

RELEVANT NEWS FOR THE LUX FINANCIAL CENTRE

29 November:

According to EU Commission's latest economic forecasts, every single EU member state will record positive economic growth in 2012, but debt and deficit problems will still weigh heavily on the bloc. Regarding Luxembourg, the recession has been severe but the recovery is relatively robust as well.

The UK Treasury launches a consultation into taxation of foreign profits (multinationals). The Treasury will restrict its right to impose tax on profits earned in low tax jurisdictions, as part of a drive to make the UK "the most competitive corporate tax system in the G20".

28 November:

The EU ministers approve an 85bn Euro rescue package for Ireland and outline a permanent stability mechanism to deal with member state bailouts and sovereign bond holders.

In a referendum, 59 % of Swiss voters reject a proposal to increase the marginal rate of tax to 22% on incomes above 187 000 EUR and to impose a 0.5% levy on taxable wealth above 2 mio CHF.

24 November:

Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament and Olivier Chastel, Belgium's State Secretary for European Affairs, sign into law the financial supervision package, which will establish new oversight authorities of banks' operations, securities markets and insurance companies.

23 November:

The EU Code of Conduct for Taxation Group met to give further consideration to the Jersey 0/10 tax regime. The commission's view is that Jersey's anti-avoidance measure falls within the definition of business taxation rather than personal taxation, that it is discriminatory and therefore in conflict with the Code.

22 November:

According to Michel Barnier, EU Internal Market Commissioner, no member state will escape the European Union's stringent curbs on excessive bank pay.

Ireland agrees to EU/ International Monetary Fund rescue package.

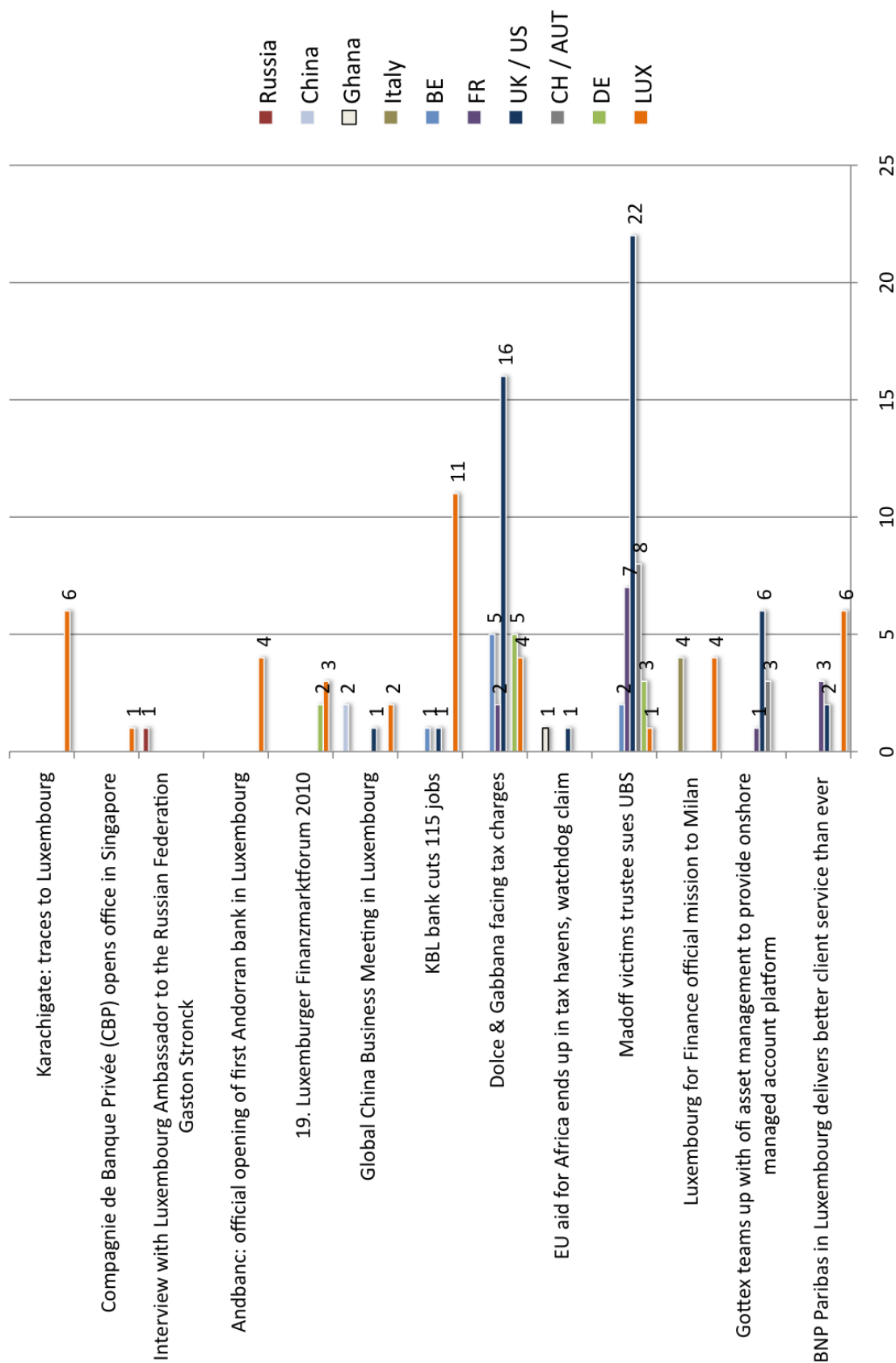
18 November:

