

## LUX FINANCIAL CENTRE MONITORING

### Tax transparency and the changes in wealth management

Luxembourg for Finance, 28/01/11

<http://www.lff.lu/finance/news/news-detail/article/tax-transparency-and-the-changes-in-wealth-management/2/>

The exchange of information on demand is becoming the benchmark of a globalised financial market. On 7 December 2010, the 27 EU finance ministers concluded a political agreement on strengthening administrative cooperation in the field of direct taxation. At a banking conference organised by Ernst & Young, experts discussed an issue that is crucial to the future of Luxembourg's private banking industry.

### Ein neuer Stahltitan ist geboren

Tageblatt, 26/01/11

<http://www.tageblatt.lu/wirtschaft/story/13011319>

Die Edeldahlsparte von ArcelorMittal wird ausgelagert. Das hat die Aktionärsversammlung des Stahlgiganten am Dienstagabend auf einer außerordentlichen Hauptversammlung in Luxemburg beschlossen. Das damit neu entstehende Unternehmen bekommt den Namen Aperam und wird seinen Sitz in der rue Guillaume Kroll in Luxemburg haben. Auf der Hauptversammlung hatten sich 99,98 Prozent der Aktionäre für die Gründung des neuen Unternehmens ausgesprochen.

### Grand Duchy's credit ratings confirmed

Luxembourg for Business, 21/01/11

<http://www.luxembourgforbusiness.lu/grand-duchy%E2%80%99s-credit-ratings-confirmed>

Rating agency Standard & Poors has confirmed Luxembourg's long term AAA rating and short-term A+ ratings, giving them a "stable perspective". The agency said it expects this country to be able to balance its budget over the mid-term. Luxembourg's stable perspective is explained by the fact that its credit-worthiness rests on a healthy management of its public finances and by an exceptionally high level of prosperity, Standard & Poors said.

### Anders? Ausgezeichnet!

Luxembourg for Finance, 20/01/11

<http://www.lff.lu/finance/news/news-detail/article/anders-ausgezeichnet/2/>

Nachhaltige Initiativen tragen langfristig zur positiven Entwicklung unserer Umwelt bei. Dies hat die NGO etika schon lange erkannt und dieses Jahr zum ersten Mal zusammen mit Ihrem Partner Banque et Caisse d'Epargne de l'Etat (BCEE) den etika-Preis verliehen. Die Preisverleihung wurde von Minister Marco Schank vorgenommen.

## LUXEMBOURG MONITORING

### Convention doubles impositions Luxembourg - Allemagne

Legilux, 19/01/11

<http://www.legilux.public.lu/leg/a/archives/2011/0012/2011A0086B.html?highlight=>

Un protocole a été signé à Luxembourg le 11 décembre 2009, modifiant la Convention du 23 août 1958 entre le Grand-Duché de Luxembourg et la République Fédérale d'Allemagne tendant à éviter les doubles impositions et à établir des règles d'assistance administrative réciproque en matière d'impôts sur le revenu et sur la fortune et en matière d'impôt commercial et d'impôt foncier. La Convention est entrée en vigueur.

### LuxFLAG releases study analyzing microfinance industry and performance of Microfinance Investment Vehicles (MIVs)

Microcapital.org, 18/01/11

<http://www.microcapital.org/microcapital-brief-luxembourg-fund-labeling-agency-luxflag-releases-study-analyzing-microfinance-industry-performance-of-microfinance-investment-vehicles-mivs/>

The Luxembourg Fund Labeling Agency (LuxFLAG), an organization that certifies whether investment vehicles actually invest in the microfinance sector, has released a study analyzing 2009 and early-2010 trends in the microfinance industry as well as the performance of microfinance investment vehicles (MIVs) that were carrying the LuxFLAG certification label during the period covered in the study.

The study indicated that microfinance institutions (MFIs) and MIVs, widely thought to be de-correlated from capital markets, nonetheless felt the effects of the recent economic crisis. LuxFLAG-labeled MIVs in Central America and Eastern and Central Europe were particularly hard hit. But 2010 also brought positive signs: liquidity levels of all labeled MIVs declined, and monthly returns are expected to increase according to research conducted by Symbiotics, a microfinance investment intermediary based in Switzerland.

