



**Robert Triffin International**

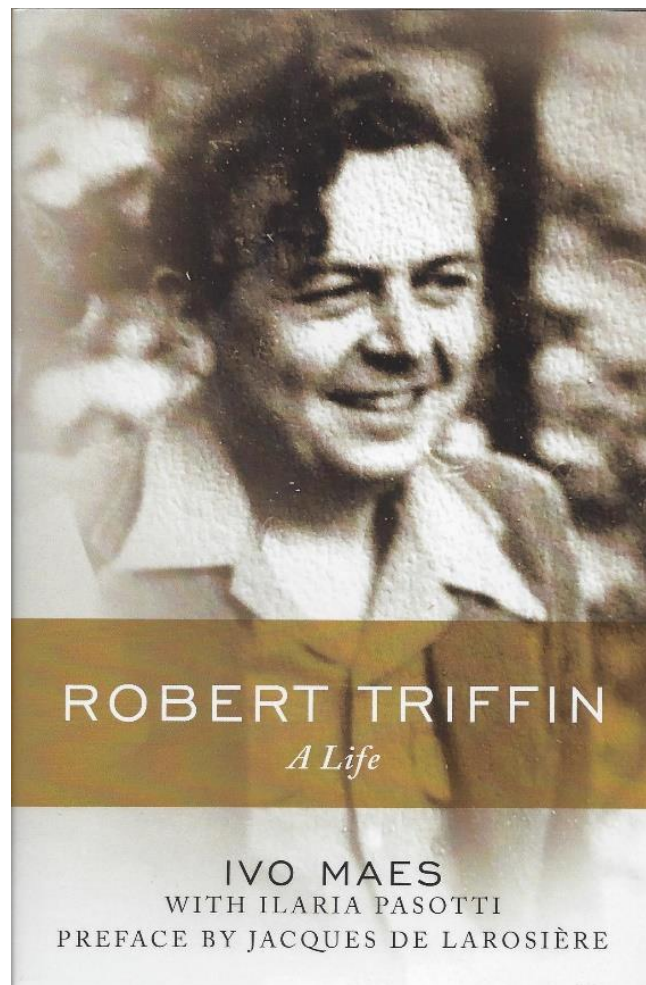
*A watch on the international financial and monetary system*

---

## Report on Activities from July 2022 to June 2023

### Publication of the biography of Robert Triffin

The new biography of Robert Triffin « A Monk in Economist's Clothing: Robert Triffin's Quest for a True International Monetary System » by **Ivo Maes** was published in March 2021 by the Oxford University Press. It includes a preface by Jacques de Larosière, former Managing Director of the IMF and former Governor of Banque de France, and received very favorable comments in the press. A new favorable review came out in august 2022 in "Central Banking" by Linda Yueh (who worked at the BBC). The book received the 2022 Best Book Award of the Italian Society for the History of Economic Thought, and more recently the 2023 Best Book Award of the European Society for the History of Economic Thought.



After presentations of the book at the National Bank of Belgium and at the European Parliament in 2021, there were further presentations of the book by Ivo Maes in June 2022, in Rome, at the Bank of Italy, with Governor Ignazio Visco in attendance, in Paris at the WEHC Conference, in August 2022, in Vienna at the Austrian Central Bank in September 2022, in Washington at the IMF in December 2022, and again in Brussels at the University Foundation on 31 May 2023, followed by a debate on “The future of the international monetary system”, with the participation of Jacques de Larosière and of Elena Flores, Deputy-Director General for Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission.

Another presentation of the biography took place in the last week of June 2023 in Lisbon, under the auspices of the Lisbon Academy of Sciences.

## Triffin Chair at the UCLouvain

In academic year 2020-2021, as in preceding years, Professor **Ivo Maes** has given for the students of UCLouvain a course on European Monetary Integration. As part of this course, Bernard Snoy delivered on 2 May 2023 a lecture on “The Relevance to-day of the Triffin Dilemma and the Triffin 21 Initiative”. Ivo Maes was reappointed to hold the Triffin Chair in the academic year 2023-2024.

## Publications by Ivo Maes

Ivo Maes published several Working Papers, in particular:

- “Are central banks interested in the history of economic thought?” (Working Paper Research, September 2022, N°413, National Bank of Belgium) and “Should central banks be involved in historical research?” (SUERF Policy Brief, N°281, November 2022)
- “From the 1931 Sterling devaluation to the breakdown of Bretton Woods: Robert Triffin’s analysis of international monetary crises”, together with Ilaria Pasotti, (Working Paper Research, January 2023, N°431, National Bank of Belgium) and “Robert Triffin’s Analysis of the 1931 Sterling Devaluation and its importance for the Triffin Dilemma” with Ilaria Pasotti, forthcoming in “Money in Times of Crisis. Pre-classical, Classical and Contemporary Theories” Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei
- “Alexandre Lamfalussy and the origins of instability in capital markets” (Working Paper Research, March 2023, N° 436, National Bank of Belgium, also SUERF Policy Brief, N°603, June 2023)

He helped also Jacques de Larosière in the publication of his last book “Putting an end to the reign of financial illusion, for real growth” (in French “En finir avec le règne de l’illusion financière, pour une croissance réelle” (Odile Jacobs, septembre 2022)

Ivo Maes participated on 15 November 2022 to an EPRS Roundtable conference in the European Parliament on “How the euro was born: the 1989 Delors report revisited”, and on 21-22 March 2023, he presented “Robert Triffin’s Latin American missions in the 1940’s” at a 3Money Doctors’ Workshop organized by Banque de France. On 27-28 April, 2023, he was at the European University Institute in Fiesole for a presentation on “From the Werner Report to the Delors Report. Changing economic paradigms and the EMU process” in a conference on “Economic Thought and the Making of the Euro”.

## Conference in Louvain-la-Neuve on 28 March 2023 on the theme “Is the international Monetary and Financial System (IMFS) fit for the Financing of the ecological transition?”

This was probably the most important event organized by RTI in this twelve-month period. It required more than 12 months of preparation and several preparatory trips to identify and persuade potential speakers to participate. As part of the preparation, Bernard Snoy prepared and gave in November-December 2022 a course (3 times, 3 hours) in French, in Louvain-la-Neuve for the Universités des Aînés (UDA) on “Système Monétaire International et Financement de la Transition Ecologique” (Slides available).

The conference of 28 March 2023 was organized, with a strong involvement of **Christian Ghymers** and **Bernard Snoy**, jointly with the Catholic University of Louvain in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, primarily the Louvain School of Economics and the Centre for Operational Research (CORE) (**Prof. Francesca Monti**). The conference received also a financial support from the Gutt Fund (based in the Free University of Brussels and chaired by **Michel Vanden Abeele**, former Director General of the European Commission) The conference involved 20 speakers or moderators and about 50 participants over an entire day.



