FUNDS CONGRESS 2025

Key Highlights

carne Dechert LLP pwc

At a Glance

Hosted by Carne, Dechert and PwC, Funds Congress is the definitive gathering of fund managers and asset allocators. For over a decade, Funds Congress has united top executives from across asset management to address the industry's most pressing challenges and foster the exchange of innovative ideas.

In 2025, we welcomed

1,000
Attendees

70%
GP/LP Attendees

50%
C-Suite/MD/ Partner-Level

85%
Top 20 Global Asset Managers

10+
Jurisdictions Represented

Don't Just Take Our Word For It

"It remains the best fund event in London. In fact, the quality of the panels and discussions remain the best in Europe."

"Excellent, engaging and energetic speakers and a very on point agenda."

"Probably the most astutely focused conference in the whole calendar year."

"It is simply the best gathering of investment fund professionals in Europe."

"It's top quality and utterly relevant!"

"Very crunchy, never bored."

"Gets you up to date with the latest industry thinking."

"Nothing else like it in the industry for funds professionals."

"It provides a comprehensive overview of the entire industry that I otherwise wouldn't have been exposed to."

"The best opportunity in the year to catch up with people."

Highlights:
Speakers and Panels

Kirsty Wark
Funds Congress 2025

Host Perspectives

The outlook for many players in the asset management industry has become substantially more complicated in recent years, amid a changing geopolitical landscape and heightened focus on profits and losses. The industry is at a tipping point where openness to change increasingly defines success. With agility and the integration of technology emerging as key factors driving firms' fortunes, the need for adaptable and forward-thinking investment strategies is more critical than ever.

Changing investment drivers: Driven by the benefits of diversification and the promise of higher returns, the industry has experienced a marked shift in focus from public to private markets in the past year, a trend likely to continue as governments and regulators continue to back a greater openness to private assets. At the same time, the pressure on margins has intensified, leading to a near-obsession with cost management. Active managers, in particular, are feeling the squeeze, challenged both by fee compression and the rising popularity of ETFs.

Some level of market consolidation seems inevitable as smaller firms struggle to compete with industry giants.

Business model reinvention: With technological change and shifting consumer preferences driving change at unprecedented speeds, many asset managers are considering a near-total reinvention of their business models in efforts to remain competitive. Some are exploring the possibility of combining passive elements within an overall active investment strategy to cater to a broader range of investor needs; others favour integrating private assets into their portfolios. In future, such amalgamation of strategies may prove key to staying competitive, navigating fee pressure and meeting evolving investor expectations.

The impact of technology: Technology is fundamentally reshaping the delivery and consumption of financial services. From the rise of mobile investing platforms to the deployment of AI in financial analysis, investors now expect technologically advanced solutions that offer convenience and enhanced performance. In the current financial ecosystem, the integration of new technologies is seen not just as a strategic advantage but as a necessity, propelling firms to adopt and integrate advanced technologies or risk being left behind.

The importance of agility: Nevertheless, the integration of distribution channels, formation of strategic partnerships and growing availability of technology-driven investment platforms present firms with opportunities for efficiency gains, innovation and growth. Despite increased regulatory scrutiny and greater competitive pressures, numerous opportunities exist for asset managers to thrive. Firms able to react swiftly to market demands and get new products and services to market quickly will gain a significant competitive edge. This agility, combined with robust corporate governance, can capture investor confidence and enhance a firm's market position.

Moderator:
Kirsty Wark
Broadcaster

Panel:
John Donohoe
Founder & Group CEO, Carne Group

Ciara O'Leary
Partner, Dechert LLP

Steven Libby
Partner, PwC Europe, EMEA Asset & Wealth Management Leader, PwC, Société Coopérative

Karen Ward
Managing Director,
Chief Market Strategist
for EMEA, J.P. Morgan
Asset Management

Funds Congress 2025

Keynote: Investing Optimally in a Noisy Political Year

Karen Ward

Managing Director, Chief Market Strategist for EMEA, J.P. Morgan Asset Management

Ignoring political noise: Donald Trump's return to the White House adds a layer of policy uncertainty on top of tectonic changes to the global investment landscape brought about by geopolitical tensions and the proliferation of new technologies. Forget searching for meaning in the maelstrom of lurid headlines: rather, turn off the news and focus, instead, on building portfolios resilient enough to withstand inflation and recession. Portfolio investments should align with long-term strategies, after all, and not be swayed by inflammatory rhetoric or political short-termism.

