



BANCA D'ITALIA
EUROSISTEMA

2023 Peer-to-Peer Financial Systems Workshop

Welcome address by Livio Tornetta
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Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests and colleagues,

Governor Visco regrets that he will not be able to open this workshop as planned since, due to the day of national mourning proclaimed for today following the death of our former President of the Republic – Giorgio Napolitano.

I therefore wish to welcome you all today on his behalf to the 2023 edition of the Peer-to-Peer Financial Systems Workshop, an annual event for practitioners, regulators and academics interested to share their experiences and analyses concerning the latest developments in financial innovation.

This year the Bank of Italy is very pleased to host the conference and to organize it together with the University College London Centre for Blockchain Technologies and in partnership with DLT Science Foundation.

This conference contributes to a better and deeper understanding of the opportunities and the problems linked to financial digitalization through a rich array of research papers and panel sessions with prominent speakers encompassing a wide range of topics. In this regard, the programme that has been carefully set up suggests that the research and policy agenda of central banks, regulatory institutions and universities all over the world is converging more and more to promote strategies and solutions that guarantee a safe, effective and inclusive innovation process in the sector of retail payments and financial services.

Europe is at the forefront of advanced economies in putting digital innovation at the centre of its agenda. The Eurosystem and the European Commission are jointly conducting and coordinating a retail payment strategy where both a clear regulatory framework and the provision of innovative payments solutions are key factors to achieve the Union's strategic independence in the payments market and to provide citizens an integrated, secure, efficient and innovative pan-European payment system.

During the conference these and other issues will be discussed in depth, offering an excellent opportunity to reflect on how research may contribute the decision-making processes and shape effective policies.

Let me, then, conclude by thanking the organisers and the scientific committee for having put together such a rich and interesting programme and I wish you two days of very fruitful interactions and discussions.