*Christian Ghymers, Bernard Snoy and Francesca Monti*

The conference started with **Prof. Lord Nicholas Stern** (Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment) setting the scope of the challenge with a video-message on “A time for action on ecological transition and a time for change in economics”. The systemic deficiencies of the present IMFS were addressed in the presentation sent by Prof. **Michel Aglietta** (University of Paris), arguing that the only way to make a multi-currency reserve system work would be to combine it with a fully international reserve and settlement asset, which could be the SDR, managed by the IMF, and the video-message of **Jacques de Larosière**, former Managing Director of the IMF, drawing attention to the general decline in long-term investment despite financialization of the economy, illustrated by the tripling of the global balance sheet of the world over the last 20 years. **Christian Ghymers** showed how the several and successive manifestations of the Triffin dilemma, including the over-demand for US safe assets in the wholesale money markets, if not addressed would impede financing of the ecological transition. **Prof. Fabio Masini**, Secretary General of RTI, observed that in the end the US “exorbitant privilege” was being paid by the whole world at the expense of the financing of the ecological transition and investment in the SDGs. **Bernard Snoy** reminded the audience that the Palais Royal Initiative had come up with a credible blueprint for the reform of the IMFS but that essentially political obstacles had impeded its implementation.

Several speakers discussed the ongoing contributions of central banks to enhance awareness of climate and nature-related risks and create incentives for channeling funds towards the financing of the ecological transition. **Tina Emambakhsh**, Financial Stability Analyst at the ECB, described the different perspectives of two recent ECB top-down economy-wide stress-test exercises. Assistant Professor **Jens van ‘t Klooster** (University of Amsterdam), advocated a more pro-active bank supervision with mandatory transition plans, anchored in broader socio-economic transformations. **Sjoerd van der Zwaag**, sustainable Finance Officer at the Nederlandsche Bank, highlighted the work of the Task Force “Biodiversity Loss and Nature-related Risks”, issuing recommendations on how to operationalize the integration of nature-related financial risks in the work program of the Network for the Greening of the Financial System launched by several central banks. **Prof. Clément Fontan** (UCLouvain) raised the issue of the possible trade-off between fighting the ecological catastrophe and fighting inflation in the ECB policy. He highlighted the new tools used for the ECB greening monetary policy, namely prudential measures from climate stress tests to disclosure requirements and the tweaks to the collateral framework and asset purchases, privileging green assets. According to **Dr. György Szapary**, former Vice-Governor and now Chief Adviser to the Governor, the Hungarian Central Bank was the first EU central bank whose mandate was extended by law to support environmental sustainability, using instruments at its disposal. Not all speakers agreed with the expansion of the central banks mandate to include environmental objectives. This was the case of **Prof. David Aikman** (King’s Business School, London), who found dangerous to expect central banks to take a lead in the climate issue as it involved distributional consequences, better left to governments.



*Tina Emambakhsh, Christian Ghymers, György Szapary and Fabio Masini*

**Prof. Gusztáv Báger**, also Chief Advisor to the Governor of the National Bank of Hungary, said that one of the biggest difficulties of greening in the financial system was the lack of data and the still inadequate methodologies. A green turnaround was inconceivable without better measurements and standards. This issue was addressed by **Prof. Lucrezia Reichlin** (London Business School), Trustee of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation, who spoke about global climate disclosure standards as an essential tool for the credibility and the efficiency of all efforts towards sustainability. The current sustainability reporting landscape involved a mix of voluntary initiatives (with multiple standards for multiple audiences and incomplete application) and jurisdictional initiatives (with mandatory disclosure with different requirements imposed by different jurisdictions as well as differences in scope, ambition and pace). The IFRS Foundation, a Not-for-Profit, public interest organization, had the mission to develop IFRS Standards that would bring transparency, accountability and efficiency to financial markets around the world. Embedding standards in law was essential. Significant progress had been achieved since COP26 in 2021. **Jean-Paul Servais**, **President of the Belgian Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA)** and **Chairman of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)**, reiterated the importance of standards at national, European and international levels. He outlined the IOSCO's Strategy for Sustainable Finance, aimed at increasing transparency, mitigating greenwashing on financial markets and ensuring consistency.





*Jean-Paul Servais, Chairman of IOSCO*

**Moritz de Chaisemartin**, Sustainable Finance Officer, Systemic Earth, concentrated on the specific difficulties of financing the ecological transition in emerging and developing economies (EDEs): they were more vulnerable to the effects of climate change and loss of biodiversity than Advanced Economies (AEs), while they had contributed much less to the emissions of GHGs and other forms of pollution; it would be difficult for them to continue their economic development without accelerating their transition towards sustainability but did not have financial means comparable to those of the AEs to finance the CAPEX and OPEX incurred by the transitions. Moritz de Chaisemartin gave a number of encouraging experiences in which Systemiq Earth had been involved, including swaps of debt alleviation against commitments to reduce GHGs, successful mobilization of concessional capital (from the Green Climate Fund) for the largest blue economy and climate adaptation private equity fund to date: the Global Fund for Coral Reefs.

**Bertrand Badré**, former Chief Financial Officer of the World Bank, Founder and CEO of Blue Orange Capital, an investment fund that aims to finance the SDGs with market level financial returns, spoke about Global Governance, which would be the subject of the meeting organized in Paris on 26 June 2023 by President Emmanuel Macron with EDEs, discussing among others the shortcomings of the present IMFS and how to make standards converge to support the ecological transition.

**René Karsenti**, former Treasurer of IFC, EBRD and EIB and former Chairman of the International Capital Markets Association (ICMA), addressed a key issue for the financing of ecological transition in EDEs, namely how to enhance the role of the MDBs by optimizing their the use of their capital basis. René Karsenti was a Panel Review Member of the recent G20 Independent Review of MDBs' Capital Adequacy Frameworks (CAF). He explained the objectives of this review launched by the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in July 2021 under the Italian G20 Presidency, namely: (i) provide credible and transparent



wisdom of the permanent stimulus pursued by central banks until the resumption of inflation in 2022 and recommended a more restrictive course until inflation had abated.



*Ambassador François de Kerchove d'Exaerde welcoming participants*



*Bernard Snoy introducing the Triffin Lecture*



He drew attention to the historical record of 300 trillion \$ reached by global debt, the tripling of the global balance sheet unrelated to the much lower evolution of real growth, the growing vulnerability of the financial system, the decline in productive investment, the low productivity of the economy, the intensification of social inequalities, the pronounced gap in the Eurozone between monetary and budgetary financing and real growth. He questioned the wisdom of the permanent stimulus pursued by central banks until the resumption of inflation in 2022 and recommended a more restrictive course until inflation had abated.