The ECOFIN gives its green light to the EU framework for financial supervision and is briefed by the presidency on work underway on a draft directive on administrative cooperation in the field of direct taxation. The presidency's aim is to reach political agreement on the text at its meeting on 7th December.

The US Federal Reserve issues new capital action guidelines for evaluating proposals by large bank holding companies to increase dividend payments, repurchase or redeem stock. The new guidelines for 2011 put forward criteria covering a firm's ability to absorb losses over two years under different scenarios, expectations on new Basel III capital requirements, and where institutions plan to repay US government investments.

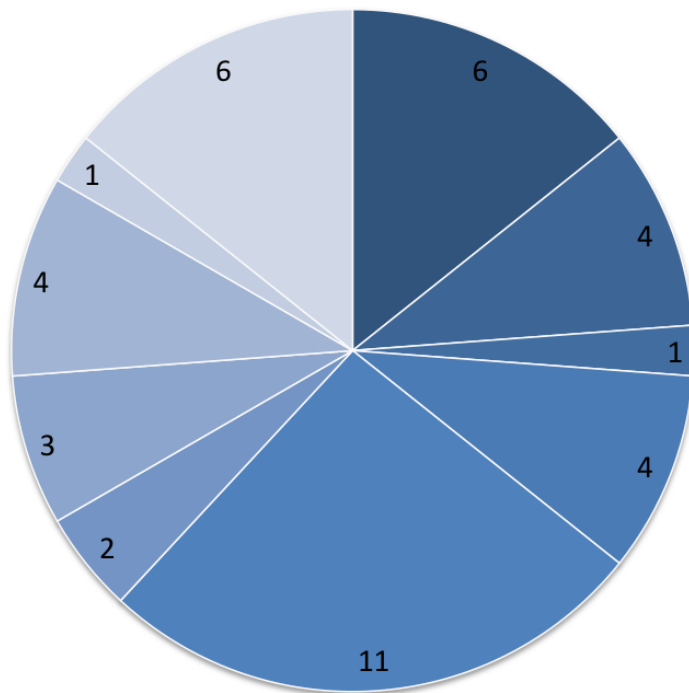
OECD Economic Outlook: activities in the OECD countries will gradually pick up steam over the coming two years but the recovery will be uneven and employment will remain high.

FINANCIAL CENTRE: MEDIA COVERAGE (by number of articles)



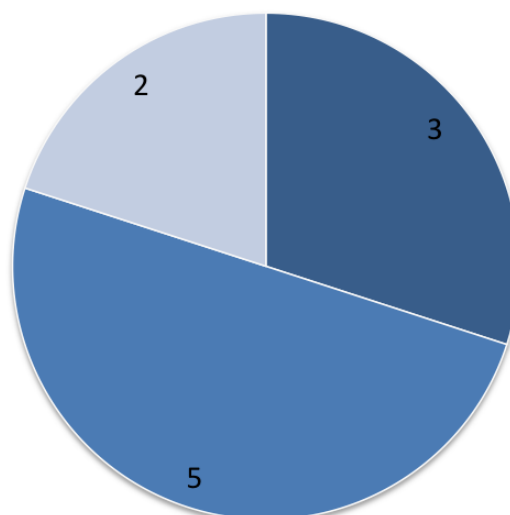
FINANCIAL CENTRE: COVERAGE BY COUNTRY (by number of articles)

LUX



- BNP Paribas in Luxembourg delivers better client service than ever
- Luxembourg for Finance official mission to Milan
- Madoff victims trustee sues UBS
- Dolce & Gabbana facing tax charges
- KBL bank cuts 115 jobs
- Global China Business Meeting in Luxembourg
- 19. Luxemburger Finanzmarktforum 2010
- Andbanc: official opening of first Andorran bank in Luxembourg
- Compagnie de Banque Privée (CBP) opens office in Singapore
- Karachigate: traces to Luxembourg