### The world's largest bank sets up its European headquarter in Luxembourg

Luxembourg for Finance, 17/01/11

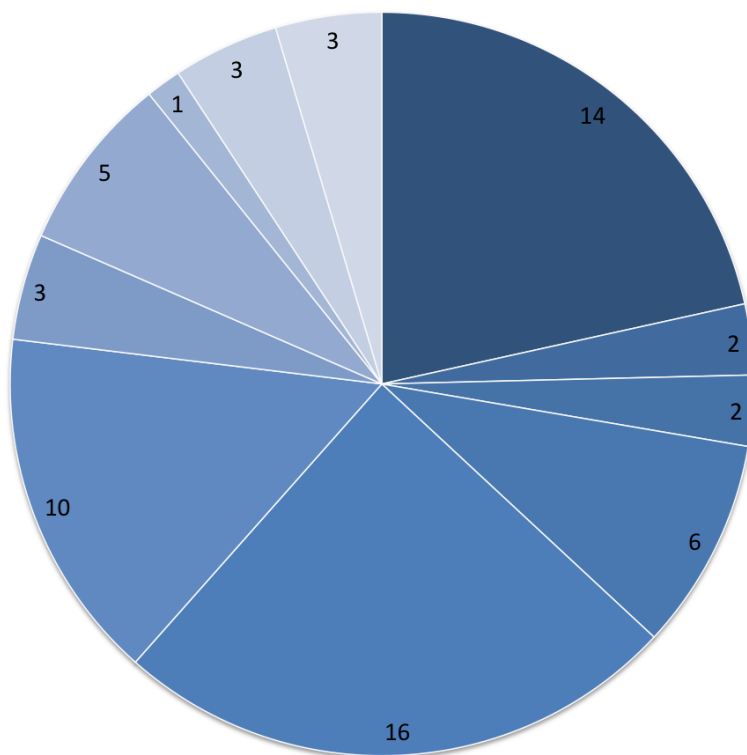
<http://www.lff.lu/finance/news/news-detail/article/the-worlds-largest-bank-sets-up-its-european-headquarter-in-luxembourg/21/>

ICBC, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, is the most profitable bank in the world and also the largest by market capitalisation. The group, which can boast 240 million customers, now wants to expand in Europe and has opened branches in five European countries. The bank has also renamed its Luxembourg subsidiary ICBC Europe. Luxembourg Minister of Finance Luc Frieden explained to the press why this is good news for Luxembourg.



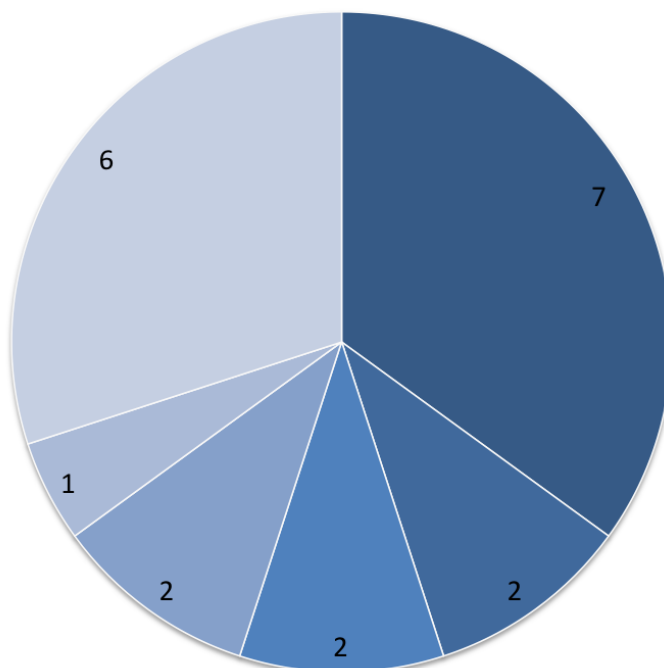
FINANCIAL CENTRE: COVERAGE BY COUNTRY (by number of articles)

