



## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE – Sean Edwards, ITFA Chairman / Head of Legal And Special Adviser To The Global Trade Finance Department At SMBC, June 2022**

Dear members and friends

Wrapping up this month is quite a feat with so much going on!

Starting westerly, the Americas Regional Committee Conference, held in Miami was a great success. Attended by over 100 participants, the conference provided an excellent setting wherein those present had the opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas on topical themes, including ESG, Fintechs, the outlook on energy and commodities, trends in supply chain finance and payables solutions, shifts in the credit insurance landscape, an update on key issues in Latin America, changes in the legal and sanctions environment, the impact of the Russia & Ukraine war and more. This is a perfect opportunity to thank outgoing committee chairperson, Lynn Galkoski for her sterling work whilst at the helm of the ARC. At the same time please join me in congratulating the new chair, Hernan Mayol, in wishing him all the best in his new role with ITFA.

More easterly, we held our first ever supply chain summit in Estonia with our valued partners SupplierPlus and sponsors LeverID. I was delighted to have been able to speak and moderate some panels during this tremendous and well attended event both physically and remotely. With participation from the Estonian Government and EBRD, this was an event that punched well above its weight. The dynamism and innovation of fintechs in Estonia, so well supported by their government, is a model to follow as they spread knowledge and technology, not just for SCF but electronic identity and digital documentation, throughout the region. A link to a video of Day 1 is available here <https://lnkd.in/eGnbM85a>

Throughout June we held another successful event, our very first Insurance Award aimed at further promoting and building recognition of the Credit Insurance around and beyond the credit insurance community. This event was held in Paris. I congratulate the winners of the various awards, 7 in total, and we aim at making this event an annual one. The event was also enhanced by three panel discussions, which focused on Insurtech, regulatory issues and policy wordings.

Photos of all three events can be viewed [here](#).

Back in Paris in June (there must be a song in there somewhere), on the 27<sup>th</sup>, we will, together with CGI host our first ever event in French in which ITFA trade experts will debate the current vision of the market, trends and latest developments. We will close June with another two events, the German Regional Committee Workshop, in Frankfurt, whilst the ITFA Emerging Leaders, together with FEX will be co-hosting the event 'Changing Role of ECAs during Downturns'. Both these events will be held on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

May I also remind all that registration to the much awaited ITFA Summer Event on 7th July, organised by the Northern European Regional Committee (NERC) is now open.

Lastly, I cannot but make reference to the annual conference being held in Porto between the 7th and the 9th September, commencing on the Wednesday morning with a fintech session. Pleased to report that we are



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already at over 200 registrations! I therefore urge you to register asap [Registration Fees – ITFA Conference 2022](#) as hotel rooms are filling really fast! We are re-introducing the education seminar which will start on Tuesday 6th September, perfect opportunity to train junior staff.

If you encounter any difficulties or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact anyone of the board members or our secretariat on [info@itfa.org](mailto:info@itfa.org)

ITFA is pleased to announce that the following institutions have joined our ever growing association: Kyriba and Olea Global Pte. Ltd.

You have seen the light and are welcome one and all!