This is not 2016: In contrast to his first administration, President Trump's ability to effect significant change in his second term is likely to be hampered by budget constraints: broad-based tax cuts, for instance, are more difficult to achieve when budget deficits are pushing seven percent. Similarly, the inflationary effects of the President's much-vaunted stance on tariffs may dampen enthusiasm in the long run. Don't forget, though, that the political noise generated by such rhetoric can itself create significant market volatility, even in the absence of real policy change.

Significance of tech: The U.S. tech sector remains an unresolved question, with stellar performance figures driven by a handful of high-performing companies that has fuelled severe price distortions for more than a year now. Investors should continue to exercise caution: the sustainability of current trends hinges entirely on whether this coterie of companies can continue to meet what are now exceedingly high expectations. Diversification, both within the U.S. market, and the rest of the world is key.

Underlying economic changes: Long-term trends that merit more consideration include the persistence of inflationary pressures across many jurisdictions, driven by decoupling of traditional trade links which, together, are reshaping the global economic fabric. Such structural transformations spark new risks and pose new questions of investors. Due consideration will be needed in the construction of portfolios that are resilient against both growth and inflation shocks.

Alternative assets: Rarely has the diversification of investments been so important. With the realisation that a reliance on stocks and bonds may provide insufficient resistance to inflation, some are looking at timber, transport, infrastructure and other alternative assets that perform well in inflationary times and – despite the liquidity and transparency challenges – are fast becoming a necessary part of an adequately resilient portfolio.

Avoiding the cash trap: Valuations remain key in long-term decisions about portfolio construction, of course. Wise investors continue to exercise caution towards heavy exposures to pricey U.S. markets, instead considering opportunities elsewhere in the world, especially in regions with low expectations yet a potential upside. And while the easy comfort of holding cash may sound tempting, history shows that a balanced portfolio generally outperforms cash, even in times of tumultuous political uncertainty.

Panel: Shaping the Future: CEO Insights on Trends Transforming Asset Management

With technological advances and a reinvigorated focus on client demands driving ongoing transformation in the asset management industry, this panel explored the major factors influencing decision-making by CEOs and investment firm leaders in the coming year. Amid the continued democratisation of private markets and a search for scale on the back of consolidation pressures, innovation, client engagement and responsible leadership will be key in driving the industry forward.

Strategies for scale and efficiency: It is far from easy for investment firm leaders to find the right balance between structuring an operation that is global in scale, yet capable of significantly granular customisation within individual markets. For most firms, investment platforms must be global in scope, yet demand continues to rise for bespoke solutions tailored to the regulatory context and specific client needs of individual jurisdictions. Technological solutions may be the only way to square the circle.

The pitfalls of consolidation: M&A activity that combines two businesses with significant overlap may appear to offer a shortcut to scale too tempting to ignore, but the advantages enjoyed in the form of cost synergies can easily be outweighed by a loss of agility or by client dissatisfaction in the face of reduced choice. Industry leaders need to think carefully before embarking on the journey to consolidation: for a business combination to succeed, it should be based on the benefits brought to clients, not on mere cost savings.

Prevalence of client-centric approaches:
Asset managers are increasing caught up in an industry-wide transformation in which they are no longer seen as simple product providers: they must become solution providers. To do so successfully, firms need to engage to a far greater degree with their clients to really understand client perspectives, needs and objectives. A more collaborative approach among firms may also be required to allow the development of solutions surpassing the capabilities of any individual firm.

The democratisation of private markets:
The continued opening of private markets to retail investors will present significant new opportunities in the coming year, particularly in light of work to create evergreen funds structured for the retail market and the current focus by regulatory authorities on the establishment of safeguards for retail investors. After all, the entire industry bears a responsibility to ensure that products are clearly explained and appropriately targeted to different investor segments.