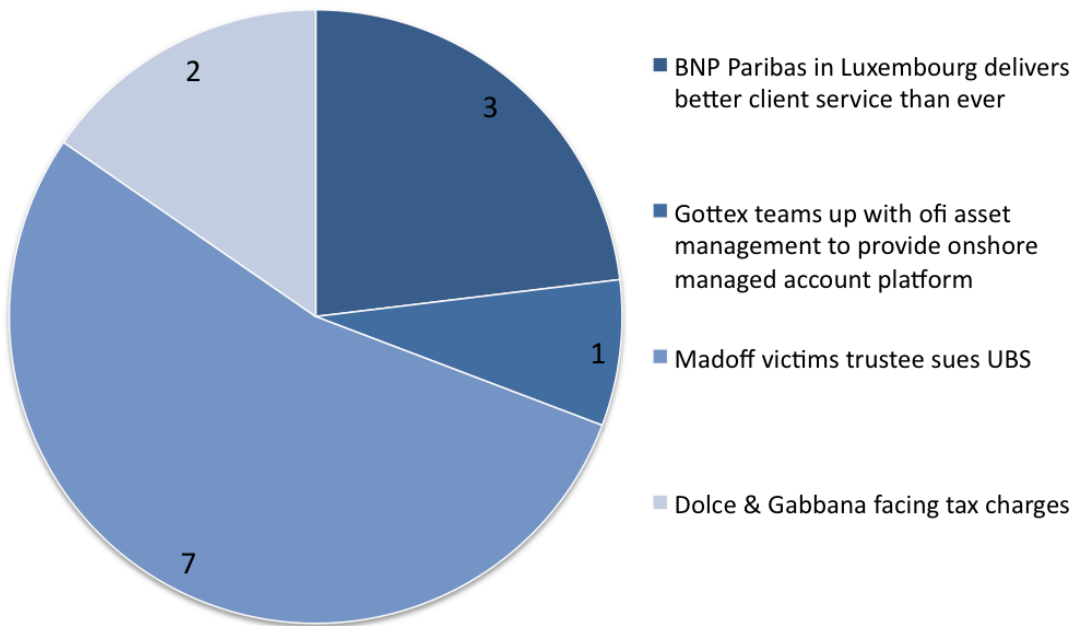
DE



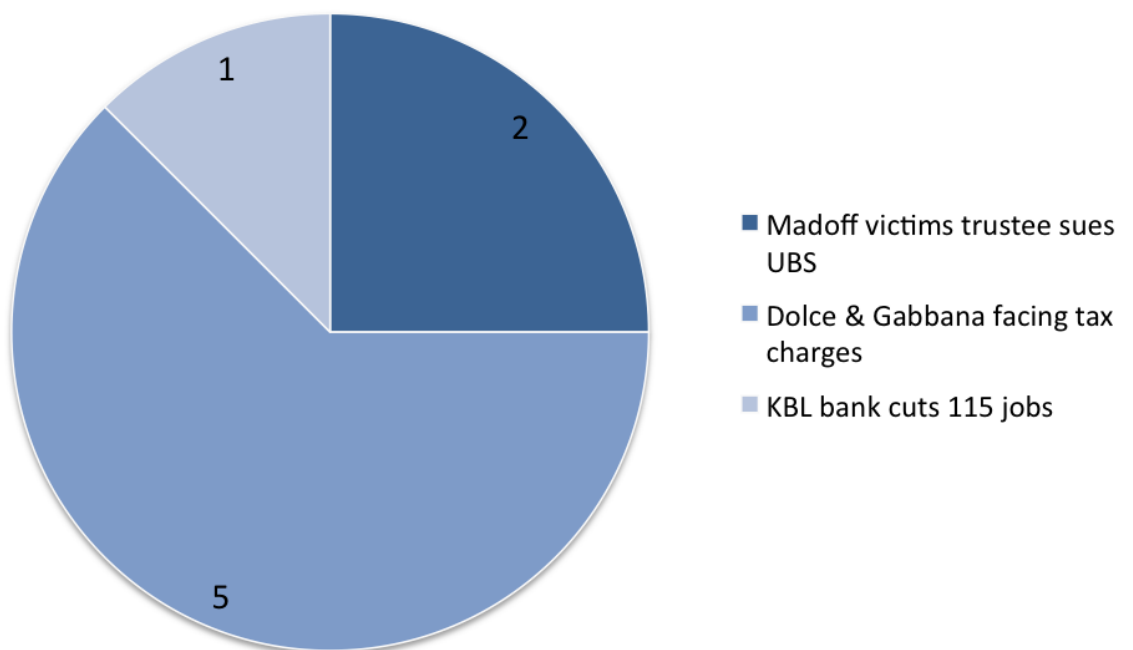
- Madoff victims trustee sues UBS
- Dolce & Gabbana facing tax charges
- 19. Luxemburger Finanzmarktforum 2010