The lecture was attended by about 30 participants. There was a lively debate.



*Jacques de Larosière delivering the 2023 Triffin Lecture*

## Conference on the “Internationalization of the euro and the creation of the EU Capital Markets Union” in Paris on 16 June 2023

This was the other important event for the last 12 months, requiring also months of preparation. It was jointly organized with the **European League for Economic Cooperation (ELEC)**, particularly its International Economic and Social Commission, chaired by **Philippe Jurgensen**, former Chairman of the French Insurance Control Authority (ACAM) and its French Committee, chaired by **Olivier Klein**, former President of the BRED-Banque Populaire, thanks to whom the conference could be organized in the amphitheater of the BRED in Paris.

The theme of the conference had been suggested by **Governor François Villeroy de Galhau** of Banque de France as a necessary counterpart to RTI advocacy of an SDR-based multilateral International Monetary System (IMS), seen as “something to be kept on the horizon as a creative frontier”.



*Governor Villeroy de Galhau came to deliver a keynote address at the conference*

He described the forces pushing for greater diversification in the international monetary system. He called for vigilance as these forces could lead to fragmentation rather than monetary diversification. He spoke of the euro as a complementary asset in a more multilateral system. One of the main levers for action was to increase the supply of safe euro-denominated assets. Speeding up the implementation of the Capital Markets Union was crucial to ensure a better allocation of capital within the euro area; this internal integration priority served also the euro’s external role. While these first realistic steps were the only advances within our range, they should not divert our attention from the “creative frontier” that a truly multilateral financial system would represent.” “The ultimate goal”, he said “remains to lead the IMF to become a more universal, accessible and agile lender of last resort. This should require adjusting the IMF’s role and financial capacity in the global financial safety net, to better reflect the new global economic balances and prevent some under-represented countries from taking or pursuing more unilateral routes”. He concluded that the emerging multipolar world needed new multilateral skills and “who better than us Europeans to bring them to life and to nurture them?”. This was indeed a very important message and encouragement for RTI.



*Session 1: Boris Kisselevsky, Philippe Jurgensen, Annika Eriksgaard, Franz Nauschnigg, Fabio Masini and Gergely Hudecz*

The conference, for which about 40 participants had registered, was divided into four sessions:

**1. The international role of the euro, moderated by Philippe Jurgensen:**

- **Boris Kisselevsky**, representative of the ECB in Brussels showed the stability of the international role of the euro at a low level in recent years; no substantial changes could be observed since Russia's invasion of Ukraine yet... but international currency status should not be taken for granted; European economic integration was pivotal in increasing resilience of the international role of the euro in a more fragmented world economy.
- **Annika Eriksgaard**, representing DG ECFIN of the European Commission, indicated that the 'geopolitical Commission' led by President von der Leyen had a more ambitious and proactive agenda for the euro than her predecessors. While the incumbent role of the dollar was to some extent based on inertia, the EU had created a framework to respond to the successive crises, in particular through the Next Generation EU Fund that had resulted in a significant increase in the supply of euro-denominated safe assets. The beginning of a central fiscal capacity at the EU level would, if maintained beyond 2026, create further chances for the internationalization of the euro; ditto from the EU's leading role in the area of green financing.
- **Gergely Hudecz** saw definite advantages of a greater global role for the euro: for the Euro area and Europe more broadly, it could provide strategic autonomy in face of geopolitical uncertainty, enable the Euro area to share the "exorbitant privilege" of



global safe assets issuers, ensuring also more stable financing conditions and attracting investors. It would also be beneficial to the international financial system and global investors as it would help diversify assets and liabilities, reduce spillovers and increase resilience: diversification under the current architecture would reduce risk of fragmentation. The rationale for other countries to use the euro would include aligning financial assets and liabilities with bilateral trade exposures and reduce geopolitical dependence by diversification. Success would nevertheless depend on Europe's doing its homework : strengthening its macro-financial stability and resilience (e.g. economic stability, rule of law, accessible capital markets, risk sharing mechanisms, joint debt issuance) , development of market infrastructures (e.g. deeper and more liquid financial markets, stronger coordination of global liquidity provision), and increasing diversity – reaching beyond the euro area to attract private actors and support the euro's role in digital transition and green finance.

- **Franz Nauschnigg**, former Director of the European and International Department of the Austrian National Bank, drew attention to the substantial euroization of the countries of South Eastern Europe and recalled the cooperation between the Austrian Central Bank and the Serbian central bank during the global financial crisis. Among the advantages of the internationalization of the euro, he emphasized the pricing of exports and imports in own currency and recalled that Mediterranean countries had often a \$ oriented financial sector but an € oriented sector which created tensions. He felt that the advantages of the internationalization of the euro were clearly greater than the disadvantages in terms of possible constraints on monetary policy, possible destabilizing capital flows vulnerability, associated with swap agreements that would be made with third countries. He also referred to the recent ECB study concluding that foreign use of a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) would strengthen spillovers between countries and reduce the autonomy of a central bank's monetary policy when a foreign CBDC circulates in its domestic economy but also that significant first-mover advantage would accrue to the central bank whose CBCD would become the first to be widely used internationally. , which means that , if China introduced a CBCD, others would have to follow. Otherwise, the Euro system's monetary autonomy would come under pressure. In his view CBCDs would also help consumers.
- **Fabio Masini**, Professor at the University Roma Tre and Secretary General of RTI, emphasized the potential role of the euro in relaunching multilateralism through regional economic and monetary integration. The euro could provide a model for the provision of supranational public goods, such as innovation in the green transition, and multilayered governance, hence helping building an alternative safe asset to the \$. A successful euro area (as well as learning from its mistakes) could provide assistance for more regional integration processes worldwide and encourage the IMF to use SDRs as a currency at the service of development, possibly through an enhanced role for MDBs.



## 2. The creation of the EU Capital Markets Union, moderated by Philippe Guillot, Deputy Secretary General of the French Financial Markets Authority (AFM):

- The presentation of **Tatyana Panova**, Head of Unit, in DG FISMA of the European Commission, focused on the rationale for the Capital Markets Union (CMU) project at its onset as well as the main challenges that the EU faces in this area (too many small players, lack of scale and of depth, affecting global competitiveness, persistent barriers to cross-border capital flows, reducing the competitive pressure on national players) . To address the problem, the 2020 CMU Action Plan focused on what could be seen as “implicit” consolidation of capital markets with a strong emphasis on data, seeking to tackle the issue of asymmetric information of cross-border investors. The EU sought to streamline the trading landscape by putting forward a consolidated tape for trading data which would allow brokers to identify the venue that offers best execution. Overall, the 2020 CMU Action Plan was structured around the three main axes: companies’ access to finance, strengthened retail investors’ participation in capital markets and better market integration. Shortly, the Commission will table a key proposal on withholding tax to avoid double taxation of cross border investment.