The UK's investment challenge:
Overturning the UK's culture of risk aversion is likely to require macro- and micro-economic measures, ranging from refreshed government policy to regulatory reform. Incentivising investment in domestic infrastructure lies at the heart of the issue: partnerships with capital owners, such as pension and insurance funds, may unlock long-term capital that helps establish a more attractive environment for domestic investments.

Moderator:

Leonard Kehnscherper
European Asset Management Reporter, Bloomberg News

Panel:

Matthew Beesley
Chief Executive Officer, Jupiter Asset Management

Joanna Munro
Chief Executive Officer, HSBC Alternatives, HSBC Global Asset Management

Richard Oldfield
Chief Executive Officer, Schroders PLC

Panel: Regulatory Horizon: Themes for 2025

Notwithstanding a backdrop of significant political change, the regulators remain broadly aligned on initiatives and priorities. The evolving geopolitical landscape will undoubtedly have some consequences for regulatory development, although possibly less than may be expected. Most regulatory authorities will aim for an adaptive regulatory approach that maintains investor protection and ensures financial stability amidst geopolitical tensions and market fluctuations, all while balancing international standards with national priorities.

Key areas of focus for regulators include the retailisation of private markets, data utilisation, liquidity and risk management, and the development of adaptive regulatory frameworks. Understanding and keeping pace with these evolving trends will be crucial in helping managers to manage risk and compliance effectively.

Private markets and retailisation: The introduction and subsequent refinements to the ELTIF 2.0 regulation created a solid framework safeguarding the interests of retail investors as they gain greater access to private markets. In the coming year, regulatory authorities at both the EU and national levels can be expected to focus on additional protections for retail investors, with valuation mechanisms, disclosures and governance procedures slated to come under scrutiny. In the UK, the LTAF remains a vehicle of interest for private assets. The regulators plan to support confidence in private markets.

Data utilisation: Data plays a vital role in helping regulators follow risks and equally to see which areas are under control. The increasing volume of data required by regulators has prompted authorities to upgrade their technical capabilities through the application of AI and machine learning tools to a wider range of use cases. Regulators are also looking to use the skills of data scientists to make the most of the data collected. With informed policymaking ever more reliant on effective data management, regulators will continue to devote substantial attention to harnessing and leveraging new technologies to assist in regulatory oversight.

Liquidity and risk management: The focus on liquidity management and risk assessment in the alternative investment fund space is not going away. Regulators plan to apply the lessons of past financial crises to improve resilience for tomorrow. Liquidity risk management remains a global regulatory priority, as does work in the area of non-bank financial intermediation (NBFI).

Future initiatives: Multiple initiatives are slated for implementation later in 2025. Initiatives at the EU level include the ongoing cross-jurisdictional consultation into money market funds, which may result in proposals emphasising greater harmonisation and better data utilisation. Sustainable finance will remain an important focus for the year ahead, with regulators keen to advance further ESG guidelines. Further review of digital operational resilience is also likely, along with on-going work linked to anti-money laundering, and many other initiatives.

Moderator:

Katie Carter
Partner, Dechert LLP

Panel:

Camille Blackburn
Director of Wholesale Buy Side, Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)

Gavin Curran
Head of Funds Supervision Division, Central Bank of Ireland (CBI)

Emmanuel Doumas
Senior Policy Officer, European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)

Marco Zwick
Director, Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF)

Fireside Chat: Navigating Life's Twists and Turns

Dr Julie Smith
Author and Clinical Psychologist

These days, few would argue that mental health is as important to our overall well-being as physical health. By making important information more accessible and actionable, by leveraging technology responsibly, building resilience and equipping individuals with techniques to manage life's unexpected challenges, we can all help in creating a society – and an industry – that values mental well-being.

Impact of technology: In an era of digital connectivity, technology serves as a double-edged sword. Platforms like TikTok and YouTube allow mental health professionals to disseminate important educational content to new audiences. But the ubiquity of social media clearly has an enormous impact on mental health, particularly among the young. The chronic imagery immersion brought about by constant social media bombardment can so easily trigger negative reactions. With the long-term effect of overwhelming digital exposure still unknown, monitoring and managing screen time has never been more important.

