

Interview, December 1st, 2018

Karin Rydén Thomas, CEO & Founder, XENIX, Berlin. etf-days.de

«FUND & ETF DAYS Europe 2019» at Sofitel Berlin on 28. February & 1. March 2019

Ms. Rydén Thomas: XENIX will be organizing an "Investment Solutions Conference" at Sofitel Berlin on February 28 and March 1, 2019. Can you explain the concept of your two-day event?

The "FUND & ETF DAYS Europe 2019" will be our anniversary conference, because XENIX will celebrate its tenth anniversary next year. XENIX follows the approach of a conference focusing on four themes: 1) Bonds; 2) Stocks & Stock Indices; 3) Innovation: "FinTech for funds, start-up asset managers, and Robo-Advisors as digital service platforms"; and 4) Pension Management & Multi-Asset Portfolios. At our conference, we bring together and host lectures with expert panel discussions and innovative CEO interviews. We offer professional investors an overview event. Our moderator, Mr. Wieland Thyssen, will moderate these four half-day discussion forums. The XENIX "Investment Solutions Conference" will again be a meeting place for medium-sized investors and asset managers, as well as service providers from the fund industry.

Which partners support your conference?

Our partners come from different areas of the investment world. This multi-dimensionality is ensured by index providers such as MV Index Solutions (MVIS), specialized asset managers, innovative Robo-Advisors, global ETF providers, such as Van Eck, international stock market experts, and ETF market makers, bond specialists and multi-asset experts. The names of other partners and independent experts will be published in the coming weeks.

How solution-oriented is your conference?

The different focus topics are mainly geared to the needs of smaller and medium sized investors looking for a veritable overview of macro topics, tech trends and portfolio solutions, because they do not have time to attend the countless individual events organized by fund providers go.

What does the program look like?

On both days of the conference, there are clearly defined focus topics. The first day focuses on the development of international interest rates. We will also look at the different segments of the bond market. Current trends, such as green bond ETFs, the fragile liquidity of corporate bonds, and special themes such as "catastrophe bonds" as fund investments are presented by German and English- experts.

Do you also consider political issues in your conference agenda?

At our last conference, Finland's former president Martti Ahtisaari emphasized the importance of diplomacy and international cooperation to maintain or restore peace in his keynote presentation. In 2019, European financial and interest rate policies, and the impact of Brexit on the portfolios of equity and bond investors will be on our agenda. For the first time, MiFID II has brought many fund providers and distributors together for discussions, but on the other hand research is often chargeable to professional investors.

What roles do distribution and EU regulation play in your event?

We will address this, for example, in our debate on Robo-makers. Robo-Advisors are in many cases the new "bouncers" in selecting fund products for investors. For their digital services, they now need quality checks just like asset managers and fund of funds managers when they create portfolios for their digital clients.

Shortly you will again award the «XENIX Awards». Which products are awarded?

XENIX will reward outstanding newcomers in index funds and ETFs in Europe's core markets. Based on our independent research, we have selected twenty (20) newcomers who can tap new market segments for investors or, in our opinion, become core investments. In total, we evaluated around 900 institutional index funds and ETFs. All award winners will be notified on 5 December 2018 and receive their awards as part of the celebration of "PRIX XENIX" in Berlin on 19 December 2019.

About

Karin Rydén Thomas is the multilingual managing director of XENIX. The native Swede lives and works in Berlin since 2005. XENIX is a research house, strategy consultant and knowledge facilitator. XENIX has been providing independent research on investment markets, mutual funds and ETFs since 2009. The company organizes the "FUND & ETF DAYS Europe 2019" and the "PRIX XENIX Europe 2019" awards for the best, most innovative and least expensive index funds and exchange-traded ETFs in 2018.