto rules” and noting that “these proposals continue our progress towards an open, sustainable and competitive market that people can trust.” Details are available in consultations [CP25/40](#), [CP25/41](#), and [CP25/42](#). Responses for each are open until 12 February 2026.

## **APAC**

### **Australia**

#### **ASIC Includes Digital Topics in Key Issues Outlook for 2026 (January 27, 2026)**

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) published their “Key Issues Outlook 2026.” The Outlook includes “regulatory gaps related to emerging financial sector participants (digital assets, payments, users of AI) and others on the regulatory perimeter” as a key issue.

### **Hong Kong**

#### **SFC and FSTB Publish Consultation Conclusions and Issue Further Consultation on Virtual Assets (December 24, 2025)**

The Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and Financial Services and Treasury Bureau (FSTB) jointly published on 24 December the Consultation Conclusions on the legislative proposal to regulate virtual asset (VA) dealings and issued a further Consultation on a legislative proposal to regulate VA advisory and management service providers, with comments due by 23 January 2026.

#### **SFC and FTSB Publish Conclusions on Regulating Virtual Asset Custodian Services (December 24, 2025)**

The Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and Financial Services and Treasury Bureau (FSTB) jointly published on 24 December the Consultation Conclusions of the Legislative Proposal to Regulate Virtual Asset Custodian Services, focusing on managing risks related to safekeeping private keys of client VAs in Hong Kong, to secure client assets and protect investors.

### **India**

#### **SEBI Issues Circular on Digital Accessibility Requirements for Regulated Entities (December 8, 2025)**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) released a circular on clarifying digital accessibility requirements for regulated entities and ensuring accessibility standards for digital platforms with operational guidance for implementation timelines and reporting obligations.

### **South Korea**

#### **FSC Includes New Digital Finance Safety Rules in Financial Reform Agenda (December 19, 2025)**

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) announced plans for a sweeping overhaul of finance during a government work report session. The agenda includes “efforts to introduce a new legislation on digital finance safety to prevent hacking and information breaches.”

## MENA

### Dubai

#### [DFSA Implements Major Updates to Crypto Token Regulatory Framework \(January 12, 2026\)](#)

The Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) “brought into force its updated regulatory framework for Crypto Tokens” in the Dubai International Finance Centre (DIFC). The rules are intended to “strengthen the DFSA’s regime, provide greater clarity for market participants, and support the development of a safe, transparent, and well-regulated digital assets environment.”

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