The importance of resilience: Building resilience is a lifelong learning process in which individuals must constantly recalibrate their approach to stress. Practical, self-help tools such as "values exercises" allow people to assess their own lives periodically, identify imbalances and refocus efforts to manage stress and anxiety. Building resilience in children often starts with adults: by practicing self-care and maintaining respectful self-relationships, adults can create supportive environments and allow children to emulate their behaviour.

Long-term effects of the pandemic: Adverse effects stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be evident throughout society. The significant disruptions experienced by children in their education and social interactions is still visible in the form of a widespread reluctance to attend school. Addressing such challenges involves a comprehensive approach that includes open communication, therapy and a supportive environment both at home and in schools.

Corporate responsibilities: The growing acknowledgement of the importance of mental health in corporate settings is encouraging, albeit one that remains unevenly applied. Stress management education has become more common in the C-Suite, while proactive companies have begun to provide access to mental health services to support their employees' wellbeing. Even if viewed only through the narrow lens of enlightened self-interest, creating more resilience in the workforce is clearly desirable if it benefits both the employees and the enterprise itself.

Fireside Chat: Growth Agenda

Chris Cummings
Chief Executive Officer,
The Investment Association

Leonard Kehnscherper
European Asset Management Reporter,
Bloomberg News

Government growth policies: With the UK investment management industry managing approximately £10 trillion in assets, maintaining its competitiveness is vital for the country's future. At a societal level, however, the UK remains over-saved but under-invested, with excessive cash savings outweighing broader investment. The government has taken some steps towards addressing this challenge with its Edinburgh reforms and support for the Mansion House proposals. Additionally, the reforms signify a governmental endorsement and recognition of investment management as one of the UK's high-growth industries. Nevertheless, cultivating a thriving investment culture will require opening the investment landscape wider than just public markets, the democratisation of private markets is crucial too. This approach could help bridge the gap between saving and investing, fostering healthier financial habits among the population.

The role of financial education: Although initiatives like auto-enrolment have brought millions of people into private pension schemes, contribution levels remain inadequate, with a wide discrepancy continuing to exist between what people think they will receive annually from their pension and the actual value of their pension pots. Unhelpfully, the Retail Distribution Review compounded the issue by reducing the accessibility of financial advice. Addressing profound misconceptions will undoubtedly require the reinvigoration of financial education, ideally commencing at school age, to help the public understand the significance of investments for long-term financial security and ensure that individuals are better prepared for retirement.

Addressing regulatory overload: A regulatory "reset" is needed to balance consumer protection with market dynamism, thereby encouraging increased investment activity. Extensive costs arising through new regulations have weighed down the UK's investment management industry; a strategic review of these initiatives would help ensure that regulations are achieving their intended outcomes without stifling market dynamism. Moreover, a rethink that aligned regulatory measures with the goal of encouraging more people to invest would not only foster innovation and market dynamism but would also make the UK a more attractive destination for domestic and international investors.

Fostering global competitiveness: A dual focus on innovation and competitiveness will be required for the UK to maintain its position as the leading international investment management market. Collaborative efforts between government, regulators and the industry—as evidenced by the rapid development of a blueprint for tokenisation—demonstrate how the UK can remain agile and competitive. The industry must work with government to adopt a more proactive approach that convinces the public of the benefits of active participation in capital markets. Ultimately, encouraging investment goes beyond boosting personal wealth: it ensures a stable standard of living in retirement, making it a societal necessity.

Panel: Business Model Reinvention: Thriving in the Age of Technological Disruption and Market Evolution

Disruptive technologies and competitive pressures are reshaping the asset management industry and compelling fims to rethink traditional strategies. This panel explored the main factors driving asset management firms, including the reinvention of talent models, development of strategic partnerships, regulation of digital assets and the challenge of customisation. Managers must rethink value propositions, operating models and innovation strategies in order to stay ahead.

