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FRC Leaders' Convention DACH 2026
The Westin Grand Frankfurt
19–20 February 2026

Day One – Thursday 19 February

09:50 – 10:00

Opening Remarks

Patrick Spreckelmeyer, Head of Compliance & AFC, Nexent Bank

10:00 – 10:40

Main Stage | Interactive Keynote

The Appetite Spectrum: Making Financial Crime Risk Actionable

Dr. Bina Lehmann, Director, Financial Crime Risk / KYC & EU AML, Corporate & Investment Bank, Deutsche Bank

Have you defined your institute's appetite for money laundering risk? Often, there appears to be an intuitive shying away from defining positive 'appetite' for financial crime risks or, more generally, compliance risk types. This session has an interactive format designed to provoke fresh thinking and real engagement. Instead of defaulting to binary 'yes/no' decisions, participants will explore risk on a spectrum - connecting appetite and assessment to reveal exactly where risk sits against tolerance. It tackles the "zero appetite for FCR" myth head-on by acknowledging the reality of residual risk from imperfect controls. And with a flood of metrics in play, the focus shifts to clarity and impact: cutting through the noise to surface

bold insights and decisive action. Leaner, smarter, and built to spark debate - this is risk appetite with teeth.

10:40 – 11:25

Main Stage | Panel Discussion

What's Coming, What's Changing: The Future of Regulation

This panel brings together senior compliance and financial crime leaders to examine the practical impact of the EU's expanding regulatory framework. Covering developments such as MiCA, DORA, RIS, the AI Act, the new EU Financial Sanctions package, and the AMLDVI reforms. The discussion will focus in particular on Financial Sanctions and AML matters with regard to the real implementation challenges facing institutions, the growing operational burden on compliance functions, and what to expect from AMLA as supervisory responsibilities shift from the current EBA and national authority model toward a more centralised approach.

Speakers:

- Hartmut Renze, Partner, Financial Services (Regulatory, Risk & Compliance Advisory), STRATECO (Moderator)
- Claudia Martini, MLRO, CMC Markets
- Eoin Kearns, Head of Compliance, AML & MLRO, MoonPay
- Eleni Chrysidou, Head of Advisory, Financial Crime Office, DekaBank

11:25 – 11:45

Coffee and Networking Break

11:45 – 12:30

Main Stage | Panel Discussion

Budgeting for Impact: How to Impress Regulators Without Breaking the Bank

In today's cost-conscious environment, financial crime and compliance leaders are expected to deliver more with less while still meeting increasingly assertive regulatory expectations. This panel brings together practitioners who have managed limited budgets, navigated enforcement actions, and delivered regulator-approved outcomes.

Speakers:

- Jens Gebhardt, Managing Director, Control Functions, Nexi Payments
- Dr. Bina Lehmann, Deutsche Bank
- Tomasz Knapik, Executive Board Member & Group MLRO, BFS Finance GmbH
- Tassilo Amtage, Director & Attorney, Ernst & Young
- Mark Sully, Managing Director EMEA & APAC Commercial Affairs (Moderator)

11:45 – 12:30

Private Roundtable Discussion

Catching Risk: How Early Holistic Risk Scoring Saves Big EDD Costs

Berlin Room

Hosted and moderated by Ruan Scott, International Managing Director, DetectX, Customer Risk Scoring Expert.

This is a 45-minute Chatham House Rule deep-dive discussion with plenty of peer-to-peer learning and discussion in a small-group setting. The session provides space for participants to share experiences around early risk identification and operational decision-making and promises to be an educational and lively discussion.

11:45 – 12:30

Individual Meetings

(Meeting Point)

12:30 – 13:15

Workshop

Global Policy, Local Impact: Wider risk considerations resulting from sanctions designations

Capetown Room

Hosted by Dara Fernandez, National Security Partner, Cina Fernandez

This workshop will cover the direct and indirect risks associated to designations which have a real local impact in the European Union, from risk in supply chain, to risk in partner relationships, the workshop will provide practical assessment of these questions applied in a real-life case.