LUX



- Luxembourg chosen as European headquarter by ICBC
- Clearstream expands collateral range by adding asset class investment funds
- Double taxation treaty between Germany and Luxembourg
- Profit before provisions of the Luxembourg banking sector decreased by 20.8 %
- ArcelorMittal spins-off its stainless steel unit Aperam
- Standard & Poors confirms Luxembourg's long term AAA rating and short-term A+ ratings
- Luxembourg court releases Icelandic bank's documents to investigators
- Italy tax police hunt 50bn euros undeclared income: half the money ended up in Luxembourg and Switzerland
- Luxembourg School of Finance receives EIB grant
- etika award for socially responsible projects
- Johnny Halliday evading taxes in Luxembourg?

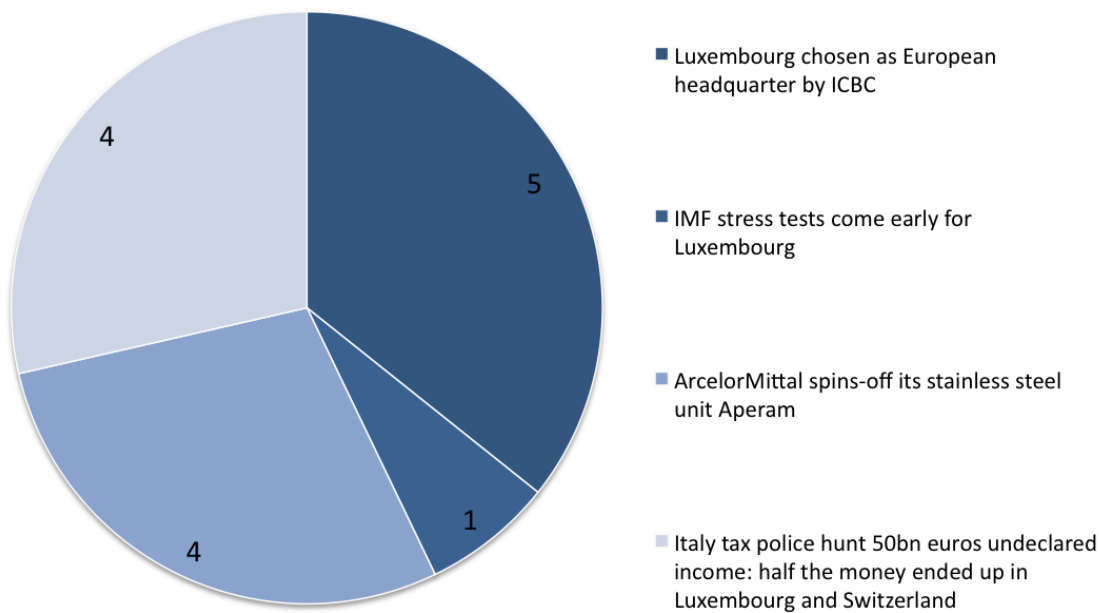
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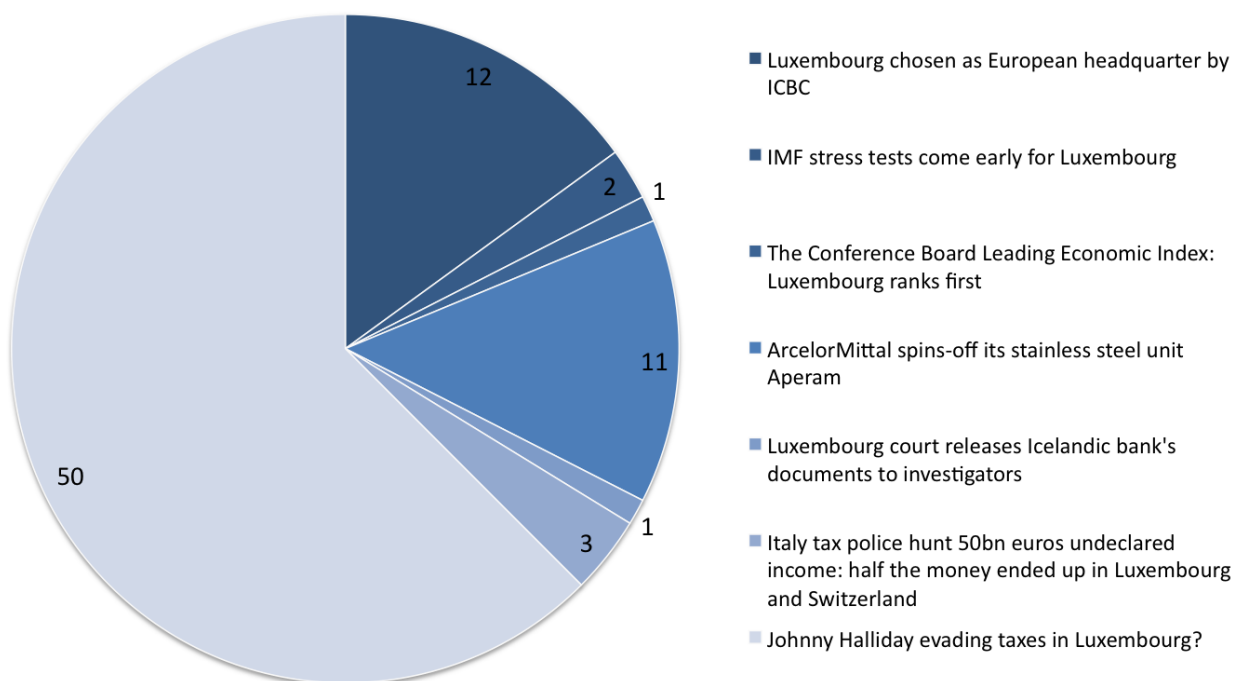
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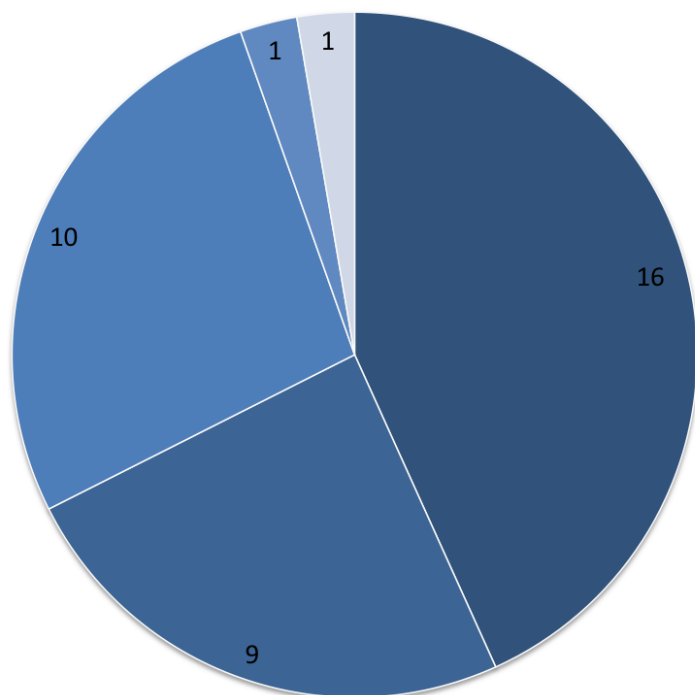