Investing in technology and client-centric solutions: Technological integration is the single most important factor in driving growth and managing margin compression. Robust technological platforms and data systems will be required to manage investments and deliver "holistic" client service that straddles both the traditional and private markets. For many firms, significant investments may be needed to embrace AI integration and real-time data analytics across front, middle and back-office operations; some may even need to consider fundamentally rethinking their operating models to enable them to provide real-time, customised solutions suited to the investment landscape of the future.

Outsourcing and strategic partnerships: By outsourcing non-core activities and increasing automation through greater use of digital technologies, asset managers can free themselves to focus on their value proposition: deploying their investment prowess and providing best-of-class client service. Managers are increasingly collaborating with fintech outfits to leverage AI-driven solutions in investment decision-making; when well executed, such strategic partnerships can also enhance operational efficiency and improve service delivery across both traditional and digital platforms.

Reinventing talent models: While investment firms have traditionally relied on human talent concentrated in London, New York and a small handful of other hubs, managers will need to consider fresh approaches to the transformative business models of the future. A less centralised approach to human resources, allowing firms to tap into diverse pockets of talent, may be more suited to the industry's future needs, albeit one offset by a more rigorously centralised approach to risk management.

Navigating the regulation of digital assets: The growing acceptance by major industry players of digital assets as a legitimate investment class is not without its challenges. Greater regulatory clarity, particularly concerning cybersecurity, is essential for fostering confidence in this emerging area. Furthermore, investment firms must also set out more clearly their approach to educating stakeholders about risks and benefits if the industry is to navigate the transition from traditional to digital ecosystems smoothly.

Conclusion: As the asset management industry confronts technological disruption and shifting market dynamics, the time is ripe for firms to reinvent their business models. By committing to technological advancements, embracing strategic partnerships, diversifying talent pools and navigating regulatory challenges, asset managers can position themselves for sustainable growth in an increasingly complex environment. The future belongs to those who adapt and innovate.

Moderator:

Albertha Charles
Partner, Global & UK Asset & Wealth Management Leader, PwC

Panel:

Anatoly Crachilov
CEO & Founding Partner, Nickel Digital Asset Management

Glenn Thorpe
Managing Director, Carne Group

Breige Tinnelly
Head of Market Development, Archax

Panel: Product: Industry Perspectives on the Trends and Opportunities in the Year Ahead

Product innovation in the asset management industry is influenced by factors as varied as demand differentiation across asset classes, retail market challenges, the utilisation of private and liquid markets, and regional customisation. Asset owners, advisors and managers should focus on communication, financial literacy and an understanding of local preferences to design effective, compliant investment products tailored to market demands.

Retail market challenges: The democratisation of private markets is now a reality that has already spurred a greater utilisation of private assets by both institutional and retail investors alike and led to the development of innovative products such as private credit income funds that permit the pooling of the underlying asset classes, thereby adding a retail-friendly liquidity boost. Firms need to understand that product development for the retail sector involves a qualitatively different set of challenges from the institutional sector, with client communication playing a far more pivotal role. Firms will benefit from devoting time to considering exactly what is being communicated to clients and when; messaging, concise and comprehensible, should be built into the very earliest phases of product design.

Shift towards active management: While passive investment strategies continue to be popular with some asset owners and managers, the long-term trend towards the more nuanced approach of active management remains visible. Enhancing returns while mitigating risks may involve incorporating elements of active management within passive investment structures. The ideal outcome is to achieve a balanced portfolio that safeguards against market volatility and provides better outcomes for investors by addressing their long-term investment goals.

A regional approach to ESG integration: ESG considerations remain at the forefront of investment strategies and product design. A differentiation between markets is becoming more visible, with a stronger emphasis on sustainable finance and impact investing in Europe contrasting with the more selective approach favoured in the U.S., suggesting that the future lies in regional customisation rather than a one-size-fits-all approach. A nuanced understanding of local preferences and jurisdiction-specific regulations will be critical in developing ESG-integrated products that resonate with specific markets.