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

FR

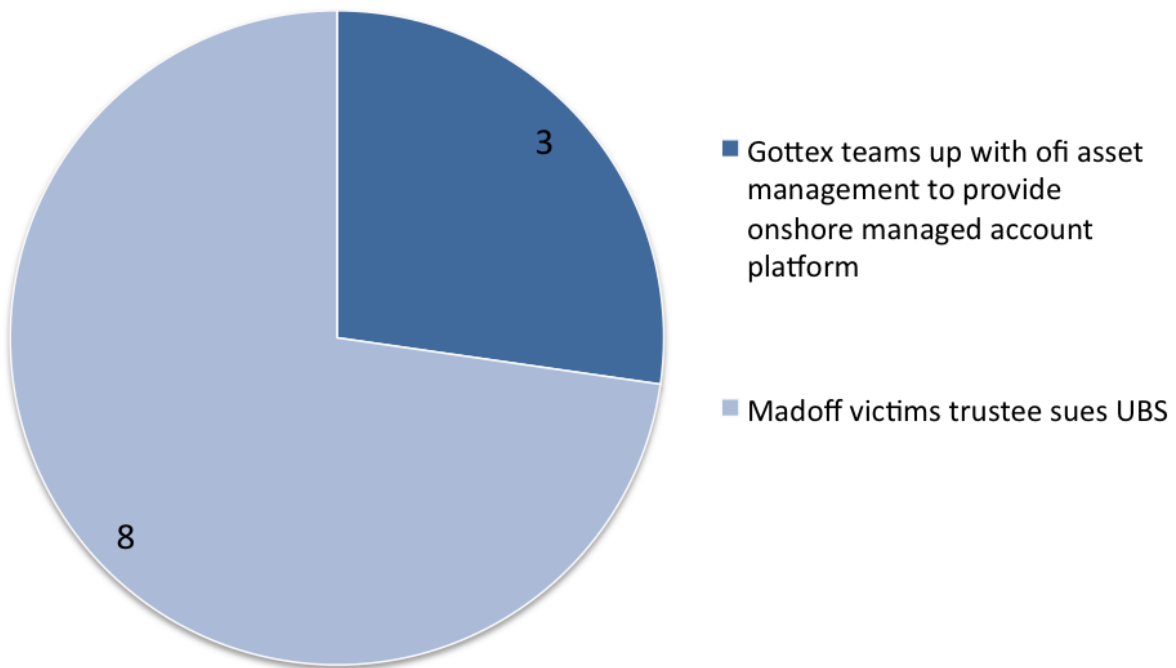


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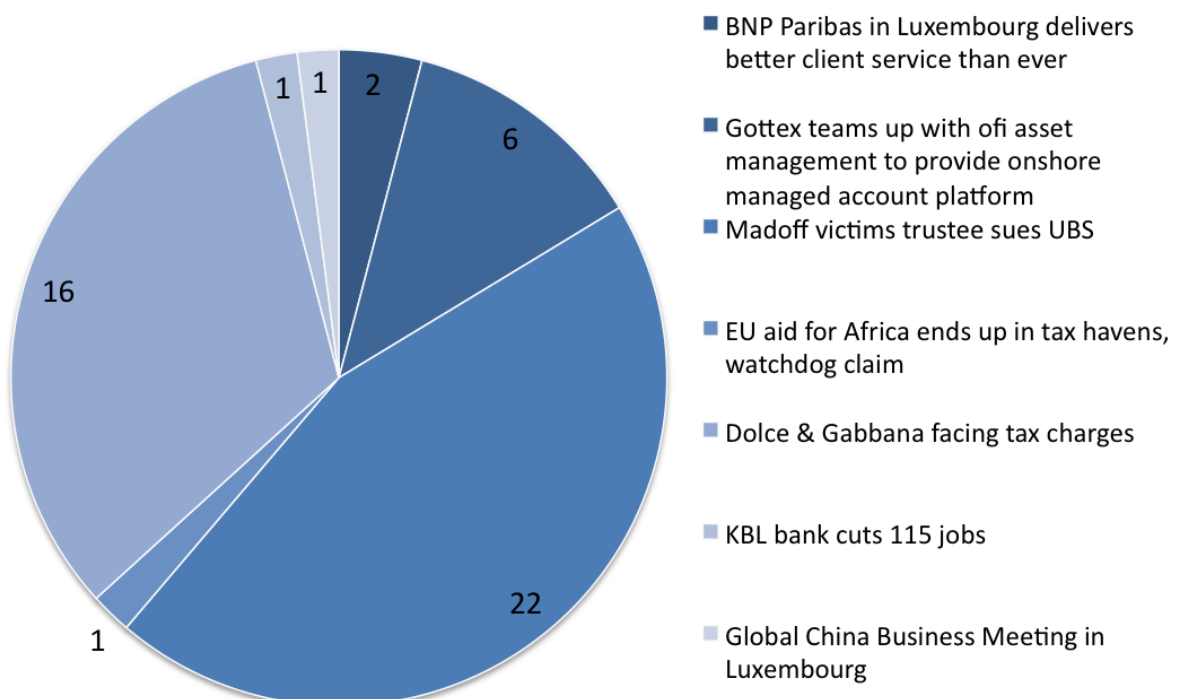