*Session 2: Philippe Jurgensen, Christakis Georgiou, Graham Bishop, Tatyana Panova and Philippe Guillot.*

- **Philippe Jurgensen** highlighted the implications of the “Next Generation” EU for the CMU and the internationalization of the euro. The objectives were not only to overcome the economic consequences of the COVID crisis but to address the low levels of productive investment, innovation and productivity and also to finance the ambitious EU objectives in terms of climate and biodiversity. For the first time, the EU

was borrowing collectively a substantial amount of € 750 billion in the markets, involving a redistribution feature as more than half of the proceeds were to be channeled in the form of grants to the member States while repayment would take place on the basis of the EU own resources. The borrowings benefit from a AAA rating. The logical consequence of issuing Eurobonds would be the creation of a European Treasury. At the same time, agreement had been reached at the EU level on a European norm for “green bonds”.

- **Christakis Georgiou**, Assistant Professor at Geneva University and Senior Research Fellow at the Centre de Compétences Dusan Sijanski d’Etudes Européennes, gave a retrospective on the private sector’s attitude towards EMU, from the single currency to a supranational safe asset. He showed how the rise of pan-European corporations had become a core constituency for both the product and the financial single market. Deepening integration had created a productive polarization within the single market, underpinned by growing cross-border finance; this had resulted in an entrenched structure of macro imbalances between the surplus North and the deficit South; the macro imbalances had in turn increased financial risks, destabilizing and fragmenting the single (financial) market. He was interested in the way in which private sector views on how to deal with these risks had influenced the way in which the European institutions and the national decision makers had responded to the debt crisis in the eurozone.
  - **Graham Bishop** of Member of the Board, Federal Trust UK, recalled a proposal for an “EMU Bond Fund” that had been elaborated in 2011 by an ELEC Working Group. The idea was that euro area member States, whose economic policies had been approved by the ECOFIN Council in the European Semester as both economically effective and politically sustainable, should pool their short-term borrowing via a Fund that would last four years. The Fund would borrow in the markets for at most a two-year term – to match the borrowing profile of its client States. The borrowings of the Fund were to enjoy a “guarantee” involving all participating euro area States. The concepts worked out by the Working Group had still relevance today: safe asset for banks, to minimize the “doom loop”, base for a euro yield curve that could compete with US Treasury Bills, asset required for non-bank credit e.g. through securitization and loan origination, etc.
3. **The internationalization of the euro and the reform of the IMS in the present geopolitical context, moderated by Sylvie Goulard:**
- **Sylvie Goulard**, former Member of the European Parliament, former Minister, working now at the Center for Analysis, Prevention and Strategy at the French Ministry of European Affairs, opened the debate by drawing attention to the changes in the geopolitical context since the signing of the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, including the weaponization of currencies and payment systems, the huge amounts of liquidities created by quantitative easing, the fact that, despite having a single currency, the 20 member States of the eurozone do not have a joint representation at the IMF, that the EU Banking Union does not have a representation at the BIS nor the Capital Markets Union at the IOSCO. In the triangle China/US/Europe, could the US continue to

dominate the financial system and China trade in goods? She also referred to the implications of the technological evolutions (CBCDs and crypto assets) on monetary sovereignty and wondered if the international governance of the eurozone was up to these challenges.



*Session 3: Philip Turner, Bernard Snoy, Sylvie Goulard, André Icard and Marc Alaurent*

- **Marc Alaurent**, former Vice President Innovation, BNP Paribas Personal Finance, stressed the important reduction in the cost of transactions made possible by digital currencies. Digital currencies made possible a complete “traceability” of transactions. The European model was between the Chinese model allowing close surveillance of citizens by the State and the American model where data gathering would be controlled by private firms. Attention had to be paid to the operational competitiveness of the euro in terms of payment systems and market infrastructure.
- **André Icard**, former Deputy General Manager of the BIS, noted that the internationalization of the euro was accentuating the evolution, already under way, towards a multi reserve currency IMS. Since 2015, financing in euro of non-resident non-banks had increased faster than financing in dollar, representing about one third of outstanding financing. Under opaque conditions, China was also providing financing to countries involved its Belt and Road Initiative and, in case of default, was organizing its own support plans outside of the Paris Club. The key question was how to organize a multipolar IMS with globalized trade, which was not imploding despite a tendency towards trade regionalization. The new version of the Triffin dilemma was that monetary conditions appropriate at the level of large economic groups could translate

into significant disequilibria at the global level. At the same time, the mandate of central banks remained focused on domestic objectives. Therefore, a monitoring of global liquidity leading to concerted decisions was of strategic importance. Yet, the concept of global liquidity remained largely unexplored. It had come at the forefront during the GFC of 2008 and had led to the Palais Royal Initiative of 2010, followed by BIS work and the RTI report of 2019 on “Managing Global Liquidity as a Global Public Good”. Managing global liquidity was a shared responsibility of central banks, government Treasuries and prudential and financial markets regulatory authorities. The Financial Stability Board (FSB) should publish regular analyses and proposals to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers and Governors of the G20, complemented by comments from the BIS and the IMF. André Icard added that a useful instrument in the context of a multicurrency IMS to avoid volatility of returns and to reduce cost would be to place at the disposal of the markets a reference based on a basket of currencies. The SDR would be the appropriate instrument. He referred to RTI proposals in this connection