Collaborative product development: Whereas asset managers traditionally developed products independently and then marketed them to potential buyers, greater collaboration between asset managers and asset owners is becoming more visible in the development of new products. Under this integrated "partnership" approach, asset owners have a more substantial voice in product development, ensuring that new investment solutions align more closely with their specific needs and objectives, ultimately leading to the development of more effective and tailored investment

Moderator:

Jignasa Patel
Managing Director, Business Development, Carne Group

Panel:

Michael Delano
Partner, Asset and Wealth Management Industry Leader, PwC Luxembourg

Vivek Roy
Director, Global and UK Consultant Relations, AXA IM

Katie Sims
Head of Solutions, Europe & International, Willis Towers Watson (WTW)

Michael Robinson
Head of Investment Development, Aegon UK

Panel: Structured Credit in Fund Raising and Rated Debt Financing

The increased use of rated note fund structures by insurance companies seeking to optimise capital-raising is an example of the insurance sector's growing interest in customised credit products. Driven by the bifurcation of capital into tranches of rated debt and equity, the popularity of structured credit has grown quickly in the U.S. and is now attracting interest in Europe. Factors governing success include firms' capacity for leveraging high-quality data and navigating an evolving regulatory landscape.

Demand for tailored solutions: While assets in the insurance sector are projected to grow to U.S. $42 trillion by 2028, insurance companies are searching for innovative investable asset solutions tailored to their unique balance sheet requirements. Most insurance companies remain underweight in terms of their alternative asset allocations, exposing the sector to volatility risks in both the equity and bond markets. Tailored investment products that align with insurance firms' solvency and balance sheet requirements can help mitigate these risks.

Unlocking diversification: Structured credit products also offer stable, recurring cashflow, which can play a useful role in funding base diversification. With their longer-duration liabilities and stable capital, insurance companies are often able to trade liquidity for some excess spread, which unlocks potential for various forms of fund finance, including credit, opportunistic or real estate funds, which offer attractive pickups relative to corporate bonds or other liquid instruments.

The role of regulations: Regulatory frameworks such as the EU's Solvency II framework, the UK's Matching Adjustment mechanism and the state-level regulations prevalent in the U.S. play a crucial role in shaping development of structured credit investment strategies and products. The retention requirements wrapped up in Europe's securitisation regulations, for instance, can significantly impact investor decisions. For market newcomers, teaming up with knowledgeable partners may be the smartest way to gain the understanding of multi-jurisdiction regulatory environments needed to develop bespoke solutions.

Importance of data: Investment firms considering opening dialogue with insurance companies should think through the importance of data before they commence. For European and UK insurers, to stay ahead of volatility and counterparty risk and gain early warning of liquidity mismatches, insurance companies may need detailed, granular reporting on a monthly basis of valuations at the underlying security level. Securing reliable ratings from rating agencies will be crucial for success; those investment firms that succeed in mastering that data challenge will fare far better in unlocking capital in the insurance or non-bank lending sector.

Coexistence with bank lending: Traditional bank lending will continue as a primary funding source, of course, particularly where short-term solutions are needed. As regulations evolve and new products develop, the ability of structured credit to offer an array of longer-term, stable financing options suggests the sector will form a useful funding source for SME, infrastructure or institutional lending in helping finance the real economy.

Moderator:

Lindsay Trapp
Partner, Dechert LLP

Panel:

Zaheen Mir
Managing Director in the Chief Investment Office and Head of Structuring, Blackstone Credit and Insurance

Andrew O'Callaghan
Global Advisory Leader, PwC Global Asset and Wealth Management

Liya Pozdeeva
Principal, Global Client Solutions – EMEA Insurance, Ares Management

Sarah Smith and Justin Webb from Americast Unpack the New U.S. Administration's Political Agenda

Planned chaos: The Trump administration's commitment to bring about fundamental changes to the U.S. political sphere has quickly become evident. The administration's favoured strategy of planned chaos, involving bold, unexpected claims, accusations and announcements intended to distract and confuse, can serve as effective negotiating tactics that force counterparts to the negotiating table. Examples from the first weeks of the new administration include radical tariff policy reform and inflammatory claims regarding Gaza, Greenland and the Panama Canal.

Reshaping the U.S. government: Make no mistake: the new administration plans to fundamentally restructure federal government by closing agencies and slashing budgets, appointing officials who align closely with the administration's ideology to get the job done. Reducing the size and influence of what the administration believes to be an overextended bureaucracy will have long-term implications for the functioning and governance of multiple federal agencies.

