

BAFT Headlines

BAFT Advances Global Advocacy on CRD VI and Basel "Endgame"

Successful meetings were held in Brussels and Paris in November to advance advocacy on the National Transposition of Article 21c - CRD VI. Additional follow-up meetings were held and are being scheduled as part of our national level advocacy campaign. The campaign also includes outreach and engagement of corporate treasurers in Europe, and most recently, engagement with ICC.

Additionally, BAFT has convened the U.S. Basel working/rapid reaction group in anticipation of the U.S. issuing its "Basel Endgame" proposal implementing the final tranches of the Basel III Framework. BAFT has engaged in advocacy with the three main regulatory bodies in charge of the rulemaking process.

Digital Trade Momentum Builds as UCC Adoption Expands in the U.S.

BAFT continues to advocate for the adoption of UCC amendments in the U.S. Most recently through BAFT advocacy, NY officially became the 33rd US state to enact the amendments. Eight of the 17 remaining states currently have legislation pending to achieve UCC adoption with others expected to follow. BAFT is in discussion with the ICC DSI on launching a market survey to measure the adoption of digitalization in trade within the financial community.

Member Roundtables Address Rapidly Evolving Global Tariff Landscape

BAFT continues to hold bi-weekly roundtables for members and special guests to discuss the implications of the ever-evolving tariff landscape. Our panel of experts include legal, academic and policy professionals outlining the latest implications including court filings, policy changes and practical business adjustments. Members share observations, changes to client behavior, and operational and risk concerns under Chatham House Rules. The group recently agreed to extend its mandate through the end of June 2026. Interested parties should contact Craig Weeks at cweeks@baft.org.



Committee & Council Updates

New BAFT Working Group Develops Best Practices for Sanctions-Affected Transactions

BAFT recently launched a new working group to develop a best practices document for handling in flight transactions impacted by sanctions. The group will provide guidance on how to manage internal and external factors impacting those transaction. This has also led to a new and productive relationship with elements of OFAC with resulting opportunities for BAFT members to learn about and interact with that regulator.

BAFT Working Group Examines the Future of AI in Transaction Banking

A BAFT working group is working on a white paper looking at the use of artificial intelligence in transaction banking. The paper will examine both use cases and policy implications, how it is being scaled and other transaction banking concerns. Interested parties should contact Andy Price at aprice@baft.org.

Regional Bank Council Explores SWIFT RMA Directory to Support Trade Finance

A working group within the Regional Bank Council continues to discuss the initiative to develop an RMA directory of the participating banks to facilitate trade confirmations. Conversations have also included the IFC which has RMAs of the 260 emerging and developing markets issuing banks. IFC also engages with over one thousand confirming banks that are part of its program, which also could be leveraged. Interested parties should contact Daniel Pinho at dpinho@baft.org.

Europe Country Bank Council Established

BAFT has launched a new Europe Country Banks Council, which will serve as an additional vehicle for engagement for banks too small to engage through the Europe Council. The launch meeting was held on September 9 and follow-up meeting on December 16. They are preparing for an in-person meeting in April 2026. One initiative being explored is an exchange program for human talent. Interested parties should contact Carleen Hadley at chadley@baft.org.

Women in Transaction Banking Expands to Kenya & Canada

Women in Transaction Banking (WTB) will be debuting its networking briefings in two new countries: Kenya and Canada. These briefings are free events featuring thought leadership sessions followed by a networking event. Both are invite-only with limited seats. *Advance RSVP is required.*

- May 14: Nairobi, Kenya (Hosted by TDB Group & Sponsored by Absa)
- June 4: Toronto, Canada (Hosted by Deloitte)

Contact Deepa Sinha at dsinha@baft.org if you are interested in attending.

Congratulations to Our New Regional Co-Chairs

Rana Beydoun, Commercial Bank of Dubai, was re-elected as Council Co-chair, succeeding Ayaz Kamrani, First Abu Dhabi Bank and will serve alongside Oscar Sanz-Paris, CQUR Bank.



May Wafa, JP Morgan, was elected as Council Co-chair to serve alongside Alice Azevedo, Banco de Fomento Angola.





[Learn more](#) about BAFT's leadership councils and committees, which bring members together across regions and specialties to collaborate on industry issues, advance advocacy, and shape key trade and payments initiatives.

Future Leaders

Industry Feedback Requested on Several White Papers to be Presented at the Global Annual Meeting

The Future Leaders class of 2026 program is underway. As part of their projects, several teams are seeking industry feedback through the following short surveys:



Agentic AI Use Cases in Transaction Banking:

Exploring where autonomous AI agents can deliver near-term value across payments, trade, liquidity, compliance, and client servicing. [Take survey.](#)

The Future Banker: Examining how technology, client expectations, regulation, alongside Oscar Sanz-Paris, CQUR Bank.



