

**#SdR26**

## **Growing to compete: the European path between AI, finance, and industry**

*The institutional conference of the Digital and Fintech Committee of Assogestioni brought to the Salone del Risparmio 2026 a discussion between the financial industry and businesses on the methods and implications of integrating artificial intelligence into business models*

Milan, 6 May 2026 – During the afternoon of the second day of the Salone del Risparmio 2026, Assogestioni hosted the conference entitled “**Growing to compete: the European path between AI, finance, and industry**”, dedicated to the role of artificial intelligence as a driver of economic competitiveness, financial transformation, and European industrial policy.

The session brought together representatives from the financial system, the technology industry, and the productive sector to discuss the two complementary dimensions of the AI revolution: on the one hand, the way in which artificial intelligence is already transforming operational models, investment management, and financial services; on the other, the role that capital, industrial policies, and financial infrastructure can play in strengthening Europe’s ability to compete in the development of AI.

Opening remarks were delivered by **Giovanni Sandri**, President of the Digital and Fintech Committee of Assogestioni and Vice-President of the Association, who stated: “*Artificial Intelligence is no longer in an experimental phase: it is a structural force that is reshaping economies and markets and will require significant investment in infrastructure in order to scale. From this perspective, AI will lead to a redefinition of business models across all industries, acting as a lever for innovation as well as efficiency, while emerging as a factor capable of redistributing competitiveness across sectors and growth throughout the entire value chain. In the financial sector, its impact is already tangible, enabling faster processes, broader analytical capabilities, and improved decision-making quality, without however replacing human judgement.*”

This was followed by the *keynote speech* delivered by **Fabio Pammolli**, President of the AI4I Foundation and Adviser to the Ministry of Economy and Finance, who highlighted: “*Artificial intelligence introduces a new intensity of capital into economic and industrial systems. For Europe, the issue concerns the ability to mobilise investment across strategic value chains — computational infrastructure, energy, skills, and advanced manufacturing — and to support the transformation of the productive system. Growth will increasingly depend on the speed with which research, finance, and industry are able to converge within ecosystems capable of generating applied innovation and productivity gains.*”

The discussion was structured around two panels. The first, “**AI as a driver of financial transformation**”, featured **Stefano Barrese**, Head of the Banca dei Territori Division at Intesa

Sanpaolo, **Simona Paravani-Mellinghoff**, Co-Chief Investment Officer, Multi-Asset Strategies & Solutions at BlackRock and Distinguished Affiliate Professor at the University of Cambridge, and **Marco Sesana**, Group General Manager of Generali.

Subsequently, the discussion with **Alvise Biffi**, President of Assolombarda, highlighted the challenges and opportunities that artificial intelligence presents for businesses, particularly in light of its increasingly widespread integration into corporate processes.

The conference concluded with the second panel, “**AI as a European industrial policy lever**”, featuring Tatiana Rizzante, Chief Executive Officer of Reply S.p.A., and **Uljan Sharka**, Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Domyln.

The proceedings were moderated by **Roberta D'Apice**, Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at Assogestioni, who concluded: “*The European challenge surrounding artificial intelligence is not so much technological as systemic: Europe already possesses expertise, industrial capabilities, and advanced applications, yet still struggles to scale them effectively. In this context, the role of finance is decisive. If AI represents a strategic infrastructure, capital is its enabling factor. Strengthening the integration between innovation, markets, and investment flows is therefore essential in order to transform Europe’s potential into concrete growth. Asset management can play a crucial role by supporting businesses and financing the development of the infrastructure required for the widespread adoption of artificial intelligence, thereby contributing to the construction of a competitive, reliable, and sustainable European model.*”

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#### **ASSOGESTIONI**

Assogestioni is the Italian Association for Asset Management. Founded in 1984, the Association's mission is to promote, disseminate and protect the various forms of savings management in Italy, including pension savings, and to foster related financial culture, in support of economic and financial market development and the protection of investors' interests. It is also focused on representing, promoting and protecting the collective interests of its members and their investor clients, both in Italy and abroad. Today it represents over €2,636 billion in Assets under Management (figure as at 31/12/2025). For further information: [www.assogestioni.it](http://www.assogestioni.it)

#### **ABOUT IL SALONE DEL RISPARMIO**

The Salone del Risparmio is the flagship event of the asset management industry, created by Assogestioni and organised by Assogestioni Servizi. It is a forge of ideas and innovation for one of the key sectors driving the country's economic growth. Training, specialisation and outreach are the pillars of the event, conceived with the aim of creating a multidimensional, multi-target platform for dialogue among the industry's various stakeholders. The third day, open to non-specialists, is a key feature of the event's inclusive vision. Each year, the Salone gives a platform to hundreds of speakers who animate a three-day programme featuring up to 14 simultaneous conferences, organised across seven thematic tracks that guide visitors and provide, year after year, a snapshot of the sector and a window onto its future developments. The Salone is also a phygital event, thanks to FR|Vision, a proprietary broadcasting platform offering complete coverage that allows users to interact in real time and revisit content on demand. For further information: [www.salonedelrisparmio.com](http://www.salonedelrisparmio.com)