FINANCIAL CENTRE: COVERAGE BY COUNTRY (by number of articles)

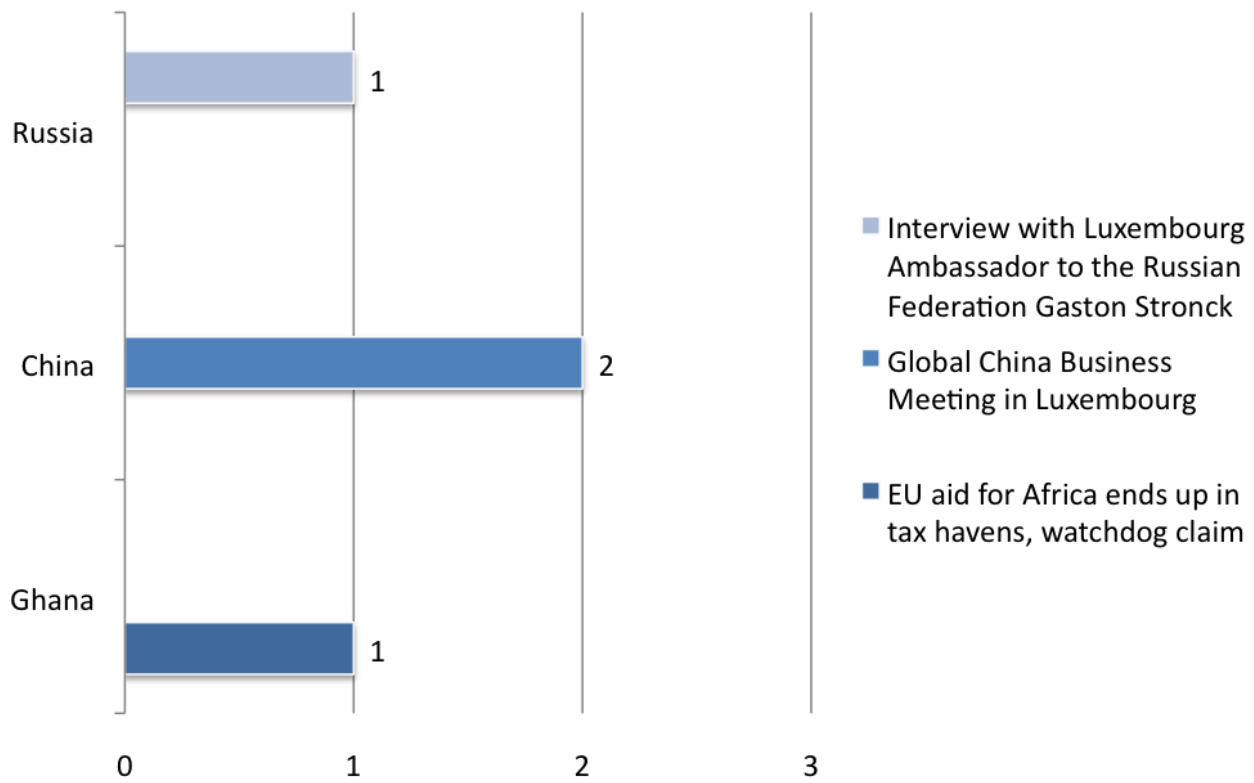
CH / AUT



UK / US



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



STATEMENTS ABOUT LUXEMBOURG

	Name	Position	Organisation	Source	Date
Investment Funds	Andreas Wölfl	CEO	Minerva	Die Presse	25/11
	Gespannt kann man sein, was die heimischen Bankkonzerne machen, die etwa in Osteuropa gute Vertriebsnetze haben, Man kann annehmen, dass sie in Österreich keine Fonds mehr auflegen werden, um sie in Osteuropa zu vertreiben. Vielmehr könnten sie ihren internationalen Kunden die Fonds von anderen Standorten wie Luxemburg anbieten.				
	Mark Hoban	Financial Secretary to the Treasury	UK Government	Professional Pensions	24/11
Countries such as Ireland and Luxembourg which have already established tax transparent vehicles had gained a competitive advantage that lead to the establishment of centres of asset management activity outside the UK.					
Image	Giovanni Legorano	Journalist	FT	FT fund management	22/11
	In the race to provide the favourable environment to set a pan-European pension scheme Ireland, Belgium and Luxembourg stand out.				
	Gaston Stronck	Luxembourg Ambassador to the RF	LUX Government	The Voice of Russia	29/11
Russian companies and Russian individuals use Luxembourg as a platform for doing financial business. We are number two worldwide for investment funds. It is not a surprise that last year we were investing 9 billion euro in Russia, while for all-time investments in Russia we are number three with 28 billion euro. The Russian market is an important one for us, we need to develop it.					

FINANCIAL CENTRES MONITORING

Luxembourg:

"Russia is able to find its own way" - Luxembourg Ambassador to RF

The Voice of Russia, 29/11/10

<http://english.ruvr.ru/2010/11/29/35877712.html>

> Interview with Gaston Stronck

Le private banking luxembourgeois change de peau

L'Echo, 24/11/10

<http://bit.ly/fih5hc>

La remise en cause du secret bancaire rebat les cartes du secteur. Le modèle d'affaires des banques privées doit évoluer vers le haut de gamme et les services transparents.

Le Luxembourg veut être une porte vers l'Europe pour les entreprises chinoises

Chine Informations, 23/11/10

http://www.chine-informations.com/actualite/le-luxembourg-veut-etre-une-porte-vers-europe-pour-les-entreprises_25200.html

Le Luxembourg veut devenir une porte d'entrée pour les entreprises chinoises pour explorer les marchés de l'Union européenne (UE), a déclaré mardi le principal responsable économique du pays.