12:30 – 13:15

Individual Meetings

(Meeting Point)

12:30 – 13:15

Topic Cruncher Sessions

Ballsaal Room

Topic-led, open discussions chosen by our audience! Join the table with the topic you'd most like to discuss or ask your peers how they're approaching things.

So whether you're desperate to share your knowledge on sanctions or ask others how they're dealing with impersonation fraud, this is the place to find your most wanted conversation among an array of topics. It could be noisy, but we hope it will be fun and valuable.

Topics:

- Regulatory Pressure & Enforcement Trends
- Fragmented AML Compliance Across Europe
- KYC & Digital Identity Verification Challenges
- Implementation of the EU AML Authority (AMLA)
- Strengthening of Beneficial Ownership Transparency
- AI Governance and Explainability in FinCrime Detection
- Sophistication of Deepfake and Synthetic Identity Fraud
- Data Sharing Challenges in Fraud and Compliance

13:15 – 14:25

Networking Lunch

Motions Restaurant

14:25 – 15:10

Main Stage | Panel Discussion

Bridging Borders: Managing International Expectations with German Compliance Culture

Germany's legal and regulatory framework can diverge from those in other jurisdictions. This panel explores how Germany-based compliance leaders manage reporting to foreign head offices with differing regulatory interpretations, technologies, and compliance cultures, and whether rigorous German standards are a commercial constraint or a long-term strength.

Speakers:

- Stefan Moser, Head of Group Compliance, VP Bank
- Sven Steinbach, Head of M&A Compliance, Volkswagen AG
- Sviatoslav Stetskovych, Deputy MLRO Germany, Revolut
- Anastasia Kotowski, Head of Department for Financial Markets and Information Technologies, Centre for European Policy Network (Moderator)

14:25 – 15:10

Private Roundtable Discussion

Transforming KYC: Balancing Automation and Human Insight

Berlin Room

Hosted and moderated by Kai Rilling, Senior Vice President, Global Account Management, AML RightSource.

This is a 45-minute Chatham House Rule deep-dive discussion with plenty of peer-to-peer learning and discussion in a small-group setting. The session touches on how organisations balance technology and human judgement in KYC and promises to be an engaging and lively discussion.

14:25 – 15:10

Individual Meetings

(Meeting Point)

15:15 – 16:00

Main Stage | Fireside Chat

Transaction Monitoring 2.0: Precision, Performance, and Proactive Risk Management

As regulatory expectations rise and criminal tactics evolve, transaction monitoring must move beyond traditional rule-based detection. This discussion explores how institutions are modernising monitoring frameworks using advanced analytics, machine learning, and behavioural models to reduce false positives and uncover hidden risks.

Speakers:

- Patrick Spreckelmeyer, Head of Compliance & AFC, Nexent Bank
- Georgi Kodinov, DACH Head of Regulatory Compliance & AFC, Nexi

Moderator:

- Graham Bailey, Chief Operating Officer, Quantifind (formerly headed up global Transaction Monitoring at Wells Fargo)

15:15 – 16:00

Private Roundtable Discussion

The Risk Connection: Aligning Compliance Operations with Real-World Financial Crime Threats

Berlin Room

Hosted and moderated by Valentina Gilberti, Product Success Manager, SGR Compliance, Due Diligence Expert.

This is a 45-minute Chatham House Rule deep-dive discussion with plenty of peer-to-peer learning and discussion in a small-group setting. The conversation explores how teams connect compliance operations to real-world financial crime challenges and is designed to foster candid exchange in an open and collaborative environment.

15:15 – 16:00

Individual Meetings

(Meeting Point)

16:00 – 16:20

Coffee and Networking Break

16:20 – 17:05

Main Stage | Panel Discussion

The Future of FinCrime Teams: Human + Machine Collaboration

This closing panel explores how artificial intelligence is reshaping financial crime teams, where human expertise remains essential, and how leaders should think about skills, roles, and workforce planning over the next five to ten years.