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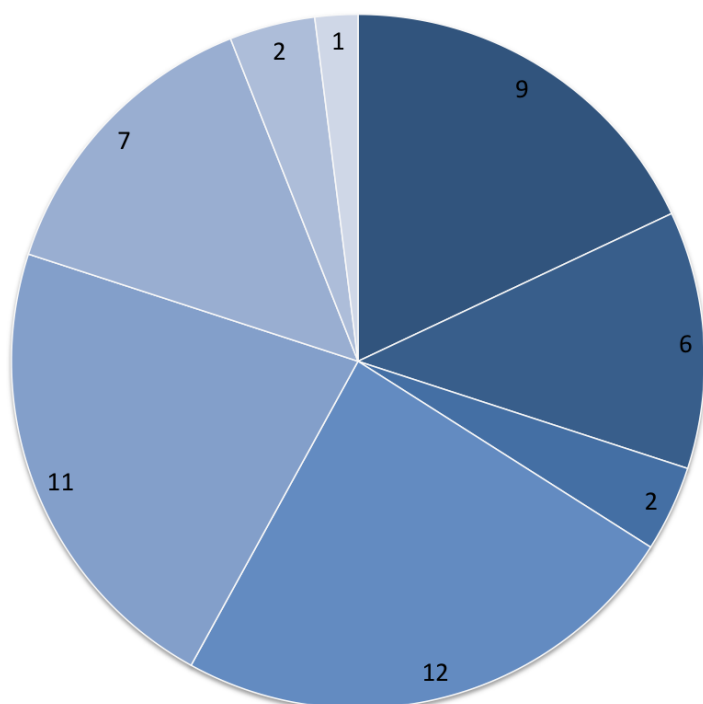
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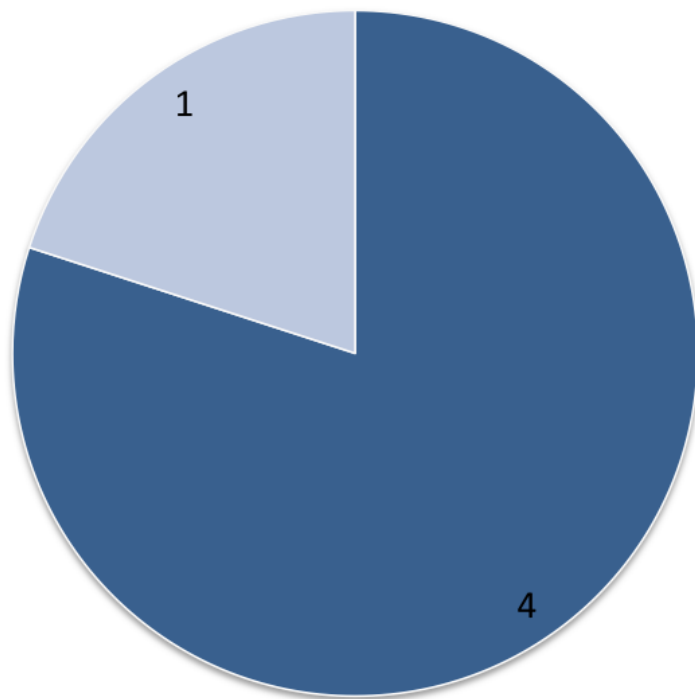
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- The Conference Board Leading Economic Index: Luxembourg ranks first
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UK / US



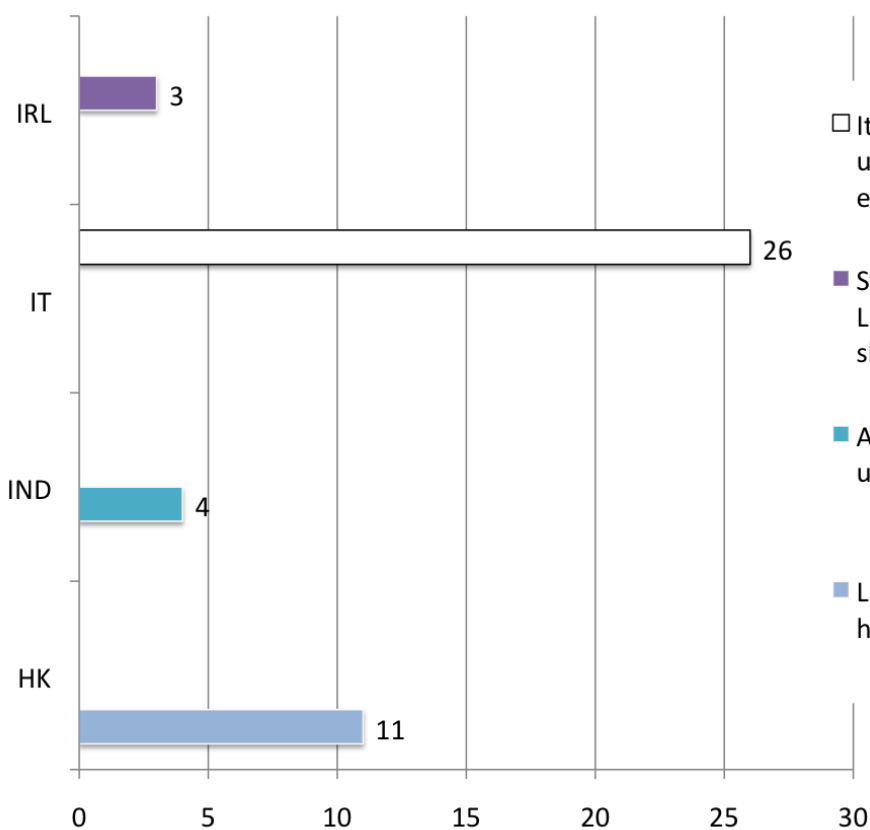
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- Luxflag releases "Report on the performance of LuxFlag labelled MIVs"