Les relations économiques entre la Chine et le Luxembourg deviennent "même plus fortes car les Chinois ont découvert que le Luxembourg pouvait être leur possible centre et possible porte d'entrée pour le marché interne de l'UE", a déclaré le ministre de l'Economie et du Commerce extérieur, Jeannot Krecke, dans une interview accordée à Xinhua en marge de la 6ème Réunion globale du business chinois.

Obama ehrt Luxemburger Investmentfonds

Tageblatt, 19/11/10

<http://www.tageblatt.lu/index.php/economie/47338.html>

Ein Luxemburger Mikrofinanz-Investmentfonds ist am G20-Treffen in Seoul von US-Präsident Barak Obama ausgezeichnet worden. Der in Luxemburg notierte „European Fund of Southeast Europe“ (EFSE), der vor fünf Jahren initiiert wurde, hat auf dem G20-Treffen in Seoul den ersten Preis gewonnen. Das teilten Oppenheim Asset Management, KfW und Finance in Motion in einer gemeinsamen Pressemeldung mit.

Lux Ucits platform nears launch of first funds

HFMWeek, 17/11/10

<http://www.hfmweek.com/news/604572/lux-ucits-platform-nears-launch-of-first-funds.shtml>

The launch of Luxembourg Financial Group's (LFG) new Ucits umbrella, the Luxembourg Alternatives Ucits Platform (LAUP), is edging closer, with the first fund expected to launch at the end of the month, a senior LFG executive told HFMWeek.

Fonds: le Luxembourg pourrait profiter de la crise irlandaise

paperJam, 16/11/10

<http://bit.ly/iboXem>

Le Luxembourg va-t-il profiter de la crise irlandaise et de la perte de confiance des investisseurs envers Dublin, son grand rival dans l'industrie des fonds?

Un tel scénario semble s'amorcer à partir du Chili. Depuis le mois dernier, en effet, le régulateur des fonds de pension de ce pays a placé l'Irlande sous surveillance. Motif: l'agence de notation Fitch a dégradé la note de la dette souveraine irlandaise de AA- à A+. Or, les textes locaux interdisent aux fonds de retraite d'investir dans des pays dont le rating est inférieur à AA-.

FINANCIAL CENTRES MONITORING

Ireland:

Steuerparadies in Gefahr

Welt Online, 28/11/10

<http://www.welt.de/print/wams/wirtschaft/article11263389/Steuerparadies-in-Gefahr.html>

Unternehmen schätzen Irland wegen der niedrigen Steuern. Nur deswegen sind viele Firmen überhaupt dort. Doch das Privileg wackelt - und damit das irische Wirtschaftswunder.

Ireland presses on with Islamic finance tax neutrality laws

arabnews.com, 21/11/10

<http://arabnews.com/economy/article197574.ece>

The Irish banking system may be beleaguered and awaiting an imminent bail out from the eurozone countries through the European Central Bank, but the Irish Revenue and Customs is pressing ahead with its tax neutrality regime to facilitate the introduction of Islamic financial transactions in the country.