- **Philip Turner**, Visiting Lecturer at the University of Basel and former member of Senior Management of the BIS, contrasted the great Fed tightening from 2021, involving global \$ liquidity shrinking, with the more timid ECB tightening, coming later and allowing global € liquidity to grow in 2022, wondering if a valuable currency diversification would provide a buffer for global finance which needs nurturing. He recalled the BIS definition of global liquidity, namely credit to non-resident non-banks, i.e. bank loans + debt security issuance denominated in \$ to borrowers outside the US and denominated in € to borrowers outside the euro area; the respective evolutions of \$ versus € denomination could be influenced by monetary policy divergences or comparative health of banks and financial market conditions and stresses. He criticized regulators for having turned a blind eye to what would happen when interest rates would rise and failing to agree on how to regulate non-banks financial investors, having created a shadow banking system. Interest rate risk was systemic and opaque. In answering the question whether “Should the ECB out tighten the Fed?” , one had to look not only at the domestic dilemma but also at international dimensions : ECB estimates suggest that the medium-term impact of Fed tightening on the euro area industrial production is as large as the impact on US output, with the full impact on domestic credit worldwide still to be felt. Nevertheless the € could dilute this dominance. The wider use of other currencies in global bond markets would in time reduce dollar dominance. Bond issuance based on a basket of currencies would be safer for many borrowers. Many investors would like more straightforward currency diversification than they have now.
- **Bernard Snoy**, Chairman of RTI, wondered whether the internationalization of the euro would bring us closer to a solution of the Triffin Dilemma (TD), using various definitions of the TD. Internationalization of the euro had the potential of reducing the US external indebtedness as the Eurozone would also incur an external debt, sharing in the “exorbitant privilege” and the “exorbitant burden” of becoming consumer and lender of last resort. The reduction of dollar dominance could reduce the adverse



spillovers of the US monetary policy on Emerging and Developing Economies (EDEs) but they would have to cope with possible adverse spillovers from the ECB policy; in any case the asymmetry would continue to prevail. Last but not least, euro safe assets, alongside US safe assets, might help extinguish the apparently insatiable thirst for safe assets; but the system could become unstable as a result of monetary, fiscal and/or macroprudential divergences or sudden changes in currency preference. Overall, none of the systemic defects of the IMS would be solved but, if there was genuine cooperation in managing global liquidity, some crises could be prevented, postponed or solved. Bernard Snoy recalled the inherent instability of the IMS and the serious dangers of crises due to blind spots in macroprudential supervision identified in RTI papers. To address these systemic risks, we had a genuine blueprint for IMS reform in the recommendations of the Palais Royal Report as well as a sequenced agenda to implement it published in 2014 by Michel Camdessus and Anoop Singh. In his view, the only way to make multipolarity work in the long run was to have on the horizon a new IMS based on a multilateral currency, managed by a more democratic and accountable IMF, becoming a genuine global LLR,

**4. The impact of the energy and ecological transition on the international use of the euro, moderated by Edmond Alphandéry, Former French Minister of Economy and Finance:**

- **Edmond Alphandéry**, who is also Chairman of the Task Force on Carbon Pricing in Europe, expressed concern that we might be losing the war of climate change as subsidies to fossil fuels continued at an unbelievable level, with the consequences to the invasion of Ukraine worsening the situation. He quoted the French writer Paul Valéry saying already in the 1930's "Le temps du monde fini commence". He echoed the words of Governor Villeroy de Galhau saying "We Europeans need to be active and committed on what depends on us". Irrespective of what others are doing, the move towards a more resilient global system, the euro should play a more important role.



*Session 4: Alexandrina Boyanova, Bernard Snoy, Edmond Alphandéry and Fabio Masini*

- **Alexandrina Boyanova**, Head of the Climate Office (operations) of the EIB, presented the EIB Group as the bank of the European Union, driven by EU policy priorities, and the world's largest multilateral institution and leader in green finance. The EIB had the ambition of becoming the EU Climate Bank : stopping financing of unabated fossil fuel since 2021; dedicating at least 20% of its financing to green projects by 2025, 100% of EIB financing Paris aligned , i.e. compatible, with the 1.5° scenario, and € 1 trillion financing mobilized in the decade 2021-2030, strict climate and environmental safeguards and criteria, and an additional € 45 billion over the next 5 years to support the REPowerEU program. The EIB Group was involved in both large volume- high impact direct financing and in intermediated financing for SMEs, mid-caps & smaller beneficiaries. Another important commitment was in the overall greening of the Financial System, with green capital market products and loan instruments and a significant green advisory activity. She presented also the EIB Contribution to the CMU objectives, in terms of access to finance, transparency and standards, capacity building and directing funds to the green and digital transition. EIB was the largest supranational issuer of green bonds, having issued € 19.5 billion in 2022, representing 45% of EIB funding and reaching out to international investors, particularly in Asia. **René Karsenti**, former Head of Finance of EIB and Member of the G20 Group of Experts on how to optimize the capital structure of MDBs, who was present, stressed the potential role of EIB and other MDBs in “crowding in” other investors. MDBs could

originate and distribute more loans for the ecological transition, in which private funds or “funds of funds” could invest.

- **Dario Velo**, Professor at the University of Pavia, who at the last minute was unable to attend and speak in session 4, had sent a paper, emphasizing the potential of hydrogen (both hydrogen resulting from thermonuclear fusion and green hydrogen produced from renewable energy sources) as the focus for the long-term energy transition. This required an industrial policy capable of accompanying the development of high added value but risky activities. This would in turn require a reinforced or structured cooperation among a limited number of willing member States, who, within the CMU, would accept massive public support for investment in hydrogen production even though the technological applications were not yet there. The project of construction of an hydrogen gas pipeline linking North Africa with the Iberian peninsula, France and Germany was a step in the right direction.

- **Fabio Masini** addressed the issue of financing the ecological transition as part of the urgent need to confront global public bads such as climate change and provide global public goods, including struggle against pandemics, universal access to primary resources. The obstacles were the collective action problem (no enforcement, loose cooperation, unanimity and compromise) in the context of an IMS with the built-in destabilizer, generating cumulative global imbalances identified under the Triffin dilemma. There was also an opportunity: confronted with the need to clean and reduce central banks balance sheet, we should avoid an austerity bias and substitute sovereign bonds with high-yield project-linked bonds or bonds from fiscal authorities not directly linked to financing current expenditures but investments. There was a potential role of the euro in driving green investments, while boosting MDBs investments in green transition appeared as a second-best solution to the provision of public goods, given their regional character, proposing a more credible conditionality

- **Bernard Snoy** drew attention to the danger that, under the present IMS, EDEs could not generate their share of the financing of the ecological transition, as the allocation of their savings tended to be dominated by spillovers from the Fed monetary policies or absorbed by the constitution of ever higher exchange reserves given the instability of commodity prices and financial flows. Nevertheless, climate change was a global challenge and a “game changer” that could accelerate IMS reform.

Please find all the speakers’ presentations and more information on this event on the RTI website at the following page:

<https://www.triffininternational.eu/activities/conferences/the-internationalization-of-the-euro-and-the-creation-of-the-eu-capital-markets-union>

## Regional Monetary Cooperation, particularly in Africa and Latin-America

Fabio Masini and the Centro Studi sul Federalismo continued their work on regional monetary cooperation in Africa further to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This followed up on previous RTI publications on African regional trade and monetary cooperation, using the SDR as a tool for development. Fabio Masini had published in November 2021 an article on “Time for Next Generation Africa”, proposing the establishment for African countries of a regional fund inspired by the precedent of the Next Generation EU Recovery and Resilience Fund.