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The Future Banker: Examining how technology, client expectations, regulation, sustainability priorities, and fintech competition are reshaping the role and skillset of transaction banking professionals. [Take survey.](#)

Future of Trade and Payments

The 2026 BAFT International Trade & Payments Conference, held February 3-5, in Jersey City, convened 355 attendees from 150 companies across 18 countries. Across 28 sessions and 93 speakers, participants explored geopolitical uncertainty, tariff pressures and rapid technological change, from instant payments and AI to digital assets and financial crime. Discussions highlighted how banks are adapting to both macro disruption and ongoing innovation. [Read full recap.](#)



Europe Forum Brings Global Transaction Banking Community Together

The 2026 BAFT Europe Forum brought together 433 attendees from 138 companies across 29 countries for three days of discussion on key issues shaping transaction banking. With 16 sessions and 56 speakers, the program covered regulatory developments, financial crime, payments innovation and geopolitical shifts impacting global trade. The forum provided a strong platform for collaboration, thought leadership and networking across the European market.



Education & Training

New Compliance Certificates and Financial Crime Courses Now Available

BAFT has officially launched two new certificate programs, the [Certificate in Transaction Banking Compliance \(CTBC\)](#) and the [Certificate in Financial Crime in Trade \(CFCT\)](#), along with more than [30 on-demand courses](#) covering key financial crime and compliance topics. Designed to address real-world risks across trade, payments and transaction banking, the programs provide practical learning for professionals at different career stages, from foundational awareness of AML, sanctions and trade-based money laundering to advanced expertise in detecting and preventing financial crime in global trade.

BAFT in the News

From a question to a global movement: The rise of BAFT Women in Transaction Banking

[Trade Finance Global]: BAFT Women in Transaction Banking (WTB) was created to address the absence of a unified platform supporting women across trade and payments within transaction banking. The initiative focuses on networking, education, mentorship and public speaking to promote women's professional growth and visibility in the industry. Since its launch, WTB has expanded globally, hosting numerous events and establishing a cross-institutional mentorship program to strengthen female representation in senior roles. [Read full story.](#)



Instant payments, instant risks: Banks' perspectives in the payments revolution

[Trade Finance Global]: Instant payments are



transforming transaction banking by compressing settlement cycles. Banks face mounting pressures to overhaul liquidity management, shift to 24/7 continuous settlement, and balance seamless payments with safeguards against fraud and bank runs. Stricter regulation, real-time FX risk and rising fraud threats mean more is demanded within instant payments demand advanced technology. [Read full story.](#)



ECI Underscores Women's Shift from Participation to Strategic Leadership at 2026 BAFT MENA Forum

[Middle East News 247]: Speaking at a panel discussion titled 'From Inclusion to Influence: Women Driving Corporate Transformation in MENA,' at 2026 BAFT MENA Forum, Yasmin Bahgat emphasized that this shift reflects a broader regional ambition to build future-ready, inclusive, and resilient economies, where leadership is defined by capability, perspective and long-term value creation. [Read full story.](#)



AI Isn't the Experiment Anymore. Governance and Collaboration Are.

[Quantifind]: At the 2026 BAFT International Trade & Payment Conference, a panel on AI in Compliance and Fraud Detection brought together leaders from across the payments and risk ecosystem. The discussion was moderated by Ryan Lastra, Senior Vice President of Global Payments and Trade at BNY, and featured Teresa Buechner, VP of Strategic Client Partnerships at Quantifind, alongside Summer Francisco, Senior Vice President of Domestic Payments at BNY. [Read full story.](#)



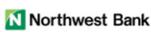
Membership Updates

Have You Taken Advantage of Your New BAFT Member Benefits?

BAFT has expanded its suite of member benefits with new offers designed to support your professional growth and industry insight. Members can now enjoy a 20% discount on an annual subscription to The Banker and gain complimentary access to BCR's World Supply Chain Finance Report, World Factoring Yearbook and World Receivables Finance Technology Report. In addition, newly onboarded members will receive exclusive discounts on BAFT training courses to help accelerate their learning from day one. [Learn more about member benefits.](#)

Discover how BAFT membership connects you to a global network of transaction banking leaders from 300+ organizations spanning 60+ countries. [Contact membership@baft.org](mailto:membership@baft.org) to learn more.

Welcome to Our Newest Members



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National Press Building, 529 14th St NW, Suite #1280, Washington, DC 20045
baft.org | info@baft.org | +1 771 999 7495

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