

## **Government and industry urged to ‘grasp the nettle’ on sustainable investment and finance**

*Influential trade body says Kay Review must be only first step towards change*

**London, 13 July 2011** — In Parliament today, **UKSIF, the sustainable investment and finance association** will call on Government, pension funds and the wider financial industry to make finance sector expertise in sustainability a strategic asset for the UK.

The trade body will say that the new Kay Review into UK equity markets, ordered by Business Secretary Vince Cable last month, alongside the upcoming replacement of the FSA, marks a unique ‘crossroads’ for UK financial markets. UKSIF will call on policy-makers and financial institutions to more explicitly embrace environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) factors if the UK is to retain its position as a leading financial centre.

The call will be made at an event in Parliament to celebrate UKSIF’s 20 years as the voice and support network for progressive investment and financial services.

The report “**Taking Responsibility: Achieving Resilience**” will be launched, calling for the UK to show global leadership in sustainable investment and finance in the next 20 years.

Penny Shepherd MBE, UKSIF Chief Executive said,  
“In the last 20 years UKSIF has played a key role in moving sustainable investment and finance from the margins to the mainstream. Today, over £900 billion is managed responsibly in the UK, and the UK is widely recognised as a global hub for the sector.

Over the next 20 years, sustainable investment and finance are set to become fundamental to good returns as the world faces up to the challenge of moving to a resilient and resource efficient society. By 2031, we will be facing the “perfect storm” of rising demand for food and resources while mitigating and adapting to climate change. The UK must grasp the nettle and show global leadership on sustainable investment and finance if it is to help calm the storm and stay ahead of the competition.”

Martin Clarke, UKSIF Chair added,  
“Today, we are all working our way out of one global crisis, the warning signs of which went largely unrecognised. The next crisis is plainly visible and even more challenging. Everyone – the investment and finance industry, asset owners,

government, regulators and civil society - must play their part to accelerate the drive to sustainable investment and finance. Together, we must ensure that the finance sector uses this moment to move further and quicker towards more resilient, sustainable capital markets in the UK.”

## **Contact**

For more information or for interviews and comment from Penny Shepherd MBE, UKSIF Chief Executive:

**Elliot Frankal**, [ESG Communications](#)

T: 07989 524780;

e: [elliott@esgcomms.com](mailto:elliott@esgcomms.com)

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About UKSIF**

UKSIF, the sustainable investment and finance association, promotes responsible investment and other forms of finance that support sustainable economic development, enhance quality of life and safeguard the environment. It also seeks to ensure that individual and institutional investors can reflect their values in their investments. Founded in 1991, it has over 250 members including over sixty asset managers and other financial institutions, together with pension funds, investment consultants, research providers, financial advisers and non-governmental organisations.

UKSIF's twentieth anniversary celebration takes place at the House of Lords on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, hosted by the Rt Hon Lord Deben PC (John Gummer) with support from Aviva Investors, Citi Microfinance and Investment Research, The Co-operative Financial Services, FTSE Group, Henderson Global Investors, Jupiter Asset Management, MSCI, Newton Investment Management, Pictet Asset Management, RCM, Sarasin & Partners and Standard Life Investments.

For more information, visit [www.uksif.org](http://www.uksif.org).