



## CREFC EUROPE AGM PRESS RELEASE

**9 September 2020**

### **CREFC Europe announces new Chair Elect and Board changes**

CREFC Europe today announced its new Chair Elect at its Annual General Meeting. Jessica Tomlinson of Barclays Bank will become Chair in September 2021, having served on the Board of Directors since 2018.

Due to exceptional market and economic conditions and ongoing wider policy work within the organisation, the Board also asked the current leadership team to serve another 12 months before Jessica steps into the role. Emma Huepfl of CBRE Global Investors agreed to continue as Chair of the association for a second year, supported by Barry Fowler of Aviva Investors as Immediate Past Chair. The Board felt their experience would provide continuity and stability to support the work of the secretariat during this period.\*

Members also elected three new Directors: Chris Bennett of Deka Bank; Arron Taggart of Cheyne Capital; and Nassar Hussain of Brookland, each agreeing to serve three-year terms. Chris, Arron and Nassar bring a wealth of experience to the Board. The range of their organisations and backgrounds helps CREFC Europe in its commitment to represent a diverse commercial real estate finance market. The full current Board of Directors can be seen [here](#).

**Jessica Tomlinson** is Head of Real Estate, London at Barclays. Barclays is a chosen partner of quoted real estate companies, private property companies and institutional real estate investors serving over 800 clients across the country from its hubs in all the major cities. Barclays offers clients a full service offering from day to day banking, property finance to access to the debt capital and equity markets.

**Emma Huepfl** is Head of CBRE Global Investors EMEA Credit Strategies, which acquired Laxfield Capital (the business she co-founded) in 2019. The global credit platform of the combined business has \$1.5bn of assets under management and lending activities in the US, UK and wider Europe.

**Emma Huepfl, Head of CBRE Global Investors Credit Strategies (EMEA) and CREFC Europe Chair**, said: "It has been exceptionally rewarding to see CREFC Europe rise to the challenge of these extraordinary times, achieving unprecedented visibility, relevance and influence through engagement with policymakers and the wider real estate sector. I am delighted to support Peter and the team by continuing as Chair for another year, working on behalf of all stakeholders to promote the interests of a stable CRE financing market in the UK and Europe."

**Jessica Tomlinson, Head of Real Estate London at Barclays Bank Corporate Banking and new CREFC Europe Chair Elect**, said: "This is an incredibly important time for market participants to have effective representative bodies, and I'm really thrilled to have this opportunity to help steer the invaluable contribution of CREFC Europe in support of our sector."

**Peter Cosmetatos, Chief Executive of CREFC Europe**, said: "We are fortunate to have a fantastic group of people on our Board who are so generous with their time and ideas. I am delighted we will maintain access to the wisdom and experience of the current leadership team, as well as the new perspectives that Chris, Arron and Nassar will bring. Looking ahead, our ability to

convene, and our authority to speak for, our industry will remain critically important as we move through the Covid era and seek to maintain a healthy supply of finance to the real estate industry.”

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*\* Lorna Brown, who was due to assume the leadership role in 2020 will continue to serve as a Director of the Board but opted not to move to the Chair role after her move from a lending role at LGIM to Delancey earlier this year. She is the first serving Board member to represent a borrowing organisation.*

## **About CREFC Europe**

The Commercial Real Estate Finance Council (CREFC) Europe is the trade association for commercial real estate (CRE) finance in Europe. It is a non-profit membership association with around 120 corporate members representing a diverse range of lending institutions, but also advisory businesses supporting the market and investors in both real estate and real estate debt.

CREFC Europe's mission is to promote transparent, liquid, responsible and sustainable CRE debt markets for the benefit of its members, the industry, and the economy as a whole. It offers opportunities to network, collaborate, learn and influence, through:

- Conferences, seminars, executive training and a network for young professionals
- Committees, working groups and other industry initiatives to help the industry address shared opportunities and challenges, emerging issues or particular market segments on a collaborative basis
- Informed dialogue with policymakers with a view to reducing the risk of unintended and unwelcome consequences from regulatory interventions.

All of those activities migrated smoothly to virtual formats in the face of the Covid pandemic and public health policy response to it. CREFC Europe continues its efforts to expand direct links with the real estate industry beyond its existing collaborations with trade bodies at national and international levels and its support for various real estate debt market information initiatives.

**CREFC Europe's Autumn Conference 2020** will go ahead on 4 and 5 November as a virtual event (and on-demand thereafter). The conference will have the twin themes of navigating through challenging times and seeking opportunities during uncertainty. We have engaged a conference platform to serve as an event venue for our first online conference. As well as plenary sessions and special interest topics to choose from, there will be opportunities to connect with sponsors and delegates on a one-to-one basis. Sponsor opportunities, registration and an outline programme will be available shortly on our website and CREFC Europe members will be kept informed through our weekly newsletter. Contact [Carol Wilkie](#) for further information.

<https://www.crefceurope.org/>

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