



## PROGRAM:

4.30 – 6.35 pm Speakers

**4.30 pm: Opening words**

**Mrs. Annette Godart-van der Kroon, LLM**, President LVMI Europe

**Moderator: Philip Stafford**, UK Editor, FT Trading Room at Financial Times (tbc)

4.40 pm **Keynote speech: Dr. Stefan Berger**, MEP for the EPP Group, member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

5.10 **Frédéric Lernoux**, NSF Euro Consultants Group - Vice president B2I / Belgian Bankers Academy – CEO (tbc)

5.35 pm **Mark Valek**, Partner of Incrementum AG

6.00 pm **Max Rangeley**, editor and manager The Cobden Centre

6.25 Q & A

7.00 Closure of the event



**RSVP before**

**April 19, 2021 to  
assistant@vonmisesinstitute-  
europe.org**

**INVITATION**

**Conference**

**“Disruptive innovation: Banks  
versus Cryptocurrencies”.**

**Organization :**

**The Ludwig vonMises Institute  
Europe**

**The Cobden Centre**

**Date : April 21, 2021**

**Time : 4.30 – 7.00 pm CET/ 10.30-  
13.00 EDT**

**Venue: ZOOM**

## Ludwig von Mises Institute Europe

The Ludwig von Mises Institute-Europe was officially established on 12th October 2002. The Ludwig von Mises Institute-Europe primarily aims at finding solutions to promote a competent, competitive and creative Europe. Since its foundation, the Ludwig von Mises Institute-Europe has successfully organized a variety of conferences, symposia, discussions, targeted dinner debates and lunch debates. Members include former Prime Ministers, MEPs, former European Commissioners, key politicians, senior academics, business leaders and prominent journalists. The aims of LVMI Europe are:

-Exchanging and reintroducing the basic values and principles of Liberalism, especially the ideas of the Austrian School.

-Bridging the gap between "Brussels" and the European citizens and between Eurocrats and Eurosceptics.

-Acting as an interface between the academic, the political and the business world

-Connecting liberal-minded individuals and organizations at national and international levels.

The Cobden Centre is an independent educational charity founded formally to undertake research into economic and political science and to disseminate the results thereof and to advance the education of the public in economic and political science. Max Rangeley recently organized the Future of Artificial Intelligence roundtable discussions in the European Parliament, which included the IMF, OECD and United Nations as well as companies like Intel. He also organized the 5 day long Blockchain Summit in the European Parliament in 2016. Max has run an economics think tank for a member of Parliament since 2014 and is on the advisory board of the Ludwig von Mises Institute (Europe). He has organized several events in the European Parliament.

<https://www.cobdencentre.org/2016/04/the-cobden-centre-organises-first-digital-currencies-conference-in-any-parliament-worldwide/>

## Explanation of the topic

Elon Musk explained the climb of bitcoin and other crypto currencies "You must be crazy not to look elsewhere when it comes to negative interest rates". After such a statement, bitcoin has shot to \$ 55,000. As a result, the value of all bitcoins together reached \$ 1,000 billion dollar. We do know that with more than 1,000 billion dollars we can no longer ignore the bitcoin. Not only Bitcoin, but also Ethereum is growing. One of the reasons that those cryptocurrencies are growing is, that more and more enterprises and banks start to or say that they want to trade in it. Especially the decision of Mastercard to accept bitcoin as a means of payment, gave an enormous boost to the currency. This asks for the following questions:

- It is obvious that we are at the threshold of a new era. Like in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the upcoming of the modern banking system was noticed- first in Scotland.
- What is the reaction of the (central) banks and the authorities? They cannot ignore this forever.
- Is there a danger that this payment method is unstable? Will it continue to grow and be accepted generally?
- What are the propositions of the banks and the authorities?