## MENA



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## Coverage IRL / IT / IND / HK



- Italy tax police hunt 50bn euros undeclared income: half the money ended up in Luxembourg and Switzerland
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## STATEMENTS ABOUT LUXEMBOURG

	Name	Position	Organisation	Source	Date
Company Structures	Lawrie Holmes	Journalist	This is Money	This is Money	22/01
	<p>Among the biggest hoarders of subsidiaries - with 85 in ultra-secret jurisdictions, according to Companies House - is BP. In an ironic twist, its head of tax, John Bartlett, was this month appointed by the Government to sit on a study group on tax avoidance. According to the Treasury, the group 'is part of the Government's commitment to tackling tax avoidance and building sustainable defences to address long-standing avoidance risks'. A spokesman for BP said it had only 67 companies registered in offshore territories. 'Bermuda and Luxembourg together account for two-thirds of these - Bermuda mostly because many BP Shipping-related companies are based there and Luxembourg because of our pan-European trading and marketing activities,' he said.</p>				
Investment Funds	Stuart Martin	Partner	Dechert	The Lawyer	17/01
	<p>Equally, UK fund managers seeking non-UK-based distribution tend to establish their Ucits funds in jurisdictions such as Ireland or Luxembourg instead of, or in addition to, their UK-based ranges. There is no doubt that an Irish or Luxembourg domicile remains the market standard for international distributors of Ucits funds. Aside from market recognition issues, Ireland and Luxembourg have a variety of commercial and structuring advantages. Both offer well-developed systems of law, including segregation of liability between sub-funds and fund structures capable of dealing with the complexities of retail and non-retail share classes and charging structures.</p>				
	Sally Wong	Chief executive	Hong Kong Investment Fund Association	Financial Times	17/01
	<p>"Asian markets have increasingly become the key drivers for growth from economic growth and from wealth management perspectives," says Ms Wong. "But while certain European jurisdictions, in particular Luxembourg and Dublin, have taken proactive steps to address this, we note that generally there isn't a structured process to engage these markets or to take into consideration the needs of these markets."</p>				

## FINANCIAL CENTRES MONITORING

## Germany:

**Deutsche Bank holt 300 Risikomanager nach Berlin**

Berliner Morgenpost. de, 30/01/11

<http://www.morgenpost.de/wirtschaft/article1528168/Deutsche-Bank-holt-300-Risikomanager-nach-Berlin.html>

Die Deutsche Bank baut ihr Engagement in Berlin deutlich aus: Nach Informationen von Morgenpost Online soll ein Expertenteam von zunächst 300 Risikomanagern künftig von Charlottenburg aus für den gesamten Deutsche-Bank-Konzern weltweit arbeiten.

Für die Hauptstadt ist das neue Team ein Coup, schließlich hätten diese Risikomanager praktisch überall auf der Welt angesiedelt werden können. Der zuständige Konzernvorstand Hugo Bänziger hat sich jedoch offensichtlich bewusst gegen große Finanzzentren wie Frankfurt, London oder New York entschieden, ebenso gegen Schwellenländer wie Indien, wo andere Investmentbanker gerne ordentlich qualifiziertes Personal zu günstigen Preisen suchen.

