



## **European Virtual Currency industry responds to growing EU policymaker interest with new trade body EDCAB - European Digital Currency & Blockchain Technology Forum**

**EDCAB - a new Brussels based public policy platform for digital currencies and distributed ledger technologies - co-organises a flagship industry expo for policymakers in the European Parliament from 18 to 21 April 2016.**

Virtual currencies have rapidly risen up the European policy agenda in all the major institutions:

- The Council of the European Union put virtual currencies top of their list of areas targeted for rapid progress at its February Council meeting and has called for legislation to be tabled by the end of June 2016.
- The European Parliament is preparing an own initiative report on virtual currencies, with the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs scheduled to vote on the report on 25th April 2016. Additionally, the Committee for Internal Market and Consumer Protection is also considering the issue later this month.
- The European Commission has been considering regulation of virtual currencies through its Action Plan and proposals to combat terrorist financing, with legislation ready for the end of June.

In response to this increased interest, the virtual currency and blockchain technology industry has founded the European Digital Currency & Blockchain Technology Forum (EDCAB). EDCAB aims to shape a sound regulatory and policy agenda for virtual currencies and distributed ledger technology in Europe. The Brussels based Forum will be a 'one stop shop' for industry engagement with EU policymakers, legislators, regulators, and law enforcement. Independent and non-profit, EDCAB provides a forum for dialogue on live issues and future policies; creating better understanding and building trust and transparency. The Forum provides a safe place to exchange views and ensure that policy decisions are taken in full knowledge of the virtual currency and blockchain industry business perspective. The Forum will act as a platform to provide thought leadership, highlight best practice and respond to policy developments on areas of industry consensus.

As the only independent European public policy platform for virtual currencies and distributed ledger technology, EDCAB aims to represent a broad constituency of related technologies, their market participants and users. Membership is open to businesses, non-profit organisations, think tanks, academic and research institutions, and anyone with an interest in virtual currencies and distributed ledger technology.



Siân Jones, EDCAB Founder, comments 'For a strong and comprehensive policy and regulatory framework, collaboration based on indepth understanding of the technology and open debate is vital. The creation of EDCAB signals industry's commitment to work with policymakers over the long term to achieve positive outcomes for the sector and the European citizens it serves'.

EDCAB is co-organising a major event on virtual currencies and blockchain technology in the European Parliament in Brussels from 18 to 21 April 2016 in conjunction with the Cobden Centre. The event, which is hosted by Syed Kamall MEP, will culminate in three roundtables, moderated by Siân Jones, EDCAB Founder, for industry and policymakers. Traditional financial services players such as Barclays and NASDAQ will join representatives from Blockchain (of [blockchain.info](http://blockchain.info)) and Circle Internet Financial from the fintech world. Industry will meet with participants from the World Bank, IMF, The Bank for International Settlements, OECD, the European Securities and Markets Authority, and Europol, along with representatives from all EU institutions and academia. Discussions will focus on 'Virtual currencies: The future of money' setting out how Europe's economy might benefit from public and private alternatives to government-issued currency, 'Blockchain: Trusting distributed ledgers' exploring how the technology might improve trade, economic prosperity, governance and the lives of citizens, with a final roundtable on 'Regulating virtual currencies and blockchain: A balancing act'.

Coverage of roundtable discussions will be available at [www.edcab.eu](http://www.edcab.eu) and on Twitter: [@EDCAB\\_EU](https://twitter.com/EDCAB_EU)

## Notes to Editors

### **What is European Digital Currency & Blockchain Technology Forum (EDCAB)**

European Digital Currency & Blockchain Technology Forum is the only independent European public policy platform for virtual currencies and distributed ledger technology. EDCAB engages with EU policymakers, legislators and key stakeholders on live and upcoming issues, addressing both challenges and opportunities. Independent, non-profit, Brussels-based, EDCAB provides a forum for dialogue on live issues and future policies; creating better understanding and building trust and transparency. Membership is open to businesses, non-profit organisations, think tanks, academic and research institutions, and anyone with an interest in virtual currencies and distributed ledger technology. Further information can be found [here](#).

### **About EDCAB**

EDCAB is non-profit forum. Members represent a broad constituency of related technologies and their market participants and users and activities are funded entirely by benefactors interested in informed debate. The Forum was founded by Siân Jones, a regulatory compliance professional specialising in digital currencies and blockchain. She has briefed national and EU legislators, spoken at Commission workshops and roundtables, and was one of three stakeholder representatives asked to address the European Parliament [public hearing](#) on virtual currencies in January 2016.



### **EDCAB Event in the European Parliament**

EDCAB's 2016 flagship event is being held inside the European Parliament from 18 to 21 April culminating in a series of roundtables involving MEPs, officials from the Commission and EU institutions, academics, civil society, and industry stakeholders. Roundtables will focus on Virtual currencies: The future of money; Blockchain: Trusting distributed ledgers; and Regulating virtual currencies and blockchain: A balancing act.

### **Contact & Interviews with Siân Jones, EDCAB**

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### **Photos**

Siân Jones image

EDCAB logo image