Transformed domestic and foreign policies: Significant changes have already become evident in domestic and foreign policy, with policies targeting undocumented immigrants winning support beyond the administration's traditional support base. The government's opposition to DEI initiatives has quickly seen corporate America respond by scaling back its own DEI commitments, a retreat underscoring a growing trend for businesses to recalibrate their public and internal policies in alignment with the current political climate. On the international front, bold strategies on tariffs and abrupt overtures toward international territories appear to indicate newly aggressive policies that threaten to reshape America's role on the global stage and its alliances, particularly with NATO and other international partnerships.

Energy strategy: While sensational headlines have understandably distracted attention, the new administration is likely to take a more nuanced line in its energy policy, with a public focus on the expansion of oil and gas production alongside continued efforts to transition to cleaner energy sources. The administration's chief objective is to keep energy prices low in order to control inflation, a goal viewed as critical not only for consumer relief but also for reducing overall production costs across the economy.

Diminishing influence of traditional media: The Trump administration's consistent discrediting of mainstream media outlets has significantly altered the media landscape. The media has traditionally been considered a neutral arbiter, yet now precariously finds itself viewed by large sections of the public as part of the opposition. Traditional media networks are struggling to maintain influence, while an erosion of trust has boosted news consumption from alternative sources, which are considerably more partisan, impacting the overall quality of public discourse.

Moderator:

Kirsty Ward
Broadcaster

Panel:

Sarah Smith
Americast & North America Editor, Americast

Justin Webb
Americast & Today Presenter, Americast

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Our Hosts

carne

Carne Group takes care of the people who take care of money. Founded in 2004, today Carne is Europe's largest – and only independent – third-party management company. We support asset managers through every element of the fund lifecycle, including risk, compliance, due diligence, oversight, distribution and governance. Backed by digital capabilities and infrastructure built over two decades, our dedicated and expert team provides peace of mind for our clients and their investors, simplifying and strengthening the ways their funds operate.

We partner with around 650 clients, from boutique firms to the majority of the world's 20 largest fund managers – supporting funds distributed in over 160 countries and overseeing more than U.S. $2 trillion assets under management. Carne employs more than 600 employees across eight locations globally.

Dechert LLP

Dechert is a global law firm that advises asset managers, financial institutions and corporations on issues critical to managing their business and their capital – from high-stakes litigation to complex transactions and regulatory matters. We answer questions that seem unsolvable, develop deal structures that are new to the market and protect clients' rights in extreme situations. Our 1,000+ lawyers across 16 offices globally focus on the financial services, private equity, private credit, real estate, life sciences and technology sectors.

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Our Speakers

Lord Gavin Barwell
Former MP and Downing Street Chief of Staff to Prime Minister Theresa May

Matthew Beesley
Chief Executive Officer, Jupiter Asset Management

Camille Blackburn
Director of Wholesale Buy Side, Financial Conduct Authority (FCA)

Katie Carter
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Head of Investment Development, Aegon UK

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Our Speakers

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Author and
Clinical Psychologist

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Head of Solutions, Europe &
International, Willis Towers
Watson (WTW)

Sarah Smith
Americast & North
America Editor,
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Glenn Thorpe
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Managing Director,
Chief Market Strategist
for EMEA, J.P. Morgan
Asset Management

Kirsty Wark
Broadcaster

Justin Webb
Americast & Today
Presenter, Americast

Marco Zwick
Director, Commission de
Surveillance du Secteur
Financier (CSSF)

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Blue Owl
BNY Mellon
Brookfield
Calamos
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Clearlake
Columbia Threadneedle
CVC
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Edmond de Rothschild Asset Management
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Fidelity
Fidera
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GIB Asset Management
Goldman Sachs
Guggenheim
Hamliton Lane
Hermes
HG Capital
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Intermediate Capital Group
Insight Investment
Invesco
Investcorp
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Jupiter
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Manulife
Marshall Wace
Millennium Capital Management
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Save the Date for Next Year

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Thursday 5 Feb 2026

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