**Bund verschärft Kampf gegen Geldwäsche**

Handelsblatt, 28/01/11

<http://www.handelsblatt.com/politik/deutschland/schwarzgeld-bund-verschaerft-kampf-gegen-geldwaesche;2741773>

Nach Vorwürfen der EU-Kommission an die Deutschen, bei der Verfolgung von Geldwäsche-Delikten zu wenig zu unternehmen, sollen diese Verbrechen in Zukunft noch strenger gehandhabt werden. Ein entsprechender Gesetzesentwurf ist im Finanzministerium auf dem Weg.

**Auslandsbanken bleiben dem Finanzplatz Frankfurt treu**

Frankfurter Neue Presse, 19/01/11

[http://www.fnp.de/fnp/nachrichten/wirtschaft/auslandsbanken-bleiben-dem-finanzplatz-frankfurt-treu\\_rmn01.c.8599186.de.html](http://www.fnp.de/fnp/nachrichten/wirtschaft/auslandsbanken-bleiben-dem-finanzplatz-frankfurt-treu_rmn01.c.8599186.de.html)

Der Finanzplatz Frankfurt ist als relativer Gewinner aus der Krise hervorgegangen. Das ist das Ergebnis einer Studie der Landesbank Hessen-Thüringen. «Wir haben unser Profil gegenüber Paris geschärft», sagte Helaba-Chefvolkswirtin Gertrud Traud. Innerhalb Deutschlands sehen die Auslandsbanken Frankfurt in einer unangefochtenen Führungsposition und glauben, dass es den Vorsprung in den nächsten Jahren noch ausbauen kann. «Im grenzüberschreitenden Wettbewerb räumen die Befragten Frankfurt auch in Relation zu London gute Entwicklungschancen ein», ergänzte Stefan Winter, Chef des Verbands der Auslandsbanken in Deutschland.

## Switzerland:

**Is Swiss banking still the way to go for Private Banking?**

The Huffington Post.com, 23/01/11

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/william-meers/is-swiss-banking-still-th\\_b\\_812769.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/william-meers/is-swiss-banking-still-th_b_812769.html)

The complex financial world of Swiss Banking is far too extensive to examine in a brief article such as this one, however it is possible to introduce a few ideas, and render a few misconceptions regarding this misunderstood world redundant.

## FINANCIAL CENTRES MONITORING

## Austria:

## Österreich lüftet Bankgeheimnis für deutschen Fiskus

Die Presse.com, 23/01/11

[http://diepresse.com/home/wirtschaft/recht/627676/Oesterreich-lueftet-Bankgeheimnis-fuer-deutschen-Fiskus?\\_vl\\_backlink=/home/index.do](http://diepresse.com/home/wirtschaft/recht/627676/Oesterreich-lueftet-Bankgeheimnis-fuer-deutschen-Fiskus?_vl_backlink=/home/index.do)

Vorige Woche wurde das Revisionsprotokoll zum deutsch-österreichischen Doppelbesteuerungsabkommen (DBA) veröffentlicht, mit dem das österreichische Bankgeheimnis für die deutschen Steuerbehörden gelockert wird. Die Flucht von Deutschen vor dem eigenen Fiskus wird damit erschwert. Die neue Öffnung entspricht dem OECD-Standard für Transparenz und effektiven Informationsaustausch in Steuersachen. Zum Inkrafttreten fehlt noch die Beschlussfassung durch die beiden Parlamente.

## Ireland:

## Cloud Computing Industry can create jobs and restore competitiveness - Goodbody Economic Impact report

IDA Ireland, 24/01/11

<http://www.idaireland.com/news-media/press-releases/cloud-computing-industry/index.xml>

Ireland has the opportunity to create jobs and help restore competitiveness if it moves quickly to establish Ireland as a Global Cloud Computing Centre of Excellence, according to a report commissioned by Microsoft Ireland and compiled by Goodbody Economic Consultants published today. Making this move would enable Ireland to capture a disproportionately large share of the global Cloud Computing market estimated to be worth €40 billion by 2014. The findings are contained in the report entitled Ireland's Competitiveness and Jobs Opportunity: Cloud Computing.