Speakers:

- Natalie Detsik, Former VP – Financial Crime Prevention First Line of Defense (personal views), NatWest Group
- Klaus Xhaxhiu, Managing Director, Head of Compliance, Greenfields
- Dr. Christian Zwerenz, Global Head of Anti-Financial Crime Compliance, Allianz Global Investors
- Marie Lundberg, CEO & Founder, Acronym Consulting (Moderator)

17:10 – 17:20

Closing Remarks

Patrick Spreckelmeyer, Head of Compliance & AFC, Nexent Bank

17:20 – 18:30

Networking Drinks Reception

Tapas Lounge

18:45 – 21:00

Leaders' Dinner (Hosted by Christian Hunt)

Ballsaal Room

We're delighted to host *An Evening with Christian Hunt* as part of the FRC Leaders' Convention dinner. A fascinating and engaging speaker and author, Christian is known for his

sharp wit, storytelling, and unique ability to bring behavioural science to life - always with humour and insight.

Formerly a Managing Director at UBS and Head of Behavioural Science, and previously Chief Operating Officer of the UK Prudential Regulation Authority at the Bank of England, Christian brings a rare blend of regulatory, banking, and behavioural expertise. For this special evening, he'll trade the keynote stage for a more relaxed setting - sharing stories, observations, and reflections from across his career.

Expect thoughtful laughs, a few surprises, and a great way to round off the day in good company.

Day Two – Friday 20 February

09:00 – 09:05

Welcome

09:05 – 09:45

Main Stage | Keynote

Fraud and AML: Strengthening Outcomes Through Inter-Bank Collaboration

Carsten Helm, Anti-Financial Crime and Fraud Prevention, EBA CLEARING

This keynote explores anti-money laundering through a fraud lens, examining the role of interbank collaboration in combating financial crime, practical approaches to information sharing, joint responses to emerging threats, and the challenges of working together in a regulated environment.

09:45 – 10:30

Main Stage | Panel Discussion

Zero Tolerance, Maximum Coordination: Navigating Sanctions in a Converging Risk Landscape

Speakers:

- Andreas Burger, Partner, Forensic & Financial Crime FSI, Deloitte (Moderator)
- Marwan Farag, Head of Global Sanctions Due Diligence, Commerzbank
- Chloe Cina, International Sanctions Expert, RUSI
- Dara Fernandez, National Security Partner, Cina Fernandez
- Mariusz Nowaczek, Deputy Sanctions Compliance Officer, DZ Bank AG

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee and Networking Break

10:45 – 11:15

Main Stage | Informative Update

Update from the Blockchain Federal Association on the Commercial Bank Money Token

This seminar provides an update on where initiatives currently stand regarding commercial bank money taking a new technical form - tokenised representations of bank deposits that maintain their status as regulated commercial bank money while operating on digital and distributed infrastructures.

Oliver Naegele, Member of the Board, Blockchain Federal Association (Blockchain Bundesverband)

11:15 – 12:00

Main Stage | Case Study

Between Innovation and Regulation: How to Foster Innovation in a Highly Regulated Environment

Georgi Kodinov, DACH Head of Regulatory Compliance & AFC, Nexi

12:00 – 12:45

Main Stage | Panel Discussion

6AMLD in Action: Strengthening Financial Crime Defences Across Europe

The Sixth Anti-Money Laundering Directive (6AMLD) marks a pivotal shift in Europe's fight against financial crime - introducing tougher penalties, expanding the scope of criminal liability, and harmonising definitions across member states. This session will unpack the directive's key provisions, explore its impact on German financial institutions, and examine how banks can operationalise compliance while enhancing risk management frameworks. Experts will discuss practical implementation challenges, cross-border enforcement, and the evolving role of technology in meeting 6AMLD's demands. Expect sharp insights, real-world examples, and forward-looking strategies to stay ahead in a rapidly tightening regulatory landscape.

Speakers:

- Jens Oliver Kreiter, Head of Group AML, Deutsche Börse (Moderator)
- Eleni Chrysidou, Head of Advisory, Financial Crime Office / Leitung AFC Beratung, DekaBank
- Michael Braunschweig, Head of Regulatory Affairs, Mercedes Pay GmbH
- Maren Adam, German Association of MLROs
- Hartmut Renze, Partner, Financial Services (Regulatory, Risk & Compliance Advisory), STRATECO

12:45 – 13:00

Closing Remarks

Patrick Spreckelmeyer