UK:

Better for Britain to follow international rules on bank bonuses, says Chancellor George Osborne

The Telegraph, 30/11/10

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/banksandfinance/8152316/Better-for-Britain-to-follow-international-rules-on-bank-bonuses-says-Chancellor-George-Osborne.html>

The Chancellor George Osborne has conceded that it would be "better for Britain" to stick to international rules on regulating bank bonuses rather than impose its own restrictions. Mr Osborne said he was prepared to let European legislators take the lead on areas such as disclosure in a move that is likely to be welcomed by the City but anger some Liberal Democrats.

UK government to launch tax-transparent vehicle

FT Adviser, 29/11/10

<http://www.ftadviser.com/InvestmentAdviser/Investments/News/article/20101129/f60a0896-f7d7-11df-8003-00144f2af8e8/UK-government-to-launch-taxtransparent-vehicle.jsp>

Tax-transparent vehicles will launch in the UK in a bid to keep the local market competitive in Europe, according to the Financial Secretary to the Treasury Mark Hoban MP. He said the UK will launch a new authorised fund regime for a tax transparent vehicle next year, helping firms take advantage of one of the opportunities Uciits IV presents.

Une régulation européenne au service de la City ?

Le Monde, 22/11/10

http://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2010/11/22/une-regulation-europeenne-au-service-de-la-city_1443285_3232.html

La proposition de directive AIFM (Alternative Investment Fund Manager), a été finalement votée par le Parlement européen le 11 novembre. Face à la crise, la directive désigne formellement un bouc émissaire, les fonds spéculatifs, dont, cependant, il n'accroît pas la surveillance, mais, au contraire, élimine, dans les faits, les possibilités de contrôle à leur égard. (...) La directive ne constitue pas un pas en avant dans la création d'un espace financier européen. Au contraire, la directive étend le niveau national d'accréditation de ces fonds, en permettant aux organismes domiciliés dans un Etat membre d'avoir, sans autorisation de chaque autorité nationale, accès à l'ensemble des territoires nationaux composant l'UE. A l'inverse de l'effet annoncé, le texte renforce la nation dominante au niveau financier et, ainsi, la position de la City londonienne qui gère la plupart des fonds spéculatifs situés sur le sol européen.

FINANCIAL CENTRES MONITORING

Austria:

"Schwerer Schaden für Finanzplatz Wien"

Die Presse.com, 18/11/10

http://diepresse.com/home/wirtschaft/boerse/611524/Schwerer-Schaden-fuer-Finanzplatz-Wien?direct=611557&_vl_backlink=/home/wirtschaft/index.do&selChannel=

Neue Steuern hat niemand gerne. Aber es gibt wenige Steuermaßnahmen, die auf so einhellige Ablehnung bei den Betroffenen stoßen, wie die neue Aktien-KESt, die ab Anfang kommenden Jahres gelten soll (wahrscheinlich wird sich das nur noch rückwirkend ausgeben) und alle Vermögenszuwächse bei Aktien, Anleihen, Fonds et cetera mit 25Prozent besteuern wird: Unsinnig, kapitalmarktschädlich, schwer administrierbar sind noch die mildesten Attribute, die man zu hören bekommt.

Switzerland:

Geschrumpfte Bankdepots

NZZ Online, 30/11/10

http://www.nzz.ch/nachrichten/wirtschaft/aktuell/geschrumpfte_bankdepots_1.8458366.html

Wie gut verkraftet der Bankenplatz Schweiz die Verunsicherung ausländischer Kunden in Sachen Bankgeheimnis und Steuern? Branchenvertreter und externe Berater neigen in der Regel zu halbwegs beruhigenden Voten. Eine typische Einschätzung geht etwa so: Es werde zwar Geldabflüsse geben, und einige kleinere Institute könnten unter besonderen Druck geraten, doch alles in allem werde die Branche dank ihrer Dienstleistungsqualität und dank aussereuropäischem Wachstum gut über die Runden kommen.

Voters reject another tax on the rich

WSJ Blogs, 29/11/10

<http://blogs.wsj.com/wealth/2010/11/29/voters-reject-another-tax-on-the-rich/>

Voters in Switzerland on Sunday rejected a measure that would have introduced a uniform tax rate on the wealthy across all of the country's 28 Cantons, or states. Currently, the Cantons compete against each other for lower rates to attract rich residents and such celebrities as Ms. Turner and Mr. Collins.

Swiss gain from offshore company reshuffl

swissinfo.ch, 16/11/10

http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/business/Swiss_gain_from_offshore_company_reshuffle.html?cid=28805412

Switzerland has benefited from a United States clampdown on tax havens by attracting a string of companies from Bermuda and the Cayman Island.