Alfonso Iozzo, Fabio Masini and Albertina Nania published in November 2022 “A proposal to issue SDR denominated Treasury bonds: the case of Colombia” (RTI Paper n°16)

Christian Ghymers published in December 2022 as an IRELAC policy Working Paper a revised version of “The new form of the Triffin Dilemma and its built-in-destabilizer: the process of relative shortage of dollar safe assets”

In the framework of his participation in the second stage of the Jean Monnet Network on crisis in Europe and Latin America, he presented interventions with PowerPoints, first in Rio, November 2022 on “the Systemic Aspects of CBDCs” destined to be published in Brazil, second on “Systemic Global Financial Instability and De-carbonization” in Athens, May 2023. The publication he organized with Springer, New York, as coordinator of the first step of this Euro-Latin Monnet Network, and in which he wrote 3 chapters (including one indicating the unsustainability of the IMS) has already reached 126.000 exemplars in less than two years (Financial Crisis Management and Democracy, Lessons from Europe and Latin America, Springer, 2021).

On East-Africa, Christian Ghymers developed a project of Curriculum Development Program for stimulating regional integration in the 8 Member States of the “Intergovernmental Authority on Development - IGAD” in which the monetary training includes systemic issues of the IMS for Africa.

## Publications by Professor Fabio Masini, Secretary General of RTI

Over the last 12 months, Fabio Masini, Professor at the University Roma Tre, Jean Monnet Chair, and Secretary General of RTI published a number of books and articles of relevance for RTI

- In Autumn 2022 Fabio Masini published in Italian a paper on Triffin’s friend Pierre Uri: *Agli albori del Mercato Comune Europeo: il ruolo di Pierre Uri* in a collective volume edited by Francesco Velo and Daniela Felisini *Una nuova Europa organizzata e vitale*. Bari, Cacucci.



- a book in November 2022 on *European Economic Governance. Theories, Historical Evolution, and Reform Proposals* with Palgrave-Macmillan, where ample reference to Triffin's role and legacy is devoted.
- Together with Albertina Nania, a paper in *History of Economic Thought and Policy*, first issue of 2023, on "Market Failures and Multi-layered Collective Action. US Economic Debates" concerning multilayered governance in its theoretical foundations and related to its policymaking at both regional and global level.
- And more recently, a paper on *Global monetary governance. Adjustment or Reform of the International Monetary System?* In a volume edited by Guido Montani *How to Finance the Global Green Deal*, published by the Altiero Spinelli Institute for Federalist Studies of Ventotene.

Fabio Masini applied in late February 2023 as Roma Tre for a *Policy Debate Project* as a consortium of 12 Euro-African Universities in the ERASMUS-JMO-2023-NETWORKS "CIDRA", where RTI would be subcontractor for 59,000 euro, with results expected in July 2023. The project is based on research and advocacy initiatives concerning the follow-up of the proposal written in November 2021 for the use of SDRs for development purposes in Africa.

Fabio Masini opened a PIC position in April 2023 on the Funding and Tenders Portal.

In Florence, EUI, Fabio Masini and Albertina Nania participated at the end of April 2023 in an international workshop on Economic thought and the making of the Euro presenting a paper on "Italy, 1982: The Case for Ecu-denominated Treasury Bonds", which makes ample references to the contribution of Triffin in the increasing use of the ecu in private markets. Ivo Maes was also there.

Fabio Masini participated in Brindisi, 18-19 May, 2023 to the Supranational Democracy Dialogue (co-sponsored also by RTI), where he presented a paper on Global Governance: Adjustment or Reform of the International Monetary System? with ample reference to Triffin and the SDRs.

Expected in Rome, October 2024: AISPE Conference with a session on different understanding and rationalizations of regional integration in different regions of the world.

## Publications by Philip Turner

Philip Turner, Board Member of RTI, published several articles in "Central Banking". He has continued to argue that central banks and Treasuries need to elaborate a strategy for tightening monetary policy not only by raising interest rates but also by balance sheet policies – Quantitative Tightening (QT). In a September 2022 article, he argued that QT had been a sorry saga of missed opportunities. For instance, had the UK Treasury acted on a suggestion made in a June 2012 NIESR policy paper (of which he had been co-author), the government would have saved \$11 billion.

On 24 October 2022 he published with Marina Misev an important note on “interest rate risk, monetary policy, and the threat of financial crisis”. He argued that, at a moment when the world economy was at a turning point, central banks found themselves in an extreme starting position. For more than a decade, they had bought long-term assets to lower core bond yields. Financial regulation reinforced the downward pressure on long-term interest rate exposures in banks and, more dangerously, in non-bank financial intermediaries (NBFIs). These exposures in the financial system as a whole were leveraged, opaque and interconnected. They were global. UK pension fund, in the crisis of October 2022, were just “the first bodies to float to the surface”. The note was about the connections between financial stability and monetary policy.

The banking crisis that erupted in March 2023 with the collapse of the Silicon Valley Bank, followed by a few others, showed how prescient the warning of Philip Turner had been. Philip Turner published in “Central Banking” of 17 March 2023 another note on “The systemic lessons”, saying that the collapse of SVB revealed more than many realized. It revealed a systemic risk and regulatory failures. There was, elsewhere in the banking and financial system, other large and opaque interest rate exposures.

## Publications by Hung Tran

Hung Tran, Senior Fellow of the Atlantic Council, former Deputy Director of the IMF Capital Markets Department, member of RTI, has also been providing to RTI members a number of interesting notes, commenting on ongoing developments, in particular:

- Internationalization of the Renminbi via bilateral swap lines (unknown date)
- Friendshoring in action: potentials, limits and implications (1 September 2022)
- Developing countries face more severe debt problems than thought (27 October 2022)
- Fed Reverse repos hit a new record – an unhealthy development (3 January 2023)
- Friendshoring as an offensive weapon: implications (13 February 2023)
- China’s growth prospects (6 January 2023)
- The implications of the SVB failure (12 March 2023)
- Monetary policy should pay attention to both inflation and financial stability (20 March 2023)
- Silicon Valley Bank failed: What happens next? (Econographics, 13 March 2023)
- Persistent banking instability reflects loss of confidence in banks as well as monetary and stability policies (24 March 2023)
- Geopolitical implications of the expansion of BRICS (24 May 2023)
- The IMF in a geopolitically driven fragmented world (20 June 2023)
- The Summit for a new global financing pact: less grandiose, more realistic is more helpful to poor countries (26 June 2023)

These notes were often the starting point of lively exchanges of views among RTI members.