## UK:

## Are we having funds yet?

The Lawyer, 17/01/11

<http://www.thelawyer.com/are-we-having-funds-yet?/1006614.article>

The UK has struggled to make its mark in the competitive world of Ucits funds. Stuart Martin argues the case for the jurisdiction.

## U.K. cancels sukuk, focus on economic growth

Bloomberg, 16/01/11

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-16/u-k-cancels-sukuk-focus-on-economic-growth-islamic-finance.html>

The U.K., Europe's largest market for Shariah-compliant financial products and services, canceled what would have been the first sale of Islamic bonds by a Western federal government as issues fell 15 percent in 2010.

"The U.K. government has decided not to issue sovereign sukuk because it is judged not to provide value for money," a spokesman for the U.K. Treasury in London, said in an e-mailed response to questions Jan. 13. "It will keep the situation under review." The Treasury has been mulling the sale of Islamic bonds denominated in pounds since at least April 2007.

## FINANCIAL CENTRES MONITORING

## Hong Kong:

## Hong Kong als Drehscheibe in Asien

e-fundresearch.com, 25/01/11

<http://at.e-fundresearch.com/article.php?aID=15519>

Asien dominiert seit Jahren die Investmentthemen und Hong Kong ist mit seiner flexiblen Wirtschaftspolitik besonders gut positioniert. Mehr als 1.700 Teilnehmer des Asian Financial Forums 2011 aus 30 Ländern diskutierten die Herausforderungen und Chancen, die Asien bietet.

## Analysts debate Singapore banks vs. Hong Kong lenders

MarketWatch, 17/01/11

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/bank-analysts-debate-singapore-vs-hong-kong-2011-01-17>

Hong Kong-listed bank stocks broadly outperformed those of Singapore lenders last year, but analysts are divided over whether the roles will reverse in 2011. Analysts at UBS favored Singapore financials, saying in a note that: "It's time to back a different city in 2011."

They've concluded that greater upside potential exists in 2011 for Singapore laggards than for star 2010 Hong Kong performers.

## China:

## China lässt Ausländer an eigenen Börsen investieren

Handelsblatt, 18/01/11

<http://www.handelsblatt.com/finanzen/anlagestrategie/marktliberalisierung-china-laesst-auslaender-an-eigenen-boersen-investieren;2733599>

Um die chinesischen Aktienmärkte stand bisher eine chinesische Mauer. Nur wenige, handverlesene Investoren aus dem Ausland durften an den Märkten Shanghai und Shenzhen mitmischen. Das ändert sich jetzt - die Regierung öffnet die Börsen für wesentlich breitere Anlegerschichten.

## Dubai:

## Dubai exports Islamic Finance to Europe

zawya, 25/01/11

<http://www.zawya.com/Story.cfm/sidZAWYA20110125105229/Dubai%20Exports%20Islamic%20Finance%20to%20Europe>

While the conventional financial system is recovering from the fallout of the international financial crisis Islamic finance on the other hand is growing rapidly. Statistics show that global Islamic banking assets have grown approximately 10% per annum from the mid 1990s when they were about US\$150 billion.

## DIFC hosts 17% more authorised firms in 2010

Khaleej Times, 25/01/11

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/biz/inside.asp?xfile=/data/business/2011/January/business\\_January423.xml&section=business](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/biz/inside.asp?xfile=/data/business/2011/January/business_January423.xml&section=business)

The Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) continues to build on its reputation as the leading financial hub in the region, despite the challenges posed by the global financial crisis on the domestic economy.

The number of Authorised Firms (AFs) in the DIFC grew throughout the global financial crisis despite the strained economic and financial conditions in the emirate, the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) said in its business plan for 2011-12. The DFSA is the independent regulator of financial and ancillary services conducted in or from the DIFC - a purpose-built financial free-zone in Dubai.