FINANCIAL CENTRES MONITORING

Singapore:

Singapore remains to be the best financial investment center

pressreleasecentre.com, 17/11/10

<http://www.pressreleasecentre.com/singapore-remains-to-be-the-best-financial-investment-center-hsbc-research-24463/>

Many years ago, globalization benefited and was enjoyed mostly by merchants in Europe, the Middle East and North America, with Asia as a minor player. Nonetheless, as 21st century opens, the trade route begins to make a detour with Asia having more voyages than the rest of the world.

In the latest research of HSBC, the last five years were characterized by export and import business at its highest levels, not in the West, but in the East, particularly in Singapore—which has the second largest and busiest port in the world—Hong Kong and China.

Singapur badet in Milliarden

Handelszeitung, 19/11/10

http://www.handelszeitung.ch/artikel/Finanz-Singapur-badet-in-Milliarden_815266.html

Immer mehr europäische Kunden ziehen ihr Geld aus der Schweiz ab ? und finden attraktive Alternativen in Fernost. Die dortigen Finanzzentren locken mit attraktiven Angeboten.

Singapore eyes big role in Islamic finance

arabnews.com, 19/11/10

<http://arabnews.com/economy/islamicfinance/article202777.ece>

Is the so-called impressive growth of Islamic finance in Asia more to do with hype than reality? Leaving aside the core markets of Malaysia and perhaps Brunei, where most of the recent developments in Islamic banking have been confined, nothing much is happening in the rest of Asia. At best it is work in progress with governments and regulators either consulting or reviewing existing legislation to see how best tax neutrality and other measures can be introduced for the facilitation of Islamic financial products.

Hong Kong:

New campaign promotes Hong Kong as international finance centre

The Telegraph, 21/11/10

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/offshorefinance/8146863/New-campaign-promotes-Hong-Kong-as-international-finance-centre.html>

The campaign, called "Hong Kong: China's global financial centre", will see officials travel to various countries and companies around the world as they try to persuade foreign firms to establish themselves in Hong Kong.

As European and American markets face increasingly tight regulation of their financial services, Hong Kong hopes to increase its popularity as an asset management centre and offshore trading hub for China's currency, the yuan.

Shanghai:

Shanghai va développer son marché des fusions-acquisition

french.peopledaily.com, 29/11/10

<http://french.peopledaily.com.cn/Economie/7214404.html>

Le gouvernement local est en train d'agir pour renforcer son marché des fusions-acquisitions, une action en concordance avec l'ambition de Shanghai de devenir un pôle financier mondial d'ici 2020.

La ville va, d'abord, faire avancer activement la construction de son marché financier et des services auxiliaires liés aux fusions-acquisitions, en particulier les agents qui facilitent les accords, afin d'aider ces activités, a déclaré le 25 novembre le Vice-maire de Shanghai, Tu Guangshao.

FINANCIAL CENTRES MONITORING

Middle East:

Middle East remains easiest region to pay taxes

AMEinfo, 23/11/10

<http://www.ameinfo.com/249521.html>

The Middle East has fewer, and less complex, tax laws in the world, according to Paying Taxes 2011, an annual report issued by PwC, the World Bank, and IFC. Within the global rankings, Qatar remains the 2nd easiest country to pay tax globally, for the second year running. All six GCC states fall within the top 14.

Arab economies must become more transparent

gulfnews.com, 16/11/10

<http://gulfnews.com/business/general/arab-economies-must-become-more-transparent-1.712810>

Dubai: Arab economies must become more transparent and implement corporate governance models, but "there is no one recipe," Dr Nasser Saidi, Chief Economist and Head of External Relations at the Dubai International Financial Centre Authority (DIFCA), said.

The variations in Arab economic structures and the diversity of companies in these economies make it difficult to create one role model to implement the already-agreed on principles of good governance.

Qatar Financial Centre comes into its own

The National, 21/11/10

<http://www.thenational.ae/business/banking/qatar-financial-centre-comes-into-its-own>

The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) has started aggressively pursuing asset management and insurance companies in its quest to rival Dubai as a hub for the region.

Shashank Srivastava, the acting chief executive of the QFC Authority, said the centre was in the "execution phase" of a strategy to attract niche industries to set up in Doha.

Qatar report from the Financial Times

FT.com, 23/11/10

<http://www.ft.com/reports/qatar-2010>**Bahrain's IIFM plans to issue global guidelines for sukuk**

arabianbusiness.com, 22/11/10

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/bahrain-s-iifm-plans-issue-global-guidelines-for-sukuk-363283.html>

The International Islamic Financial Market, a Bahrain-based agency seeking to set standards for Islamic securities, may issue global guidelines in the next 12 to 18 months to facilitate the sale of sukuk, an official said.