Georges Ugeux, Member of RTI has also shared the comments placed on his blog.

Jan-Joost Teunissen, Member of the RTI Board, has also contributed to the exchanges of views, reminding us that many topics were already present in debates at the time of Triffin or had been the theme of conferences organized more than 20 years ago by FONDAD

## **Participation to the Annual Meeting of the IMF and the World Bank in Washington on 14-18 October 2022**

Bernard Snoy represented RTI at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the IMF and the World Bank in Washington. This was the first annual meeting, after the end of the pandemic, making it possible for official and experts to meet in person. It provided the opportunity to collect important information, to disseminate RTI publications, to enhance RTI's visibility and network, having in mind the RTI events planned for 2023 and to intervene, when appropriate, in some seminars or conferences. Bernard Snoy could attend debates in which, among others, Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the IMF, David Malpass and Mark Carney; Special UN Envoy on Climate Action and Finance spoke. He attended also seminars on the potential of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) as well as the Per Jacobson lecture given by prof Raghuram Rajan (University of Chicago), former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India on the theme "Joined at the hip: why continued globalization offers us the best chance of addressing climate change"

In addition to RBWC and OMFIF events (see below), Bernard Snoy had the privilege, thanks to Hung Tran, Member of RTI and Senior Fellow of the Atlantic Council, to attend on October 17 the launch of the Bretton Woods 2.0 Project by the Atlantic Council. The impulsion for this project comes from US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and aims at reinvigorating the Bretton Woods institutions. The project is under the leadership of Josh Lipsky, Senior Director of the Atlantic Council's GeoEconomics Center, who previously served as an advisor and speechwriter for Managing Director of Christine Lagarde at the IMF. A number of interesting papers were presented, including one by Hung Tran on "The evolution of the IMF: a case for IMF 1.5 before Bretton Woods 2.0". Hung Tran mentioned three radical reforms that were not feasible now, namely (i) changes in "voice and representation", with quota reflecting better the enhanced economic importance of emerging countries; (ii) substantial increase in IMF lendable resources; and (iii) promotion of the SDR as main reserve currency in the global monetary system, replacing reliance on national currencies (mainly dollar and euro). He proposed several feasible reforms : (i) rectifying the unequal treatment accorded to Latin America and Africa, reducing the size of IMF programs in Latin America, reallocating critical financing to Africa, which is in dire straits due to underfunding , notably for food security, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic and fall-out of the war in Ukraine; (ii) reducing conditionality linked to structural adjustment and increasing capacity building"; (iii) better coordination of the various layers of the global safety net with less accumulation of foreign exchange reserves for self-insurance by individual countries and more bilateral or multilateral currency-swap arrangements among central banks; and (iv) strengthening of the Common Framework for Debt Treatment

## Cooperation with Reinventing Bretton Woods Committee (RBWC)

RTI pursued its cooperation with Marc Uzan and his RBWC, essentially through participation to conferences, seminars and other events organized by RBWC together with various partners. Bernard Snoy participated to the following events, giving opportunities for networking, enhancing visibility for RTI and its publications

- Seminar in Washington on 15 October 2022 with three main themes : Improving the international debt architecture (with the participation of Masood Ahmed, President of the Center for Global Development, Daniel Cahen, President of Paris School of Economics, Paola Subacchi, Professor at Queen Mary University of London, Christian Kopf, Chief Investment Officer of German Union Investments and Beatrice Weder di Mauro, President of CEPR); Global Macroeconomics and Inflation Restart ( with the participation of Jacob Frenkel, Chairman of the Group of Thirty, Francesco Bianchi, Professor at Johns Hopkins University, and Philip Lane, Member of the Board of the ECB, and Julio Velarde, Governor of the Central Bank of Peru) and Digital Money and Finance (with the participation of Ousmène Mandeng, Senior Adviser, Accenture Blockchain Technology, Member of RTI)
- Dialogue of Continents 2022 on the theme “The End of Abundance, the Birth of Resilience” on November 28-29, 2022, in Paris: Massimo Deandreis was a speaker in the introductory session as well as Klass Knot, Governor of the Dutch Central Bank and Chairman of the FSB. The most interesting sessions were on “the geopolitics of energy and climate change (with Raekwon Chung, Board Member of Ban Ki-Moon Foundation for a Better Future and Mattia Romani, Partner of Systemic Earth), Rebuilding Ukraine and the economic consequences of the war ( with Carlo Monticelli, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank) , the future of European integration ( with the participation of Yves Leterme, former Prime Minister of Belgium, and Ferdinando Nelli Feroci , President of Istituto Affari Internazionali) , Cross-Border Payments: a Common Public Good? (again with the participation of Ousmène Mandeng, Piero Cipollone, Deputy Governor Bank of Italy, and Jean-Pierre Landau, former Deputy Governor of Banque de France). A special session was organized for the presentation by Nouriel Roubini, Professor of Economics at New York University of his latest book on “Mega-threats: the ten trends that imperil our future and how to survive them” (John Murray 2022). These threats include debt crises, the easy money trap and the boom-bust cycle, currency meltdowns and financial instability.
- G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting in Paris, Side event “Strengthening Global Financial Safety Nets in a Fragmenting World” on 30-31 March 2023: This was a meeting organized to help the Indian G20 Presidency to prepare subsequent higher level meetings. The Indian delegation was headed by Ms. Mohua Roy, from the Reserve Bank of India. After an opening address on 30 March by Prof. Jacob Frenkel, the issue of financial safety nets was discussed by Prof. Barry Eichengreen, University of California, Berkeley, Manuel Ramos-Francia, Director General , Center for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA), Isabelle Mateos y



Lago, Managing Director, Blackrock Investment Institute (who had participated to the Palais-Royal Initiative), Prof. Paola Subacchi and Anoop Singh, Distinguished Fellow, Center for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), Anoop Singh, former member of the RTI Working Group on “Managing Global Liquidity as a Global Public Good” , made explicit reference to the sequenced agenda to implement the recommendations of the Palais Royal Initiative. I intervened myself to draw attention to the work of RTI on the potential use of the SDR and the need to strengthen the role of the IMF as lender of last resort (LOLR). Anoop Singh subsequently published an article in the 11 April of Mint, the Indian financial daily, an article on “The G20 must help create a global financial safety net”. There was a second session on the 31st of March dealing with the ways in which the capital basis of the MDBs could be better used to maximize public lending for climate change and the SBGs. René Karsenti made again an important presentation.

