

Press Release

For immediate release

New data on standardization and automation of fund orders in Ireland

Brussels, 15 July 2010 – EFAMA today published a report on recent trends in standardization and automation rates of fund orders received by transfer agents (TA) in Ireland. The report is based on a joint EFAMA-SWIFT survey covering close to 80 percent of the total Irish investment fund order volumes.

A new report will be published in the autumn to cover the Irish cross-border fund market. From there onwards, EFAMA will report on the evolution of automation rates in the main cross-border fund distribution centres twice a year.

The goal of this initiative is to inform all institutions involved in fund processing, as well as the European Commission, the European Parliament and other interested stakeholders about the industry's progress towards greater standardization and automation.

The following figures highlight the main results of the report:

- The total automation rate of orders processed by Irish transfer agents reached 86% in Q4 2009. This automation rate indicates a very low level of fax orders processed manually (0.9 million orders in 2009, out of a total of 5.9 billion third-party funds orders).
- The percentage of automated orders using proprietary messages reached 78 percent in Q4 2009, as opposed to 8 percent of orders based on ISO 20022 messages.
- In 2009, survey contributors reported 50 new automated links relying on the ISO 20022 messages, compared to 5 new links using a proprietary file transfer links.

Peter De Proft, EFAMA Director General, notes: “Thanks to the cooperation of the Irish TA sector, we are now able to report data on the state of automation and standardization of fund orders in the Irish cross-border investment funds industry. We are encouraged by the high automation rate of fund orders, as automation reduces operational risks and costs, as well as by the new ISO automated links, as this is the way forward to progress towards greater standardization and lower complexity in fund processing.”

Michèle De Boe, Markets Management - Funds, SWIFT, adds: “This first report on Ireland is a very positive milestone in the adoption of the EFAMA best practice recommendations on fund order processing by the Irish Transfer Agent community. We look forward to actively supporting the Irish Transfer Agents on the wider adoption of the ISO standard and the elimination of manual order processing.”

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Notes to editors

- EFAMA is the representative association for the European investment management industry. It represents through its 26 member associations and 42 corporate members approximately EUR 12 trillion in assets under management, of which approximately EUR 7 trillion was managed by approximately 52,000 funds at the end of December 2009. Just under 36,000 of these funds were UCITS (Undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities) funds. For more information about EFAMA, please visit www.efama.org.
- **SWIFT** is a member-owned cooperative that provides the communications platform, products and services to connect over 9,000 banking organisations, securities institutions and corporate customers in 209 countries. SWIFT enables its users to exchange automated, standardised financial information securely and reliably, thereby lowering costs, reducing operational risk and eliminating operational inefficiencies. SWIFT also brings the financial community together to work collaboratively to shape market practice, define standards and debate issues of mutual interest. For more information about SWIFT, please visit www.swift.com.
- 10 Ireland-based transfer agents participated in the survey. Together, they processed 5.9 million orders originating from third-party distributors and fund hubs in 2009.
- The report can be downloaded on the websites of EFAMA and SWIFT.