

**Speech "Blockchain & Finance: the start of a new era?"**

10/04/2024

Madam Minister, dear Marina,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'm delighted to see so many of you in Paris. And here with us this evening, in the context of a particular and intense week: the fact that you choose to be here, among the countless other events of *Paris Blockchain Week*, honors us and proves the stance and strong convictions that we share on the subjects that our speakers have just addressed. I would like to thank them warmly for their invaluable contribution to this first edition of the "Finance & Blockchain" conference.

For 5 years now, this week has been a superb standard-bearer for the development and influence of French Web 3 around the world.

A whole week!

A week during which all the dynamism and excitement around Web 3 can be witnessed in the streets of the capital.

A week in which the focus is on technologies other than AI. That's exceptional enough at the moment to merit a mention!

It is undeniable the enormous potential that blockchain technologies offer to innovate, and will play a central role in the future.

Whatever the solution is, in whatever field, it's vital to pay attention to innovation and find out about it. Innovation systematically creates opportunities for everyone!

So today we're here to talk about "Blockchain & Finance". To reflect and debate the potential disruptive opportunities offered by the integration of these new technologies into the financial sector.

Adan members are driving these disruptions. Whether we're talking about the new players revolutionising financial markets thanks to crypto-assets - our

CASPs - or decentralised finance, or banking and traditional financial companies for whom tokenisation represents transformation and their first step towards Web 3. At Adan, we are committed to promoting all the innovation offered and leveraged by these players, of which you are or will become in the future.

As I was saying, it's important to think about innovation. To be aware of its impact and to enjoy its benefits.

And it's even better to do it together.

Allow me, therefore, even if others have done so before me, to greet **the entities which, alongside Adan, have taken the initiative of** bringing us together today to show the extent to which these ideas are already taking shape as realities.

- I'm thinking of the public investment bank, Bpifrance
- Caisse des Dépôts
- And OCBF.

We would also like to **thank all those who have supported** this event in **various ways**:

- Ellipse communications
- Paris Blockchain Society
- cube3
- Stéphanie Cabossioras who volunteered her time
- As well as the Minister, her team and the departments at Bercy, who kindly welcomed us and gave us the honor of opening the conference.

Finally, allow me to applaud **your presence**, which is a *sine qua non* to set up a *constructive* dialogue to explore fundamental issues for the future of the European financial industry.

Business leaders, public authorities, entrepreneurs and investors... With your expertise and vision, you are all key to paving the way for our collective success in this new era of finance.

I know how much day-to-day life, habits, short-term priorities, sometimes budgetary constraints, or even apprehensions often fuelled by misunderstandings can stand in the way of this approach.

But we can see it with the study we have been conducting in partnership with KPMG and the IPSOS institute for 3 years now: 6.5 million French people and more than a quarter of those under 35 now hold crypto-assets in our country.

In the neighboring countries, the figure is 17% for the Netherlands, 16% for the UK, 12% for Germany and 11% for Italy...

These are not figures that we can simply set aside or choose to ignore. Otherwise... we run the risk of being rapidly overtaken by reality.

Blockchain technologies are not incompatible with traditional finance. On the contrary, they can coexist and feed off each other.

The aim is to open up new horizons for the financial sector, offering advantages in terms of transparency, security and efficiency. Blockchain innovation could revolutionize the way we design and manage financial transactions.

It's everyone's choice to create the bridges needed to facilitate this harmonious cohabitation, and make the most of both worlds.

In France, it has been decided to provide strong political support in favor of Web 3 and to structure a dynamic ecosystem that is a guarantee of confidence. That's the whole point of the first legislative pillar, the PACTE Act.

By making regulation the basis of common dialogue, France has positioned itself as the central pivotal role in the transformation of finance and has helped to create an environment conducive to the emergence of innovative projects.

This positive, proactive approach has produced conclusive results in several respects.

- It has met a demand from our fellow citizens, 88% of whom feel that the system in place reassures them when choosing a reliable service provider.

- It has met a demand from traditional players, more and more of whom are investing in the Web 3 sector now that they have the appropriate legal tools to launch with legal certainty.
- Above all, it has given France a head start. Since 2019, the entire ecosystem has built up an expertise that will be useful, to say the least, to those preparing to implement the European regulatory framework, which share the same foundations of the French system.

Innovation cycles are rapid. And this is even more significant in a sector where technologies allow to contribute and multiply this innovation under the impetus of collective effort.

It is therefore crucial to continue to invest in research and development, to promote the adoption of blockchain by financial institutions and to encourage the emergence of new start-ups and innovative companies in this field.

And this will only be possible if the public authorities continue to support innovation by maintaining an open dialogue and adopting appropriate standards. These are the conditions that will ensure that France and Europe remain attractive in an ultra-competitive international environment.

Adan will of course play its part in the many projects underway or planned for the next few years. Our teams are fully committed to supporting business models and creating synergies between players who will always be stronger together, in dialogue, than by playing solo. We will be at the side of all those who wish to discover, explore and even build the world of Web 3.

Still there is certainly a long way to go, and we will need to invest time, energy and effort, including understanding, in order to strengthen our leadership position in this field.

But I am convinced that blockchain marks the beginning of a new era for finance, and that we all have an important role to play in this transformation.

Together, we can shape a more transparent, secure and efficient financial future for everyone. I know I can count on your commitment.

And I thank you for that.

To bring this event to a close, I'd like to hand over the microphone to Joël-Alexis Bialkiewicz who, having launched Banque Delubac on the Web 3 adventure, takes an enlightening look - and for those who have already heard him speak on the subject, one that can be described as 'punchy' - at the way in which credit institutions and, more broadly, institutional players in the financial sector can successfully seize these technologies.