Christian Ghymers represented RTI to another high-level conference organized by RBWC in Rome on 23 September 2022 on the theme “A New EU, a New World”. this gave him the opportunity to intervene in a panel on “A Global Financial and Monetary System in Crisis” to raise the question of how much the introduction of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC) could create a window of opportunity to make the IMS more symmetrical through the costless issue of private e-SDRs.

## **Cooperation with the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum (OMFIF)**

As a preparation for the Louvain-la-Neuve conference on the financing of the ecological transition, Bernard Snoy attended the conference “Moving beyond climate: the relevance of biodiversity loss for the financial system” organized jointly by De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) and the OMFIF Sustainable Policy Institute, in Amsterdam on 28 September 2022. Speakers included Klaas Knot, Governor of De Nederlandsche Bank and Chairman of the FSB, and Governor Villeroy de Galhau. This provided an opportunity to meet David Marsh, Director of OMFIF, David Craig, Chairman of the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosure and Saskia de Vries, (DNB and Coordinator of the Network for the Financing of the Financial System).

Bernard Snoy attended two other events organized in Washington by OMFIF during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meeting: one was a meeting with African Central Bank Governors, providing an opportunity to disseminate RTI publications concerning an African Safety Net and a Next Generation Africa Fund, and a second one providing an opportunity to meet, among others, Pierre-Olivier Gournchas, IMF Chief Economist (see Bernard Snoy full report on the Annual Meeting).

## Lamfalussy Lecture organized by the Hungarian National Bank

Bernard Snoy attended on 6 February 2023 the Lamfalussy Lecture as part of an international conference “New Dimensions of Central Banking in the Post-covid Era” organized by the National Bank of Hungary in Budapest. The Lecture was given by **Robert Holzmann**, President of the Austrian National Bank, who delivered a brilliant tribute to the first Chairman of RTI. Alexandre Lamfalussy was presented as a convinced European and advocate of European integration with all his heart. Several of the points he made had relevance for the present situation.

Holzmann made a parallel between the economic concept, developed by Lamfalussy already in 1961, of “defensive investment”, made generally in stagnating or declining sectors, saving enterprises in these sectors but hampering the scope for productivity in the medium to long run, and the highly accommodative or unconventional monetary policies (UMP), contributing to the survival or market entry of low-productivity firms by easing their financing constraints and by reducing incentives to repair their balance sheets, all this with severe side effects on productivity. “Against this background, it seems only fitting that Mr. Lamfalussy should have argued in favor of drawing up plans to exit from unconventional monetary policy very soon”.

He referred to Lamfalussy’s article of 1981 on “Rules versus Discretion; An Essay on Monetary Policy in an Inflationary Environment”, in which Lamfalussy asserted that the crux to effectively fighting inflation at minimum costs lies in defusing the public’s inflation expectations. According to Lamfalussy, the most effective anti-inflationary measures were those that “bite”. In the present context that would mean that “the risk of overtightening seems dwarfed by the risk of doing too little...Our monetary policy must continue to show its teeth until we see a credible convergence to our inflation target – a convergence that is also felt by the wider public”;

He referred at the same time to Lamfalussy’s caution: Alexandre Lamfalussy repeatedly warned against the temptation to over-burden monetary policy: this would mean today that “the ECB’s instruments cannot substitute for a genuine market-driven integration of capital markets”. As the Committee of Wise Men, under his chairmanship, reminded us in 2001 “Only a tightly knit capital market would create the level playing field necessary to absorb asymmetric shocks and to prevent the occurrence of diverging financing conditions across the euro area”.

Finally, he referred to Lamfalussy’s nostalgia for one of Schumpeter’s main themes, namely that economic analysis should concern itself with the process of change with its succession of cumulative or compensating imbalances rather than with movements around some identifiable state of equilibrium. Holzmann gave his own interpretation of this nostalgia in the context of the search for the reasons explaining the low or negative level of the equilibrium real interest rate, the famous  $r^*$ . He saw a low or negative  $r^*$  as the key reason for deploying UMP, be it negative policy rates, quantitative easing or funding for lending schemes, with the potentially severe side effects. He expressed his preference for the active use of non-monetary, structural policies to initiate a strong rise in  $r^*$ . In his view, “the most important

levers for achieving this end are policies that boost productivity, that increase the labor force participation of the elderly to compensate for population aging, and that reduce the savings glut in the global north by transfers for productive investments toward the global south. For example, a broadly conceived and effective green agenda would offer new opportunities for all three channels”.

The afternoon of the conference provided an interesting opportunity to discuss how central banks could enhance more the green economy!

This event provided also the opportunity to reconnect with Dr. György Szapary, former Vice - Governor of the National Bank of Hungary, and with Prof. Gusztáv Báger, former Chairman of the Triffin-Szirák Foundation in Hungary. Both of them subsequently participated to the RTI Conference in Louvain-la-Neuve on 28 March 2023.

## **Participation to the Annual Conference of the International Capital Markets Association (ICMA) in Paris on 24-26 May, 2023**

At the invitation of René Karsenti, former Chairman of ICMA, Bernard Snoy participated to the annual conference of ICMA in Paris’ Palais Brongniart (former French Stock Exchange) on 24-26 May, 2023. Again, this provided the opportunity to enhance RTI network of contacts and to promote RTI views and publications. There were high-level speakers, including Governor Villeroy de Galhau at the beginning and Jean-Claude Trichet, former President of the ECB, at the end. Bernard Snoy met Odile Renaud-Basso, President of the EBRD, and Carlo Monticelli, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), member of RTI, who could one day host an RTI event. There were interesting panel discussions on the prospects for “Supranational, sovereign and agency bond issuance”, “the evolving role of asset management” “regulatory policy and fintech”, the issue whether “global repo and collateral markets are still up to the task?”.

However the most impressive keynote addresses and panels were about sustainable finance and the determination of all actors, including central banks and regulators, to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement : impressive speeches of Dr. Sabine Mauderer, Member of the Executive Board of Deutsche Bank, Vanessa Ross, Chair, European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), Paul Servais, Chair of IOSCO, and, last but not least, Dr. Ma Jun, Chairman of China Green Finance Committee and President, Beijing Institute of Finance and Sustainability, who conveyed the message that China was ahead of the Western world in the establishment of standards of sustainability and in the allocation of finance for the ecological transition. Bernard Snoy reestablished a contact with Dr. Ma Jun, whom Elena Flor and himself had already met at a conference in Shanghai in 2015. The China Central Depository & Clearing Co. distributed a “White Paper on ESG Practices in China”.



*Monument in honor of Robert Triffin in his native "Commune" of Flobecq (Belgium)*

